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NORWICH, 1881.



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MELBOURNE, 1880.



HIGHEST AWARD

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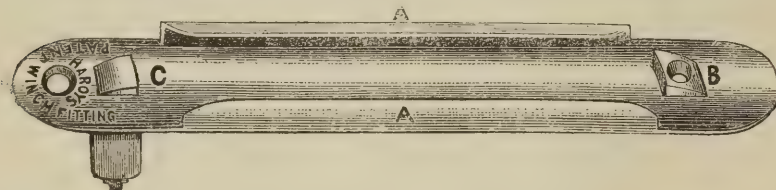


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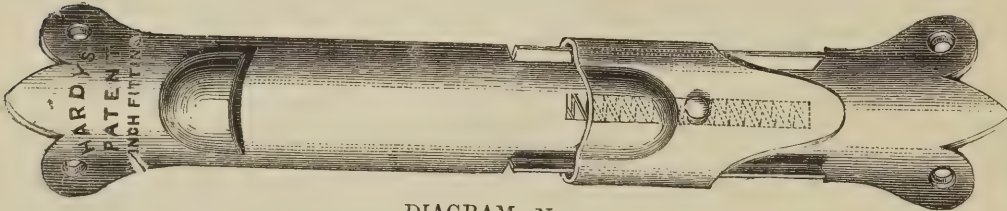


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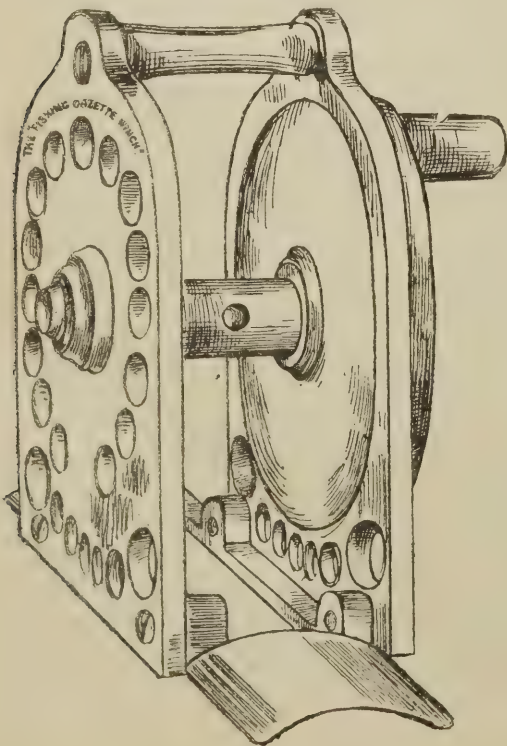
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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1880.

A NEW YEAR'S YARN.

"YES, that's jist fortin year ago. I 'members it as it bin but yesterday." This was uttered by a fisherman, one among a group of five lounging on ——— Bridge on New Year's Day. The snow was falling fast, and a sharp frost had set in.

"You're right, old Carrot," observed another they called Ned,

"and I can swear to every 'dential word, for I was your mate during the whole of that time."

"It's a large mouthful to swallow," said a listener with an incredulous grin.

"I wish my breath may never blow froth off beer again," declared Carrot, "if it arnt as true as—as—"

"Yourself," suggested the unbeliever, upon which there was a roar of laughter from the rest of the group.

"Always on the watch to get a wrinkle anent the river," I beckoned old Carrot and Ned, from their companions, spoke to them confidingly of beer and gin, to which they their ear did seriously incline, and we entered the snug little parlour of the public at the foot of the bridge overlooking the river.

"Now, my men," said I, "have what you like."

Carrot smacked his lips with the snap of an uncoiled lock, and uttered the words:

"Flip, made with Ind, Coope."

"How much can you drink?" I asked. "The day is cold, and it is always better made in bulk."

"Any *given* quantity," he replied, with a chuckle.

I refrained to give him credit for his hint, as Robert Brinsley Sheridan had said the same thing before.

"A quart?" I asked.

"Two," said he; "there's Ned to help."

"Three?" I rejoined.

"We'll try," he added.

After a moiety of this quantity had been disposed of between them, for it was too early for any indulgence in such seductively heavy stuff, I requested Carrot to tell me what it was that he had been speaking of as occurring just fourteen years ago on that day.

"Well, master," said he, "leastwise I must have a pipe, and a little more gin in the next pot, for this last is only dog's-nose, and not the real regular flip; there is a smell of eggs in it, but the jacky must have gone over the side."

"Order it as you like; but on with your story."

The pewter being replenished to Carrot's estimate of the proper flavour of the compound, he commenced his narrative:—

"Many years ago a patron of mine, none of your stingy bread-and-cheese-and-beer chaps was he bred, but a hamper gentleman—raised pies, port, sherry, whisky and cigars. 'All equal when afloat,' he would say. 'What's mine is yours, Bill, so help yourself, and don't overwork. Pitch into that cold pheasant; stick your fork into that tongue; draw another bottle of that yellow seal; have a nip of this "curious so." Throw the stump of that Havannah away, and light another; here's my case.' And if it was hot weather he would say, 'Put me under the shade of those trees while I get a nap, and you can give yourself a glass or two of hollands from the square bottle. You'll find it prime, and the river water is just soft enough for it.' So, while he had his forty winks at the rate of about one a minute, I used to serve all the bottles alike, and before he was stretching himself again, you may be sure I had had my whack besides filling a private bottle I always carry about with me for such emergencies. Then he would declare he had had enough fishing for the day, although he hadn't caught a fish, and would go ashore. Tell me I might take the remainder of the contents of the hamper and the rest of the liquor home, or give it away, which the latter I didn't do; and then, after giving me a couple of sovereigns, we would order a fly and go over to—— to catch the train, for we had no railway here at that time. Now, sir, that was the sort of life I liked to lead; no exertion—get under the first bushes and lie on your back in the sun, and swizzle and call it chubbing. Well, on this occasion which I wish to tell you about just fourteen years ago on this blessed day, I got a letter to say he should leave the shop and come down on the following Saturday, which, between you and I, sir,

meant not only for us to have a clean punt with live and other bait and prepare a swim or two—for he liked an hour's bottom fishing—but to have the well pretty full."

"Pretty full of what?" I asked.

"Of fish, of course! Why, sir, you beant no angler, I can see, or you'd know what I means."

I expressed my ignorance.

"Why, you see, sir, although I say he was an out-and-out gent, free with his brads and grub and all that, he was not one of those sportsmen who don't care about the fish they catch, 'cos you see he used to show them to his friends in Shoreditch, and take the credit of catching the lot, when perhaps a perch or two was all he laid hold on with the hook. So you see, sir, me and Ned used to go out each day, afore he came down, both with cast net early in the morning, and rod and line arterwards, and make up a stunning lot of fish for him to take away to town. Well, sir, on this 'ere New Year's Day I am speaking on, a chap as was with some strolling players at Reading, who I knowed when a boy, axed for to go out with us, and as he was a pretty fair fisherman, we took him. We started just afore light, and arter a few throws with the cast net, over some holes we had ground-baited, we pitched the punt under them willows you see there, and went to work for chub—I always bait with half-boiled carrot, that's why I am called so—and, as luck would have it, Cross-Eyed Tom—that was the lad—got hold of the first fish, a chub of about 3 lb. He brought it round for me to land. Well, sir, I hope this flip may choke me if the fish didn't call out, as I was putting the landing-net under it, 'You let me alone, Carrot, will you!' as plain as I speak now, and the fish made a dash out into the main stream. Cross-Eyed Tom gave him line and brought him up to the side of the punt again. And I wish," added Carrot, with vehement emphasis, "that the sausage-maker may have me if the thing didn't open his mouth, throw out the bait and hooks, and cry 'Did you think it, Carrot!'"

Here Carrot became so affected, either with the flip or the horror of the occurrence, that he forgot to take the pewter from his lips until it dropped empty from his grasp, and he slid off the chair as though it had been buttered, and he lay in a heap on the sanded floor.

"Never mind him, Master," observed Ned, indifferently, "it is only a way he has got. He'll be all right presently."

"But about the talking fish?" I remarked.

"Oh, I can go on with that, master," and Ned took up the thread where Carrot had dropped it. "Well, both me and Carrot was so stunned we did not know what to say or do, and not another bite did the three of us get that day. Well, the next day we went out after jack, and got four trimmers out besides our three rods, when Cross-Eyed Tom, who was fishing with a gudgeon, had a run, and just as he did with the chub the day before, he tackled it up to within reach of the landing net. The fish was about 5 lb., and came to the surface with its eyes as fierce as could be, snapping and tugging at the line. 'It's all right,' says Carrot, as he got the net well under it. 'No it isn't,' says the fish; 'don't you know me, Carrot? Didn't I see you when you were poaching the ditches where some of my mistresses spawn. And don't I know where you keep the flue net which reaches across the river. And——' 'Hold your tongue, you beast,' cried Carrot, and had the fish on the bottom of the punt in a jiffy. 'You had better let me go,' says the fish, 'or I'll tell your pul here that it is you and not him that ought to pay that three bob and a tanner a week.' I saw that Carrot trembled ever so, yet he got the snap hook carefully out of the jack's mouth, and pretending to carry it to the well, stumbled and dropped it overboard. And the whole of that day we did not get another fish. Carrot was like a mad-man about our bad luck. We had a few fish in the well, but not

sufficient to satisfy the master shoemaker, for that's what he was. Carrot looks into the well, scratching his head, and says, 'This won't do.' 'No,' says a voice from the well, 'and if you don't let us go we'll sink the punt.' Lord! didn't Carrot holloa then! He took the scoop and ladled out every fish into the river."

"Don't you think, sir, it was the devil, come to make Carrot pay the parish fee, as he did arter that?"

"No," I replied. "The explanation is clear enough. 'The strolling player was a ventriloquist. He had the power of throwing his voice into the fishes' mouths; and as he was doubtless well acquainted with Master Carrot's little tricks, used his art to touch his pocket and his conscience at the same time.'"

"But the devil does interfere with fishermen sometimes," urged Ned. "I have a book at home, left by a customer of mine, where the devil went fishing for souls, and made a fool of hisself."

"Indeed," said I; and my eagerness was enough, for he went off to fetch it. It was a common ruled copy-book, the narrative in manuscript, and was as follows:—

"On one occasion, after fishing many miles of water, with nothing but a few perch and jack in the well as the result, we dropped down to the weir. Wearied with no sport, and the day being hot and sultry, I stretched my listless length on the dry boarding that flanked the main weir, and watched with half-shut eyes through the tremulous aerial medium that often attends a warm summer's day, the osiers on the left. The thundering of the fall had, by degrees, something soothing in it, and I felt that I was sinking fast into a doze, when I beheld a tall figure, in rusty black, with a club-foot, swarthy, sharp visage, and an eye that positively glared, looking down upon me.

"'Ah,' said he; 'no sport! Well, I, too, am a sportsman, and a devilish bad sportsman (here he winked), but I am getting old, and I cannot walk the weirs now.'"

"How he could ever have walked the weirs with that foot of his seemed a mystery; but the love of sport will carry people over anything."

"Finding I made no reply, the figure continued:

"'What would you give to have on your line that fish, whose glittering side you saw but now, as he leaped from the river, till his splash was heard above the noise of the waters?—he that was afterwards chasing the bleak on the shallow till his huge shoulders and back were fairly shown?'"

"'Anything,' replied I; for I had been watching this fish—a twelve or fourteen pounder at least—strong on his feed, and making the small fish skip into the air before him. 'Anything.'"

"'I do not want anything very substantial,' said he, meekly.

"'I looked up.

"'You said awhile you would give anything?'"

"'I did.'"

"'You will give it, then?'"

"'Certainly.'"

"'Agreed.'"

"He produced a small but most brilliant fish—such a one as I had never seen, and I had seen many—a kind of miniature opal or king-fish, and fixed it on the trace most skilfully.

"'You don't repent?' said he.

"'No. But I am to have that great fish on my line?'"

"'Yes.'"

"'And land him?'"

"'The fish shall be landed.'"

"'I shall want to send him to town. Can you meet me at the church with a basket?'"

"'I don't go much to churches,' said he; 'people would stare at me so; but if you mean there (as I pointed with my rod towards the tower), I will see you in the churchyard.'"

"I examined my splendid bait to see that it was all right.

Neither Pennell, Francis, or Wheeldon—no, not even Wilder—could have arranged it better. I tried it in the still water, and it spun admirably. When I raised my head to praise the baiter he was gone.

"I was anxious to try my bait, and beckoned to my puntman, who was sitting on the other end of the long weir-beam by my companion, as the latter was fishing between the two last spurs, near the eddy in the corner. He came.

"'Have you had a run?' said I.

"'Yes, but not from the big fish, although the one as come at us was a *solaker*—I put him at seven or eight pounds.'

"'Where was it?'

"'There, in the corner. He came out of the foam and took us in the *wambling*, but the hooks drew.'

"'Then the fish are on the feed?'

"'Yes, the sun has drawed the baits up close to the weir; and the fish have come up arter them. That great fish drew the baits right out of the water but now, at the far side there, just by that shallow.'

"'I showed him my bait fish.

"'Where did you get that?' said he. 'And who put it on?'

"'Did you not see the man in black who was talking to me?'

"'No. I sid no man in black. I sid a great, dark-looking heron fly away just beyond them osiers, and I wondered how he came to let you be so nigh him. You must ha' bin werry quiet.'

"I began to climb on top of the weir-beam.

"'Is it any use to try again, think you?'

"'It's a wery odd bait as ever I see,' responded my attendant; 'but it's wery bright, and you may as well try the weir over with it.'

"I stood on the weir-beam.

"Now, no one who has not walked the Thames weirs can tell what a task it is to walk them till practice has made it easy. The weir in question is one that affords as steady a footing as any; but to stand on that narrow beam for the first time, whilst the ear is stunned by the roar of the fall, and the head reels as the eye is dazzled with the raging, boiling white water of the pool, fifteen feet below, demands good nerves. To fish in such a position requires strong ones.

"My bait was at one time spinning far down in the pool thirty yards off, and at another, as I shortened my line, which then lay at my feet on the beam, or hung down from it, and reversed my rod, it was glittering close beneath me in the foam on the apron. Suddenly I lost sight of it, and, at the same instant, there was a snatch that I felt to my spinal cord. I had him! I raised my rod in the twinkling of an eye, gave him the butt, and up he sprang into the broad sunlight, showing a side like a sow.

"'Don't check him!' cried my man, in a voice that was heard above the river thunder. Out ran the line. Who can be collected in such a moment? It coiled round my ankle, and down I went headlong into the mad waters below.

"Strange as it may appear, my principal anxiety, as I struck out into the pool to avoid being sucked back under the apron, was to secure the fish, which I felt was still fast. This embarrassed me, and, notwithstanding my efforts, I was drawn back into the weltering waves under the weir. I looked round, and there I beheld that dreadful face glaring ghastly at me through the smooth glassy sheet of the falling water; and I felt the long deadly arms dragging me feet foremost under the apron. In the delirium of despair I cried out—'You said that I should land the fish?' 'I said,' shouted the fiend, 'that the fish should be landed, and that I should see you in the churchyard;' and he mercilessly pulled me under.

"Lord! Lord! methought, what pain it was to drown. The long cruel arms kept pulling me deeper and deeper. The bright-

ness became less and less. My agony was inexpressible. Then came darkness—the blackness of darkness. Suddenly my sensations were even pleasant, and I fancied I was in a delicious meadow. A fearful change succeeded—I found myself in a burial vault.

'Girt by parent, brother, friend,

Long since numbered with the dead,

and there was that grim form still claiming me, and the long lean arms were stretched out to grapple me, and the grasp entered into my soul. I turned to make one desperate effort to escape, and opening my eyes I found myself still stretched on the dry boards. My companion was shaking me by the shoulder, and inquiring with something like reproach if I thought that was the way to get the big trout into the well."

A murmur of applause from several voices follows my closing of the manuscript, for the whole of the fishermen had quietly followed Ned into the room, and thus swelled the number of my audience. Carrot, who had partly recovered himself by this time, swore that every word of it was truth. That it was not a dream, and that the Devil had more to do with fish than people supposed. For my part, I said, that it had occurred to me while reading the narrative that I had heard it somewhere before, and that it was not new—perhaps copied out of some book, now out of print or forgotten. But the majority of my audience declared that it sounded brand-new, and there was nothing stale about it, so that I had to content myself with the unanimous opinion of the fishermen that, whether it was of the musty past or the blooming present, it was a devilish good story.

THE CULTURE OF CARP AND CONSTRUCTION OF PONDS.

BY RUDOLPH HESSEL.

PART II.—CONTINUED.

I NOW proceed to give a few rules of general importance for the construction and management of carp-ponds.

The ponds should have as shallow a border as possible. Their depth should be in accordance with their size, one foot in the culture or regular carp-ponds where large fishes are kept; one-half foot in breeding, and one-quarter to one-half foot in hatching ponds. The borders should be of considerable width; it is desirable in any case that a great number of such shallows be contrived in ponds, as these are the principal feeding places of the carp.

Another important condition to be considered is this, that the water in ponds must be of the same depth all the year round, any variation in this having an injurious influence upon the fishes.

Ponds of smaller circumference, of from ten to fifteen acres, are, according to results obtained, better suited for carp-culture than very large ones, 100 to 1000 acres in extent. These are frequently found in Central Europe upon tracts of land belonging to some princely domain. In the former the fish finds more security, the bottom of the pond being smoother: it also suffers less from the waves, these being high and rough in large ponds, becoming very detrimental to the spawn and breeding fishes, especially during storms, when they are cast ashore and become the prey of water-fowls or perish in some other manner.

The diminution of water by evaporation must be made up for by a fresh supply; this, however, must not exceed the quantity actually needed for maintenance of the regular height of water. Small ponds of from one to fifty acres area, which serve some commercial or industrial purpose, as mills, etc., and which are constantly varying the height of their water, cannot be considered

as favourable or regular culture-ponds. Although the fishes may grow to a pretty good size in them, they must still be regarded as belonging to the category of waters for "free fishing," like lakes and rivers. In these neither the height of water, nor the hatching of the eggs, nor yet the increase of aquatic animals can be regulated at will. Still, leaving these waters to lie waste on this account would be a pity, for if stocked with carp they will, in spite of all disadvantages remunerate the proprietor, and the care which he bestows on them will be a source of much pleasure.

I beg to make some remarks, in conclusion, relative to the introduction of the carp and its increase in open waters, in which it is solely left to the care of nature, and to which subject I alluded at the commencement.

We introduce into our waters migrating fishes, such as the salmon and shad, and find it profitable for the reason that they consume but little food in the rivers, growing up in the sea and ascending into fresh water as large fishes. We also maintain in our lakes white-fish, bass, pike, &c. These are all fond of animal food and belong, in part, to the class of fishes of prey. The carp, on the contrary, lives upon vegetable food, insects, larvæ, and worms, but it never attacks other fishes or their spawn. It can be produced in masses and then be transferred into the waters destined for its reception. This can be done either by artificial impregnation and hatching, or in the way of natural increase.

For each of these methods two ways of action are open: (1) The spawn can be transferred into open water as soon as it is free from the egg; or, (2) the young fishes may be kept in ponds for a season until they have had time to grow—that is, for one summer. In the latter case, the rule, that fishes which are destined for open waters must not be artificially fed, is to be strictly adhered to. Carps which have been used to feeding in that manner will not be so apt to find the food for themselves which, until then, had been supplied to them. Tormented by hunger, they will lose the fear of their enemies and the consequent cautiousness, falling an easy prey to them before many weeks will have elapsed.

If artificial feeding is not intended, the ponds for the reception of the small fishes must be proportionately larger, so that they may find food in sufficient quantities in a natural way. Both methods have their advantages. If the young fry is transferred into open water five or six days after hatching, there will be no necessity for the establishing of large ponds. A great number of eggs must, however, be hatched in this case, for the small fishes will be destroyed in vast numbers by their enemies.

The better method of the two is certainly this: To keep the young fishes in large ponds until the autumn, when they will have reached the age of five or six months. During this time they will have had the opportunity to learn how to find their food by their own efforts, such ponds producing it profusely to satisfy all their wants, and thus they will be prepared for their stay in open waters. To carry through the latter method, a larger extent of water is required, nature itself having indicated precisely the conditions under which and the limits in which the natural and unimpaired growth of the young fishes may be expected.

They do not require as extensive a pond during the first months of their development and growth as those which have reached a more advanced age. For this reason it will be more advantageous to choose the middle way by retaining the young fishes in the ponds for about one or two months and then to give them their liberty instead of transferring them immediately after the hatching, or keeping them for five or six months. By acting upon this suggestion, the incalculable advantage will be gained that the fishes profit by the rich food of the open waters during the season, and will have grown strong enough to fight more

successfully for their existence. For this purpose, establishments for artificial breeding, constructed with a regard to the demands of climate, are essentially needful in these open waters, so that the greatest possible number of eggs may be hatched.

In Europe the subject of stocking open waters with the carp has been discussed, because there, in its native country, its excellent adaptation for this purpose has been recognised.

I observed above that this fish is found in great numbers in most of the European rivers, particularly in the Rhine. Although this river has a very swift current, which at times forms rapids, here neither mud nor suitable ground is to be found which would qualify these localities for feeding places for the rather indolent carp; still, there are numbers of shallows and small creeks, the borders of which are richly overgrown with grass and *Festuca fluitans*, where the fishes find food plentiful and multiply.

The river carp is not as fleshy as the pond-carp; this is accounted for by the great amount of bodily exercise which it is naturally compelled to take. In many places it is more highly appreciated than the pond-carp, probably because the river water does not impart to it the mouldy taste which is sometimes found with the carp inhabiting ponds situated in marshy localities and morasses which have not a sufficient supply of fresh water.

The assertion in regard to the preference given to the river-carp will be found to be correct, especially in regard to the rivers Rhine, Elbe, Weser, Vistula, Loire, Rhone, Garonne, and the Danube. The latter is celebrated in song as the beautiful blue Danube; in reality its water has, during the greater part of the year, a greyish-white, muddy colour, and a very swift current. It has, however, particularly in Austria, Hungary, and the lowlands in general, which border upon it, numerous branches which creep along sluggishly, and also many small creeks with almost stagnant water.

A great number of fishes of prey inhabit this river; the pike, perch, the rapacious Hucho (*Salmo hucho*), and, above all, the never-satisfied Wels (*Silurus glanis*), which, in the lower Danube, reaches a weight of 500 pounds. Its habits being similar to those of the carp, it lies on the mud-banks or feeding-places of this fish and becomes its most dangerous enemy, and insatiable destroyer, and still the carp increases in the Danube. From the city of Ulm, where the river begins to be navigable, after its escape from the Black Forest, a thousand miles downward to its mouth on the Black Sea, as also in this one, the carp is found. To this fact allusion has been made on a former occasion. The carp thrives best in those parts of the Danube where the water is the least clear, at the influx of the muddy waters of its tributaries. At one time I was present at a draught of a seine which took place close to the quay of the city of Pesth, in Hungary, and was arranged by Mr. Szihelsky Ferentez. At that point the river is constantly ploughed by steamers, steam-tugs, canal and ferry boats, and it would have seemed that there could not be many fishes there, yet 300 fine carps, weighing from one to five pounds each, were taken in one draught of the net, within the distance of about one-quarter of an English mile. The carp is partial to this locality because it finds abundant food there in the offal from kitchens, slaughter-houses, breweries, and the sewers of both the cities of Ofen and Pesth. In the European lakes, for instance in the lakes of Constance, Zurich, and Geneva, the carp comes sometimes from these into the ports to seek for food.

PART III.

5.—TAKING THE FISH FROM THE PONDS.

The emptying out of ponds demands the greatest caution and attention. The water must be made to flow off very gradually through the several outlets, all of which are to be kept open at the

same time; it requires frequently from ten to eighteen days to draw off the water. The fishes are driven carefully and slowly with boats into the principal ditches. They must not be chased on any account, or they will bury themselves in the mud; occasionally many thousands will do so within a few moments, and will remain there, pressed together closely, and so perish through suffocation. This is recorded as having occurred from time to time, when, during the process of driving them into the ditches, the fishes were startled by some unknown cause, and all sank into the mud instantaneously. Through the impossibility of extricating them speedily enough, many hundreds and even thousands perished, the owner sustaining heavy losses in consequence. To guard against such an emergency, preparations should be made for an immediate supply of water in similar cases, in order to save the fishes. If the fishing-out progresses in the regular manner, the fishes will by degrees, draw off from the ditches into the collector. The collecting takes from five to six days in large ponds, containing frequently 100 to 400 tons of fishes. Care should be taken that crowding them together may be avoided. On the evening before the fishing-out, when the water of the pond has been diminished to the depth of half a foot, those fishes which have been collected are shut off from the pond by a large net, and in the early morning, at the dawn of day, they are caught. As so large a number of fishes cannot be disposed of at once, they are transferred to the so-called market ponds, from which they are sold by degrees to fish dealers. These market-ponds are quite small, capable of holding from 2000 to 3000 pounds of fish only, and are supplied with running water.

(To be continued.)

A TRAVELLER'S TALE.

WHILST on an angling excursion a few days since, on slipping into a railway carriage on the L. and S.-W. line, I was accosted by a stranger, the only other occupant of the compartment, with "Going a-fishing, sir?" On my replying in the affirmative, he informed me that he was also on the same errand bound. No further introduction was necessary, and we were soon chatting over our varied experiences in angling. As we were nearing a country station, he called my attention to the river over which we were passing. "Look," he said, "at that pool under the alder bushes yonder. One of the best day's fishing I ever had was there. And now, do you see that old grey church tower some three miles distant? The same evening, in a house close by that tower, I spent the most awful night of my life." Hearing this much my curiosity was excited, and I begged him to tell me all about it, and, as the train sped on, he related to me the following remarkable story:—

"'Tis many years ago," he began. "I was a young fellow then, about twenty. I was articled to a solicitor in London, and had received an invitation to spend my Christmas with a friend living within fifty yards of the old tower I just now pointed out to you; and early on the morning of the 24th December I was snugly ensconced in a railway carriage with my portmanteau and fishing-rod, rushing along at the rate of forty miles an hour towards the station we have just left. On my arrival there I was met by my friend, who had previously made arrangements to spend the remainder of the day fishing in the stream close at hand. We had excellent sport, killing several dozen fine roach and dace. We then walked to the inn, got our horse and trap, and rattled merrily away to my friend's house. After the little formalities of introduction to the family had been gone through, I was shown to my room to dress and make myself presentable for dinner. It was a curious old room, in fact, it was a curious old house altogether. It was an old ecclesiastical building adjoining the parish churchyard, and

had a sombre, monkish appearance about it. I did not notice all this then, as my thoughts ran more upon the coming meal, for I was pretty sharp set, having had but a light luncheon since 8 a.m. Well, the dinner was a very good one, and duly disposed of, and a jolly evening spent in a manner usual at this season of the year, and we retired to rest at what a Londoner would consider an early hour. I was tired and sleepy from my journey and unusual exposure in the open air, and was quickly between the sheets. I had been asleep some time, I cannot say how long, when I was awoken by a strange noise. I thought I must have been dreaming. But no! There it was again!—a long, low, muffled wail—as if some creature was in dire distress. Then a hammering and beating within the wall of my room. I sprang up in my bed and listened. There, close by, was the same low wail—half sob, half cry—and the same hammering within the wall. Then an undefined terror possessed me. A cold, shivering sensation ran through my whole frame. I tried to call out, but my tongue clove to my mouth. I could not utter a sound or move a limb. I was not naturally superstitious, and I strove again and again to brace up my nerves and get up and try to discover the origin of these ghostly sounds, for they still continued; but an overwhelming sense of dread overpowered me, and I sank back in my bed in a swoon. When I awoke it was morning, and as I looked out of my window on the well-kept garden and the little fish-pond shimmering in the December sunshine, I tried to persuade myself that it was all a dream, conjured up by my having partaken too freely overnight of the Christmas fare. But it was no good. I could not shake off that indescribable feeling of dread, and I determined that I would not sleep another night in that room. On joining the family at breakfast my haggard looks were noticed by all, and elicited inquiries as to how I had passed the night. I told them that I would not sleep another night in that room if I was to be made Lord Mayor of London for doing so; and I stated what I heard and felt—*felt*, mind you—it was the feeling more than the sounds. I had heard all sorts of strange noises before caused by cats, rats, and other nocturnal disturbers, and cared not a straw for it, but it was the feeling that you were in the presence of something mysterious and indefinite. It was horrible. Then they told me that there was an old legend that in that room, centuries ago, a monk had been walled up in his cell for breaking his vows; and that ever after sounds similar to those I have described had been heard, which no one had been able to explain. Neither could I—"

The shrill whistle of the engine here warned me that we were approaching the station where I was to alight, so, thanking my new acquaintance for his narrative, and wishing him good sport and a merry Christmas, I bade him good-bye, and proceeded to the river, to enjoy the sport of which I had come in quest; but many times after, during that day, my thoughts would revert to the story of the monk walled up in the old chantry-house.

RED ANT.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedeal spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedeal fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout FLIES, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal books. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Our business is this State
Made me a hook-on."—SHAKESPEARE.

Very little business has been done in this state during the Christmas holidays, in consequence of the bad state of the river, and from the present plethoric condition very little will be attempted or done for days to come. At Henley some pretty catches of roach and perch have been had from the bank, but the enthusiastic gentlemen have had to sit, as a rule, up to their knees in liquor uncongenial in their tastes. At Henley the Rev. Harrison, a well-known and respected member of a London club on Tuesday got hold of a tench of 4 lb. Messrs. Crumpton and Harding in the same district, fishing from that "honest ale house," the East Arms, got in two days 1½ dozen roach—best-going 1½ lb, and some 1 lb. confreres, also perch of 1 lb. each, and one beauty 2½ lb., which is to be preserved à la Madame Rachel and made thing of beauty and a joy for ever in the piscatorial den of the above said gentlemen. River out of all trim—pulse high—tongue furred—febrile indications—useless for visitors to call.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water thick, and a flood. A lot of snow here to-day; no fishing for some time to come. Prospects look bad unless we have some frost to get the water clear. No one has been out here all the Christmas.—J. RUSH.

Thames Twickenham).

I am sorry to say the river is quite out of all question for angling, and is likely to be so for some days to come. I have had four punts out since Sunday and each punt only taking a few dozen roach and dace. Monday and Tuesday would have been quite busy days with us had it not been that I had to advise several of my clients to postpone their visits until the river gets itself again. As I have before advised this is the advantage of writing in advance. River overflowing, wind N.W. Freezing hard.—A. PERRIN, reporter.

Thames (Windsor).

"Water, water everywhere! and certainly none fit to drink," is the cry. The towpaths are submerged and every watercourse full and the colour of soup. and things could not be looking more miserable; in addition a nice lot of snow fell last night, so that things are very cheering for Thames anglers. I managed to get a few roach with the ledger last Thursday, best fish 1 lb. 1½ oz., but beyond this I know of nothing. Prospects are very bad. In the report of chub 4 lb. 8½ oz. taken by me, in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, it should have been ½ oz. less than the heaviest chub weighed-in to the Windsor Club, not 5 oz. as printed.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Exe. and Canal (Exeter).

The river is now in a very swollen state, and will not be in angling condition for some few days. We have had a great deal of rain, but this afternoon a change has set in, with every appearance of a hard frost. In the back-water at Cowley Bridge a few pike have been caught, but nothing special has come under my notice. I hear that some nice pike were creel'd by some Bristol gentlemen on Bank Holiday in the Tiverton Canal, and Mr. Kelley on Tuesday landed four pike, the largest, a very fine one, scaling 14 lb. It was taken with a live gudgeon, and was in excellent condition. All information as to tickets, &c., can be obtained from Mr. Parkhouse, landlord of the Railway Inn, Halburton, where every comfort and civility will be found. It is not quite two miles from Tiverton Junction Station, on the Great Western Railway. I may add the canal abounds with large pike, carp, eels, tench, and perch.—J. A. K.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These rivers, unfortunately, have been very much flooded this week and have been a great disappointment to the London anglers. Messrs. Patching, Sargeant, and Collier were fortunate enough to take some very fine roach. Mr. Sargeant took one weighing 1 lb. 9 oz. Should the rain keep off, the rivers will be in good condition by Monday next.—T. ELLIOTT.

Trent (Nottingham).

The weather on Monday (Bank Holiday) was so contrary for rod-fishing that many of the anglers would not venture out, though the water was in fair condition for the use of worms; there were several inches of snow on the ground, which seemed to make things worse, but some of the rodders would not be stopped, for it appeared that they knew this one fact, that is, so long as the snow remains on the ground, it does not affect the fish much from biting, and, with careful treatment as to the use of groundbait, I have frequently known roach to bite well at the cockspur worm—and this some of the fishermen who went out seemed to understand, and the result was that some nice roach were caught by those who ventured out, and were shown at the different clubs, to the surprise of some of their friends, who guessed the fish had been netted, "Nothing of the sort," said one of the successful anglers; "all have been hooked, and nothing used but worms for bait." After the time stated above, the snow went rapidly away, accompanied with rain, and quickly put rod-fishing out of the question. The river began to rise rapidly, and at the time of writing is

quite in a flooded state, so that there will be chance of sport for several days to come.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Newark).

Fishing in the Trent this Christmas has been a miserable failure (for you may perhaps recollect that when I sent off my last note the river was in high flood), and on Christmas-day and Sunday the adjoining land was submerged, presenting to sportsmen a very dreary prospect. On Monday and Tuesday the water rapidly went down; but the foundation of another very heavy flood was laid on Sunday night or Monday morning, for on that morning snow laid on the ground to a considerable depth. On Tuesday a few anglers, taking advantage of the improved state of the water, succeeded in getting a few dace with worm but towards two o'clock in the afternoon, the snow just mentioned, which had been all Monday rapidly melting, got into the river and caused the water to rise again, with a very nasty colour; and then, to make matters worse, it rained very heavily nearly the whole of Wednesday, and so to-night (Thursday) the river is in high flood, and the adjacent land again submerged—making no less than fifteen heavy floods that have swept down the Trent in the year 1880: truly a terrible total. So there will be no fishing here for a few days; but I hope that your readers may, in the coming year, have a glorious season, and in the meantime I wish all friends a Happy New Year, from the Editor down to your humble servant.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both rivers have large floods on them at the present time. There will be no fishing with rod and line for another week or ten days. The cleach net party have killed a few fish during the flood; they complain very much about the scarcity of fish in the Derwent.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

The Yore (Yorkshire).

It has been a custom with me for a great number of years to have a good day's grayling fishing on the day following Christmas Day, and only twice during that period have I been disappointed, for so long as the river is in proper order and free from snow water I care very little for what some people term the discomforts of the weather. This year, however, although the day itself was all that could be desired, the river was so swollen with the heavy rains that fell during the earlier portion of the week that fishing of any kind was out of the question. In the evening another thaw set in, so that I expect it will be another ten days or a fortnight before our local hands will have a chance with the grayling. I note in last week's issue that a correspondent asks for information respecting the Wharfe. If he thinks it worth while to send me a letter, through the editor, stating on what points he requires information, I shall be most happy to reply to it, as nothing gives me greater pleasure than to render assistance when I am able to a brother angler, and I am not aware of any books treating solely on the Yorkshire rivers, excepting Jackson's "Practical Fly Fisher," and Michael Theakstone's "Flies found in the Streams about Ripon," both of which, I believe, are now unobtainable.

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

FROM "PUNCH'S ALMANAC FOR 1881."

PHYSICAL (GEOGRAPHY.—English Angler (on this side of the Tweed, fast in a rock on the other): "Hi, Donald! come over and help me to land him—a 20-pounder, I'll swear—" Highlander (on the other): "It will tak' ye a lang time to lan' that fush too, d'ye ken, sir, whatever!—Ye hae heuket the Kingdom o' Auld Scotland!"

CULTURE. 1881.—Mistress: "As you've never been in service, I'm afraid I can't engage you without a 'character.'" Young Person: "I have three School-Board Certificates, Ma'am—" Mistress: "Oh, well—I suppose for Honesty, Cleanliness—" Young Person, "No, ma'am—for 'Literature,' Joggr'phy, an' Free 'And Drawin'!"

A CHOICE BIT OF ENGLISH.—The English language is no doubt a very difficult one to learn, and it is a marvel that foreigners ever learn it all; but they do—the Germans especially—and the use they make of it afterwards is sometimes truly remarkable. The proprietor of a mineral spring at Carlsbad knows some English, and he writes what he knows with a fluent ease and freshness which cannot be too much admired. The following specimen of his literary skill—an advertisement copied from one of his bottles—seemed to possess, as it were, some of the sparkle of the mineral waters themselves:—"Warning. Only the above mentioned packet up is the very pure salt of the Sprudel because it is produced by the inspection of the town officers. But that salt packet up in wooden boxes, and also trading with that is false and counterfeit; and it is our duty to let this be a warning to the gentlemen and ladies to buy it."—From the "Editor's Drawer" in *Harper's Magazine* for December.

EXTRAORDINARY "RUN" OF SALMON IN THE TEES.—During the late floods a large number of salmon have passed into the Tees and its tributaries from the ocean, on their way to the spawning beds. Many of the fish were of prodigious size and weight, and certainly the number has never previously been exceeded. The Greta literally swarms with salmon and its species, many of the larger fish being unable, now that the flood has somewhat subsided, to surmount the obstacles which are so frequent and formidable in the course of that river. Thousands of salmon have made their way to the higher reaches of the Tees, and a more favourable season for "running" it would be impossible to imagine, as, for several successive days, not only has the Tees, but the whole of runners in the neighbourhood been full. If the number of fish is any criterion as to the Tees being a good salmon river, there can be little doubt that that river now stands in the foreground of northern English spawning beds.—*Middlesborough Daily Exchange*.

THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF FISH CULTURE.—A year or two ago the Americans introduced carp from Germany into many of their waters with a view to cultivate them. Here is an instance of their success and the American papers have such account, frequently from all parts of the Union. This is from the *American Fishing Gazette*:—"CARP CULTURE.—Mr. C. Newell, one of the proprietors of a Sonoma (Cal.) carp pond, says in regard to the carp, 'The fish are almost boneless. Breeders commands 4s. each; market fish, 1s. per pound, and that 6d. is a profitable rate, Major Sullivan is now realizing £800 a year off a small pond. The Grant Pond has a capacity of 9,000 gallons of fresh water per day. In June last forty-two breeders (three males to one female) were put in; the eighteen females ought to have spawned 1000 each, and next year arrangements will be made to accommodate 100,000 fish. Northern Sonoma abounds in springs that would render carp ponds possible by the hundreds. Why not, then, experiment?'"

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS DAY.

PRACTICALLY, as regards fishing, Christmas Day has been a blank, but perhaps the season has been made up in the best of prizes, a happy Christmas home! There are those undoubtedly who would have spent their Christmas in fishing probably to the regret of their wives and families, have now been able to spend it at their own fireside. A husband and a father is in his proper place, on Christmas Day, at least, at the head of his own table; and if he had the chance as I had—thanks to a good friend for it—to partake of a splendid turkey, he must have felt unusually comfortable on this particular Christmastide, and he would have no cause to regret his absence from the Thames, as there was no possibility of his enjoying his favourite pastime of angling. On the day before Christmas Day I visited the neighbourhood of Staines, Chertsey and Weybridge. At the former place I first caught sight of the Thames, and found it in a frightfully flooded condition and looking as bilious as possible. On interrogation with some of the professional fishermen after the morning salutation, and receiving the seasonable good wishes, came the dreadful exclamation, “No more fishing this year!” I tried to cheer them up by reminding them of former instances when a few days put the river right again, but there was still the desponding look with the response, “As you say so, I’m bound to believe you, but at the same time I have my doubts.” I left them trusting that my words would come true, and that I had rightly indulged in a reasonable hope. At Chertsey the river was running like a mill stream, and the fishermen with no expectation of employment during the Christmas holidays. The future appeared to them full of gloom as concerns fishing. The veteran William Galloway, now ripened into a good old age, was looking remarkably well; and James Haslett, instead of devoting his energies to his angling clients, would have to discharge the duties of “mine host” at the Woburn Arms, Addlestone Moor, of which he is the piscatorial landlord, in addition to his business as a professional fisherman. I never go to Chertsey without bringing back with me some of Mr. Ashby’s famous sausages, and they were particularly wanted then for the turkey which I have before referred to. These sausages possess one special recommendation as of the good old sort of home-made ones seasoned with sage. I need not say much of Weybridge, as the river there possessed the same character as at Chertsey and Staines, but I cannot help referring to a comfortable few minutes’ rest at the Lincoln Arms, where I found Mrs. Harris and her son as genial and as pleasant as ever. It was now time for me to wend my way to the Weybridge station for the purpose of discharging a sorrowful mission in paying my last respects to the late Frank Buckland. I took the express train to Waterloo, and thence by the District Railway to Earl’s Court, which is only five minutes’ walk to the Brompton Cemetery, where his remains were to be finally deposited. I arrived there about a quarter of an hour before the time fixed for the funeral, and precisely at the hour of one o’clock the solemn procession, headed by a band of surpliced choristers, came on the grounds and silently marched to the earthy grave. It was a sorrowing spectacle to see the dear old friends and associates of the late Frank Buckland gathered around his last resting-place in this world, and though I should fail to enumerate their names, I will mention those that I can remember. Close to the grave was his valued friend, Mr. Henry Lee, mourning over the loss of one to whom he possessed in life the love of a brother; but I need not depict the feelings of others, as all felt to share in the same grief. The Piscatorial Society had a long train of members, amongst whom were Messrs. T. R. Sachs (a very dear friend of the late Frank Buckland), James Pattison, F. G. Pearce, David Goodger, B. Perelli-Rocco, T. Huggett, Dr. Coates, J. A. Nicholay, M. S.

Nathan, James Lander (Honorary Secretary), &c., &c. The Thames Angling Preservation Society, of which the late Frank Buckland was a vice-President, was represented by Messrs. T. Spreckley (Chairman), W. H. Brougham (Secretary), H. L. Rolfe, Alfred Jardine, and H. P. Eyre (members of the Committee and also members of the Piscatorial Society). Several other angling clubs had also their representatives. The Hon. Captain Ellis was present as the representative of Prince Christian; Mr. Bartlett, of “the Zoo”; Mr. Henry Ffennell (the son of the late Mr. W. J. Ffennell, a former Inspector of Salmon Fisheries), a fellow-worker with the late Mr. Buckland on the staff of *Land and Water*. Amongst the large group of mourners I noticed Mr. E. W. Searle, Mr. Buckland’s valued private secretary, and Mr. R. Edon, who had charge of his Economic Museum of Fish Culture at the South Kensington Museum, both of whom appeared to feel deeply their irreparable loss. At the conclusion of the funeral service the surpliced choir sang three hymns and the evening chant of “Lord now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace,” and the usual benediction ended the mournful ceremony. I have had the pleasure of about twenty years’ friendship with the late Frank Buckland, and amongst my most recent pleasurable reminiscences were a few days in Yarmouth, about two years ago, at the time of the meeting at Lowestoft on the Acclimatisation of Fish, when he requested me to devote my whole time with him, and there were also two other good friends, Mr. T. R. Sachs and Mr. Bartlett; and the last time when I saw him some few months ago in Albany Street, where he sent for me to come and see him, his last words were those at the door of his residence, “I want you to come and spend an evening with me, and as soon as I can I will let you know.” But the time never did come, as his health gradually became worse; there was another journey pressing onward before him, one on which we are all travelling, and sooner or later we shall all come to the end of it like our good old friend Frank Buckland! Thus (out of my own family) ended “the day before Christmas Day.” It commenced with a gloomy view of the river, and it ended in the sorrowing interment of an old friend. I am not going to despond, for with the one there was to me the prospect of an improvement, and with the other the good and wholesome hope that “He was not lost, but gone before.” The same sun which shed its rays so cheerfully at such a time over the grave, shone again on the morrow (Christmas Day) with greater brilliancy and hope, illuminating one’s thoughts in even higher aspirations, and as I am writing this on Christmas morn with the text on the wall of “Glory to God in the highest,” I may close with a fervent hope that in both cases it is typical of a glorious future, and in wishing those who still remain a truly “Happy and Prosperous New Year!”

B.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

WE shall be much obliged if our subscribers will send their subscriptions for the coming year at once, to save unnecessary correspondence. All postal subscriptions are due in advance.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

WE beg to call the special attention of our readers to the long list of subjects and exhibits for which large money prizes and gold and silver and bronze medals will be awarded. It will be noticed that the Exhibition has the direct support of Government.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessors in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

"A WINTER'S TALE."

AT this time of year the trout-fisher naturally yearns after tales and memories of bygone happy hours spent by his favourite stream, and any sketch that may conjure up the old scenes is welcome. Let this be my excuse for the following account of a few episodes in the career of a young angler, though an old sportsman.

It is only two seasons ago that my sporting tastes, denied the use of gun and dog, as in the old prosperous times, perforce turned themselves to the less expensive rod.

About Easter, 1878, fitted up with the usual bran-new tackle of a beginner, I set off to a subscription water, and taking with me a professional fisherman as guide for the first day, I tried to throw a fly. The guide was most kind; he showed me every likely place, and lest I might not be successful, he always fished them first and when he had caught a fish and otherwise disturbed the water he left me to finish fishing while he went on to "spot a fish for me." The result of his "spotting" was a full basket for him, not a fish for me, while I was minus his day's wage and exs. The next day I went alone, but did nothing. The third day there was a lot of fish killed, but while the rise was on I sat on the bank and lunched; when the rise was over I began to fish in great expectation and excitement. With consummate skill I described a horseshoe curve with my right arm round my head, carefully avoiding any wrist action or jerk that would endanger my 2d. flies; then launching forward my body, arm and rod, I got out a fair length of line which, with plenty of slack, floated down stream towards me. I would premise that, being full of book-lore, I was of course an up-stream fisherman. Now a long whippy rod and about ten yards of line require more management than I then knew of; consequently, when a fish did come, he had time to spit out the fly before I could get my stroke through the slack line. And when the stroke had reached the end of the cast, the fly could dash off somewhere behind my head, and get hung up ten minutes after the trout had left. Despairing at length of learning to fish by the aid of books and my own genius, I sought an old fisherman, and craved his counsel.

Said he, "Put a piece of paper on a pond, and whip at it till you hit it every time." Selecting an envelope of decent size, I practised diligently with fair success, and at length got into the "way of it," as my old friend said. An opportunity soon occurred of putting my skill into practice, which was rather amusing, and to me, of course, most novel.

I had an afternoon on some private water which swarmed with trout, and where I hoped to flesh my maiden rod and flies in something better than sodden bits of paper; so, full of hope, I stood on the banks of the fateful pool, and geared up my tackle, my wife being an admiring onlooker. Just as I had finished, a water-rat started from under our feet, and swam straight for the opposite bank. Here was a chance to show my skill! Once, twice, my hand trembling from eagerness, threw over, but beyond him; the third time I struck him in the hind leg. Promptly he curled round on the top of the water and endeavoured to free himself from his disagreeable attaché; the strain I put on him, however, in accordance with my instructions "When Playing a Fish," was too great. He dived a deep long dive; then suddenly coming to the surface he headed for my bank, giving me a lot of slack to reel up, while the wife stood net in hand determined to do or die. The rat, however, objecting to the latter alternative as far as he himself was concerned, set off again across the pool, plunging about in a way that quite astounded me; these exertions told on him though, and the wife cleverly scooped him out in my brand-new net. When he was landed the question of his disposal became unpleasantly urgent; he began to bite the net, and finally seeking refuge under the petticoats he saw so near him, so alarmed

his fair captor that she incontinently fled, in so doing breaking the cast in about three places. The writer, anxious not to hurt the rat by rough handling, and also mindful of his fingers, sought diligently for a stick.

But the rat, impatient of delay, and finding his chain loose, hastened to the shores of his beloved home, and with a bold header leapt into the pool, thus gaining his well-earned liberty. Thus my first fish was a rat, and the experience so got broke the spell of my ill luck, for that afternoon five nice trout, one of which weighed over half a pound, and took me fifteen minutes to land, during which time I lived a little life of hopes and fears, going through emotions which not even my first grouse-drive could raise.

COTTON SPINNER.

THE RIGHTS OF ANGLERS ON THE THAMES.

AT the Coleman Street wardmote meeting on Tuesday, the Lord Mayor presiding, a question of considerable importance to anglers on the river Thames was mooted. Mr. J. F. Clarke proposed the following resolution: That this wardmote is of opinion that the interference by riparian owners on the banks of the Thames with the rights of angling enjoyed by the public for so many years is a subject well worthy of the attention of the Corporation of London, as a staunch defender of public rights." As an old fisherman, he had very great pleasure in introducing the subject to the consideration of that important meeting, with the hope that the Court of Common Council would take some action in the matter. The interest and pleasure he took in piscatorial pursuits had no doubt often left him open to the charge of being stupid, but he did not care much about such accusations so long as he derived pleasure and amusement from his favourite pastime, although he regretted to say that he very frequently came back from the banks of the river or stream in which he fished with a light hamper. (A laugh.) The encroachments which of late had been gradually made upon the rights and privileges of anglers should be sternly resisted, and he trusted that the representatives of that ward in the Court of Common Council would do all in their power to maintain those rights and prerogatives intact, and that the Corporation would thus uphold its ancient and well-deserved claim to being a staunch defender of public rights whenever they were assailed. (Hear, hear.) He need scarcely say that if his lordship, as the alderman of the ward, with the Deputy and their worthy colleagues, the Common Councilmen, interested themselves in the question, and submitted it for the consideration of the Corporation, they would be conferring a very great benefit on a large and important section of the community, and they would earn the sincere thanks of all Thames-side anglers. He had much satisfaction in proposing the resolution which had been read to them by the ward clerk.

Capt. Alfred, as a member of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and an old fisherman on the Thames, seconded the motion with great pleasure. Although not very old in years, he thought he was justified in calling himself an old fisherman, having plied "the gentle art" on the Thames for upwards of thirty years. He regretted to say that the interference with the rights of anglers, of which they had just cause to complain, was gradually and steadily growing, and it had now increased to such proportions that if energetic action were not speedily taken by some public body, as the Corporation, the privileges hitherto enjoyed by fishermen would be completely gone. Anybody who thought proper to purchase a small field, or build a villa on the banks of the river, claimed the right of preventing persons from fishing in front of his place. Under these circumstances he had no doubt that their right honourable friend the Lord Mayor, as the chairman of the Thames Conservancy, would exercise his influence with that body and the Corporation to stop any further

encroachments on the prerogatives of fishermen on the Thames. So great had become this evil, and so strong the feeling of indignation in the angling world, that a committee of gentlemen, known as the Thames Angling Rights Committee, had been formed, with a well-known disciple of the art who was connected with *The Field* newspaper at their head, to look after the interests of anglers in this respect, and see that no more serious wrong was done to them. Up Thames much difficulty and inconvenience were experienced in consequence of the attempts made by these small proprietors to enforce what they considered as their rights, but which were nothing of the sort, as against the public. Up to Staines fishing was not hampered with these restrictions, but beyond that point of the river he regretted to say every obstacle was thrown in the way of anglers. He therefore hoped the Corporation, in the interests of the public, whose rights and privileges were now attacked, would step in and prevent the continuance or recurrence of this state of things. The Corporation had long deserved the name of being staunch defenders of the public rights, and he trusted they would now prove true to that high character, and win the approval and thanks of Thames-side anglers by a bold and resolute effort to maintain the privileges which they so long enjoyed, but were now most unfairly interfered with.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried, the Lord Mayor promising to do all in his power to carry out the wishes of the mover and seconder of the resolution.—*The Field*.

Similar resolutions were proposed in the wards to which they respectively belong by Thomas Spreckley, Esq., President of the T.A.P.S., and F. H. Lemann, Esq., a member of both committees.

SEA-FISHING AT PLYMOUTH.

BY WILLIAM HEARDER.

A DAY'S TRAWLING.

“BILL,” said one of a party of seven, seated one evening in a snug smoking-room; “can’t you give us a day’s trawling?”

“Yes,” was the reply; “next Thursday.” Harry said James would lend his “launch,” and so all was arranged. Bill was to provide trawl, warp, &c., and Harry the grub; whilst the rest looked after the lubricating department.

At ten o’clock we met at the appointed place. A thick, drizzly rain fell incessantly, but nothing would keep us back when our minds were made up. Blowing stiff from S.W., a nice swell was rolling in from the Channel. However, we started.

Bill, with his sea boots and yellow oilskins, which caused much amusement. Harry looked like a modern Robinson Crusoe, or Sindbad; but all were evidently prepared for a wetting. We used a 25-foot otter trawl, and had the first haul inside the “Break.” A few fish was the result—flat fish, pouting, whiting, and some “angels.”

The rain fell incessantly, so kept our landmen below hatches, where, what with the smell of the oil and the hot-water cisterns, they began to feel the peculiar sensation better experienced than described.

Bill planted one of the crew to stop the gangway, but William would insist on his getting out of the way quickly, as he wanted to go “upstairs.”

Lunch was served in the after part, and it was amusing to see the numerous frantic efforts that were made to endeavour to walk. At last, not to be done, they gently sat down and paddled themselves along, not trusting to their feet.

Harry thought that the tobacco I was smoking was vile, and they all agreed that the pie was awfully gross, and recommended

that it should be put aside until we got on shore, where we could sit down and enjoy it quietly.

Just then Will No. 3 was endeavouring to place a tit-bit in his mouth. The boat gave a lurch and it settled in his eye. Bill was determined to have another trawl, so up and off to Cawsand Bay, where some good soles, plaice, &c., fell to our lot. What was most extraordinary was the small portion of animal food that was made use of on board. Even the drinkables were spared.

But Bill never enjoyed a farce more than the day’s trawling.

FUNERAL OF MR. FRANK BUCKLAND.

THE remains of Mr. Frank Buckland were interred on Friday, December 24th, at Brompton Cemetery, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of his friends and admirers. The cortège consisted of ten carriages and an open car, bearing the remains of the deceased in an oak coffin, furnished with silver handles, and an illuminated plate, with the inscription, “Frances Trevelyan Buckland, born December 17th, 1826, died December 19th, 1880.” The departure of the cortège from the residence of the deceased in Albany Street, Regent’s Park, was witnessed by a crowd of sympathising friends and neighbours, who followed the mourners to St. Mary Magdalen, in Munster Square, where Mr. Buckland was in the habit of worshipping, and where a special full choral funeral service was held. The coffin, carried on the shoulders of bearers, and laden with wreaths of choice flowers, was received at the door of the church by the Rev. F. J. Ponsonby (the vicar), and the members of the choir. A procession, headed by the choir, was then formed, and the company proceeded slowly up the nave till the part of the chancel was reached. Here the coffin was laid upon a catafalque, round which the Rev. Canon Liddon, the Rev. F. G. Braithwaite, the Rev. F. J. Ponsonby, and the choir formed a circle, and the service proceeded, the overflowing congregation which had assembled to take part in it testifying to the affectionate interest which was taken in the sad event in the neighbourhood. At the conclusion of the service the coffin was returned to the car, and the cortège proceeded to Brompton Cemetery, where it was awaited by a large number of friends of the deceased. In the first mourning coach were Mrs. Buckland, Mr. Bompas, Mrs. Bompas, (sister of deceased), and the Rev. H. D. Gordon. The second carriage contained Mrs. Gordon, Miss Buckland, Mrs. Bailey, and the Rev. Wm. Buckley. The third carriage was filled by Canon Liddon, Mr. E. Morgan, the Rev. F. G. Braithwaite, Mr. G. Morland, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Herbert Buckland. In the fourth were the Hon. Captain Eliot, Sir P. C. Owen, Mr. Douglas Murray, and Colonel Bridges. In the fifth carriage were Dr. Ogle, Dr. Wardham, Mr. W. W. Cooper, and Surgeon-Major Frederick Hume-Spry, 2nd Life Guards. The sixth carriage contained Mr. Ffennell, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Fryer, and Mr. Searle. The following gentlemen, members of the Piscatorial Society, also attended the funeral: Messrs. Pearce, Sachs, Goodger, T. Huggett, Nicholay, Patterson, Rolfe, Jardine, Perelli-Rocco, Walker, &c., &c. Messrs. Brougham and Spreckley, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, were also present. The company formed round the grave while the Rev. F. G. Braithwaite read the burial service, and the choir, who also attended at the cemetery, sang three of Mr. Buckland’s favourite hymns—“Jesus lives,” “I praise the earth in beauty seen,” and “Ye boundless realms of joy.” At the end of the service, and as the company were departing, sorrowing friends cast flowers upon the coffin, which soon became lost to sight from the abundance of these last tributes of affection.—*Daily News*.

FORECAST FOR JANUARY.—The month opens cold and raw. So do oysters.

LAMPERN-FISHING AT TEDDINGTON.

THE season for lampern-catching at Teddington Weir has been an unusually good one, and the fishermen, who have had little employment in fishing lately with anglers for roach and dace have been largely benefited. The continual rising of flooded water has been the means of bringing the lamperns up in great quantities, and they have at the same time been remarkable for their splendid condition. The greater portion of those taken have been consigned to Holland as bait for deep-sea fishing for cod; whilst large cargoes have found their way to the London houses where they are potted for sale. The men who catch them hold licenses from the Board of Thames Conservancy, and at this season of the year, when other fishing is reduced, the lampern trade is considered a great boon; but it is at the same attended with great expense and risk.

ADDRESSES OF GERMAN PISCICULTURISTS.

SALMONIDÆ are cultivated in hundreds of establishments in Germany, but we here give, from that invaluable work "Dunker's Fischerei Kalender, 1881," the names of a few gentlemen who cultivate other kinds of fish also, for the benefit of any who may be inclined to take up the matter in this country. We are very glad indeed to be able to state that Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, of Lowestoft, at our suggestion, has determined to make some experiments in rearing various kinds of fish other than salmonidæ. Every English angler will wish him success, and we trust the day is not far distant when any one desiring to stock ponds or rivers with carp, perch, pike, roach, rudd, bream, &c., &c., will only require to purchase a supply of ova or fry of Mr. Chambers. We have no doubt of his success; and it will be a grand day for English anglers when they learn that they can purchase any quantity of almost any kind of fish for stocking their waters.

(We give the German name as well as the English to facilitate ordering).

CARP (Ger. Karpfen).—The fish-breeding establishment (Fischzucht-Anstalt) Biberach, Baden.

CARP.—The fish-breeding establishment at Steinbach, Baden.

RUDD (Orfen).—Herr Koch of Reichenau on Untersee, Baden.

PIKE (Hechte) and **CARP** (Karpfen).—The fish-breeding establishment at Weisweil, Baden.

PIKE (Hechte).—The Brothers Kuffer at Munich. They also rear salmo hucho, char (saibling), lake trout (seelachs), trout (forelle), grayling (aesche). Herr Joseph Wispaver of Veitsgraben, in Upper Bavaria, makes all kinds of apparatus for breeding fish of various kinds.

GOLD FISH or **GOLDEN RUDD** (Goldorfen).—Herr Eugen v. Rüdiger of Amorbach near Mittenberg, Rhine Province.

TENCH (Schleie), **CARP** (Karpfe).—The fish-breeding establishment at Neustadt Rhine Province.

YOUNG EELS (Aal-brut), **TENCH**, **CARP**, **CRAY-FISH** (Krebse) **GRAYLING**, (Aesche), **Vendace** (Maräne), **salmo coruleus** (Schnäpel) and other salmonidæ.

CRAY-FISH (Krebse).—These German cray-fish are far superior to our English and are eaten all over the Continent; they fetch from a halfpenny to a penny a piece in the restaurants, but are only seen in this country on rare occasions at the tables of the wealthy. It would be a great thing to get them naturalised in our waters, and it could be most easily done, as we pointed out in our illustrated article on the cray-fish last January. The edel krebs, or noble cray-fish, is much larger than our English cray-fish and infinitely superior in flavour, in fact the English species is also to be found on the Continent, but is only eaten by the very poor. Paris alone consumes over £16,000 worth of them annually. They are very easily reared.

Fish of all Kinds.—Herr Max v. d. Borne the celebrated German Pisciculturist—in fact, the Frank Buckland of Germany—rears fish of all kinds at his splendid fish-breeding establishment at Berneuchen, near Küstrin, Brandenburg.

GOLD FISH (Goldfische).—Major A. D. von Humbert of Hohenkränig, near Königsberg, Brandenburg.

CARP (ova and fry) and **FISH OF ALL KINDS**.—Herr R. Eckardt of Lubbinchen near Guben, Brandenburg.

CARP, **PIKE**, **TENCH**, **GOLD FISH**, **GOLDEN CARP**, and **SALMONIDÆ**.—Herr J. W. Wissenbach of Herborn, Nassau.

ALL KINDS OF SUMMER AND WINTER SPAWNING FISH and **CRAY-FISH**.—Dr. Kammerer of Audershof, Pommerania.

CARP.—Herr Werekmeister, of Coslin, Pommerania.

CARP.—Major Scholz, of Przygodzico, near Ostrowo, Posania.

STURGEON (Stör), and **LAMPERN** (Neunaugen).—The Itzehoe Fishery Association of Beidenfleth in Schleswig-Holstein.

STURGEON (Stör).—Count Zelinsky of Slotwina, near Bieczko, Galicia.

THE DANUBE SALMON (Salmo Hucho) (ger Huchen).—The Upper Austrian Fishery Association of Linz in Upper Austria, Director Herr H. Danner.

GOLDEN CARP (Goldorfen) seem to be largely cultivated at St. Ulrich, near Eibiswald, in Steiermark (Tyrol) at the different establishments. Messrs. M. Kohlberger, J. Silberschneider, S. Zmuck, V. Zmuck; also by Mr. Max von Washington at Pols Castle, Werndorf, near Wildon, Tyrol.

Summer Spawning Fish.—Herr Stoffel of Herrmanstadt, Hungary.

We think at some of the above establishments perch are also cultivated, and we do not see that there would be much difficulty

in transporting perch ova from one part of the country to another. As all Thames anglers know, perch deposit their spawn on boughs just below the surface of the water: what difficulty would there be in carefully removing some boughs with spawn on them, placing them in a suitable carrier, and taking them to stock some pond or river where the boughs could be submerged as before in such a way as to be protected from swans, ducks, etc., and yet exposed to the sun's rays? The perch is a splendid fish, whether for sport or the table, but a very difficult fish to keep alive in a carrier or aquarium, after it has once left the egg state.

We fear it will be a long time before we English take to consuming fresh-water fish to any great extent (except, of course, salmon and trout), partly because we have forgotten how to cook them (in the "good old times" every manor had its fish-stews), and chiefly because sea-fish is now so cheap and easily procured even in the most central districts. At the same time we fancy our readers would be surprised if they knew the high prices perch, carp, pike, etc., fetch in the London market. If we are not misinformed, perch will at times fetch as much as four shillings and sixpence per pound; and at Sweeting's the other day we saw a row of jacklets, for they were not much more than a pound apiece, which were selling at 2s. 6d. and 3s. each. But it is from an angling point that we view the matter with most interest. Anglers are increasing, and angling clubs are springing up everywhere. There is abundance of water, but how many ponds, lakes, and rivers are not already fished out? If they are suitable for trout, by all means put trout in; but if not, then why should not jack, perch, tench, carp, chub, roach, etc., be bred to stock them with?

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SALMON FISHER.—You will get every information respecting salmon and trout fishing on the Usk by writing to Mr. Hughes, stationer, Brecon, or of the Castle Hotel Company, Brecon.

THE PARR AND SAMLET.

SIR,—I hope I may be pardoned for adding one more letter to the long list which has already appeared on this subject; but as you have personally, as well as Mr. Gosden, expressed some interest in the subject, I think it is only fair that the controversy should not be ended by two letters full of error and apparently designed misstatements. In justification of this opinion, I make a quotation from the last letter of Mr. Spence:—"Raven" . . . Larger and stronger than in salmon; the third and fourth rays longest," &c. Now turn to my article of Oct. 30; we find "Pectoral larger and stronger, standing out in the salmon; in the parr less, softer, and lying close to the body." Mr. Spence has had the audacity to insert the word "than" and omit the rest of the sentence. This is only a single example of misquotation. I see no discrepancy in the various descriptions of the pectoral fin, for, if we are to believe Mr. Spence as set forth in his original letter, Yarrell was describing the samlet under the name parr, whilst Parnell plainly made a caligraphical error when writing his description, making a faulty transposition of the words parr and samlon in a solitary case, when writing a long comparative account; and years ago, when I read his article, I altered the words in my own book, as too palpably an oversight. The number of fin rays is of no importance. All the other anatomical features are permanent, but the colour of the fins is slightly variable, as I have certainly found the adipose fin of a pink hue. I shrewdly suspect that the almost white-coloured fins which Mr. Spence has caught at times were real parr, but that this gentleman has not been able to discern the species when he had it before him—the anal fin of the parr having only the white border as in trout, but without the black edging. If anglers will remember that the parr resembles the samlet in nothing but colour, that in this fish trout characteristics are intensified, and that in structure it differs more from the salmon than does the trout, less confusion will be apt to arise. Apart from Yarrell, Mr. Spence adduces seven famous authorities who support "The Raven" in declaring the parr a distinct species, with fairly prolific males and females.

Mr. Gosden gives an extract from "British Zoology," vol. iii., p. 309. The description (1-7) is plainly that of the young salmon, but clause No. 3 refers to the operculum and not the pectorals. The general remarks which follow are a confused medley of facts relating to both parr and samlet.

Mr. Spence believes that I skulk behind a *nom de guerre*; but I fancy it is this gentleman who shelters himself beneath his real name, for it is more difficult and unpleasant to bring home error to such an adversary, than to one who with disinterestedness employs a pseudonym. Mr. Spence's excuse for withholding proof is laughable; the excuse takes more words than the proof. Had Mr. Spence said:—"I caught the 98 trout, left in the stream, alive, and can produce two witnesses to substantiate my assertion," something more like proof would have existed. Mr. Spence it was who first demanded witnesses; these I can produce for my experiments. In the case of one pond belonging to my sister, the water was let off and the facts ascertained, and I hope soon to be able to give our editor ample opportunity for verifying them personally in their entirety. The interpretation I put on the passage relating to the carriage of fish 15 miles was both just and fair, let any one decipher the meaning who may. Mr. Spence can neither read his own arguments correctly, nor those of "The Raven." The quotations relating to the death of fish are ridiculous; I have always said the bulk of the fish died long after capture, usually not before the next day, and one in 50 is a remarkably high percentage for instantaneous mortality. There is no passage from the air-bladder of trout—and I have been speaking of many other fish as well—of sufficient bulk to allow the egress of air from the organ so quickly as to prevent rupture or injurious distension

under sudden compression. Rupture, I believe, rarely takes place, as the bladder is very tough and elastic, but injurious and painful distension must occur. The bony envelope covering the heart is far too weak to offer any effectual resistance to force, and Mr. Spence, in his frequent visits to hospitals, must have become aware that much violence may be done to the body and yet death be protracted for a long time. Printers' errors or one's own occasional inadvertence often play strange vagaries with a writer's composition, where the author has not the "proofs" for inspection. In the sentence with which Mr. Spence finds fault I see no haziness, neither can the words be contorted into three different meanings: "for an inferior" is not "as an inferior," neither is "for an inferior fish, to the Marines" "for a fish inferior to the Marines." Had Mr. Spence taken the words to mean what they imply, or credited myself or the printer with the accidental omission of three words, so as to render the reading "for the sake of," he would have done his common sense more justice, and not allowed it to stray in search of meaningless quibbles. There is more butchery in slaughtering 41 sea-trout, for which, I suppose, Spence could have no use, than 100 trout and samlets, all of which he could readily eat himself. It would be interesting to know the proportion of trout present amongst these numerous samlets. It must have been small where there are so many sea-trout; whilst how does Mr. Spence account for capturing such numbers of diminutive fish when employing sea-trout flies and tackle? To throw back any great number of trout for sea-trout I should consider a sure indication of aberration of intellect, whilst it would be an advantage to anglers to know by what system the number of returned fish was kept when it reached high double and treble figures. I can only say it is a difficult matter to keep the numbers for each fly when you actually have the fish in your creel to check your figures. Has Mr. Spence never thought of the sea-trout's belly and his returned fry, or does he expect the latter to come back with as much felicity from the former as did Jonah. In answer to any other questions which may have been put, Mr. Spence would do well to read the whole correspondence with quoted authorities more thoroughly; it is a waste of time on my part to make answer. But whilst this opponent, with others, accuses "The Raven" of writing at variance with fact and consummating a gross hoax, I must point out that, on the one hand, the statements are strictly true; my aim throughout has been the exposure of error and crude theories; whilst, though I had no great anxiety or hankering for liberty to capture samlets—and in this respect did not support Mr. Byers—yet I fully appreciated this gentleman's candid avowal and never had the least idea of ridiculing his cause. I do not see why other anglers should not feel delight in capturing a fish that is not the object of my own special attention. Finally, I am prepared, should our editor express the wish, and should he not have come across the real parr himself, to place in his hands every means I can of substantiating all my statements of facts in various articles and letters. I can do more. My *nom de guerre* I had long before the controversy began, and I do not feel bound to satisfy the whims of cantankerous opponents by divulging the identity of

THE RAVEN.

In the 29th line of the last paragraph of my article on the parr, the words "it may be shown that in the young" should be "it may be shown that in the river Towy," giving a very different meaning.

P.S.—"Sprint" asks me a question, but asks in such a manner that it is impossible to forget that one cannot touch pitch and be undefiled. He need not ask me to be his hairdresser, and call up memories of a *dead ass*. I am not at "Sprint's" beck and call, whilst I, "The Raven," do not need to officiate on his person, or comb out the tangled ravels of his composition for the public gaze, or even listen to the sighing of a whispering wind to learn in what respect he resembles King Midas.

For the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, I make the following quotation from Couch, taken from Jardine's article in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*:—"It has latterly resolved itself into whether it (the parr) was distinct, or a variety or young of the common trout (*S. fario*). With the migratory salmon it has no connection whatever." In the Gwdderig I have caught the adult parr larger than the common trout in the same river; the question is therefore satisfactorily settled as to the fish being a distinct variety of the river trout.

[This must close the controversy.—ED.]

WILL DUCKS EAT TROUT SPAWN?

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you will let me know if ducks will eat trout spawn.

The piece of water is a reservoir, and the proprietors have put up a grating to keep the fish in, and they are keeping down the water for the trout to spawn in one of the corners.—I am, &c.,

R. H. BUSH.

[Every aquatic bird, whether domestic or wild, will devour any kind of fish spawn, and you must protect the spawning bed in some way—wire netting is generally used.—ED.]

AN APPEAL.

SIR,—As I was requested by a resolution passed at a public meeting to act as the honorary secretary to a Bazaar in aid of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, I may be pardoned for asking you to accord me space in your columns to appeal to the public for help. Charles Reade, the eminent author, says with reference to it:—"The fatal scurvy, the foul leprosy, the maddening eczema, are all skin diseases; and all far more common than supposed, causing the sufferers to be despised or shunned, whereas internal maladies invite the boon of sympathy: Take the fate of domestic servants so afflicted. Their employers dismiss them, however meritorious, and their friends shun them; mental despair too often follows, and they say with the Patriarch Job, whose bodily affliction, selected by knowledge and malignity in person, was a disease of the skin: 'my misery is greater than I can bear.'"

"Against such a weight of suffering, shame, and sorrow, what is the special provision in our enormous city? I am acquainted only with one small hospital—that ought to be a great one, and will be in a year, if the public pleases."

"This is St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in Leicester Square, where the medical officers prescribe on an average for nearly four hundred patients every week. It has already admitted 25,175 new patients."

"It is open without payment to all creeds and all races, the sole credentials for admission being disease and poverty. A leper from India, a Jew from New York, a labourer from New Zealand, mariners from Germany, a clerk from France, have been some of its inmates."

The Bazaar will take place in June next. In the meantime St. John's Hospital labours under a heavy load of debt. I beg you therefore, to let me urge

your readers to subscribe *now* to the Bazaar Fund and their amounts shall be at once handed over to the hospital. A more deserving charity does not exist. I shall also be very glad to receive the names of ladies who will work for the Bazaar. Contributions may be sent to the chairman of the Hospital, the Right Hon. W. N. Massey, M.P., 71, Chester Square, S.W.; to its treasurer, Major Mercier, 138, High Road, Knightsbridge, S.W., to the following members of the Board of Management, the Marquis Townshend, Ball's Park, Herts; Sir Charles Palmer, Bart., Domey Court, near Windsor, and Colonel Gourley, M.P., Sunderland; also to the London and County Bank, Albert Gate, S.W., and the London Joint Stock Bank, Pall Mall, S.W., and to

Your obedient servant,

ROSA FREELAND, Hon. Sec.

Dec. 20, 1880.

12, Ovington Gardens, S.W.

TRENT BOARD OF CONSERVATORS.

SIR,—An opposition to the 1s. trout license in the Trent Fishery district is being organised on the grounds that the water-bailiffs of the Board are now required on the small tributary trout streams. Now, sir, let us state that our experience is that poachers molest little trout streams more than the main stream. The convictions obtained by us in 1880 prove this. Secondly, let us insist that the tributaries are the breeding grounds for all fish. Thirdly, that the present staff of water-bailiffs are paid exclusively by the salmon-license holders. They reasonably complain that they pay the bailiffs and the fresh-water fish anglers reap the benefit. Two courses are then open for the Board. The first is so to augment their income as to enable them to protect all species of fish alike throughout the district. The proposed 1s. annual rod-license for trout is calculated to effect this. The second, which will directly affect the small trout streams, and their owners off the main river Trent, in a way that the opposers do not see, is to watch and protect salmon only and keep our existing staff of water-bailiffs on the main body of the river. The consequence of this step will be to drive the lime and dynamite fraternity off the Trent on to the tributaries when they know they will be uninterrupted.

We earnestly hope that the idea that a sport that all can afford and enjoy should now be taxed will not prevent the anglers giving this important step the consideration it deserves in their own interests.

We are willing to give our time to effectually stop illegal fishing, and we ask each angler in the district to drink six glasses less beer in the year and hand the 1s. over to the board to enable us to protect all kinds of fish. A very great number of persons are in favour of the license, but an opposition exists, consisting of a few upper proprietors who style the license an "interference with private rights." The Board will not favour the license if it be objected to by a fair representative body of those who fish in their own water in the district; but if such objection is carried we disclaim all responsibility in protecting fresh-water fish, and shall be compelled to apply the powers of the Board solely to the Salmon Act, the source from which they are derived. We ask, therefore that each angler who approves of the 1s. rod-license to fish for trout will write a post-card to that effect to Col. Hutton, Gate Barton Hall, Gainsboro, without delay.—I am, &c.,

ALAN BAGOT, Willoughby Wood,
Conservator for Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

Dec. 22, 1880.

EAST COAST FISHING-NETS.

SIR,—I am told that a new kind of net has been used in the herring fishery on the East coast for the last two seasons. This has been described to me as a species of purse net or trawl.

Perhaps your Yarmouth correspondent will kindly enlighten me on the subject.

E. GOSLING.

Budleigh Salterton, Dec. 29, 1880.

FISHING AT DEMERARA.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers oblige me with some information with regard to the fresh and salt water fishing at Demerara? I have a friend going out there who would like to know the kind of rod, winch, flies, spinning-baits, &c., best suited for the fishing there.—I am, &c.,

H. E. G.

Richmond, Dec. 27.

[We should advise your friend to take a very strong hickory pike rod, spoon-baits of various kinds (see the swivels and fastenings are all brass and *not steel*), and an assortment of trout, lake trout and salmon flies. The sea swarms with sharks, but there are good sporting fish of various kinds in the rivers and lakes inland, which take fly or bait well. Strong tackle is needed and long and strong winch line.—ED.]

THE OYSTER'S LAMENT.

Having read in *Land and Water* that "Nothing is so fatal to the oyster as sand," *Punch* sings—

" 'Tis the voice of the oyster, I hear him complain:
'I can't live in this place, here's the sandstorm again.
I was settling to rest 'mid the rocks and the tiles
They had made for a home, but this sand, how it riles!
It gets into my shell and the delicate fringe
That I use when I breathe; and I can't shut my hinge
When the grit lodges there; so the crabs come at will;
Since my poor mouth is open they feed and they kill;
I've complained to a friend, who quite understands,
But he can't undertake to abolish the sands.'
Thus the 'native' made moan, then I took up the brown
Bread and butter and lemon and swallowed him down."

DR. FRANCIS DAY, late Inspector-General of the Fisheries in India, is about to publish an important work on the fishes of Great Britain and Ireland. It will deal with the structure of fishes generally and their geographical distribution, and with the economic uses, modes of capture, diseases, breeding, and life history of the fishes of Great Britain. The work will consist of over 200 plates and letterpress of about 700 pages, and it will be published in parts of about 25 plates and letterpress at intervals of six months, the first to appear immediately. The author has limited the edition to 250 copies, and when it is disposed of he will still be a considerable loser. Messrs. Williams and Norgate are to be the publishers.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Seveel of our members went out on Sunday, December 26th, but with no success, and a blank is all I can record. One of our members, Mr. R. Elam, was expelled from the club last Thursday he having purchased fish and weighed them in to his account. Mr. Williams, from whom he bought the fish, gave evidence against him, and when he sold the fish was not aware that he belonged to a fishing club.—C. HARTLAND, Secretary.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two members out on the 26th. Mr. Castell weighed roach from the Roding and Mr. Mortimer roach from the Rye House water.—CAS.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this Society met at their new club house, the Bank of Friendship, Blackstock Road, Highbury Vale, N., on Monday, Dec. 20, 1880, to celebrate their second anniversary, and partook of a most excellent supper, provided by their worthy treasurer, Host Hobbs, in a manner ever to be remembered by all who had the pleasure of being present. After several appropriate toasts and some excellent singing, the prizes were distributed by the secretary, and a very promising prize list started for the ensuing season. The company separated at 12.30, after spending a most enjoyable evening.
Dec. 28, 1880. J. CHURCHMAN.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Several of our members were out on the 28th, but owing to the state of the water small takes only were had. Messrs. Walters and Marsh had roach and gudgeon from the Thames, and Mr. Eden fishing in private waters succeeded in landing one pike weighing 5 lb. 9 oz.—VORTEX.

THE BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 29th inst. Mr. Collier, roach, three fish, together weighed over 3 lb., Mr. Hart also a nice show of rnoch and perch, several very nice fish amongst the show.—H. A. V., hon. sec.

THE SWIMMING BLADDER OF FISHES.—In a recent note to the Paris Academy, Prof. Marangoni, gives the results he has arrived at in a study of the swimming-bladder. He states, first, that it is the organ which regulates the migration of fishes, those fishes that are without it not migrating from bottoms of little depth, where they find tepid water; while fishes which have a bladder are such as live in deep, cold water, and migrate to deposit their ova in warmer water near the surface. Next, fishes do not rise like the Cartesian diver (in the well-known experiment), and they have to counteract the influence of the swimming-bladder with their fins. If some small dead and living fishes be put in a vessel three-quarters full of water and the air be compressed or rarefied, one finds in the former case that the dead fish descend, while the living ones rise, head in advance, to the surface. Rarefying has the opposite effect. Fishes have reason to fear the passive influence due to hydrostatic pressure; when fished from a great depth, their bladder is often found to be ruptured. Thirdly, the swimming-bladder produces in fishes twofold instability, one of level, the other of position. A fish, having once adapted its bladder to live at a certain depth, nay, through the slightest variation of pressure, be either forced downward or upward, and thus they are in unstable equilibrium as to level. As to position, the bladder being in the ventral region, the centre of gravity is above the centre of pressure, so that fishes are always threatened with inversion; and indeed they take the inverted position when dead or dying. This double instability forces fish to a continual gymnastic movement, and doubtless helps to render them strong and agile. The most agile of terrestrial animals are also those which have least stability.—*American Naturalist.*

TRENT FISHERY DISTRICT.

ABSTRACT OF LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISH.
(Approved by the Trent Fishery Board.)
DATES OF CLOSE TIMES.

For all freshwater fish other than trout (except with leave of owners) March 15 to June 15.

*For trout and char	Oct. 2 to Feb. 1.
*For grayling	March 15 to June 15.
*For salmon, with nets	Sept. 1 to Feb. 1.
*For salmon, with rod	Nov. 1 to Feb. 1.

*These are all compulsory.

The young of salmon (pink, parr or smolt, distinguishable by dark stripes across the back) may not be taken at any time. Salmon taken accidentally without a licence, or all fish taken in close time accidentally, must be returned to the water.

No eel net may be kept down between January 1st and June 24th.

All these dates are inclusive.

The close times apply to the Trent and its tributaries throughout the fishery district, i.e., in the county of Stafford, Warwick, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and the East Riding of York, and as much of the Humber as lies east of the Trent Falls.

A license is necessary to take salmon; to be obtained from T. Worthington, Esq., Derby, or Col. Hutton, Gate Burton Hall, Gainsboro, secretaries to the Trent Fishery Board.

PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SALE OR EXPOSURE FOR SALE OF FISH IS ILLEGAL.

Salmon	between Sept. 3 and Feb. 1.
Trout and char	Oct. 2 and Feb. 1.
Grayling	Mar. 15 and June 15.
Perch, pike, roach, &c.,	Mar. 15 and June 15.

All these dates are inclusive.

Landowners are requested to make their keepers acquainted with the close times and the following relating to them.

The Salmon Act provide a close time for salmon and trout which is a compulsory one throughout England.

The Freshwater Fisheries Act provides a compulsory close time for grayling and char, and a close time (optional to owners) for freshwater fish. Grayling and char may not be taken by any one in the close time.

POACHING.

Netting by day, nightlines, and fishing without permission (if out of the close time) must be dealt with by the owners as an illegal trespass, an ordinary summons will suffice.

If in the close time the case should be also reported to the secretary of the Trent Board at Derby, T. Worthington, Esq., who will also prosecute on behalf of the Trent Fishery Board.

POISONING FISH.

A summons should be taken out by owner for malicious injuries to fish, and the case also reported to the Board.

DYNAMITE OR OTHER EXPLOSIVE.

Special Act. Report to the Board, who will prosecute.

NETTING AT NIGHT.

By a bye-law of the Trent Fishery Board this is illegal; report to the Board. If in close time seize all nets and fish as evidence.

Persons obstructing water bailiffs in the execution of their duty, or refusing access, are liable to a fine of £5.

Private waters are not watched as a practice by the Board, except in close time or under special circumstances.

Keepers reporting on any offence to the Board, are reminded that, a report specifying names, dates, time and nature of the offence, also precise locality, must be made out for the information of the Board before two months have expired from the date of the offence. All summonses must be taken out within that time.

Owners of waters may obtain warrants for their keepers or themselves to act as water bailiffs, on application to T. Worthington, solicitor, Derby.



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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1881.

THE BROADS AND RIVERS OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

PART I.

IN the autumn and winter, the wild-fowl flying southward and westward in search of less rigorous climes are arrested by the projection of the Norfolk coast, and see beneath them, but a few

miles inland, the gleaming surface of lagoon and river, and vast expanses of reed-beds. If they flew all England over they could find no spot so fit for them as this district of marsh and shallow, lake and reed; so down they drop and stay until the spring lures them back to their more northern breeding-places. All do not return; the gun, the decoy, and the snare thin their ranks; but many also, which have found the loneliest spots in this lonely region, are so fascinated that they stay to breed, and then the collector too often finds out their retreat.

The smaller migrants too, which visit us in the spring for the purposes of breeding, are arrested by this obtrusive Norfolk, so that it is a county favoured beyond others in an ornithological sense. It has been said that "all England can be carved out of Norfolk," meaning that there is every variety of land and scenery (save mountains) within its borders. A triangular gap in it will represent the flat and watery Broad district on its eastern tide, while the rest consists of hills, woods, enclosures, wide open commons and heaths, and rich corn and pasture lands. Our present concern is with the Broad district.

The term *Broad* is peculiar to Norfolk. Its etymology is obvious—namely, a *broadening* out of the rivers into lakes, the Broad being intimately connected with the rivers, which in some cases flow through them, and in others are only divided from them by a reed-bed. Whittlesea-mere and other parts of the Fen district were the counterparts of the Broad in many respects; but the character of the Fens has so much changed since their drainage, that it is to Norfolk only that one can now look for the wildness and solitude of marsh and mere so dear to the naturalist and sportsman:

If you take the map and draw a line from Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, 27 miles north to Happisburgh, and then across to Norwich, 18 miles inland, then with a curve south-east back to Pakefield, you will have a triangle which comprehends the chief of the Broad and Rivers—a district for the most part as flat as a billiard-table, where water and land strive for the mastery, and come to a delightful compromise. This tract of country is intersected by three principal rivers, and dotted with a score of lakes. First, below Norwich (a city of nightingales, which are very numerous in its suburbs), the smaller river Yare flows into the larger river Wensum, and then the united stream, under the name of the Yare, flows a sinuous course of 35 miles, until it debouches into the sea at Yarmouth.

For all this distance the river is broad and deep, and in the lower half the tide ebbs and flows, "backing" up the water even up to Norwich. The natural fall of the river is only four inches in the mile; the rise and fall of the tide is very little. There are no locks, and only one bridge, which is a "swing one," so that the Yare is the perfection of a navigable river. For five miles below Norwich the banks are hilly and wooded, but afterwards the water is bordered by tall reeds, and beyond the reeds are miles of marsh. The only broads on the upper part of the Yare are Surlingham and Rockland, both of limited extent; or rather the open water has been so reduced by the rapid growth of the reeds and aquatic vegetation that these appear to be small. Just above Yarmouth is the magnificent tidal lake called Breydon. Roughly speaking, it is five miles long by two-thirds of a mile wide, and at high water, when the muds are covered, it forms a noble expanse of water—the deeper channel of the river through it being marked by painted posts to guide the vessels sailing across. At low water the muds or flats on either side are dry, and attract myriads of wild-fowl, which find their food on the soft ooze, and in winter afford sport and sustenance to the gunner in his flat-bottom punt. One of these men told us that he once cut a small canal, about a foot deep and three feet wide, through the ooze, from the channel to the bank near his cottage, a distance of

100 yards, so that he might get ashore at low water without wading through the mud. In three weeks, such was the action of the tide, the depth was 6 feet; and now it is 17 feet at low water, with a proportionate width. And as men win immortality by various means, he is proud that it is now called by his name—Calver's drain.

The river Waveney also enters in at the top of Breydon, and is navigable for seven-and-twenty miles southward and westward through Beccles to Bungay in a sinuous-like course. The peculiarities of the Waveney are its depth, which is 20 feet close to the banks in places, and the surpassing clearness of its water. While sailing up it you may see, yards beneath you, the tops of waving weeds and shoals of frightened fish, while the blue of its surface, and the white of the waves which rise at the bows and eddy astern, are only paralleled by the blue and white in the sky above. A canal, or cut of three miles in length, connects the Yare at Reedham with the Waveney at Haddiscoe. A mile and a half from the latter place is a beautiful sheet of water, two miles long, named Fritton Broad, which is interesting, inasmuch as there are two decoys upon it still worked by the proprietors. A wide cut called Oulton Dyke connects the mid-length of the Waveney with Oulton Broad, 100 acres in extent, and the most civilised of all the Broads, inasmuch as it has a village on its banks and always a fleet of yachts on its surface. At the lower end of the Broad is a lock which gives access to a tidal lake called Lake Lothing, two miles long—then comes Lowestoft harbour and the sea.

Returning to the lower end of Breydon Water, we find the mouth of the Bure, which flows from the north-west, and is navigable up to Aylsham, a distance of 40 miles by river. It is up this fine river and its tributaries that the wildest and most interesting of the Broads lie. First, as we go up, is a sheet of water with many arms known as Ormesby, Filby, and Rollesby Broads, containing together about 800 acres. These are not accessible from the main river except by small boats, and along a dyke bearing the euphonious name of Muck Fleet. "Fleet" is a Norfolk word for shallow,—a fleet place is where there is but little water. A few miles higher up we come to the Thurne, a broad river which communicates with Hickling Broad, Whiteslea, Horsey Mere, Heigham Sounds, and Martham Broad. Of these Hickling is the largest, covering some 400 acres. All the Broads are very shallow, but this is the shallowest, its depth not exceeding four feet six inches, except in the "channel."

Its water is beautifully clear, and its bottom is of hard yellow gravel, over which shoals of fish scud away as one's boat approaches. All the other Broads have bottoms of black mud of an unknown depth, and so soft that a yacht's anchor will not hold in it, so that large blocks of iron ballast are used instead, and will not drag through the "putty," as the mud is locally called. Returning to the Bure, we come to the mouth of the river Ant, which leads to Barton Broad, 200 acres in extent, and to Stalham Broad. Again returning to the course of the Bure, we come to a group of Broads—Walsham, Ranworth, Decoy Broad, Hoveton Great and Little Broads, Salhouse, and lastly, Wroxham—a large and very beautiful Broad, where regattas are frequently held. Above Wroxham is Belaugh Broad. To sum up, there are here 200 miles of navigable rivers, and 5000 acres of water in the Broads.

The marshes around the group of Broads up the "north river," as the Bure is usually called, are left in their pristine wildness; but in the lower waters there is a very complete system of drainage. The river-surface, as a rule, is much higher than the adjacent marshes, which, as the moisture was pumped out of their peaty and spongy soil, shrank and sank just as a sponge does in drying, until they left the river-level several feet above them. A

low embankment on either side of the river confines its waters, and at the outlets of the drains are pumps which lift the water out of them into the river. These pumps were all formerly, and many still are, worked by means of small windmills; and it is a curious sight, on looking over the wide marshes, to see the scores of windmills all twirling merrily round. Steam is now used at the outlets of the more important drains, and does the work more effectually. Even now the water often gains the mastery. Last winter there were very heavy floods. The millers in the upper reaches, above the navigation, headed up the water for storage until they simultaneously became alarmed at the quantity, and then they opened their flood-gates, and a vast body of water inundated the lower part of Norwich, and covered all the marshes, so that from Norwich to Yarmouth was a vast lake. The marshes were also inundated in the summer, or rather the time of the year which should have been summer in this watery year of 1879; and it was a singular and striking sight to see the great expanse of smooth, steadily flowing water, with here and there a pollard willow or a boathouse standing alone above it. It was before the marsh hay was cut, and some of the occupiers towed large spars about over the submerged grass to prevent, as far as possible, the mud in suspension from settling upon it.

It might be imagined that the scenery of such a flat and marshy country must be most uninteresting. Yet it is not so, except, perhaps, near the sea, where the vegetation is not so luxuriant as it is in the upper reaches.

On either side of the river and around the Broads is a dense wall of emerald-green reeds from seven to ten feet in height. Then come the yellow iris flowers, tall and bending rushes and bulrushes, the sweet sedge with its curious catkins; tankled feathery grasses, in such variety that, as you stand up to your neck in them, you may pluck a dozen kinds without moving; blue clusters of forget-me-nots, fox-gloves, spikes of purple loosestrife, and broad tufts of valerian; bushes of woody nightshade; and, sweeter than all, masses upon masses, all the way along, of the cream-white and strong-scented meadow-sweet;—these are what make the immediate banks changing panoramas of kaleidoscopic beauty. Then on the water, beneath the reeds and across shallow bays, and in the little "pulsks" or miniature Broads which everywhere open off the river, are lilies, yellow and white, in dazzling abundance. Here and there are tropical tangles of wood; a picturesque house in a cluster of trees, or a reed-stack floating on the river with a supporting wherry hidden somewhere beneath it.

The far-reaching marsh has a beauty of its own, that of changing colour as the wind bows the many-tinted grasses and flowers, and the wind-waves and cloud-shadows sweep along; while everywhere are the snowy sails of yachts and the red-brown canvas of the wherries. The atmospheric effects, too, are unusually beautiful, and sunrises and sunsets glow with a warmth of colour that gives the placid lagoons an almost unearthly loveliness; while, when the sun is set, the mists often show lakes and ships and islands that vanish with the dawn. Colour is seen far away; a group of red and white cattle, or the scarlet berries of the guelder rose entwined around some fallen willow, with a gleam of sunshine upon them, will lighten up miles of marsh. Then the flight of hawk and heron, snipe and wild duck, the splash of fish, and the scattering rush of the small fry as a pike makes his raid upon them, are incidents of every hour.

Whether one is observant or not, one cannot help "brushing elbows" with the bird-life of the Broads. It is not the purpose of this article to describe the many rare species which visit or nest in the district, but rather to call attention to the everyday life therein. Embark with us, then, on board one of the small but comfortable river-yachts, and see what a single summer's day

will show you. As we sail up the "north river" we see constantly the coots and water-hens as they swim in and out of the "rond," as the reed-covered water-washed bank is called. Every now and then a wild duck or widgeon or a brood of flappers is disturbed by our passage; and as we sweep round corners, herons rise on lazy wing, or, if out of gunshot, look suspiciously at us. High in air the marsh-harrier, the "Norfolk hawk," scans the marshes with hungry eye; then we turn suddenly as if trying to charge an oak coppice, but a narrow "gateway" reveals itself, and we glide through it on to Wroxham Broad, which is skirted by the river, the only division being a narrow "rond." On the other side beyond the reeds the land rises in wooded undulations, with park-like spaces between. All around the Broad is a dense and sheer wall of bright green reeds eight feet high, with a yellow water-mark on their lower stems. In and out of this the coots, water-hens, grebes and wild ducks are continually splashing and swimming. While our man is making the yacht snug for the night, we go in the jolly-boat and push her anywhere into the reeds and wait. The black-headed buntings, the reed-wrens, and the bearded tits gather close around us, and chatter and scold us vigorously; for very little search would reveal their nests. A kingfisher flashes along and perches on a swaying reed within a few yards, and drives in again and again for the tiny roach and bream. Look, within ten yards are a pair of great crested grebes and three young ones,—tiny black balls, which their parents are feeding. These dive rapidly and rise with a fish two inches long in the beak; this is at once transferred to the young ones, which are also making ludicrous attempts to dive like their seniors. It is the last week in June, and the cuckoos have come to the Broad in numbers; why, we do not know. But they are flying across and perching on the trees, and calling loudly to each other, often with a note broken into three syllables—thus, cuck-cuck-oo. A fortnight later there will scarcely be one there, and the distinctive cry will have ceased. Over the marsh, on the opposite side of the river, two brown owls are hawking in the bright sunshine, and, from the number of times they swoop, with great success. Overhead, no less than five snipes are sweeping and circling about, and as they descend for short distances with quivering tail and wing-tips, we hear that curious bleating or buzzing sound ("lamming" the Norfolk people call it, because of its similarity to the bleating of lambs) which is a characteristic of the snipe in the breeding season.

In the distance are many white birds flying about, and from them arises a noise like that of a rookery. We cross the Broad and the river, and enter a narrow water-lane between the reeds. This presently expands into a "pulk" studded with water-lilies, between which numbers of coots and water-hens are threading their way. The water is only a foot deep and very clear, so that we can see hundreds of big bream swimming lazily, about while smaller roach and rudd play on the surface. Here and there, as we slowly progress, we startle a basking pike. Now we are in a passage only just wide enough for the boat. Tall reeds rise on either hand, and nothing else is visible but the blue sky above. There goes a water-rail, and if we could push the boat in the reeds for a few feet we should find its nest. Then we emerge into the open water of Hoveton Great Broad, and as we approach its lower end the air is filled with the black-headed gulls which swoop close around and deafen us with their cries. Among this labyrinth of reeds and narrow water-lanes and tufts of long grasses, they breed in large numbers. On every little hillock of grass you see their eggs; and the water is dotted with young ones, from the little yellow-and-brown ball of down just hatched, to those fully fledged and just able to fly. It is a sight worth seeing and to be remembered. Yet it cannot compare with Scoulton Mere, also in Norfolk, but out of the Broad district,

where there is the largest colony known in England. As the summer wanes, the birds take their departure to the sea-coast. This end of the Broad is extremely shallow, but the mud is of a great depth. It illustrates the process which is going on year by year in the Broad: the vegetation grows rankly and dies down, and so adds a layer both in thickness and extent to the shallow margin. When, by a repetition of this process, the mud reaches the surfaces, the roots of the reeds and the grasses make it firmer each year, until at last it can be drained and turned into dry land. Some of the smaller Broad's are growing up very fast.

Such is the usual scene of a summer's day. In the winter it is very wild and lonesome, but there are then great numbers of wild-fowl—common and rare.

Of the birds which frequent the Broad's, the heron is the most conspicuous, and it is seen everywhere. There are two or three large and many small heronries in Norfolk, and occasionally solitary pairs nest on the ground in some inaccessible marsh, instead of in trees as is their wont. The great crested grebe may always be seen, and its soaking wet nest be found. If it has young ones, it dives with them under their wings when alarmed, and old and young are sometimes killed with the same shot. The plover and the lapwing are everywhere common. The ruff (the male) and the reeve (the female) of the same species used to be common, but are now rare. The eggs used to be gathered to sell as plovers, and the birds were snared for the table. The male in the breeding season has a splendid ruff—the Queen Elizabeth's collar—around his neck; and this he is fond of displaying for the edification of the female, by marching to and fro on any bare hillock, called by fowlers his "hill." The bittern was formerly common enough, but its nest is now rarely found, and its singular "boom" but seldom heard. In the winter, however, numbers of them come to the Broad's with other wild-fowl, and many are shot. We have not space, however, to enumerate the various species of birds which either breed among or annually visit the Broad's. Enough has been said to indicate their ornithological richness."—BLACKWOOD.

(To be continued.)

EELS AND EEL CULTURE.

(*ANGUILLA ACUTIROSTIS*.)

Present Knowledge of Eels.—Existence in Oswego (N. Y.), River.—History of the Industry There.—Annual and Aggregate Values of the Industry.—Physics of the River.—Fishing Apparatus.—Sex in Eels.—Spawning Grounds.—Scarcity and Plenty.—Food of Eels.—Eels as Food.—Natural History Notes.

(A paper read by Wm. Hosea Ballou before the Chicago Academy of Science on Tuesday evening, Dec. 14, 1880.)

PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE EEL.

THE eel has long figured as one of the most mysterious of animals. For 2280 years it has been the object of more or less discussion. Aristotle maintained that it "is born of worms produced by mud; Pliny, that it rubs itself against rocks, from the fragments of which young eels are born." Thus from the fourth century before Christ, to the year 1873, the eel has been the afflicted object of all manner of absurd theories from a long list of investigators. In the year mentioned, Dr. Syrski read his observations on the Italian eel, *A. vulgaris*, before the Academy of Natural Sciences at Trieste. Investigations were begun on the 29th of November, 1873, and the second eel opened showed the generative organs of the male. This was the first male eel discovered, the announcement of which was sent to the Academy of Sciences at Vienna. The same investigator continued his observations, rectified many mistakes concerning the organs of reproduction in

the female, and gave much additional information. Later on Prof. Packard "detected the mother cells and Mr. Kingsley observed moving, active spermatozoa." The knowledge of the breeding grounds of the eel was bound up in the following expression, taken from page 447 of Packard's *Zoology*: "It is probable that the eel descends rivers in October and November, spawning in autumn and early winter at the mouth of rivers, and in harbours and estuaries in shallow water." This sentence really expresses all that was conjectured or known about the breeding grounds of the eel up to within a few short months. About the time I was making my observations along the Oswego river, a double article appeared in the *New York Times*, the first producing evidence confirmatory to the theory of breeding in the mouths of rivers and the other, by John G. Sawyer, showing that eels may breed in any soft mud of flowing water. This article was reprinted in supplement 239 of the *Scientific American*. My investigations, I think, will show how near the truth the double *Times* article was.

ORIGIN OF THE OSWEGO RIVER INDUSTRY.

The eel industries of the Oswego river are nearly ten decades old. Toward the close of the 18th century, one John Van Buren erected a log-hut in the woods along the Oswego river, then regarded as the extreme western verge of American civilisation. Following on his track people began to settle around him, making the question of food supply the one most prominent to the hardy pioneers. The river rolled grandly by, uninterrupted by its present dams or the hum of gigantic industries. Its waters were stocked with fish, among which common eels, then extraordinarily plenty, attracted the speculative attention of John Van Buren. He accordingly began a fishery and found a ready market among his fellow neighbours. Thus was begun an industry which has since assumed sufficient proportions to furnish profitable employment for many people. Let me say here that Peter Van Buren, the son, succeeded the original John, and was followed by his son Isaac in the fisheries. The latter lives to-day in a pleasant frame farm house, on the same spot where the first log-hut was erected years ago near Battle Island, famous in history.

HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRY.

There are five great fisheries on the Oswego river and its tributaries, situated at Battle Island, Fulton, Horseshoe Dam, Jack's Rifts and Caughdenoy. Battle Island, where the fisheries originated, has been continuously fished for over eighty years. Mr. Charles Peckham, a lock-tender on the Oswego canal, who now rents the weirs there, gave me the information concerning the fishery, which is here reproduced in brief. The best catch was obtained in 1836, when 800 dols. worth of eels were secured, an equivalent of 11,500 pounds dressed. (The dollar is equal to 4s. 2d.) For several years past the catches have been light, not worth over 200 dols. per year, owing to the water which has never been so low as during 1880. The market for this fishery is chiefly now among the canal boats. Eels are also shipped to Fulton, four miles distant, and Oswego, eight miles away. The following table gives the best approximate result of the fishery for eighty years that could be obtained:

	Value.	Weight.
Greatest haul, in 1836	800 dols.	11,428 lbs.
Least catch, in 1880	200 "	2,857 "

Average per year 500 dols.

Eighty years at 500 dols. per year, equals 40,000 dols. an equivalent of 571,000 pounds dressed eels, or 381,000 live eels. An average value of seven cents per pound is made use of here, which value is generally agreed upon by all fishermen.

FULTON.

At Fulton Lewis Fuller has fished since 1846. The river has

been fished here for fifty years. The following statistics were secured at this point:

	Value.	Weight.
Greatest catch, in 1862	1,400 dols.	20,000 lbs.
Least catch, in 1880	200 "	2,857 "

Average 800 dols.

Fifty years at 800 dols., is equal to 40,000 dols., an equivalent of 571,000 pounds dressed eels, or 381,000 live eels.

The largest catch ever made at this point was 1150 pounds in one night, an equivalent of 800 live eels. The number of live eels is obtained in this manner: an average eel weighs two pounds. One-third of this is lost in dressing. Now, to the number of pounds of dressed eels add one-third the weight and divide the result by two, which will give an approximate idea of the number of live eels. The markets for Fulton eels are Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Oswego, Chicago, and Fulton. Chicago receives its supply mainly from eels shipped to Syracuse, the greater shipments being in cold weather.

HORSESHOE DAM.

Horseshoe dam is situated four miles above Fulton, and is fished by Lewis and Levi Montague. It has been fished for 65 years, and has an average value of 850 dols. per year in its fisheries—an equivalent of 55,000 dols. for that length of time, 790,000 pounds of dressed eels, and 475,000 live eels.

"JACK'S RIFTS."

"Jack's Rifts" are situated on Seneca River about four miles up from its junction with the Oneida River, which streams together, combine to form the Oswego River. It is a small fishery which has had an existence of 25 years. It is the property of James Devlin, and I understand, has had an average value of 300 dols. per annum, an equivalent of 7500 dols., 110,000 pounds of dressed eels and 72,000 live eels.

CAUGHDENOY.

The most important of these fisheries are situated at Caughdenoy on Oneida River, twelve miles from its junction with the Oswego River. They have been active for 50 years. There are some 20 men at work here day and night, who run 10 weirs. One firm is composed of Jefferson and Nell Hopkins, David Buss and Frank Palmerton. It has operated for 22 years. Their largest catch was in 1874, when 1000 dols. worth of eels were secured. The fishery for the specified time has produced 15,000 dols., an equivalent of 160,000 pounds of dressed and 107,000 live eels. The markets for these fisheries are Fayetteville, Syracuse, Rochester, and Amsterdam. William Rhines has fished for nine years here, for which he has received 2000 dols., an equivalent of 22,000 pounds of dressed and 14,000 live eels. Messrs. Guard and Van Antwerp have fished for 14 years, for which they have obtained 5000 dols., an equivalent of 55,000 pounds of dressed, and 36,000 live eels.

The following table shows the approximate value of the combined fisheries for Caughdenoy:

	Value.	Weight.
Known value for 22 years	22,000 dols.	314,000 lbs.
(equal to 158,000 live eels)		
Approximate value for previous years	28,000 "	400,000 "
(equal to 170,000 live eels).		
Total	50,000 dols.	714,000 lbs.
		475,000 live eels.

The following table shows the value and extent of the entire industry of the Oswego River:

	Value.	Lbs. eels	No.
	dols.	dressed.	live eels.
Fishery at Battle Island for 80 years	40,000	571,000	380,000
Fishery at Fulton for 50 years	40,000	571,000	380,000
Fishery at Horseshoe Dam for 25 years	55,000	790,000	475,000
Fishery at "Jack's Rifts" for 25 years	7,500	110,000	72,000
Fishery at Caughdenoy for 50 years	50,000	714,000	475,000
Total	192,500	2,756,000	1,782,000
Average per year, 52 years.	3,500	55,000	35,000

PHYSICS OF THE RIVER.

The physics of the Oswego River has been a peculiarly interesting study to me. I have already covered the subject in an article published in the *American Naturalist* for February, 1880, entitled the "Water Sheds of the State of New York," from which I take the following information:

"The most powerful water shed of the State is drained by the Oswego River. Its area contains no less than 7000 square miles of territory. It comprises the well-known chain of lakes, some of which are of considerable size and importance—the Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, etc., amounting to over 400 square miles of lake surface. Besides being in themselves natural reservoirs, the state has further improved Seneca Lake so as to regulate the periodical flow of the water. The average flow of the water is thus secured at about 600,000 cubic feet per minute. 20 miles above the mouth of the Oswego River is Three River Point. From this place, down stream, there is a fall of water amounting to 75 feet. This space is taken up by seven dams erected and maintained by the State. Of these, two are situated at Oswego, covering a fall of 40 feet. These dams, accord hydraulic privileges equal to 25,000 horse power. But a moderate outlay is required to keep the flow in the river near the average for the year. 150,000 cubic feet of this water supply is in actual use in Oswego, where the canals are provided for the reception which furnishes 82 runs of first-class water, and 37 of the second class.

"Two dams are situated at Fulton with 20,000 horse-power. At this point the water privileges are easiest available, although Oswego has the greater representation of industries.

"The Oswego River watershed produces clear cold water, which is perfectly under control of man, no matter what the circumstances or exigencies. The river bank forms a line teeming with industries, with millions of dollars invested. This water supply never endangers the lives of citizens or encroaches on their property, but on the contrary, affords a roadway for inland navigation through the canals which it feeds."

(To be continued.)

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE half-yearly, or what may be more properly designated, the annual general meeting of the members of this Society, was held in the Club-room, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. Mr. Thomas Huggett being unanimously voted into the chair. The attendance of members included Messrs. T. Spreckley, F. G. Pearce, W. B. Adlington, Alfred Jardine, T. R. Sachs, W. H. Brougham, James Lander, H. Grey, F. H. Lemann, B. Perelli-Rocco, J. Knechtli, H. B. Eyre, H. J. Inderwick, B. Slater, E. Frost, C. C. Capel, C. P. Wheatstone, G. Hill, R. Fenning, James Patisson, J. A. Nicholay, J. Christie, E. Foreman, E. Wilkinson, D. Goodger, J. G. Andrew, W. Mann, Dr. Thomas, T. Dixon, M. H. Blamey, J. Hiersch, G. Bates, Harrison, Sparrow, J. F. Lovelock, &c. The business commenced by Mr. James Lander (Honorary Secretary) reading the minutes of the last half-yearly meeting and the last weekly meeting, which was confirmed. In the absence of Mr. T. Gillatt, the senior auditor, from indisposition, Mr. J. Patisson, his colleague, produced and read the audited financial statement of the treasurer. From this it appeared the receipts in subscriptions and entrance fees including a balance of £6 rs. 8d. from the previous account made a total for the half-year of £57 10s. 8d., and the expenditure left a balance in hand of £6 os. 8d. There were £11 11s. od. due in arrears, of which £6 6s. had already been paid. In the savings bank the sum of £54 5s. 8d. was placed to the credit of the Society. Mr. Patisson paid a high compliment on the manner in which the accounts were kept. Mr. F. G. Pearce, after referring in very graceful terms to the

arduous duties performed by the honorary secretary, which occupied much valuable time and expense, proposed that Mr. James Lander be requested to accept of the sum of £20 as a compliment from the Society, and as a slight acknowledgment of his most valuable services, which being seconded by Mr. J. A. Nicholay, was enthusiastically carried. Mr. Lander in returning thanks, observed he had been now seven years in office, and if the members could find any one better for the position, he would willingly resign (loud cries of "No, no.") The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year: Mr. F. G. Pearce was unanimously elected Treasurer; Messrs. T. Gillatt and James Patisson as Auditors; Mr. James Lander as Honorary Secretary; Mr. H. Gray as Librarian. The old Committee were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. L. Cottam, who not having attended the required number of meetings, was not eligible for re-election and Mr. Thomas Huggett was unanimously elected in his place. The next business was to fix the date and place for the annual dinner. It was thereupon agreed to take place on Wednesday, February 9th, and after some complimentary remarks on the previous dinner, it was unanimously resolved to hold it as usual in the Prince's Saloon at the Holborn Restaurant. A letter was read from Mr. Arthur Ottway, M.P., accepting the invitation of the Committee to preside on the occasion, and Mr. Thomas Huggett, who had taken the chair at the summer dinner, was very cordially selected as vice-chairman for the annual dinner. It was agreed to invite as guests on that occasion, Sir Henry W. Peek, Bart, M.P.; Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P.; and Mr. McLaren, M.P., in addition to those who were usually invited. Messrs. F. A. Lemann, Alfred Jardine, B. Perelli-Rocco, C. P. Wheatstone, and James Lander were appointed Dinner Stewards. Several notices of motion were given, one being from Mr. Alfred Jardine on the earlier commencement of the weekly meetings, as the hour of nine o'clock, and frequently after, when they began, gave no chance of those members more frequently attending who resided at from 10 to 15 miles distance from London, and who would, he was sure, attend more regularly if the hour of seven o'clock was fixed for the commencement of business, and when that was over, those who liked to spend a longer evening would have the opportunity of doing so. Mr. Thomas Spreckley fully concurred in Mr. Jardine's ideas, as he, for one, would come oftener amongst them if the time for business was fixed at an earlier hour. Mr. H. B. Eyre expressed a similar opinion. The usual Club Prizes were voted for the coming season. A vote of thanks to Mr. Huggett for his able conduct in the chair terminated the business portion of the proceedings.

ANDOVER AND WEYHILL HORSE COMPANY
(LIMITED.)

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to the announcement details to be found in our advertising columns of the important sale of hunters of the Andover and Weyhill Horse Company (Limited), which will take place on Tuesday next at the Company's stables at Cricklewood. The list comprises 40 first-class hunters, many of which are weight-carriers of great quality, and several perfect hunters, suitable for ladies. We may mention, for the information of those of our readers who are not aware of the fact, that Cricklewood is 3½ miles from the Marble Arch on the Edgware Road, and close to the Cricklewood station on the Midland line, King's Cross (Metropolitan) station. The sale is fixed for the 1 o'clock, under the auspices of the well-known auctioneers, Messrs. W. and S. Freeman, Aldridge's, St. Martin's Lane.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"To be, or not to be,
That is the question."—SHAKESPEARE.

Whether we are going to have any more decent fishing in the Thames this season or not, that is the question. As I write there is every indication that good sport may certainly be anticipated, for the flood has rapidly disappeared, and the obstreperous water is once again confined within bounds. The colour of the river is excellent, and by the time these observations are in print I should say the river will be *sans* flood, *sans* mud, *sans* everything bad—in short, perfection. The angler who now knows how to go to work will be almost certain to gain the reward of merit. Not anything worthy of note has been done during the past week, but something worthy of report in the way of netting the meadows below Henley. I refrain, however, from further comment until more minute facts are before me, when the evil-doers may be sure their sins will find them out.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River dropping into splendid angling. Weather cold and dry, with a strong easterly gale. MARLOW BUZZ.
January 6th, 1881.

Thames (Goring).

The water is getting in good order for jack and perch. Prospects better. By Sunday, water will be in first-rate order again if it keeps fine. Nothing doing. All we want now is some gentleman to come, now the water is getting right.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is getting in fine trim, and the water is a splendid colour; there is a little too much stream, but by the time this gets in print things will be all right. Harry Wheeler was out on Tuesday and got 12 dozen of splendid dace, he hadn't one dozen of small ones if he had wanted them for bait; he was only out three hours so they had good sport. I went out for a couple of hours but the wind was blowing enough to cut your head off, so I turned it up with 3 dozen of fine dace. The dace are very large, and there will be some good sport next week with the bream if the rain keeps off. The water is a little too high now, but will be all right by Saturday, as it is one foot lower than it was yesterday.—J. BUSHNELL.

Thames (Windsor).

Water has fallen considerably within the last twenty-four hours, and is clearing fast, though it may not be in the best of condition till well into next week. Still there is a chance for bank anglers, as it has left the tow paths except in the lowest parts, and by Sunday will not be too thick for gentles or paste, though worm will be taken by the heavier roach for some days to come. Owing to the very high state of the river very few anglers have been out, and I only know of small takes of roach ledgering with the tail end of lob during the week; but last week, though too late for my report, Paice, of Etonwick, fishing with Mr. Millans, of Kensington, had one day 6 perch with tail of lob, largest 2 lb. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 9 roach, and a pretty trout between 4 and 5 lb, which was duly returned to Surly Hallpool. Next day with the same gentleman he had 12 roach, 3 barbel, 9 dace, 9 gudgeon, and a trout of 1 lb., which was duly returned.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

In first-rate order for angling. Every prospect of good fishing during the coming week. Weather fine. Mr. Hawkins has had a fair show of roach from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight; T. Hawkins, jack, largest about 4 lb.; Mr. Faulkner, roach and dace. Other anglers have been out, and had a fair amount of sport. There is every prospect of good trout-fishing in the coming season; there are more trout up to spawn than we ever remember seeing before. Anglers wishing to subscribe to these waters should apply to E. Godfrey, proprietor.—E. GODFREY.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These rivers are in fine condition for angling, and we are expecting several gentlemen home with some fine bags of pike from the Ouse to-night.—T. ELLIOTT.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).

The weather during the past fortnight having proved very unsuitable for fishing in the river, most of our city anglers have lost no time in getting their implements in order for that kind of fishing as soon as the regular season opens, and all those who have and did use "Strawson's line-preserver" at the end of the past season must be very pleased at the feel and appearance after some few weeks' holiday, especially in such a damp atmosphere as we have had during that time. One dressing will preserve a line for seasons, which I have well proved during the past ten years. The result of last week's fishing in the Canal was so far satisfactory, as the quantity of catches effected proved, although, owing to its being Christmas week, very few rodsters were out. Several nice pike were taken, also a brace of carp, weighing over 10 lb., and a few perch, which were not over fine. Unfortunately, as a rule, they do not run large in the Canal. The net fishermen in the lower part of the river, from Topsham to Exmouth have done simply nothing during the floods, but, the herrings having returned to the estuary again, they are now having some fine hauls of fish, which are much superior in quality as well as in size to those taken some weeks back, and were selling on Saturday, January 1, at £2 per 1000. All the weirs, from Salmon Pool to Cowley Bridge, have presented a grand spectacle of late, and salmon are still coming up, and the run on Sunday and yesterday has been immense, which caused numbers of persons to stop and watch them shoot into

and through the heavy waters over the Black Aller and Head weirs. I have not heard of a single poaching incident, or seen any salmon offered for sale, which we generally do at this particular season of the year (Christmas). Of course, there is little danger to be apprehended, first, because the waters are too high, and, secondly, because the fish are all on the run; but a little later on, when the river is again lower, and the fish are on the spawning-grounds or leaving it, then it will behove the bailiffs to be on the *qui vive*. I believe the coming season will compare favourably with any of its predecessors, though, as a rule, it is a very late one.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Trent (Newark).

The water is rapidly fining down after the very heavy floods of last week. It is still a little higher than ordinary, but not in bad condition for chub and pike-fishing, the prospects according to the state of affairs to-night (Thursday), look pretty favourable. Weather sharp and clear, but wind in a nasty quarter, viz., East. If no alteration in weather and water takes place, I think that by the time this is in print, anglers will have a chance of a little sport among the chub and pike. Try the chub with pith and brains, or perhaps a nice bunch of cockspurs may fetch them, but I shall prefer pith, especially if these frosts continue; pike-fishers should try all the pools and backwaters, and every snug corner that they think is likely to contain a fish, for I believe those fish will be inclined to feed, livebaiting or spinning. Roach, dace, and bream, will perhaps take the little cockspur worm, but I should certainly prefer chub and pike-fishing this next week if there is no alteration.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The recent great flood we were visited with at the end of last week went away very rapidly, and, the weather changing to something more favourable than it had previously been, the water by Tuesday morning got into good condition for bottom-fishing; and considering it was the week after the Christmas holidays, a good number of rodsters were soon prepared to go out, as Trent fishermen know perfectly well if they allow the favourable chances to pass by during the winter months, they had better stay at home. However, one party went to Burton-on-Trent and another stopped short at Willington, and at both places the fish were found ready to feed at worms, and several nice samples of roach and dace were brought down, one angler having a 4 lb. bream among his fish, and another had several nice perch in his basket. The taking of the latter showed that the temperature of both air and water must have been good, for it is seldom perch bite well in frosty weather. On the following day two capital baskets of roach were brought up from the neighbourhood of Ratcliff, and I am of opinion that anglers who are fond of winter fishing should watch the water in this locality, for they will not find better swims within miles of Nottingham. Then came another sudden change; the mercury went down in a few hours almost to freezing-point, which put a check on the worm fishers; but, the water improving, let in the anglers for chub and pike. The former, using scratching for bait, managed to capture some nice chub, taking the precaution to select swims from five to six feet deep. The pike-fishers did not get on very well, though I might say, according to the present state of the weather, they will have a very good chance of sport long before this letter is in print.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the above rivers have run down wonderfully since my last report, especially the Derwent, and the mild weather we have had during the week has been causing a fair quantity of anglers to turn out on the Derwent bottom-fishing and pike-fishing; but the river being of a nasty white, milky colour, with snow broth in the river, has been causing the fish to feed but middling, which they generally do in all our Derbyshire streams when the snow broth is in the rivers. It seems to quite take them off the feed. There has been a few grayling, roach, dace, and perch killing, with small branding worms for bait. The pike-fishers have been killing a few fish of small size with small dace for bait, both trolling and dead gorge fishing. The Wye will be all right for fly-fishing by next week. The claret body, bumble, furnace, and dyed hackle flies are the best kind the angler can use for this time of the year. Our rivers are early spring and late autumn rivers, and I recommend anglers to lose no time in trying their skill while this beautiful fine mild weather continues, as grayling generally rises sure at this season of the year, and now they are in the best of condition.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

The Yore (Yorkshire).

I regret to say that angling prospects are still anything but bright in this district, owing to the continuance of high floods in the main rivers, which will have to subside before anything can be done in the way of grayling fishing. I am living in hopes, however, as to-day a sharp frost has set in, and under its influence the water will rapidly run down, when I expect to bring a few fish to basket either with fly or the little red worm, and also to give your readers a more encouraging account of sport generally.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

TO FISHING-TACKLE MAKERS.

WE earnestly advise all who make fishing-tackle or any article, used by anglers—punts, boats, &c.—to at once take space at the National Fisheries Exhibition to be held at Norwich in April. It will be by far the best exhibition of the kind ever held in these islands, and will attract an immense concourse of anglers. Exhibitors are allowed to price their goods and distribute catalogues. Particulars and prospectuses can be had of the Hon. Secretary, W. Oldham Chambers, Esq., Lowestoft.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gafts, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout FLIES, which for killing purposes stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kental hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

THE CULTURE OF CARP AND CONSTRUCTION OF PONDS.

BY RUDLPH HESSEL.

PART III.—CONTINUED.

THOSE who never saw the fishing-out of a carp pond can scarcely imagine the beautiful sight of so many thousand fine fishes, fat and well fed, raising their high, broad backs and thick, puffy lips above the water, their heads side by side, all being nearly of the same size, weighing from four to five pounds, their bodies closely pressing against each other, looking like an immense herd of sheep, imprisoned in one large net, upon a circumference of 3000 to 4000 feet. Closer and closer the circle is drawn around them, until its extent measures only about two acres, when they are caught by thousands, weighed in lots of 100 pounds, and then they are placed in the market ponds. The pikes, which have reached an almost equal weight, are put into pike ponds. It requires often two or three days to weigh the fishes, ponds of 1000 to 2000 acres area containing on an average 200 tons of carp and 20 tons of pike; tench and other fish not included.

I assisted once at the fishing-out of one of these ponds, which took place in the neighbourhood of the town of Guben Pleitz, province of Brandenburg, Germany. The pond was the property of a

plants (*Festuca fluitans* and *phelandrium*), for the spawners and the young fish, and also places, eight to ten feet deep, for larger fish. If such a pond is to yield some profit, it must also be particularly rich in food. A natural pond may be used, or, if such a one is not found, it may be artificially constructed. It is indispensable, however, that such a pond should have the same depth of water all the year round, and it should be so arranged that even the last drop of water can be let off, as occasionally even the smallest fish, measuring only two or three inches in length, must be taken out. Such "mixed ponds" must likewise have "collectors" and "collector-ditches." It will also be found very useful to construct a sort of hatching-place on some flat and sunny place, near the bank, viz., a so-called cut in the bank, measuring 40 to 100 feet in length, and 30 to 50 feet in breadth, and having a depth of five inches to one and a half feet. This cut should be thickly planted with the above-mentioned aquatic plants, and ought, so to speak, to be the only place in the pond where carp can ascend from the depth in order to deposit their eggs conveniently and engage in the spawning process.

As soon as this has taken place, the entrance to this cut is closed with a net, so the eggs cannot be eaten by the fish. This net may be removed when the young fish have come out of the eggs, but it is preferable to leave it in its place for



competent culturist and valued friend, Mr. Thomas Berger, of Georgenhof, near Cottbus-Peitz. The ponds in which this gentleman carries on carp-culture exceeds the extent of 6000 Prussian acres. The pond which was fished out at the time I speak of was but a small one, not more than 200 acres in size, yet to my surprise I found that the greater number of fishes were fine specimens of about three pounds' weight, though they were but in their second year, having weighed no more than one and a quarter pounds five short months before (the fishing-out took place at the beginning of October), and they had attained to this great weight in a comparatively very limited space of time. Several establishments of this kind are located in that district, and they commonly belong to some large princely domain (Crown property). They are, like all large fisheries, admirably managed, and the results are most satisfactory.

6.—MIXED CARP-CULTURE.

We have so far spoken of carp-culture, according to the different age of these fish, in special ponds (hatching, breeding and carp ponds), termed "class-culture" in Central Europe. We must now speak of another method, pursued in so-called "mixed ponds," in which there are fish of all ages, from one year to eight to ten years.

Not much can be said regarding this method, as there are no hatching or breeding ponds, but only one pond, which, however, must combine all the characteristics of the class-ponds. It must therefore have shallow places overgrown with grass or aquatic

some days, that the young fish may be able to feed for some time undisturbed.

Explanation of Diagram.—A is the pond, B the cut, which,

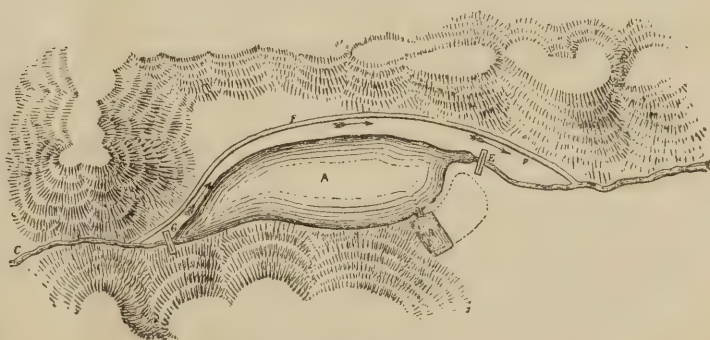
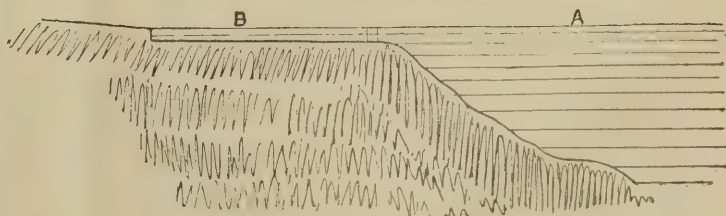


Fig. 2.



BA Cross section of pond through breeding place.

though directly connected with the pond, is in reality nothing but a hatching-pond, such as has been described above. In order to

eggs which it impregnates will produce spotted fish, having at least a silvery streak $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch broad, between the caudal and the dorsal fins. Such bastards (the cross-breeds of gold-fish and *carassius* also resemble them) do not grow larger than gold-fish, and have as many bones. They are unfit for table use and entirely unsuited for ornament, as they are neither genuine carp nor gold-fish, and are disagreeable objects in the eyes of the scientist or connoisseur. If such fish are not removed immediately the consequence will be another cross-breed during the next spawning season, for such a hybrid spawns like the gold-fish, when it is a year old, and the breed of carps would degenerate still more. It is best to kill such worthless cross-breeds at once, as they are apt to give great trouble.

I would embrace this opportunity to impress upon every carp-turist who intends to make breeding-experiments with any carp, the importance of having if possible only one of three above mentioned kinds of carp, unless he can have every kind in a separate pond. Thus, the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio communis*) should never be placed in the same pond with the "mirror-carp" or the "leather, or naked carp" (*Cyprinus carpio alepidotus, coriaceus vel nudus*), nor should the two last-mentioned varieties ever be in the same pond. Cross-breeds would invariably be produced, and in such a manner that one would have neither genuine common carps nor genuine mirror or leather carps, but a cross-breed of all the three varieties. Not even when quite young and not yet capable of spawning should these varieties be put together, because, even if they are kept strictly separate during the spawning process, the young fish would never have the sharply-marked characteristics of their variety as regards form and colour, but would approach nearer to the "mirror carp" and the "common carp." The carp has a striking tendency, when living with other varieties, to approach the primitive form of the common carp, and finally to be merged in it. These beautiful varieties should therefore be kept strictly separate; lack of ponds or any other reason should never induce people to mix them.

If the breeding-experiments are to be accompanied by good results, a pure variety should be selected, and the finest and best milters and spawners, showing strongly all the characteristics of their variety should be procured, and the experiments will be crowned with success.

I must return to the so-called "mixed culture," by mentioning that it is not to be recommended. In Central Europe it is never practised by scientific pisciculturists but only by small operators mostly in so-called "peasants' ponds." This method does never yield a certain and truly profitable result.

7.—FEEDING THE CARP.

In conclusion I will make some remarks on the feeding of carp in close ponds. It is not every natural pond which is a good pond, having the essentials of a good soil at the bottom and capable of producing sufficient food for the fish. If these conditions are wanting, the fish must be fed. This is as a general rule only necessary in ponds with sandy bottom without any clay. As I have said before, I am *not* in favour of feeding fish, as my standpoint is that of the rational culturists sharing the opinion with most of the prominent pisciculturists of the Old World, that the carp should find its own food in the ponds.

If, however, the nature of the bottom demands artificial feeding, or if suitable food can be had at a remarkably cheap price, the feeding should be done with great caution. Never feed in one and the same place; even if the pond be very large, distribute the food in different places near the banks. If the food is always put in one place, or even if it is distributed over two places, the carp will stay in the neighbourhood of these places, will become languid, and instead of scouring the other parts of the pond in search of food, will remain at the bottom. It will even

have a complete system of ponds, nothing would be required but a "breeding-pond."

In Europe this method was generally adopted by beginners in carp culture, commencing with a mixed pond, and gradually proceeding to the small "hatching-pond," and finally to the "breeding-pond," as the great advantage of separate ponds for the different ages of fish over the "mixed pond" system soon became evident.

In such a "mixed-pond" no pike must be kept for regulating stock, as may be done in a class-pond, for all the small fish would then soon be devoured. It must be made a strict rule that, with the exception of the tench (*Cyprinus tinca*), no other kind of fish, however harmless, is allowed in the pond. The tench is related to the carp, but it spawns four to five weeks later, so there can be no danger of cross breeds.

Great care should be taken that no gold-fish (*Cyprinus carpi auratus*) or bream (*brama*) get in the pond, for these fish would soon mix with the carp and tend to degenerate the breed. Such fish should therefore be removed or killed at once. The gold-fish, especially the milter, swims in spawning-schools like the carp and at the very same season. It thus spoils the eggs of the carp, as all if surrounded by the richest food, grow fat, but never have any firm flesh; nor will it ever grow much in length, as the somewhat phlegmatic fish does not get the exercise which favours its growth.

Never give them much food at one time, but by degrees, in small quantities, never during the day, but either early in the morning or in the evening. During the hot season only feed them late at night, because the carp, if it has eaten sufficient in the morning, will remain at the bottom all day, while during the higher temperature of the water it is necessary for its health that it should swim round and get a change of water. It is therefore useful to place in ponds containing large carps a limited number of pikes which, however, must be smaller than the carp. The carp fears the pike and flies from it. If there are pikes in the pond, the carp will get more exercise and will seek natural feeding places, whither on account of its innate sluggishness it would never have gone.

Pond-carp are accustomed to other food than the river-carp. The former confine themselves to worms, larvæ, and plants, while those living in streams find all sorts of animal and vegetable refuse; these latter can also stand a greater amount of food, as the current naturally makes them take more exercise, thus increasing their appetite. It is different with the pond-carp; if you give it too much food, it will not take any more than is necessary to satisfy its hunger; the remnants will remain at the bottom, and if their quantity be considerable, they will spoil the water. If these remnants are chiefly animal refuse, as flesh or blood, fungi will grow on them, and will then produce, as with the salmon and trout, diseases of the skin, the gills, and in the case of the carp sometimes internal diseases.

(To be continued.)

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADV'T.]

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

PIKING IN PRIVATE WATERS.

WE had been jack-fishing all day the back end of last autumn at Hampton, under the care of the reputed most celebrated fisherman of the place, but without any luck. When we started in the morning we were assured by our lively friend that it was a "day of days"—wind right, water right. "Didn't he know where some 20-pounders lay?"—of course he did. "Had he not fished the water for years, and his father before him, and did not Mr. Jones only last week get a 16-pounder just under that bed of weeds?" where we subsequently pitched; but Mr. Jones had evidently taken all the inhabitants, for we had no sign of a run. As we were paddling back in the dusk, disappointed, but, like true sportsmen, not disheartened, our fisherman, full of beer and spirits, nothing daunted, and having the consolation of knowing that we unfortunates had to part with the usual half-sovereign. Resting awhile on his oar, our cheerful sportsman grunted, "Well, I can't understand it," (as a fact, they never can understand it) "must be the water is too cold; but there, after all, the Thames is not what it was; but, gents, I know a place not a hundred miles from here where the jack are so thick that I've seen them in summer time lying like logs of wood on the water, and a fact, I assure you, one night when I was coming away, I heard them barking like dogs." Amused at our voracious friend, 'twas so much like the rosy prospects of the morning, and guessed it was an attempt to lure us to have another day with him; but all our endeavours to find out the place were unavailing, he wouldn't give us the necessary fixture until we warmed his heart with a glass of grog. At parting, he said, "You know, gents, when you are ready to fish that bit of water at Kempton let me know, and I will get some baits ready." Thinking the matter over, we wended our way to the station, and finding we had some time to wait for a train, we adjourned to the Railway Hotel, and from the friendly landlord made inquiry for this celebrated water. He informed us that he had the letting of the water, and the charge 5s. each. No much, we thought, "if the fish were lying like logs of wood on the water." He did not quite corroborate the statement of our fisherman, but gave us clearly to understand that it was a wonderful fishy spot. We made up our minds to give it a trial, though personally I am adverse to private waters, as, in spite of their vaunted preservation, there is no water so much fished and often netted as your so-called "preserved water." However, one fine November morning saw us at Hampton, obtaining the necessary permission, and with a bait-can full of fine Thames dace and gudgeon. On leaving the hotel you turn sharp to the left, and down a pretty lane with high banks, you come to a gate which, leading across a meadow, brings you to the far-famed Kempton Water. Wading through a small wood filled with beautiful firs, and a thick undergrowth of fine shrubs, you come soon on the lake with its dark silent waters, giving the impression of great depth and the home of monsters. In the centre a small stand with tall poplars and willows, the sides covered with shrubs, the home of the kingfisher and moorhen. It is a wonderfully fishy spot, and our hearts beat high as we gazed upon the beautiful lake, and anticipated a big day's sport. Getting our tackle ready, we had soon a lively dace on snap-tackle, and a good cast sent him some thirty yards; rigging up a paternoster with a lively gudgeon, we soon had that at work, not forgetting the landing net in case of an accident. We waited and waited, but no sign of a fish—the baits well at work, evidently they were not on the feed. After some time we determined to try the other side of the lake, but no, not a run. We made for the boat-house, and fortunately finding a small punt, we soon had our tackle on board, and then went in earnest to find the "logs." Somewhat to our surprise we found the water was very shallow,—not more than two or at most three feet deep. Altering

our floats we tried in the most likely spots, but could not get a run. We soon left the punt, intending to try the stream which empties itself at the far end of the lake. We soon got to work here, and were rewarded in a few minutes by a run. Giving him a sufficient time, I struck; and soon had a pretty fish of about 5 lb. in the net. "That's better," cried my friend. "And by Jove! I've a run, too!" and soon we had Master Johnny the second on the bank. This fish was not quite so heavy as mine. Moving higher up the stream, where the river slightly widens, and opposite what was then a haystack, we got another fish. We found the water very shallow, full of weeds and dead leaves. The river at no point is more than 20 feet wide and 3 feet deep. We found it necessary to fish very shallow, and even then the baits would work for the bottom, as though instinct taught them that their natural enemy could not strike when well on the top of the weeds. We got two more fish at the same spot, and, working up stream, close by a small plantation, we had another good run. This gave promise of a fine fish, but, in striking, the gimp gave way, and we had the mortification of seeing our fish rush upstream with my trace and a good piece of steel to remind him of the danger he ran while taking that too-seductive dace for his lunch. The stream is a portion of the river Colne, a continuation of the Queen's River, and, I believe, finds its way from Hounslow. If it could be properly cleansed, and a few good holes made, some fine jack might be reared there, and with prospect of good sport. In the summer time a quantity of bream are taken in the lake and some roach. A good keeper, who would devote some time to the care of the water, is wanted. We tried the lake again before leaving, but had no luck. I am of opinion that there are few, if any, jack in the lake. Although we did not find the jack "lying like logs on the water," we were not dissatisfied with our day's sport; for we had some nice fish, all in splendid condition. We felt that such a lovely spot should be under the care of some fishing club taking an interest in the rearing of fish, and stocking the water, with proper supervision as to size, &c. It should make one of the grandest spots, either for winter or summer fishing, within such easy distance of town. In summer time a glorious place for a picnic, where members and their wives may spend many a happy hour, and amidst a truly pastoral scene, where the meadows have that verdure which Londoners enjoy as a feature of English landscape. The lake, with its lovely firs and dark waters, reminding one of some Highland loch—the island, with its poplars and willows—the charm of silence, only broken by the cry of a pheasant in the coverts, or as some startled hare rushes across the open. It is a pleasant scene, from its verdure and pure waters for the lovers of an innocent amusement.

Packing up in the dusk, we made for the inn, where we met the pleasant landlord, and realised for ourselves:—

"Whoe'er has travelled life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found
The warmest welcome at an inn."

INTERCHANGE OF FISH-SPAWN BETWEEN AMERICA AND GERMANY.

A DESPATCH from New York gives some interesting information respecting the interchange of fish-spawn between America and several countries of Europe—more particularly Germany—which has been inaugurated by the leading pisciculturists of the various nations. The North German Lloyd steamer "Donau," sailed from New York on Christmas day, bound for Bremen with a consignment of 250,000 eggs of the white fish of the great American lakes, the shipment being made by the President of a Special Committee of the Board of United States Commissioners of Fisheries to the German Fisheries

Association of Berlin. The eggs come from the United States "hatcheries" at Northville, Michigan, where they were packed by Mr. Frank N. Clark, the superintendent, and despatched by express to New York. On arrival there they were repacked under the direction of Mr. Frederick Mather, of the popular American sporting journal *Forest and Stream*, and sent on board the "Donau." In return for the consignment, the Berlin Association will send to New York a collection of the different species of eggs of fishes peculiar to Germany, which it is believed can be advantageously introduced into the waters of the United States.

It is expected that amongst other species, the Berlin Association will send the eggs of the saibling, a very large and handsome species of lake trout, found in deep cool waters and highly esteemed for the table. There is nothing like it in the United States, but the fish is known in England as the charr, but here, however, it is seldom found to exceed half-a-pound in weight. In the deep waters of Lake Constance it is often taken of the weight of 25 pounds, and it is believed that in the American lakes it will thrive as well as in Germany. The previous shipments to Europe of American fish-spawn have been large and proved successful. Some time ago as many as 700,000 eggs of the Californian salmon were shipped to Germany, France, Holland, and England, by Mr. Mather, above alluded to, and arrived in good order, but sufficient time has not elapsed to make it possible to judge whether the species sent out will thrive or not. The American brook trout has also been exported; in return, the German pisciculturists have sent to the United States the spawn of their carp, which is now being bred in its new habitat and largely distributed, promising to become a valuable addition to the supply of fish-food. It is stated to be particularly adapted to waters which have been barren by reason of their warmth and lack of circulation, as it flourishes in Germany in such waters. The United States have also received the golden Ide, an ornamental and food-fish, as bright in colour as the gold fish and growing to several pounds in weight. The eggs of this fish were sent to Maryland and the fish are being bred in the ponds of the Maryland Fish Commissioners in Druid Hill Park.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

WE have cautioned our readers against the sharp bite a crayfish can inflict with its nippers, the effect of which, although it may afford merriment to the lookers-on, is far from agreeable to the suffering party. We have always found them very restless and annoying companions in a boat, particularly if the craft is small; and if their claws are not at once pegged—now an illegal process—or tied we have felt disposed to prefer their room to their company and throw them overboard. Lobsters and the larger species of crabs, are also sometimes caught with lines. Long as we have fished, however, we never have caught any large crabs in this way, and only one lobster, which we did on a spiller, it being hooked in the tendonous part between the nippers. The singular part of the affair was that we caught it in the middle of a sandy bay, one of the last places where a lobster might reasonably be expected to be found. The smaller sorts of crabs are often caught with the hook and line, but rarely to the satisfaction of the fisherman. They are also very troublesome in clearing the baits from the hooks when fishing too close to the bottom.

The torsk differs from all the cod species in having only one fin on the back. The head is small, the upper jaw a little larger than the lower, and both are furnished with great numbers of small teeth; on the chin is a single beard, and from the head to the back fin is a single furrow; the back fin begins near the head and extends almost to the tail; the pectoral fins are small and rounded, the ventral small, thick, and fleshy; the belly is

prominent, the anal fin is long, and reaches almost to the tail, which is small and circular; the lateral line is so faintly marked as scarcely to be perceptible; the colour of the head is dusky, the back and sides yellow, the belly white, the edges of the dorsal and the caudal fins also are white; the other parts dusky, and the pectoral fins brown. The torsk, or rather, as it is called about the Shetlands, the tusk and bismak, is a northern fish which descends no lower than the Orkneys. The largest are found on the coast of Iceland, but they are met with in great numbers in the vicinity of the Shetland Islands, where they are considered a very superior fish. They are caught in the deep-sea fishing with the cod and ling, and form, when barrelled or dried, a considerable article of commerce.

There are three varieties of the hake: the common hake, the forked, and the little hake. The distinguishing features of this sub-genus are two dorsal fins and one anal fin. The common hake is generally from two to three feet in length, of a slender form with a broad flat head; the mouth is large, full of very large teeth, particularly those of the lower jaw; the first dorsal fin is small, the second reaches from the base of the former nearly to the end of the tail, which is almost even at the end. The colour of the back is a dingy ash colour, and the belly of a dirty white; the scales, like the rest of the cod family, are small. It differs also from the other species of hakes, in having no barbels.

The forked hake is from a foot to eighteen inches in length; the head and body are shaped like the common hake, but it has a small beard on the chins. The mouth is equally large in proportion to common hake, and besides the teeth in the jaws, it has a great number of small teeth on the roof of the mouth. The first dorsal fin is triangular, and the first ray, which is very slender, extends far beyond the rest; the second fin begins just behind the first, and reaches almost to the tail. The ventral fins consist of two rays joined at the bottom, and separated or bifurcated towards the end; the anal fin extends from thence just to the tail; the lateral line is incurvated, the tail rounded. The colour is a cinerous brown.

The little hake is a very small fish, seldom exceeding five inches in length. The first dorsal fin is shorter than that of the preceding; the second resembles that of the other kind; the ventral fins are separated. It has a small beard and a rounded tail. The colour of the fish is very dusky, and its appearance not very prepossessing; it is, however, very well tasted, but is too small to afford much diversion to the fisherman.

"The hake goes about in great bodies, and is eminently gregarious; he is a very greedy fish, and," says Badham, "as fond of pouching pilchards as the cod is of lining his inside with him; one *mer lucius* will get through a dozen of the clupians in a very short time; nor, like other fish with sharp teeth, is he scrupulous against whom he wets them; and we must report, to the discredit of the Neapolitan hakes, that of the quantities we used to inspect in the daily fish markets, by far the majority exhibited the tail or half the body of some young codling (generally a brother hake), projecting from the mouth, the head and shoulders of which they had already digested. The Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean abound in hake, but being a fish of prey, it is usually on the mackerel and herring. They are also found in vast shoals on the Nymph Bank on the coast of Waterford, and in the bay of Galway they are so abundant that in some ancient maps it is mentioned as the "Bay of Hakes." Since the naval engagement in 1759 they also habitually frequent the neighbourhood of Belle Isle, where, according to the observations of Quervoent, they were never seen before. Their presence is likewise remarkable on the shores of Devon and Cornwall, where they are considered as very destructive to the herrings by breaking the shoals, which appears to have given rise to the proverb, "Wha

we lose in the hake we gain in the herring." Hake are caught in the same manner and with the same baits as the cod, and when plentiful, as indeed they usually are in the herring season, they afford most excellent sport, as they are greedy feeders and bold biters, and struggle hard for their lives. They seldom, however, begin to feed until after sunset, and usually leave off before sunrise, so that the only time to expect sport is in the night.

The flesh of the hake, when fresh, is not much prized, but it has of late years come into more favour, as it is white and flaky. When prepared by powdering with a little salt and pepper, it makes an acceptable broil for breakfast, and it also makes a very good salt fish. "When salted and dried in this manner," writes a French author, "they are called stock-fish, which is a German phrase, literally meaning *stick*-fish, because they are 'extended on sticks for the purpose of drying.'" But why not 'stock-fish'? They are salted for winter stock like other fish thus prepared and so called. The liver was considered a great delicacy among the ancients, but the moderns seem to entertain a different opinion. But as no fish nor any earthly creature ever yet gave universal satisfaction, Turner has not scrupled to affirm that it is scarcely worth its sauce. The testimony of English authors against the wholesomeness of the haddock is not accredited, for idiosyncrasies in taste go for nothing with us, who can appeal so readily to our individual judgment. It has been truthfully observed that there are some persons of vitiated palates who bribe their tongue occasionally to disparage turtle, and to profess mutton preferable to venison. Here at least, if not elsewhere, public opinion may be safely taken in preference to private judgment.

CREEL.

THE LATE MR FRANK BUCKLAND.

THE following resolutions were unanimously adopted at the Meeting of the Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, on Tuesday last:—

"The Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society at this, their first meeting after the lamented death of Mr. Frank Buckland, desire to record an expression of their deep and earnest regret at his untimely removal from amongst them. It is now nearly twenty years since he became connected with the Society, as one of a sub-committee of Pisciculture, and for the distinguished services he rendered in that department he was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents, in addition to the presentation of a diamond ring of the value of one hundred guineas at the annual dinner of the Society in 1873. Shortly after his introduction to the Society he was appointed as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Salmon Fisheries, for which office he was eminently fitted, and the duties of which he continued to discharge with no ordinary ability to the day of his decease.

"The Committee are also desirous of conveying to Mrs. Buckland their sincere sympathy in the heavy bereavement she has sustained."

THOMAS SPRECKLEY, Chairman.

W. H. BROUGHAM, Secretary.

20, Moorgate Street, E.C.; Jan: 4th, 1881:

EXPORT OF SILKWORMS' EGGS FROM JAPAN.

THE breeders of silkworms in Piedmont and Lombardy, will shortly have an opportunity of recruiting their native supply by a very large importation of eggs from Japan. The same despatch states that some Italian speculators have reached New York from Yokohama, Japan, with nearly 100,000,000 of silkworms' eggs which were despatched by the French steamer of the 22nd ult. It is said that handsome profits may be made in this way, but the risks are heavy, as the worms may be prematurely hatched. The eggs in question were purchased in "cards," each containing about

30,000 eggs. These "cards" were then packed in cases about two feet square and covered with matting, in the same way as tea-chests are treated. There were 300,000 of these cards, which in Yokohama cost three dollars each.

THE YARMOUTH HERRING VOYAGE.

THE Herring Voyage for 1880 has been nearly 14,000 lasts, each containing 13,200 fish in round numbers—or, has good-hearted Frank Buckland would have said, six meals for every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom.

A fine fleet of trawlers have just put out to sea—most of them came in for a holiday at Christmas.

There is but little rod fishing done near Yarmouth in the winter season. To-morrow I have to make a professional visit near a lovely pool, and (D.V.) shall try my luck and rest my cob for two or three hours. I have a pike, four feet long, which I caught in this water.

ESOX LUCIUS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. E. MARTIN, Liverpool.—Silkworm gut is manufactured in Spain, imported by Messrs. Little and Co., of Fetter Lane, London, who supply the same wholesale or retail.

DANGER TO EPPING FOREST.

SIR,—A principle of great public interest and importance is involved in a project which the Great Eastern Railway Co. are about to bring before Parliament, for the appropriation of 70 acres of Epping Forest; and against the carrying out of this project I beg you will allow me—as one of the little band of those who, during the past year, have assiduously laboured to preserve open space in and around the metropolis—to record an earnest and emphatic protest.

At the present moment free and convenient access to the magnificent recreation ground, which has been secured for the inhabitants of London at so great an expenditure of time, energy and money, is obtained by two branches of the Great Eastern Railway—the one running from London to Chingford along the north-western side of the Forest, with stations at Wood Street and Hale End; the other running along its southern side, from London to Ongar, with stations at Woodford, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton, Chigwell, Theydon Bois and Epping. It is now proposed by the Great Eastern Railway Company, on the transparent plea of "public necessity," to absorb 70 acres of the Forest for an extension of the Chingford line to High Beech in order to "open up" the most retired and beautiful part of this fine woodland, notwithstanding the fact that from Loughton on the southern side to High Beech, on the opposite side of the Forest, the distance is only two miles, and that the whole of this splendid recreation ground is in reality easily accessible to the pedestrian from the numerous railway stations which at present lie around it.

The Corporation of London, whom Parliament has made the custodians of Epping Forest for the metropolitan public, though not inclined to concede the entire demand made by the railway company, appear to favour the project to the extent of allowing the appropriation, for the projected line, of a considerable portion of forest land. I trust, however, that Parliament will resolutely refuse to permit the appropriation of a single acre of a woodland so precious to the population of London. It is not on aesthetic grounds alone that I urge my plea, although these are worthy of more consideration than they ordinarily secure in this too-practical age; but on the ground that the proposed railway would—besides irretrievably destroying and disfiguring some of the most beautiful portions of Epping Forest—destroy the greatest charm of its choicest recesses, their comparative seclusion and remoteness from the hideous accompaniments of a modern railway—a charm which it has been the greatest object of its oldest defenders to retain and perpetuate.—I am, &c.,

FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH.

Brunswick Lodge, South Hackney, January 1st, 1881.

YORKSHIRE RIVERS.

SIR,—I beg to inform W. F. J. that I am this week sending a little book on "Trout Fishing" to the press, which will exactly meet his requirements for the Wharfe. It contains, amongst other interesting matters, a list of 130 different flies, with way of manufacture and seasons for use. Having lived for upwards of twenty years in one of the best trout districts (nine of them in the Yorkshire Dales), I trust the work will find some favour amongst my brother anglers. It will be well printed on good toned paper and sold at the low price of 1s. I hope to have it ready by the opening of the fly-fishing season.—I am, &c.,

Caistor, Lincolnshire.

THOMAS FORD.

WILL PIKE FEED AT NIGHT?

SIR,—Can you inform me whether pike will feed at night time and what are the best baits to use?—I am, &c.,

AN INQUIRER.

[We have caught pike when it was almost too dark to see the float, but never fished for them much after dusk. Perhaps some of our readers have?—ED.]

BOY SWALLOWING A FISH HOOK.—A boy having swallowed a fish-hook, endeavoured to pull it with the line, but without effect, as it was fast. Surgeons could give him no assistance, until making a small hole in a leaden bullet, the line being put through it, he swallowed it which running down the line, by its weight loosened the hook from its hold, which was then drawn up with ease.—*Gent. Mag.*, 1738, p. 380.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, December 29th, the season and special prizes were distributed:—A. Shakel, gross weight and carp; W. Salmon, jack and perch; G. Taylor, bream; W. Simkins, roach and dace; and D. Leston, tench. A very enjoyable evening was spent. The following members promised to give prizes in the coming season:—A. Shakel, D. Leston, J. A. Ball, W. Hale, W. Simkins, A. Glass, B. C. Booth, A. West, and T. Hall.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Nothing of importance has transpired in this society to warrant sending a report the last fortnight, the members being of a considerate turn of mind by allowing the fish to have a rest while they, during the Christmas festivities have been feeding. We intend, however, (weather and water permitting) to bring our contest for four prizes that has been adjourned week after week in consequence of the floods to a conclusion on Sunday next. As we have a numerous assortment of prizes to be competed for (and as the fence season is close upon us) it is well that we should once more go in (as we shall have to do) a "buster."—MEMNEUS, hon. sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only one member weighed in on the 2nd, Mr. Castell roach from the Roding, three fish 1 lb. 3 oz., the result of four hours' hard fishing; the river was over the bank, very thick, and a heavy stream.—CAS.

THE DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows of fish at this club have, latterly, been rather small. The members have been out, but only small takes have been the result of their endeavours, but on Dec. 27, Mr. Fortescue had a nice show of roach weighing 16 lb. 5 oz., and again on the 2nd inst. the same gentleman had a take of roach weighing 15 lb., the largest one scaling 1 lb. 6½ oz. On the same day Mr. Eagles had 5 lb. roach.—W. L.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

TO ANGLING SOCIETIES.—Please take notice. The next Eastern district visit will be paid to the above on Monday, Jan. 10.—W. COSTER, Jan. 6.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 2nd only one of our members had the courage to go out, viz., Mr. Lewis, who was rewarded with a show of dace from Richmond. I hear that Messrs. Green and Hoole intend going out this week so I hope to have a flourishing report next time. A member has offered a prize for the heaviest gross weight of fish taken from private waters from Dec. 25, 1880 till the end of the season. Thursdays only.—VORTEX.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On December 28th, 1880, two of our members went out and had a nice take between them; Mr. Scott, 10½ lb. of roach; and Mr. Humphreys, 5½ lb. of roach, and one dace scaling 7 oz. On Sunday several of our members tried their luck, but only two weighed-in. Mr. Petrie had a nice show of dace, 2 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Wightman, 1 lb. 8 oz. of roach, dace and perch. After business, on Wednesday evening last, we had a rare finish up of enjoyment till closing-time. Our landlord, on the occasion of Christmas-time, came out grand; and the harmony which followed was excellently accompanied on the banjo by our old and well-known friend, Mr. E. Barr. Several members of angling clubs were present, and the evening closed with entire satisfaction to all.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

ST. JOHN'S.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—The St. John's Angling Club is now held at the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, thirty yards from Farringdon Street Station, where we shall be glad to see any of our old friends any Friday or Sunday. The following members have had fish during the week:—On 20th ult. Mr. Goudge, roach, Mr. Hunt, roach and perch, on ult. 22nd, Mr. Thorling five nice jack, 17 lb., from the Colne, Mr. Clark, roach from the Lea, Mr. Giddings, roach from the Lea, on Sunday Mr. Storen some nice roach from Boxmoor.—F. L. T.

SONS OF THE THAMES.

The members of the above society are requested to attend at the Society's Meeting House, on Tuesday next, 11th inst., for the purpose of discussing important business.—PIXIE.
Jan. 5.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members of the above society are requested to attend on Monday night next, 10th inst., being quarterly night. Chair taken at Nine p.m. sharp.—R. GAZE, sec.
Jan. 6.

WALTONIANS.

One of our members, Mr. Hemmings, has been fortunate enough to obtain a magnificent show of roach from Pangbourne, weighing close on 17 lb.; our worthy secretary, Mr. Packman, showed a fine-conditioned jack of 7 lb. and another of 4 lb. from the Harp; the other takes were small, and according to present reports from the rivers they will no doubt be beautifully less.—WAT. B. WEBSTER.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The result of the competition which took place on the 27th December is as follows:—Mr. C. Beale, 1st; Mr. Boalch, 2nd; and Mr. Peolaie, 3rd. Messrs. Bayley and Fox contested, but failed to score a scale. Another contest will take place on 7th, for three prizes, as follows:—Mr. Pearson, £1 1s.; Mr. Beale, £1 1s.; and Mr. Weatherhead, 10s. 6d. Three prizes will be competed for on the 9th inst.—PIXIE.
Jan. 5.

THE EEL AS A FOOD FISH.

BY GREVILLE FENNELL.

THE celebrity of the eel is wide. It is true that with Scotchmen, Jews, Egyptians, Mussulmans, and Greenlanders, they are in more or less disfavor. The Jews reject them, as they conscientiously consider the Levitical law classes the eel as among the unclean fishes, in having no scales. If this is the only reason for the Israelites proscribing eels from their *cuisine*, it is an untenable one; eels possess scales, which in number, from their minuteness, may be not detectable to the naked eye, but are distinctly revealed by the microscope; in the absence of which mechanical detective, they may be felt by passing the thumb nail from the tail towards the head of an eel-skin, and in this way, if dry, made to fly off in a cloud, like the miniature dust in a sunbeam.

Why Scotchmen should treat the eel with aversion almost amounting to the detestation allotted to the adder, is a problem difficult of solution, as existing in a nation where economic principles are proverbial, and eels abound. Avoided as loathsome in Scotland, they were worshipped in Egypt, and as we are told, made the belly-god of Grecian and Roman voluptuaries; while at the present day eels are highly prized and priced by Egyptian epicures. "Your idol is my idol, too," said Aristophanes, a Greek gourmet, "but in a different way; you Egyptians worship the eel as a deity, I adore him in a dish."

We would first clean our eel of the slime and slander which would bury it in mud and force it to refect only upon unclean things. This charge of reposing in a bed of filth and feeding upon garbage, brought against the eel, betrays as much ignorance of its natural history as has been shown in its supposed scaleless character. Be it known therefore, ye semi-incredulous or wholly sceptical listeners to these apocryphal domestic habits of the eel, that it does not live in mud properly so speaking, nor does it feed on any food in any slightest degree tainted—no bait, it is well known to the angler, otherwise than fresh, will tempt it—and that it is always at its best when bred and brought up in those rivers in which mud is absent, the waters are purest, and the detritus of the stream is of gravel or sand. No, ye extollers of roast duck, the internal, gastronomic chemistry of which has converted the exuviae of the horse-pond and the stale refuse of the shambles into sapid meat; or the lover of pork, the unctuous fat of which derives its exquisite *gout* from an omnivorous indulgence of eebiles, from cinders to offal, no longer turn up your noses over the *pesci nobili* of Italy, and the *adel*, that is the noble, *subaudi* fish corrupted first into aal, and then eel, of our Saxon ancestors.

But having done our best to place the scaly armour upon the eel, which is wisely given to most to fish to guard them from the dangers they have to encounter, we will venture to sustain our reasons why eels, as so generally averred, do not live in mud; it is simply that if the mud were more than a certain depth above them, the eel which, like any other animal, requires a due amount of atmospheric air to sustain existence, would, if it could not keep open the "blow-hole," or aperture to its retreat, most surely be suffocated. But it does not follow that therefore they prefer mud; indeed, it is certain that more eels are found beneath large boulders and in beds of clean silver sand and marl, fuller's earth and soapy ooze, than in mud as understood. When the winter approaches, and the weather, to which eels are very susceptible, gets to cold to bear, they seek some shoal of mud or ooze, but not above an inch or two deep, below which they penetrate, the upper surface acting as a blanket, and in which, through the apertures visible to the initiated eye of the fisherman, they respire in safety, unless the cruel spear drags them forth impaled, or the treacherous "sniggle" tempts them to their fate.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1881.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

THE professional fishermen are still taking cod, ling, conger and ray with long lines, but very few hake have been brought ashore on our south-west coast. To those amateurs who can brave the weather, there exists almost as much chance of making a good bag as the more experienced. Indeed, we have heard old

salts say that the delicate hand of the amateur is more capable of telling a bite from those fish that would cunningly strip the hook of its bait, and escape with the prize, than the hard and horny fist of the veteran.

The common ling has a round body, covered with small scales, that adhere closely to it; the head is flat, and the eyes near the end of the end of the nose; the teeth are numerous, and it has a beard under the chin. The first dorsal fin is small, the second rises just behind it, and reaches very near to the tail; the pectoral fins are broad and round, the ventral fins small, and the anal fin reaches almost to the tail, which is rounded at the end. Ling vary very much in colour, the back and sides of some being olive, and of others ash-coloured or grey; the belly and ventral fins are white, the dorsal and anal edged with white, and the tail, near the end, is tipped with a transverse black bar, and tipped with white. The usual length of a ling is four or five feet, but they have been known to attain to seven feet or upwards. It is a most voracious fish. Wilcocks says of it: "He knew of one being taken by swallowing a fine red mullet and the portion of the trammel-net in which it had got entangled, as the net became hooked over the large teeth of the ling, which was consequently unable to free itself." They are sometimes caught on a whiting line, and, in common with cod, are often found in a puff-blown or distended state floating, either dead or dying. When in good season, the liver is large and white, and much oil may be melted out of it over a slow fire; when out of season, the liver is red, and affords little, if any, oil. This, indeed, is peculiar to the whole cod tribe, but in none so remarkable as the ling. Their spawning time is usually about the middle of June. The ling is fished for in the same manner as the cod, but it is not so general a fish on the greater part of our coast, and is taken in the same fishing-grounds in the North Sea, off the Irish coasts, &c. Numbers are also taken on the western coast of Cornwall, particularly about the Scilly Islands they are caught in tolerable abundance, and the latter place is famous for the production of ling of the best quality. The usual time for taking them is from November to the end of May. Like the cod, they are constant attendants upon the herring. The fish, when in full fettle, should carry its thickness well down to the tail. The ling is best fried, but we have tasted several toothsome dishes of which ling was the foundation. Great quantities of ling are salted for exportation, and, in our humble opinion, either salted or fresh, they are in no way inferior to the cod. When fresh and powdered, the head and shoulders are considered the best parts. Ling are usually cured without taking out the backbone. When cut or split for curing, if they do not measure 26 inches from the shoulder to the tail, they are not reckoned sizeable fish, and are called drizzles; these are in season all the summer.

The five-bearded ling grows to nearly as large a size as the common ling. The chief difference seems to consist in the form, which is thicker in proportion than the common ling; in colour, which in this fish is of a deep olive brown, with a whitish belly; in the dorsal fin, the first ray of which is very long; and in having four beards in the upper jaw. It is caught in the same manner as the common ling.

The three-bearded ling is much smaller than the two former, as it seldom exceeds 20 inches in length. The head is large and flat, the eyes near the end of the nose, the body long, slender and compressed sideways, particularly towards the tail. It has two beards at the end of the upper jaw, and one under the chin. It has a great number of small teeth, which are disposed in the jaws in the form of a broad plate of a triangular form. The first dorsal fin is peculiar, being lodged in a deep furrow just beyond the head; the second rises just behind it, and reaches very near to the tail; the pectoral fins are broad and round; the ventral fins

small; the second ray the longest; the anal fin reaches almost to the tail, which is rounded at the end; the colour of the body and head is of a reddish yellow, and marbled with a darker colour above the lateral line; the back fin and tail are darker; the vent fin, of a red cast, but all are spotted; the lateral line bends in the middle and then passes straight to the tail.

These fish are highly esteemed, but those we have partaken of we consider inferior to the common ling; they for the most part frequent rocky grounds, but we have caught them on spillers in sandy bays—they having the same baits as the rest of the cod species.

Couch, among many other highly interesting facts regarding the ling, tells us that the best season for its capture in the West of England, is in January and February; but according to Dr. Edmonson, in Zetland this fishery begins on the 20th May and ends on the 12th day of August. Mr. Brabazon says that in the North of Ireland it is in March, and that this fish spawns there towards the end of May. The ling is generally pronounced to be an eager feeder, and yet it displays some degree of choice in the selection of its food, amongst which a living prey is preferred, although it will eagerly swallow a piece of herring, pilchard or a slice of two or three kinds of cuttle. Pieces of conger are used in some places as bait; but while crabs and the lobster kind find no acceptance (for in a large number that were examined, none of these animals were found, although the stomachs of the cod caught in some ground contained them in plenty). Lacepede remarks that the ling shows a decided preference for the plaice; and, in confirmation of this, seven of the last-named species, which varied in length from six to ten inches, have been taken. Skulpins are sometimes found and even a rough hound (dog-fish) of considerable size.

Is there not here a suggestive hint to the amateur sea-fisher to try live-bait in pursuit of his quarry. Land-smelts, dabs, and other small fish, readily procurable, might be enlisted into the service; and the smaller contents of the trawl-net, now thrown overboard, might afford tempting morsels to those fish who prefer the live meal to the dead or mutilated kinds. We know of but one exception in which the selection of live bait for the better description of the denizens of the deep obtains, and that is in the employment of the tough and lively lampern, without a good supply of which the Dutch turbot and cod fishermen with their hand lines seldom think of going to sea, and if they do, it is with no great hope of a successful result. We all know instances of the marvellous power of pike to get rid of the gorge hook or flights lost in the attempt to secure them. But the ling appears to exceed even the pike in the contempt with which it treats the most indigestible substances. Couch says, that even severe injury to the stomach does not deprive the ling of its craving appetite is shown by the fact that when a large hook had gone down the gullet with its shank foremost, and thus had penetrated through the side of that organ, a turn of the hook had brought the point again through the bottom in the same manner, and again through the opposite side; by drawing the whole together, it left only a small cavity free, in which condition the line was bitten through, yet the fish escaped only to swallow another bait, with which it was caught.

CREELE.

THE CULTURE OF CARP AND CONSTRUCTION OF PONDS.

BY RUDLPH HESSEL.

PART III.—CONTINUED.

THE writer once had the following experience: During his absence a number of large carp were fed on coagulated blood which had begun to putrefy; the fish devoured it eagerly, got

sick, and most of them died in a few days from an inflammation of the intestines. Spoilt food should never be given to fish. If slaughter-house or kitchen refuse can be had, give these, chopped up small about the size of peas. Never give so much that remnants remain for any length of time in the water and begin to putrefy. Let no one be induced by the circumstance that the carps like to eat the dung of hogs, sheep and cows, to feed them on any putrefying matter. There are instances on record that thereby epidemics, particularly diseases of the scales, have originated.

The carp likes above everything else vegetable matter such as cabbage, lettuce, boiled potatoes, corn, turnips, pumpkins, melons, etc. The refuse of malt from breweries and distilleries is also very good food for carp; and wherever such refuse can be had, it should be given to the fish.

The small pisciculturist, having a pond of perhaps one to two acres near his house, will often be able to feed his fish on refuse, as he will always have it fresh from the kitchen and stable.

In conclusion, I earnestly recommend the culture of the carp to all pisciculturists. If the value of the carp for table use has once been recognised, it will become a highly esteemed fish, especially in the neighbourhood of large populous cities, and its culture will yield a larger and more certain profit than the expensive trout.

8.—EXTENT OF CARP-CULTURE IN EUROPE.

In Europe many thousand acres of artificial waters are to be found. In these enormous quantities of carp are bred. Some of these ponds, or rather lakes, have an extent of about 1000 to 2000 acres. They are provided with gigantic dams, many of them sixty feet high. By these the water is closed in, into broad valleys, containing no other fishes than carps from four to five pounds in weight. If we consider the size of these lake-like ponds, surrounded by enormous dams which are overgrown with oak trees 100 to 300 years old, series of three and more of these lakes being not uncommon, then we can form some idea as to the remunerativeness of these establishments, particularly in Bohemia.

The standard establishment with regard to the most extensive business transactions is found in Austria. The Prince of Schwarzenberg, of whom I have spoken previously, possesses more than 250 ponds of large size, the smallest having about ten acres, the largest 200 acres' water extent.

We find many villages where ponds of fifty to two hundred and more acres are maintained at the expense of the community.

9.—THE TABLE QUALITIES.

If the carp were a fish of inferior quality, like the buffalo-fish for instance, its sale would doubtless be limited to the sea-port towns of Northern Germany and the principal cities of Central Europe, as Vienna, Berlin, and Paris. In the latter city, in spite of an abundant supply of salt-water and different kinds of fresh-water fish, the carp is even preferred to these, and, with the exception of trout and salmon, it frequently commands a price three times as high as that of all the rest.

I maintain my assertion that the carp, whether it be scale, mirror, or leather carp, is one of the most excellent fresh-water fishes, and its introduction will be of great value in point of national economy, especially on account of the facility of its culture and the enormous extent to which this may be carried on.

The carp and its value as a fish of culture will before long be fully appreciated, so that we may be enabled favourably to compare the results of its culture in America, as also the extent attained to, with any other country, to our complete satisfaction.

10.—HABITS AND MODE OF REPRODUCTION OF THE CARP.

The carp is partial to stagnant waters, or such as have a not

too swift current, with a loamy, muddy bottom, and deep places covered with vegetation. It inhabits now most of the larger and smaller rivers of Europe, particularly the Elbe, Weser, Rhine, Danube, Po, Rhone, Garonne, Loire, then the Bavarian and Swiss lakes, the Lake of Constance, etc.; even salt water seems to agree with it very well. I have taken it in the Black Sea, where its weight often amounts to from fifteen to twenty pounds. It is also found in the Caspian Sea in great numbers, and is known there by the name of *Sussan*.

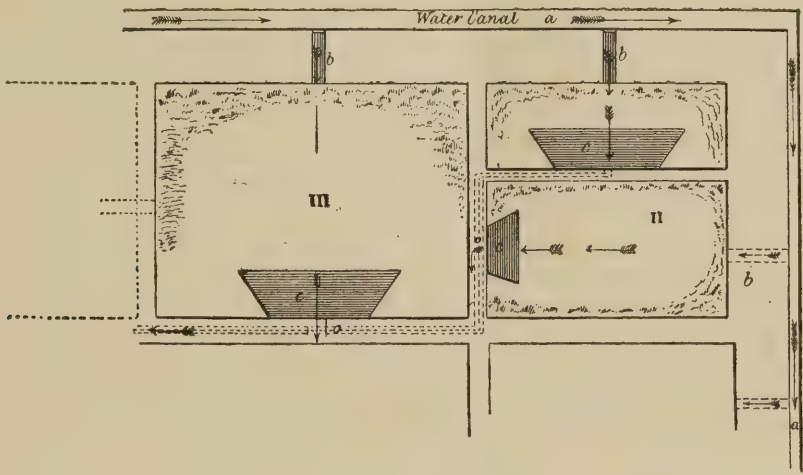
It is an advantage that the carp is able to live in water where other fishes could not possibly exist, for instance, in the pools of bog-meadows or sloughs. However, it is not by any means to be inferred from this that the best locality for carp-ponds of a superior kind could be in such situations. The presence of too much humic acid is unfavourable to the wellbeing of the carp, as we shall see presently in the chapter upon the establishing of fish-ponds.

The carp lives upon vegetable food as well as upon worms and

imported from Europe for the purpose of breeding in the winter of 1876-77. It is a most striking fact that the carp, though it does not take any food during this winter sleep in its natural retreat, does not diminish in weight, while in the so-called "winter chambers," it does so to a remarkable degree. These "winter chambers" are large tanks 1000 to 5000 square feet in size or less; they are sometimes walled in with masonry, sometimes they are constructed of wood.

Fishes intended for sale are kept in them for a few weeks or months during the winter.

The carp does not grow in the winter. Warmth alone seems to exercise a favourable influence upon it and to promote growth. It only grows in the months of May, June, July and August, and does not appear to continue doing so in September. The slight increase in weight which takes place during the latter month seems to grow out of an accumulation of fat which is being deposited around the entrails. In ponds which contain plenty of food and healthy water, in any ordinary year, the growth



larvæ of aquatic insects, which it turns up in the mud with the head; it is very easily satisfied, and will not refuse the offal of the kitchen, slaughter-houses and breweries, or even the excrement of cattle and pigs. I propose to enter further upon the subject of feeding it when I speak of its culture in ponds.

In the moderate zone, that is to say in Central Europe, the carp will, at the beginning of the cold season, seek deeper water to pass that period in a kind of sleep. This will sometimes occur as early as the beginning of November, if the winter should set in early; and it is to be remarked that they will retire at an earlier period in ponds than in rivers. They do so always in groups of from fifty to one hundred and more. They make a cavity in the muddy ground, called a "kettle;" in this they pass the time until spring, huddled together in concentric circles with their heads together, the posterior part of the body raised and held immovably scarcely lifting the gills for the process of breathing, and without taking a particle of food. They do not take any food from the beginning of October, and continue to abstain from it, in some countries until the end of March, and in colder districts even somewhat later. It will not answer, however, to depend on this habit when transporting them for propagation in the spring or winter time, more especially young carp one or two years old. The fish will arrive in a worn and hungry condition, and must be kept in a tank constructed on purpose for observation, where it has no chance to bury itself in the mud; here it will sometimes take a little food. At such times I generally make use of boiled barley, or rye flour converted into a kind of tough paste by the addition of hot water, and with this I mix a little loam and rye bread; but I continue the feeding only until I can judge from the looks of the fishes that they have recovered. This method I followed with the carp which I

and increase of weight in the year will be represented in figures as follows:—

	Per cent. of original weight.	Per cent. of growth.
May	10.15	13
June	33	31
July	36	34
August	20	18
September	6	4
Total	110	100

If the weather in the month of May be mild and warm from the beginning, a better growth may be expected, amounting, as in June, to about 30 per centum. This month (May) is decidedly of great importance for the growth of the fish during the current year, for, in proportion as the fish has grown in the short space of one month, it will take more food in the following ones as the increase of its growth and consequent wants will demand. Culturists, therefore, consider the month of May as being the most important of the whole period of the carp's growth. The above-given calculations, of course, are limited to ponds in which no artificial feeding is resorted to, but in which there is sufficient food by reason of the good quality of the water and soil which produces it.

(To be continued.)

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advrt.]

EELS AND EEL CULTURE.

(ANGUILLA ACUTIROSTIS.)

(Continued from p. 17)

FISHING APPARATUS.

It will be seen from the above that this great body of water has a tremendous current. It is in the rapids and swift places that the weirs by which the eels are caught, are set. A weir, I may say to those who are unacquainted with its structure, is a large sieve, or an oblong box, about 12 by eight feet in size, open at the top, and one end, with a bottom of slats so arranged that the water may pass through. Fences, made eel-tight, that is, so constructed that water, but not eels, may pass through them, are run diagonally down, from opposite sides of the river. The weirs, sometimes two and again one, are placed in the intersections of the fences or leads. Eels are said to always run down stream, and when they arrive at a fence they take a lightning speed which throws them at the gates out into the weirs, where a man usually stands to capture them. The apparatus has been rendered in part useless during the past summer by an unprecedented season of low water. It will be remembered that a great drouth has prevailed in the East this year, which accounts for it. The State reservoirs were not sufficiently large to provide for such a season. Though quite low in 1873, it was lower on September 18 than it has been since 1849. Besides the drouth, other causes conspire to make low water. The Oswego River is lined with great manufacturing interests which require a large portion of the water to keep them running. The effect of these is more and more marked as one travels up the river. Low water has made eels scarce. No fisherman can count on more than from 200 to 400 dols. worth of the fish this season. In fact, careful estimates show a gradual falling off, both in the eel and water supply for several years past.

SEX IN EELS.

There is no longer any question as to the difference between sexes in eels. The males are usually small and poor. On account of this fact, few are taken by the fishermen. Being small they either escape through the weirs and fences, or are thrown out by the fishermen "to grow," as they say. One fisherman whom I asked if he ever seen a male eel, stated that he had examined the stomachs of a great many eels, but had never seen one. The reason why, is obvious. In the first place he always examined the largest female he could find, and in the next the organs of generation in the male are microscopic forms, hardly visible to the unaccustomed eye. There were three eels at the Exposition just closed in this city, all of which, I believe, were males.

SPAWNING GROUNDS.

Mr. Sawyer, in the *New York Times'* article alluded to, shows conclusively that *all* eels do not go to sea to breed. I am convinced first, that eels do not breed in the ocean; second, that some breed well inland. I base my first opinion on well authenticated evidence that large eels are seldom found in the ocean, and that eels prefer and do breed in the deep mud at the mouths of rivers, at the heads of high tide. Further on the ocean breeding of eels I have nothing to offer. As to their breeding inland I have satisfactory (to me) proof. First, on the evidence of Mr. Sawyer, who claims to have found them breeding in a pond near Saw-mill Rift, Delaware, his home.

I am convinced that eels breed in Oneida Lake, for these reasons: The fishermen alluded to in this paper generally state that eels breed there; it is a great resort for the fish, and they are seen here in vast numbers during low water. In August the fishermen say the eels are "on the grass," to use their own expression. Few eels are ever caught in this month, the best

fishing being from May into July and from September through October. By "on the grass" the fishermen mean that in July they find them often in balls like snakes, into which a spear is thrown, and many secured at once. They are found at this time among what is known as eel grass. Here they congregate and become pregnant. The eel grass grows in the soft mud with other weeds. The fishermen described to me a "jelly-like substance," as they say, in chunks the size of two fists, which they find here occasionally in the early winter, which, from their description, is probably eel spawn.

Mr. Fuller described to me his experience with some of this spawn. He reserved a space on the edge of the river near his fishery at Fulton. He watched the growth of the minute fishes in embryo. One morning he visited his miniature pen to discover that the young fry had escaped. True to their instinct, the young eels had crawled out of their pen on their first exit from their confinement as embryos. It is a well-established fact that young eels are adept in scaling almost any dam. Mr. Wesley, of Evanston, an old English fisherman, related to me several days since how forty years ago he used to watch young eels in springtime climb the rocks damming a small stream in the mother country. Their breeding habits were familiar to him as far back as 1830. His statements are entirely confirmatory to the fact of their spawning in part in tide waters.

But reverting again to the inland eels, it will require nothing less than a marked female, let loose in Oneida lake and caught in the act or spawning in the tide waters of the St. Lawrence River, to convince me that these eels travel 800 or 1000 miles to breed.

As to young eels the fishermen have never seen them running up stream in the river in question, nor in the river at all. Every fisherman with whom I conversed claims that the eel breeds in Oneida lake. To cap the summit of my beliefs I will say that as soon as I began to arrange my material for this paper I examined all my scientific data gathered through years, I might say since I was fifteen years of age, and found that in the spring of 1874, a friend and myself observed little eels, scarcely two and one-half inches in length, among the eel grass of mill-pond on Little Salmon river, at Mexico, Oswego County, New York.

The following characteristic letter received a few days since tends to confirm the above:

Henmanville, N. Y. (Horseshoe Dam), Oct. 32, 1880.

Mr. H. Ballou, Evanston, Ill.

Dear Sir,—I received your letter in regard to catching eels, with pleasure. I have taken these fish here for forty-one years. My father commenced fishing after the war of 1842, and continued until he was sixty-five years old. In 1864 I made 1400 dols., and this year will not receive more than 300 dols. The greatest catch I ever made in one night was 1400 pounds. I have five weirs. The Leather Stocking Club of sportsmen made such disturbance that I did not accomplish much during the fore part of the season. I know that eels breed in Oneida Lake. They hang on the eel grass there three or four days in the month of August. That is the time they become pregnant, for I never saw any preliminary signs of breeding at other times. I keep one man in my employ. I sent eels as far East as Albany last year, and have sent to your city (Chicago) and Philadelphia this summer.

Yours truly,

LEWIS MONTAGUE.

SCARCITY AND PLENTY.

I have already stated that for several years past eels have grown less and less in numbers, and that it was in part due to the drouth and absorption of water by the mills. Let me elaborate. The average flow of the Oswego River is 600,000 cubic feet per minute. The water is a foot lower this season than low water mark, reducing this flow from the average to not more than 400,000 cubic feet per minute.

This drouth has, no doubt, destroyed many eels because, as I

shall show hereafter, they can live on water alone for a long time, and it is necessary to have a good and fresh supply to insure their keeping. Another note is this : eels are taken most plentifully in heavy rainstorms. They spend much time in the mud. Consequently when it rains the water is rolled, and true to their instinct, they are not disposed to distinguish the difference between it and the soft mud. Since it has not rained during the last summer they have retired deeper and deeper into the mud to exist, and have not run in any numbers. The extent of this mud in these inland lakes is this : I have seen the top end of a fifteen foot pole disappear from sight in it, without much effort on the part of the experimenter. I consequently think that the eels are not disappearing from the river, but are simply awaiting heavy rains to appear again in vast numbers. I should not be surprised if any excessive breeding during the past summer had been prevented by the drouth.

(To be continued.)

MERCILESS FISHING.

ANYTHING approaching reckless or wilful destruction, or overgreediness in results, is to my notion decidedly objectionable. I have frequently expressed an opinion against prizes for gross weights of fish, because it encourages merciless slaughter. As, for instance, a club offers a prize for the greatest weight of barbel taken in one day—a number of members give in their names as competitors—certain swims for a day or two previous are well baited—the limit of size, about 12 inches from the eye to the end of the tail, represents only a small fish—the day arrives and the barbel are probably on the feed—care is taken that every fish of the limit and upwards are placed in the well—at the end of the day the fish are all taken up to the clubroom and the large table is filled with an enormous show of barbel—the sight is regarded as a splendid one and it is put down as a magnificent show—the health of the successful competitors is drunk and in turn the various competitors relate how their fish were caught and some incidents connected therewith—on the next date of publication the angling newspapers place on record the grand doings of the piscators and the event goes forth to the fishing world of the enormous capture of fish. This is one side of the question, but it is not altogether the merciful side. What really becomes of the fish after their exhibition in the clubroom? Very few people, except amongst the poorer classes, would accept of a barbel as an article of food—they are not nice to eat—I have tried them once but I never intend to try them again. It must necessarily be taken for granted that the great portion of barbel after being exhibited are not accepted by the members. And this is not all : the Thames becomes stripped of its barbel by these gross-weight competitions and the anglers for the time being become perfect vultures. I can hardly think with sound common reason any angler would coolly and deliberately ransack the river to gratify his own sportsmanlike desires—on the contrary, he must feel that to take advantage of the barbel when they are well on the feed it is akin to dishonesty to retain every fish he has taken and walk away with a sackfull of fish which very few for eating purposes would accept. I regard the value of barbel more for the purposes of sport—they give plenty of that to the anglers. If a good fish is hooked he is safe to run up the stream and struggle hard for his liberty. I remember once fishing for barbel with a friend of mine, and having hooked a big fish, the fisherman called out, lustily “Mind, he’ll be round the pole.” The reply was instantly given, in scarcely such well-chosen language, “Confound the pole—remove it.” The fisherman accomplished it just in time—the fish played vigorously up the stream, but my friend was a good old angler and he succeeded in safely getting possession. I am convinced that when these gross-weight competitions are discontinued and the

system substituted of giving prizes for specimens, it will be a great check to the merciless slaughter which now prevails. It will be far more interesting to an angler when he has had a good day’s barbel fishing in some favourite swim to return the greater portion of his fish ; and I would venture to suggest that whatever fish he returns he should mark such in some way that he would be able to recognise them again with the probability of once more putting his steel into them ; and giving them their liberty once more, he may possibly renew their acquaintance on another occasion. There is something to talk about in this, but there is certainly not in the other. I have heard one man boast of his enormous takes of barbel, and I have listened to another who generally puts back his fish or the greater portion of them, marked as I have suggested, and catching them again. Which, I ask, is the most to admire? Those who take the merciful side of the question will unhesitatingly accept the views of the latter. But this merciless practice of fishing is not confined to barbel competitions, it is unfortunately inherent to some of the jack anglers, and the practice too often extends to private waters. In the latter case it is unjust to the proprietors besides being a decided breach of privilege. Angling in private waters should be practised for the enjoyment of it and not pursued for merciless destruction. It should not be made a matter of business but apart from what has been termed “the beggarly elements of trade,” to practise it as a healthful and enjoyable recreation. Here is a beautiful park with its antiquated mansion and ancestral trees shut in from the bustle of life—a very picture of romance and pictorial excellence. The thoughtful piscator exclaims, as he enters, “If I do not catch a fish I shall enjoy the beauty of the park,” and this is just the feeling all should possess—a love for the works of nature, united with the interests of piscatorial pursuits, will then guide each when they have received the privileged permission to fish. The Thames has resources for increasing the stock of fish which many private waters do not possess, and jack-fishing in a public river may be practised more indiscriminately and with less objection as regards numbers. Jack are more valued as an article of food than barbel, and are therefore more acceptable as gifts. In private waters where there is an enormous quantity of jack, an occasional thinning would be, and undoubtedly is, beneficial, but where those fish do not abound to any great extent, “giving it a good doing” is scarcely justifiable, and there is no real credit in the doing of it. It is remarkable at a time when jack are madly on the feed how easily they can be caught, and I have an instance of this kind when in a pond not well stocked with fish every jack was taken out of it by one angler in a very short time. In the present day, when the pursuit of angling is so largely on the increase, there should be some regard to moderation in the retention of fish, and this principle should guide anglers more where their fishing has been one of privilege. I have known instances where an abuse of this kind has shut up the privilege altogether, and I would not blame any proprietor for doing it, except that it shuts out those who are content to pay proper respect to the permission. It rests more with the angling clubs in London to put down the merciless destruction of fish than any private individual ; and other associations that have been established to regulate the fishing societies, in union with them, have a certain amount of responsibility clinging to them. Whilst encouraging all fair and honest angling they should discourage the system of prizes for gross weights which is attended with such appalling results, and as a fair substitution make the competitions for the best number of good fish. There is more honour and glory in getting a prize for four good fish than for an enormous quantity of simply what are termed sizeable fish, which if left in the river would increase in size and give better and truer sport to the anglers afterwards.

B.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

Nothing has been doing worthy of record on Mid-Thames during the past week. The river, however, is now in fine trim, and jack, roach and chub are only waiting to be asked to accept to be hooked. I hope to report some grand catches for next week's issue.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack and perch. No snow in the water yet. I think there is more snow to come. On Wednesday, out with Mr. C., of 48, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale—four jack; three jack, going 16 lb.; one jack, 2 lb.; and lost, three jack.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in splendid order for fishing now and sport looks well till a thaw sets in to colour the water. Again there was a heavy fall of snow here on Wednesday morning, but it will not make any difference to the river till it thaws. There has been a lot of anglers down since my last report with very fair success. C. Brown, out two days, 16 lb. of roach and dace; H. Wheeler, two days, 8 dozen of dace; E. Brown, one day, 6 lb. of roach and bream; Job Brain, three days, 27 lb. of bream and dace; J. Bushnell, three days, 25½ lb. of bream and roach.—J. BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

The river here is now in good condition, but, the weather being so intensely cold, we have had but a very few customers. The ground is entirely covered with snow nearly 3 inches deep, and it is freezing hard; and, when the weather breaks up, and the snow finds its way into the river, we may expect another blank day or two. The only takes worth mentioning were Mr. Beard and friend on last Sunday, who took 110 splendid dace, all sizeable fish, from ten o'clock until dusk. Mr. Beard is one of our all-the-year-round anglers, and he deserves all he gets.—ALFRED PERRIN.

P.S.—Mr. Andy Anderson, of the celebrated Eel Pie Island Hotel, and a few friends, taking advantage of the fresh breeze, had a sharp run up the river in his well-known yacht (the Red Cross Knight). All went well until returning from Teddington, when through some misunderstanding by the man in charge of the canvas, while making a tack, they came into collision with the overhanging boughs of the trees of a well-known lawn of a gentleman's residence on the banks of the river. In a few minutes the Red Cross Knight felt herself a little mixed, and in another moment the whole of the rigging was swept away. I am pleased to say there was no injury done to any of the occupants of the yacht, excepting a little damping, but had the lady on the lawn had her wishes carried out, they would have all been very wet, to say the least of it. After a little manoeuvring the gallant Knight was got off and token to her safe mooring a little the worse for the combat.—A. PERRIN.

Devon (Ilfracombe).

The north and north-east winds that have prevailed of late, and which make the coast of Devon a lee shore, have almost put a stop to our sea-fishing here, being situated as we are on the northernmost promontory of the Bristol Channel, we get the full force of the wind and sea. During these winds, when there is a moderate tide some boats put to sea or drop anchor just outside the pier for an hour or two, and get good catches of cod, conger, ling, skate, &c. Bottom fishing with hand lines. All hands are anxiously waiting for the S.W. wind, when both hand lines and spillers will be in full work.—HENRY COMER.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).

I think, after my day's ramble through the marshes, and by the look of the weather, we are now going to have it smart. We met several gentlemen with skates, but, although we were surrounded with ice there was none fit for that purpose. We were out shooting, and a jolly time we had—sport, plenty, but small fry, indeed—but when one has such friends as Mr. Charles Blake, of the Royal Museum Hotel, Exeter, and others of a similar genial humour, not forgetting Mr. Duffell, of the Bridge Inn, Topsham—who is all life for an old one—we could not be off enjoying ourselves. Not a rod was seen the whole way or day; in fact, last week was very tame. A few pike and roach were brought in. Salmon are on their road back, owing, no doubt, to the mildness of the weather. This time last year we were frozen up completely, thus making the fish much later in coming back. Several dead fish have been marked much lacerated, owing, no doubt, to the lumpy waters and mill wheels, also gratings, and not so much from pollution this time, although I have something to say upon that point in my next. I have had a roach sent me to-day without any caudal appendage at all—quite a stump at the wrist—apparently, or I should imagine so, born thus. It was so beautifully grown over, the scales overlapping precisely in the same way as if you were to loosely clasp your hands together by the fingers. We have an enormous quantity of roach deformed in the Exe, for which I cannot account, but will solve the problem yet—that is, if perseverance will do it.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Fareham (Hants).

An old dog otter, weighing 23½ lb., was trapped in the back-water near Fontley Iron Mills on Friday last by a keeper of H. P. Delmes, Esq., of Cams Hall. This is the third otter that has been trapped in the Titchfield Fishing Club Waters this winter.—J. T.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

The waters down here are in good order, and a fair number of anglers have been down. The take has been very small. Mr. Harper, of Mansfield Street, Kingsland, had a fine jack weighing 6 lb. and one 2 lb., both in good condition. We had some fine roach taken from the old river. We expect several members of the London clubs down this week on account of the favourable state of the water.—S. SEWELL.

P.S.—This fall of snow may spoil the water if it melts.

Trent (Alrewas).

Nothing has been doing in our locality the last few weeks, consequently I have little to write about that would interest your readers. The present week is again another blank, for although the water is in first-class order for both pike and chub the weather has been so severe that no one has cared to venture out. At the time of writing (Thursday) the frost has no appearance of going. All the pools and backwaters are frozen over, and the country in the Trent Valley presents a very wintry appearance.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The sharp frosts of this week have caused the river to run down low and clear, so that anglers who do not mind the inclemency of the weather may enjoy a little pike and chub fishing (if they can get at the latter). But at the time of writing skating seems to have more votaries than fishing; for the backwaters are locked in an icy embrace, and skaters are disporting themselves on the frozen surface, so I am afraid pike-fishers will have rather a difficult job to find a suitable spot; but those anglers who care nothing for the keenness of the atmosphere may find the chub inclined to take a nice bit of pith if they will only operate on suitable spots. I am afraid I cannot recommend any other sort of angling if the present frost continues; last night we had a fall of snow, but if it stays on the land, and does not melt and get into the river it will not interfere with chub-fishing this next day or two. I have not seen many anglers out this week, but those who have been have been fairly successful among the chub. One of our locals went down the Devon, or rather up, and brought away a very nice sample of chub, whilst a pair of anglers who visited the Witham got a very good lot; bait, pith.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Although the water and weather on Monday was plenty good enough for pike and chub fishing at this season of the year, the anglers, however, did not seem to get on very well; though a few fish of both sorts were taken, and the best basket I saw came from the neighbourhood of Ratcliff, consisting of six chub, which were caught by scratching; and the five pike the same angler had, had been persuaded to take live bait. The latter weighed a little over 12 lb., while the chub averaged 2 lb. each—a very fair basket altogether. The rosters who went up the river brought down only a few of either sort mentioned, none of which were of any size. On Tuesday a remarkable change took place, which many of the anglers thought would cause most of the fish to go dead off the feed, and perhaps it will be remembered that on that day the weather was very dry and frosty; and it was the general opinion among these anglers who are in the habit of fishing during the winter months, that it would be next to a waste of time to attempt to capture any of the finny tribe with rod and line. These, however, were greatly surprised, on the return at night of one of our noted fishermen when he produced several roach over 1 lb. each, and some good chub, the largest of the latter weighing 4 lb. But what surprised the anglers most was when they were told that all the fish had been caught with worms; to which one of our anglers said, "We do not understand this—to catch chub with worms in frosty weather, and water clear, with the thermometer standing all day below freezing-point." This, I must admit, was a bit of a puzzle to me; but now I believe it to be perfectly true, and that such a thing might happen for once I do not wish to dispute; but in all my experience I should never think of recommending worms for chub under the circumstances named above. Weather at the time of writing is very unfavourable for angling, there being several inches of snow on the ground, but the water is still clear and low.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the above rivers are in first-class condition for fly fishing, but, owing to the snow coming, and the severity of the weather, very few anglers have cared to turn out for the last couple of days. Both on Monday and Tuesday there were a good many anglers out on both rivers, both fly, bottom, and pike fishing. The best take was made on Monday on the Derwent, with the artificial fly; three brace of good-sized grayling were killed with the furnace and dyed hackle flies; the fish rising the best from one to three. Very few natural flies have been out on either river this year up to the present time. There has been some good-sized dace and roach killed on the Derwent with the cockspur worms, the fish running from 6 ounces to 3 quarters of a pound each. Weather still very cold, and a slight sprinkling of snow on the ground. Angling prospects not very encouraging while this very severe weather continues.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

The Yore (Yorkshire).

There has been a decided change for the better in angling prospects this week, and a few nice dishes of grayling have been caught with the little red worm for bait, but it has only been keen sportsmen that have braved the cold, which has been intense; in fact, one correspondent writes me that he had to free his line from ice several times during Monday, on which day he basketed 3½ brace of very nice fish. To-night (Wednesday) the thermometer indicates 3 deg. of frost below freezing point, and whilst I am writing snow is falling very fast.—FRANCIS M. WALBEAN.

PIKEING IN PRIVATE WATERS.

WE accidentally omitted to mention that this interesting article was by one of the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and was read before the Society at one of its meetings.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

THE USURPATIONS BY "RIPARIANS" ON THE UPPER THAMES.

A MEETING of the Thames Conservancy was held on Monday at the offices, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, and as one of the purposes of the meeting was to receive a deputation from the Thames Rights Defence Association, there was a very full attendance. Most of the City Members, including Sir Charles Reed, M.P., Mr. Alderman Finnnis, Mr. F. Bennoch were present (but excluding the Lord Mayor); and the deputation were doubtlessly flattered by seeing that their action had brought to this early meeting those "Riparians" who have been prominent in attempting to wrest to their own private use the public waters of the Thames.

Admiral Sir F. Nicholson presided.

Mr. Francis Francis, in introducing the deputation (which included Mr. Ledger, Mr. Lehman, Mr. J. W. M. Francis, Mr. John While, Mr. Clench, &c.) remarked that the Association represented by the deputation had been formed in consequence of the action taken by some of the landowners in the valley of the Upper Thames in laying claim, in some instances to the waters of the River Thames, and in other instances annoying the anglers who, without trespassing upon land, merely exercised their right of angling in the open waters of the Thames. Mr. Francis Francis pointed out that in the cases referred to certain persons had only of late years made these claims to be the private owners of parts of the Thames—for the claims were never made in bygone times, when the produce of the river fisheries was of great value as food—and if the landowners had any right to the produce of the river it might be considered as very certain that they would not have been behindhand in laying claim to their property, and exercising whatever rights they possessed for their direct profit or benefit. There was evidence that, where such rights existed (and too much existed under charter), they were exercised; but in all the rest of the river the fisheries were open and public. The Conservancy was appointed by the authority of Parliament to "conserve" the public rights; and that the Conservancy was not appointed merely for the purposes of navigation—for the superintending of barges going up and down the river—but were also in charge, for the public and the open fisheries, was to be seen from the bye-laws which the Conservancy was empowered to make, in regard to the size of fish, the fence months, the mesh of the net to be used, and the power to appoint bailiffs. These were all public duties, and it was as much the duty of the Conservancy to maintain the fisheries, and to protect the anglers in the exercise of their rights, as it was their duty to protect the navigation. The duties were concurrent, and yet the anglers were annoyed by persons who lived on the banks of the Thames, some throwing stones and bottles in the water, and sending dogs in, and others claiming, —without a show of title—to be possessors of the fishing rights.

Sir F. Nicholson remarked here that the deputation would remember that prior to 1866 the Conservancy ended at Staines; the Conservancy up to then had nothing to do with what went on above Staines, and he believed that there were no claims to private fisheries below Staines.

Mr. Francis Francis, continuing, said that the action of the Conservancy was not confined to below Staines now, and thought there were no claims to private fisheries in the "City waters"; now, there had been, as groundless as those now made in the upper waters. Then, too, the Conservancy had acted as if the fisheries were public, for in appointing men and bailiffs over the fisheries the Conservators had acted as they would not have done—and he said this with emphasis—if the fisheries had been private property. (Hear, hear.) The Conservancy stood in this anomalous position—there had been appointed, under the authority of the Conservancy, bailiffs to protect the fisheries, which

private owners claimed as their own. Now, it could not be held that Parliament would pass an Act to appoint a Conservancy to protect the private property of individuals, by the appointment of bailiffs out of the public funds; nor would it seek to increase the produce of the river merely for private owners; and even on this aspect of the case—just the broad features—it was apparent that it was the duty of the Conservancy to preserve the fisheries and protect the public, who exercised the right to angle in the river where it was open. The deputation came to offer their aid, politically and otherwise, to exercise their rights over the river for public purposes, and the Association for the Thames' Rights Defence would give every support to the Conservancy to become fully representative, and have "conservancy" of the public rights on the Thames. There were powers, the deputation held, which should be obtained over the tow-paths; for landowners who were paid rent for the tow-paths held themselves at liberty to exclude the public from the use of these thoroughfares by the river, and had actually done so.

Sir F. Nicholson pointed out that, under the 67th clause of the Act of 1866, all private rights were reserved.

Mr. F. Francis said he knew this; but the Act did not create any rights, or give any private rights over the river, which had no existence before.

Sir F. Nicholson remarked that the deputation's questions raised many points of law which had never been settled as to the public rights on a navigable river. There have been cases, however, on the question.

Mr. Francis said he should like to know of any decisions.

Sir F. Nicholson replied by referring to the case of "Murphy v. Ryan."

Mr. Francis rejoined that this case, which he knew very well, was not in point.

Mr. Ledger was then asked to speak, but was too unwell.

Mr. White said he wished to call the attention of the Conservators to an aspect of this case which had not been touched upon. The deputation represented the public opinion of 4,000,000 of people—for all London was watching with the keenest interest, the stand being made by the Thames Rights' Defence Association for the preservation of common rights on the Thames—and, indeed, the public of London were not disposed to let these common rights go "by the board." Moreover, there were 150 angling clubs in London; these, though having large numbers of members representing but a tithe of the persons interested directly in angling on the Thames. These and the others who sought recreation on the Thames, had been greatly shocked by the manner in which the public rights had been usurped in the Thames by land-owners, and he must bring to their notice that those persons who had done these things were acting in a manner highly dangerous to that respect for property which it was highly necessary should be cultivated at this period. The "many-headed" would not be likely to respect property, when they found "property" over the common rights of the people was obtained simply by taking—and it was deeply to be regretted that members of the Conservancy had used their position as Conservators—as members of this Board, to whom the protection of the Thames was entrusted—to make claims of private ownership in the waters. This, at all events, was the idea—the dangerous idea—which prevailed among the members of the angling clubs of London—and it was, moreover, stated with indignation, that these Conservators who had thus seized upon the waters by setting up their claims had substantiated their claims by themselves, in their position as justices of the peace, convicting persons of trespassing for fishing in the waters of the Thames, and this too, without entering into the question of title.

Mr. Vansittart, interrupting, said that there was a mis-statement in this, for he had sat upon the bench in these cases, and they had only been decided after anxious deliberation—in all cases, too, the justices had offered to “grant a case” when the question of title could be gone into. The offer of a case had not been accepted.

Mr. White was not surprised at the offer of a lawsuit being refused by individuals, and was satisfied with having elicited the fact that Conservators who had themselves these claims, had been judges in the cases in which they were interested.

Sir F. Nicholson said it would be as well if the Thames Rights' Defence Association would send their views in writing.

Mr. Francis said this should be done.

The Deputation then withdrew.

THE BROADS AND RIVERS OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

PART II.

NORFOLK was a stronghold of decoys, and there are still as many as six in active operation. Very few persons have actually seen decoys; for as the greatest quietude is necessary in order to give the ducks a sense of security, the presence of visitors is not encouraged at any time, and the greatest mystery and secrecy are observed about a decoy. Briefly speaking, a decoy may be said to be a pond or lake from which shallow creeks or arms branch out like the arms of a star-fish. These arms are curved so that the ends are not visible from the lake, and are arched over with network, forming pipes which lessen in size until at the end there is a kind of removable pocket. No gun is allowed to be fired within the neighbourhood of the decoy, and the fowl rest there during the day in, as they fancy, unassailable security. But from behind a screen of reeds the decoy-man, who holds in his hand a bit of smouldering turf to prevent his own odour from reaching the birds, gives a low whistle. On the pond are several tame ducks, which know that food is ready for them at the mouth of the pipe, whence the sound proceeds. These swim quietly towards the hidden decoy-man, and are followed by the wild birds. Then a reddish-coloured dog jumps through a hole in the screen, and back again through another. The ducks are immediately brimful of curiosity, and swim to inspect this curious creature. The dog reappears a little way up the pipe, and the ducks follow. When they are well inside, the decoy-man presents himself at the opening, and the frightened crowd flutter into the pocket, and are captured. From one to two thousand birds might be taken in one season. There are two sets of decoys on Fritton Broad—one worked by Lieutenant-Colonel Leathes, and one by Sir Savile Crossley. Those who are interested in the subject of decoys should read an article upon Norfolk decoys, by Mr. Southwell, in the Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society for 1878-79.

The Broad district is not so rich in wild animals as a drier and more thickly-wooded country would be. The only one worth our notice now is the otter, which is very numerous although not often seen, on account of the pathless forests of reeds which afford it ample scope for unseen rambles. Once in an alder-cart a friend of ours came upon three together and shot them all. Frequently, when lying awake at night on board a yacht, we have heard its bell-like bark close by us, and in the morning have found some large bream lying half eaten on the adjacent “rond.” Formerly, as may well be imagined, they were much more abundant; and in the year 1557 the “Norwich Assembly for the fresh-water fisherman between the Tower at Conisford and Hardley Cross” made a regulation, “That every man shall be bound to keep a dog to hunt the otter, and to make a general hunt twice

or thrice in the year, or more, at time or times convenient, upon pain to forfeit 10s.” And in 1729 we read in the *Norwich Gazette* that, between the 18th March and the 20th of May of that year, certain Suffolk gentlemen killed seventeen brace of otters by hunting them. The usual breeding-place of the otter is in some hole beneath tree-roots or rocks on the margin of the water; but as such spots are rare on the Broads, the otter accommodates itself to circumstances, and builds itself a nest in a reed-bed on the ground, raising a hillock of weeds and rubbish as big as a haystack, in the centre of which is a chamber approached by two or more entrances. The otter is often caught in the large bow-nets which the Broad-men set for tench in the “runs” between the weeds. Otter-hunting with dogs in the lower reaches and Broads would be useless, as the extent of water is so great that the otter would have a great advantage over the dogs, and the hunter could not follow dogs and otters into the reed-beds.

Of the fish with which these waters are teeming, so much can be said that it is difficult to select that which must go into the small compass at our command. The bream deserves first mention, because of its enormous numbers. It is everywhere, and attains to a large size. Four and five pounds are now not uncommon weights, and one of eleven pounds was recently caught. The Norfolk bream-fisher is *sui generis*. You generally see them two in a boat which is moored parallel with the stream, each man with an apron and a cloth. The bream is covered with such a thick slime that were it not for these precautions the angler's clothes would be irretrievably ruined. Handfuls of brewers' grains are thrown in from time to time as ground-bait, and every swim produces a bite, so that at the end of a good day there may be from five to eight stone weight of bream and roach in the boat. The artisan classes of Norwich are great bream and roach fishers, and frequently have fishing contests,—generally under the patronage of Saint Monday. On such noisy and festive occasions, however, the sport is generally comparatively poor. The bream is not a very toothsome fish to eat, but large quantities are sold by the professional fishermen to the poorer Jews in our large towns for use on fast-days, of course at a very cheap rate; and many bushels are sold to the fishermen on the coast for use as bait.

Of the large quantities caught by the angler few are eaten. After the catch is weighed it is cast away, and one often sees rotting heaps of fish on the banks. Tons have been used as manure, but these were the produce of an infamous system of poaching which prevailed before the passing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fresh Water Fisheries Act in 1877. The poachers dragged the rivers with small-meshed nets, and even trawled up them just as is done at sea; and as many as eight tons of fish would be the produce of a day's or night's netting. When the price obtained for these would not pay for the carriage, they were simply thrown away. Now, however, there are regulations as to netting, which have put a stop to this, and the fisheries are fast becoming better than they have been for a long time. There is no restriction against rod-fishing at any time of the year in the free waters, which comprise the three rivers,—Wroxham, Oulton, Fritton, and Ormesby Broads, and Breydon Water.

The roach almost equals the bream in point of numbers, and is caught of a uniform large size. The rudd, or roud, as it is generally called in Norfolk, is very abundant, more particularly in the Broads. It is a brilliant-coloured active fish, and will rise at the fly, so that a day's roud-fishing is a most enjoyable experience. The carp is not common, but grows to a large size. Mr. Lubbock mentions one which was caught in Belaugh Broad of the weight of 15½ lb. Perch are numerous and large. Four-pounders are frequently taken; and on the Waveney a barber of Beccles took in a short space of time one morning eleven perch,

each 2 lb. in weight, and no small ones. The fresh-water shrimp is the favourite bait for them.

The tench is common and large. It is not often caught by the angler, because the bream and roach will rush off with the bait while the tench is deliberating about it; but they are caught in great numbers by means of the bow-net. A bow-net set just below the town of Beccles had sixteen brace of fine tench in it when taken up. The attraction in this case was a bright-coloured bunch of flowers fastened inside. Great numbers, however, are taken in a very peculiar way. In the hot days the tench lie on the surface of the water in shoals. On the approach of the Broad-man in his boat they disperse, but only for a few yards, until they can hide themselves in the weeds in some shallow spot. The man notes where some of the fish go, and, paddling quietly up, he bares his arm and feels for them. Unless the fish is touched on the tail it will not move until it is lifted right into the boat; and in this manner five or six dozen fish, over fourteen inches in length, may be taken in a day.

The eel and the pike are now, however, the chief "paying" fish in these waters. The eel is the support of numbers of fishermen, who "bob" for it with bundles of worms threaded on worsted, in which the eels' teeth get entangled; spear it in the dykes and along the shallow margins; set eel-pots; and net it in a variety of ways. On the Bure, large nets are set across the river during the autumn nights to catch the eels making their annual migration to the sea. Immense catches are made on dark and stormy nights, when the eels are most on the move. Some of the eels are sold in Norwich and Yarmouth, but the greater number go to Birmingham and the Black Country, where such rich food is apparently much appreciated. Long night-lines with hundreds of hooks upon them, baited with small fish, used also to be set; but the recent Act made this illegal, because pike and other fish were often caught on them. The poachers trawling up the Waveney have taken ninety stone of eels in a week, although eels are the most difficult fish of any to be caught with a drag-net. After the last summer floods the eels were greatly on the move; and the men who sat and "bobbed" just below Norwich would get four or five stone weight in a single night, which would sell for ten shillings a stone.

The pike is the monarch of the Norfolk waters, and at one time was supremely abundant, but the natives harried him to their utmost. Liggers or trimmers made of bundles of rushes were set by the hundred. The smaller Broads were hired by fishermen, who, to make a livelihood out of them, caught all they could. Yarrell, in his "British Fishes," gives an instance of a few days' slaughter of the pike on Heigham Sound. Mr. Lubbock instances ninety pike, many of them of large size, being taken on Ranworth Broad by two amateur fishermen in the same boat in one day. Lately, on Scoulton Mere, twenty-three were taken by trimmers, five of them weighing over 20 lb. apiece. Nets and set-lines and snaring in the dykes at spawning-time thinned their numbers, so that both in quantity and size pike were slowly but surely decreasing. Since the Act was passed, however, there is a great improvement in the pike-fishing. Only the other week, one of forty-three inches in length and 27 lb. in weight was caught at Cantley, on the Yare.

In Oulton Broad are great numbers of the grey mullet, which, however, will not take any bait that the angler can offer them.

In the spring the smelt comes up the Yare to spawn, and is stopped in its course by the New Mills, which are built right across the river, in the city of Norwich. Just below the mills, in the heart of the city, the smelter passes the night in his boat, throwing a huge casting-net, by the light of a torch, and occasionally making large catches. Lubbock says: "It is a curious fact that other fish greatly forsake the higher part of the river whilst

it is occupied by the smelt spawning. Roach and dace are at that time very scarce, although plentiful enough before the smelts arrive; they then remove further down the river for a time; and, as they say here, 'the fish are down because the smelts are up.'"

There is a large and constant traffic on these waters carried on by means of wherries. These are sailing craft of from 20 to 70 tons burthen. They are long and shallow, have one tall mast and a huge sail, the rig being on the principle of that known as the Una rig, except that there is no boom. Two men, or a man and a boy, or his wife, or even one man only, suffice to navigate these large craft. They sail fast, very close to the wind, and are handy. There is a little cabin in the stern, and abaft of this the steersman stands against the tiller, with the sheet working on a "horse" on the top of the cabin just in front of him. The mast moves on a fulcrum, and the lower end is weighted, so that by means of the forestay one man can easily lower and raise it: When the wind fails, the men betake themselves to the "quant," which is a long slender pole with a knob at one end and a spike and shoulder at the other. The shoulder is to prevent the quant sinking too far into the mud. The wherryman plunges the quant into the water at the bow of his craft, and placing the knob against his shoulder walks aft along the plankways pushing with all his might. Many an amateur yachtsman has found this part of the business easy enough; but when trying to withdraw the quant, he has discovered it to be so deeply imbedded in the mud that he has failed to extract it, and after a last agonising pull has either let it go altogether, or, if his sense of duty was too strong, has stuck to it until his craft has slipped from under him and he has had a good sousing. The quant must always be laid with its point towards the stern, and the boathook with its point towards the bows, otherwise bad luck will attend the voyage. The men are paid by the voyage; so that a fair wind means money—a head wind, less money—and a calm, loss. Owing to the winding course of the river there are always some reaches which can be sailed without tacking. The men will often lose an hour or two of a fair wind or tide in order to wait for and race a rival wherry; and at the various regattas there is frequently a wherry-race which produces much noise, fun, and excitement. In the winter a wherryman's life is a very hard one, but there is but little actual peril; they are such splendid steersmen that accidents rarely happen. They stick in the mud occasionally, but this simply means a little extra pushing. Occasionally a "rodges-blast" sweeps like a whirlwind over the marshes, lifting the reed-stacks, wrecking windmills, and dismasting the wherries; but this is not of frequent occurrence. We have failed to trace the etymology of this local name for a rotatory wind-squall. There are a large number of men employed in this kind of navigation, and as a rule are sober, honest, and civil men, ready to give any assistance in their power to the yachtsman. A great weakness of theirs is a fondness for tea. This they boil in the kettle which they say never "furs." The wherries are built entirely of English oak, and a large one will cost about £500.

(To be continued.)

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

CARE OF FISH POND.

AS an instance of the tender care which fish require, some idea of the work to be done in January is here given.

The inflow and outflow channels of fish-ponds must be constantly kept clear of ice and the snow partially removed to afford a necessary amount of light. The main surface of the pond, however should be left undisturbed, since snow helps to keep off extreme cold. When the ice bears, air-holes should be provided, and these should be sawn, not chopped. To protect these from further action of the frost, thin poles should be laid athwart them, covered with a thin layer of branches, straw, reeds, or rushes. On no account should the air-holes be made above the spot where the fish have congregated for the winter, and the most suitable position for them is at opposite ends of the pond, close to the in and out flow, so as to ensure a maximum aeration of the water. The air-holes must be examined daily for signs of the dispersion of the fish; these are discoloration of the water, the appearance on the surface of dead water-beetles and spiders, or fish gasping for air. Should these un hoped-for signs occur, the number of air-holes must be largely increased, and as much circulation as possible given to the water. If these measures prove unavailing, and there is no immediate prospect of thaw, all that can be done is to net the pond and transfer the fish to other and better water. All noise on the ice, such as that caused by cutting ice for storage skating or sledging, is to be avoided, otherwise the fish will be roused and tempted to rise to the surface, where, in all probability, they will freeze fast to the ice, and die in consequence.—*Donker's Fischerei Kalender.*

THE LIFEBOAT SERVICE IN 1880.

THE list of the services rendered to shipwrecked crews by the lifeboats of the National Lifeboat Institution during the storms of the year which has just closed show a total of 570 lives and 29 vessels saved from destruction. In the same period the Lifeboat Institution granted rewards for saving 120 lives by fishing and other boats, and other means, making a total of 690 lives saved last year, mainly through its instrumentality. Altogether, since its formation the Society has contributed to the saving of 27,596 shipwrecked persons. It should be mentioned that the operations of the National Lifeboat Institution now cover the whole coasts of the British Isles, and that all the lifeboats of the United Kingdom belong to it, with the exception of a score or so of lifeboats which are under the charge of harbour trustees and other local bodies. It will thus be seen that an institution possessing so national a character must necessarily need a very large income to carry on its truly benevolent work with the success which has hitherto characterised the operations of the National Lifeboat Institution. We are therefore not assuming too much in expressing a confident hope that the British public will continue to extend to it their sympathy and liberal support. We will only add that contributions are received for the Lifeboat Institution by all the London and country bankers, and by the Secretary, Richard Lewis, Esq., 14, John Street, Adelphi, London.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford" and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessors in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CURATORSHIP OF THE BUCKLAND MUSEUM.

SIR,—I am informed that efforts are being made to turn out the present curator of the Buckland Museum at South Kensington in favour of another individual. Having for many years known this museum and its contents, I think any petition to turn out its present curator would be very unjust and wicked; as he has virtually made it the success it now is.

I do not think any petition will have the slightest weight with the authorities of the museum, since Mr. Edon, the present curator, has given, and is giving, every satisfaction in the performance of his duties. Mr. Edon has done a very great amount of good to our inland fisheries, by giving sound and trustworthy advice to all those who, like myself, in former years, sought his advice in piscicultural matters. In fact, had it not been for his advice and assistance, I much doubt whether I should ever have made fish-culture the success it now is; therefore I think it would be a great shame to seek to turn out a worthy public servant.

I can only speak most highly of him so far as I know, and I think I know him as well as most people can.—I am, &c., CHAS. C. CAPEL.
Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent.

WHEN DO TROUT SPAWN?

SIR,—I shall be extremely obliged if you will let me know when trout begin to spawn, and when they finish, and how deep ought the water to be, and what is the best material to make a spawning-bed of? I have a reservoir near me, and I am very anxious for the trout to spawn in it and not outside where the poachers can get at them.—I am, &c., R. H. B.

Jan. 9th, 1881.
[Trout spawn in the winter months, generally in November, December, and January, but there is no fixed time; for instance, the Itchen trout are spawning now and the Wandle trout won't spawn for some weeks probably, and the Otter (Devon) trout spawned some weeks ago. If there are streams running into your reservoir the trout will get into them to spawn if they can, if they can't they will have to select the most shallow part of the reservoir. A good gravel bed is the best material for the purpose.—ED.]

DANGER TO EPPING FOREST.

SIR,—Surely the publication of Mr. Heath's letter on the above subject in the GAZETTE is very injudicious. Every angler must be aware from very obvious reasons that anglers, as anglers, must not enter into public quarrels with the railway companies. The Great Eastern least of any. My sympathies are entirely with Mr. Heath, but let him remember that there are more ways than one of killing a cat.—I am, &c., A. J. MARRIOTT.

Jan. 10th, 1881.

FISHING IN THE TEME.

SIR,—With your kind permission I will give the anglers of Worcester and neighbourhood forty-five years of my experience of the river Teme, or Teame; but first let me tell them my catches this season. I began as usual in April with the worm bait for trout, had the usual success until the season came for my best and favourite bait, viz., gentle, maggot, or young of the blue-bottle fly. After catching the usual heavy baskets of fish, all sorts that take that bait, I began grayling fishing about the middle of August, and on each Thursday until November was out, my total catch was 307 grayling, besides many good dishes of trout in August and September. The account of each take appeared in your paper weekly. About forty-five years ago, just after the new bridge at Powick was erected, I was considered a successful young angler. I having copied one Mr. Allen, who was a famous maggot fisher, always keeping a good and liberal shop of bait, and thus attracting the fish to him. It was common to catch a basket full of large dace in Diglis, or anywhere about the Severn, but after the locks and weirs were put on the Severn, it changed the river as regards fish and fishing. I could catch good baskets of trout and other fish at Powick or Lower Teme, but after a time that got worse, and I went higher up the stream to Bransford. Had good sport there, and on up to Cotheridge and Broadwas. There I met with better fish and plenty of them. I fished that water for years, and have seen twenty long fishing rods reared against the village inn—the Royal Oak—at one time, showing there was plenty of anglers. One day after I had been broken by either fish or bottom until I had no float left, the fish biting well, I picked up a cork, and with my pocket-knife cut into it, placed a quill in the middle, and tied it on with waxed silk. It appeared longer than the float then in common use, and something new to look at, but acted very well as substitute. From that time I have always used the long float, and is has come into general use with bottom anglers. It is called by the fishing tackle makers the Worcester float. I then went up the river to Knightsford Bridge, where the host has the right to give leave to customers to fish two miles of good water. Here I had very good success, catching heavy baskets of fish. To decide a bet one day's catch was weighed at the inn, and 46 lb. was the weight I caught. I still went higher up the river, and found it even better fishing, and at Martley I have had great takes of fish. Kingswoodford is famed for grayling. Up the river to Shelsley and Stanford, I met with the same success, Stanford Bridge Inn being a capital fishing station. Here I heard that the fish were larger up the stream. I, of course, went on higher up to Meadows Mills, where I had grand sport with grayling and trout. A mile above begins the fords of the long reach between mills, called Newnham and Tenbury water. Here it was I caught a dace a pound weight, the first I ever saw, and I would not believe it until I saw it; but I was agreeably deceived. It was a common affair to catch dace up to 18 oz., but that is a thing of the past. My opinion is that otters have cleared the river of them, and most of the best fish. At this time I walked to and from Lindridge carrying heavy baskets of fish home seven-teen miles, after a hard day's fishing with a 20 ft. rod. Few men do such things. After some years I took parties to the Nag's Head, Lindridge, and it became heavily fished up stream. I went and fished the Tenbury club water by ticket. Here I found the fish plentiful. I now drove horse and trap, and put up at Newnham Bridge, or the Peacock, both good and convenient fishing stations. Mr. Smallman, the host at Newnham Bridge, is one of the best top water anglers I ever met with. Jolly John Jones, at the Peacock is as good as his wife, which is saying a lot for him. The next fishing station is the Swan

Hotel, Tenbury, close to the water. Higher up stream at Little Hereford leave may be obtained, and there are good baskets of fish to be taken up to Barratt's Mill. The Selway Arms at Wooferton is a good house to stay at. Up stream to Ludlow and on to Oakley Park is getting on to the best grayling water on the Teme, strictly preserved. From here to Leintwardine up to Knighton the river is small, trout only going up higher; but up the Clun, a river that runs into the Teme, there is good trout and grayling fishing, all preserved. I have had an occasional visit to that stream, and can testify to the quality of the fish. There are tributaries running into the Teme that contain fish. The best to fish in is the Leigh Brook, the river Rea at Newnham Bridge, the Letwich at Burford, above Tenbury, and the Oney, near and above Ludlow. Plenty of sport can be had on these streams. The railway runs to all these places, except Stanford Bridge. With permission I will shortly give you readers a paragraph on the river Lugg and other streams where fishing is worth going for.—I am, &c.,
B. SMITH.
Jan. 5, 1881.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CHEAP TRAVELLING ON RAILWAYS.

SIR,—The above has for some time past been a matter of discussion at the clubs belonging to our Association, as also at our delegate meetings held quarterly, and it is the general opinion that in long journeys by rail an extension of time is most desirable.

The different railway companies at present allow our members to travel on their lines at a reduced rate of about a fare and a third, but no distinction is made as to the distance of the journey, three days being allowed for an outward journey of a dozen miles, and the same for a journey of eighty miles and upwards.

A deputation was appointed to wait on the managers of the various railway companies, to see if they would grant an extension of time from three days (as at present) to six days for all distances where the outward journey exceeded forty miles. The result being that the matter, about four months ago, was brought before a meeting of the managers of the different railway companies, and they decided to decline an extension of time, although I have been informed by the secretary to one large company that he hoped before long to be able to see his way to grant the same.

Now our Association embraces Clubs in the following districts:—Bolton, Farnworth, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Heywood, Patricroft, Stockport, Hooley Hill, Ashton-under-Lyne, Hollinwood, Pendleton, &c.; and to go to anything like a place for good fishing our members have to travel a long distance, viz., into Lincolnshire, North Wales, Shropshire, &c., and after journeying there in one day, you have very little time left for fishing; and on the third day you have to give up very early in order to get back again; so that, out of three days, you have about a day and a half fishing. This is considered too little by our members, who think it hardly worth the trouble and expense of going so far in so short a time, whereas, should the time be extended, I am certain it would be better, both for anglers and the railway companies, as many more would travel on their lines than at present.

Again, on arriving at your destination, you may find that the wind and weather are against you for sport, and have the pleasure of knowing that, had you been able to stop another couple of days, you would have been able to have had, in all probability, a very good catch of fish, instead of returning with an empty pannier.

I do not know whether the matter has ever been mentioned at any of the London or Provincial Clubs, but, thinking it would (if they have not already such a privilege) also be a benefit to them, I have been desired to write this letter, and should feel extremely obliged if the secretaries of the various clubs in London, Sheffield, Birmingham, &c., would kindly test the feeling of their members on the subject, with the view of a general application to the various railway companies at a meeting of their managers, which I believe takes place in London every month, and then they will see that an extension of time for travelling long distances for bona fide angling is a matter that is not desired by Manchester alone, but also the various angling clubs in England.

Trusting you will kindly give space for this letter in your valuable journal, I am, &c.,

H. JOHNSON,
Secretary to the Manchester and Districts
Amalgamated Anglers' Association.

13, Whitfield Street,
Hyde Road, Manchester, Jan. 11.

A CHUB QUERY.

SIR,—Will you, or any of your readers that are practical chub fishermen kindly inform me how to use pith and brains for chub, whether it is boiled, or how made to stop on the hook; also how far to fish off the bottom. We have heard that there are thousands of chub in the Avon between Keynsham and Saltford, but we have never caught, or seen any that have been caught in the place named above, yet it is believed there is plenty there. I well remember one day, when roach fishing with gentles, the rouser I hooked, but could never see it, and it finally escaped by breaking my tackle. A friend of mine also fishing the same water, some time ago, for roach, with paste, says that when a roach did bite he had it, but when a chub took the bait he could never hook it do what he would. If any practical chub fisherman would be so kind to inform me as to the use of pith and brains, I should esteem it a great favour.—I am, &c.,
THOS. DAVIS.

Kingswood, near Bristol.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—In your last number the "Raven" makes an onslaught on your humble servant in language he would never have dared to use had he not felt sure the controversy on the parr question was closed. His tone reminds one of the old legal dictum, "You have no case—abuse the attorney on the other side." First "Raven" accuses me of falsifying his words. Well, I quite agree with him that the intentional insertion of the word "than," whether in "Raven's" or Parnell's description, would be most dishonest. But it was not intentional in my case—I did not receive the FISHING GAZETTE till Monday, on the occasion of writing this letter, and letters have to leave here on Monday afternoon to be in London next morning. In my hurry I did not notice the rest of the sentence, and being misled by "Raven's" bad punctuation: i.e., "Pectoral larger and stronger, standing out in the salmon;" I supposed he was comparing the two. Hence the error, which, by the bye, makes "Raven" more in agreement with his "authority," Couch, than he really is.

As you have decided that this questionably useful controversy must close, I abstain from noticing "Raven's" so-called arguments, but two statements he makes are positively untrue. I never said I had caught parr with "almost white-coloured," nor did I ever say in my original letter, that "Yarrell was describing the samlet under the name parr."

As to the description of the parr given by Parnell, neither Couch nor Yarrell, both of whom give his description, saw that he "plainly made a caligraphical error when writing his description:" that discovery was reserved for the critical acumen of the "Raven."

Hoping you may find this letter admissible, I am, for the last time,

T. SPENCE.

DOBB'S WEIR FISHERY.

SIR,—Dobb's Weir Fishery, known as Cook's, Fish and Eels, Hoddesdon, has been taken by the United Society of Anglers. No day tickets will be issued.—I am, &c.,
G. H.

NEW KINDS OF NET FISHING FOR HERRING ON THE EAST COAST.

SIR,—I have made full inquiries about Mr. E. Gostling's query in yours of the 1st inst., and cannot find out the slightest foundation for the statement he refers to.—I am, &c.,
ESOX LUCIUS.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

On January 9th Mr. E. Brocket came to the front with a fine tray of roach; Mr. C. Hewett next with a nice show of the same fish; Mr. T. W. Thompson, bream; Mr. J. Blacklege, roach; Mr. J. Morgan, roach; Mr. W. High, roach. Mr. Harnet just saved us from a blank the Sunday before with a few roach. On the 16th the members will fish from Waltham Bridge to Cheshunt Lock for several prizes given by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Shepherd, one of Mr. Sourbuck's handsome roach-rods; Mr. J. Morgan, a fine case of birds; Mr. M. Dymond, a prize not named; Mr. G. Castle, a set of handsome vases; Mr. Philpot and Mr. T. Gipton, prizes. On Tuesday, January 18th, a few members of the above will meet to give an old friend a turn, Mr. W. Hart, who has been laid up some time and needs a few friends at the present hour of distress; chairman, Mr. High. You will find me in the vice-chair.—C. HARTLAND, sec.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

I have the honour to inform you that the next general visit of angling societies will take place at the Bald-Faced Stag, Clifton Street, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday, January 17. This is the first visit since our worthy host has the above house, and as he takes a great interest in the club and angling generally, we wish to give him a bumper, which we shall be very pleased to return. Chair to be taken at 8.15.—J. WORLEDGE.
Jan. 6.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above association had a contest on the gins in the River Ouse for several prizes. The following gentlemen were the prize-winners:—Mr. W. Saunders, with pike 9 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Hassell, pike 4 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Ollive, pike 3 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Tompkins, chub 1 lb. 2½ oz., and several minor catches.—J. G. ANSCOMBE, Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At our monthly committee meeting held at the White Hart Hotel on Monday, January 3rd, it was brought forward that a member of the committee had started a new angling club under the name of the Bristol United Angling Association, and that he informs its members that they will in 1881 be amalgamated with the aforesaid Bristol Golden Carp Angling Association. This is to give notice that the committee are determined not to extend its numbers. Neither have they given any one any authority to sell tickets on their behalf otherwise than their hon. secretary, Mr. L. Wride, from whom all information can be obtained. It was also proposed that any member of the committee being absent three consecutive lodge nights shall be struck off the list, and another elected in his place. Arrangements are being made for fishing water, and we hope to get a definite answer in the course of a week or two.—LEWIS WRIDE, hon. sec.

THE DALSTON.

On the 4th inst. Mr. Fortescue brought up 21 lb. 2 oz. roach, the result of his day's fishing in the Colne, twelve of the largest fish weighed 10 lb. 3 oz. Mr. Hollingsworth had 6 lb. on the same day. On the 6th inst. Mr. Fortescue was again to the fore with 10 lb. 2 oz. roach, perch, and dace; and Mr. Eagles had 8 lb. 6 oz. roach, also from the Lea. Several other members had smaller takes of roach and dace.—W. L.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 26th December, 1880, Mr. Dick visited Marlow and succeeded in getting some nice roach. On 27th December, 1880, Mr. E. Harrison and J. Green paid a visit to Father Thames. The former managed to get some roach, perch, and a tench turning the scale at 3 lbs. 4½ oz., and the latter, about 5 lbs. of roach. January 9th, E. Harrison, roach, perch, and dace; C. Harrison, roach; G. Lumby dace and chub; E. Lawford, dace and chub; J. Green, roach; T. Lee, roach; E. Henries, jack, roach, chub, dace, and perch. Gross weight about 30 lb., contributed by the Thames and Colne. Two pounds of tobacco will be given to compete for on the 16th.—PIXIE.

GOLDEN TENCH.

On Sunday evening last there was the following show at the above club. Messrs. Higley, Byden and Flower took from the Lea three brace of jack and a splendid tray of roach and perch, total weight 22 lb. 3 oz.—T. S. WEBB.

HAMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 6th Mr. Geen succeeded in making a show of chub and barbel from Shepperton; Messrs. Cook and Hobden also weighed in roach from Bourne End. On the 9th Messrs. Senney and Hitchcock journeyed to Wraybury, from whence they brought in a few roach.—VORTEX.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Your humble servant and two members of this Society ventured out roach fishing on Sunday last, the morning was beautiful for the time of year. The little Iver looked in splendid order for roach fishing, and we fully expected a good take; our expectations were not, however, realised. After sitting for an hour and a half without a nibble, our extremities getting very cold, we tried another swim, and there met with a little better success. G. Caborn, roach, 2 lb. 3½ oz.; G. Rogers, roach, 1 lb. 15½ oz.; B. Duncan, roach, 1 lb. 13½ oz. The Society have removed their place of meeting to the Empress of Russia, St. John's Street Road, opposite Carter's fishing tackle establishment, were all communications, &c., may be addressed. I may also tell my brother anglers that the Society intend making a complimentary visit to our new quarters, to initiate our worthy host and hostess into the mysteries of anglers and angling. Due notice will be given as to the probable date of this taking place.—G. CABORN, Secretary.

PRINCE OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

You will greatly oblige me if you will insert a notice of removal of this society to the Victory, Newnham Street, John Street, Edgware Road, and inform our brother anglers that the members will make them welcome at their new home.—E. HINTON, sec.
Jan. 10.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On Friday, the 7th, Mr. Francis, a member of the above, was out with Mr. Boalch at Richmond, and succeeded in taking a nice show of roach and dace. A short time ago I observed an enquiry as to a society which did not entertain Sunday fishing. I beg to inform that correspondent that the above society do not allow Sunday fishing. For rules and further information, please address Mr. Whitby, Secretary, Surrey Piscatorials, the St. Paul's, Westmoreland-road, Walworth.—PIXIE.

January 11, 1881.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On Friday, the 7th, the members of the above competed for three prizes. The undermentioned were the winners:—Mr. Boalch first, with nearly 8 lb. of dace; Mr. Weatherhead second, about 5 lb. of dace; and Mr. Evans third, with dace from Richmond. The next competition will take place on the 23rd instant, for half-sack of flour, given by Mr. Blows; a box of cigars, given by Mr. Swan; and several other prizes given by various gentlemen. Now the long evenings have arrived, the members are requested to attend earlier on Friday evenings, for the purpose of discussing special business and harmony. Several gentlemen whose vocal abilities have given great satisfaction on previous occasions have promised to attend.—PIXIE.

January 11, 1881.

CULTIVATION OF INDIGENOUS AQUATIC PLANTS.

AQUATIC plants, when massed in quantities, always present a most beautiful and surprising sight, and their somewhat protracted flowering-time makes them especially deserving of careful observation and notice. Chief among them is the white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) and the much less rare yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) or brandybottle, as it is vulgarly named. The seed-capsules of these plants ripen in September, at which time the seeds should be gathered and carefully preserved until the following spring, when they may be set to germinate in medium-sized pots. The best soil is a bottom layer of one-third of the depth of sandy loam followed by two-thirds of pond mud, though the latter should not be of a character either too stiff or too heavy. The seed should be lightly laid on the surface or just below it. A simpler method is to transplant the young plants, as they may be readily found growing in many waters in the spring-time. In this case, however, care must be taken that the depth of water in the pond to which the young plants are to be transferred corresponds with that from which they have been removed, and that plenty of soil is left clinging to the roots.

The notorious river-pest, the Canada weed (*Anacharis Alsinastrum*), to whose presence many waters are much indebted for the great increase in the number of their finny inhabitants, requires a soil of calcareous description; equal layers of garden loam and chalk with a thin sprinkling of sand above is best for the purpose and the roots of the weed should be imbedded singly in the central layer. With this treatment a compact mass of impenetrable vegetation will be formed in a very short while, serving as a welcome refuge for every variety of aquatic life as well as in some instances for food. The little upright white-grey and pink flowers which often cover the whole surface of the water make their appearance in June and July, but on account of their extreme fragility, do not well bear transportation.

Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum*) covering the bottom thickly will rarely be difficult to find. This plant, as is well known, throws out aerial roots and also propagates itself in this way with tolerable rapidity. If planted in well-washed river-sand, its luxuriant habit is easily kept within bounds, but if required to bloom, richer soil must be provided. In many respects the less widely

distributed milfoil (*Achillea millefolium*) with its leaves cut into a thousand segments resembles the foregoing and requires exactly similar treatment.

The featherfoil (*Hottonia palustris*), unfortunately only too tender and fragile, blooms in May. It requires soft water, otherwise its foliage speedily becomes incrustated with carbonate of lime; it thrives best when transplanted into peaty soil.

The water plantain (*Alisma plantago*), arrowhead and sundry other aquatic plants, are best dug out in early summer with plenty of the earth surrounding their roots and transferred to medium-sized flower-pots. In the case of floating plants it is, of course, not necessary to provide them with sunny situations, nor when the stream is at all rapid, must frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus ranae*) be expected to grow freely or to bloom. The various kinds of duckweed (*Lemna*) will continue to multiply under every condition and cover the surface as with a light-green carpet.

A simple method of attaching aquatic plants in any situation desired, is by embedding the roots in short lengths of leaden pipe and sinking the latter in position. This plan was exclusively employed at the Berlin Fisheries Exhibition by Herr Georg Deister, of Mayence, who has also in a recent communication to the *Deutsche Fischerei-Zeitung* (from whose columns the above notes are taken) expressed his regret that aquatic plants generally were so completely neglected at Berlin and his hopes that the subject might in future meet with fuller recognition at the hands of those in authority. Perhaps it may be not too much to hope that the matter will be taken up at the approaching East Anglian Fisheries Exhibition, although the early date fixed for the show will unfortunately prevent the display of a full and complete collection of indigenous aquatic plants at their best. Nevertheless, in this, as in everything else, the best that can be done, should be done.

AQUARIUM AND FERN CASE COMBINED.—The whole of the rock-work should be built on a wooden floor, and when thoroughly set should be put into water and remain immersed for at least a month, to season it thoroughly; for new cement is poisonous to fishes, and therefore undue haste in this work tends of necessity to a breakdown. In stocking the tank you need not introduce any vegetation at all, but a clean bed of well-washed pebbles and a few fishes only. But if you wish to have a little vegetation at once plant a few tufts of *Vallisneria* only; if you introduce a variety of water plants you will come to grief speedily. The whole affair ought to be in full working order a month or so before any fishes are put in, and during that time of probation the water should be changed twice a-week at least. We now come to the subject of the fishes. These should be few and small, and of the most peaceable disposition. The lovely gold carp is the most suitable of all, but any other kind of carp may be adopted. Minnows and bleak are suitable, but scarcely desirable, as they soon suffer if the water should be insufficiently oxygenated. Such interesting but delicate fishes as the eel, the stone loach, and the miller's thumb are really quite unfit for the purpose. The principal object is not to secure a zoological collection, but a beautiful object. The ferns will of necessity comprise such as thrive when constantly bathed with moisture, and the filmy ferns, such as *Trichomanes radicans* and *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense* are the best. The small species of *Todea* will answer, as will also our pretty Britishers, the wallrue, *Asplenium rutamuraria*, and the sea spleenwort, *A. marinum*.—*The Garden Oracle*. Edited by Shirley Hibberd.

A PROTECTED BAROMETER.—The fanciful clock face-barometer, which is so great a favourite in England, it at the best a bad instrument, and is so apt to get out of order that very often it is worse than no instrument at all. The simple column is always to be preferred; and to it turn to useful accounts it must be systematically observed, and the meaning of its indications estimated in accordance with the known characteristics and capabilities of the instrument qualified by the observer's knowledge of the district and the ascertained height of the station above the level of the sea. It often happens that the barometer receives a blow from a broom when the housework is in progress in the morning, and we once saw a lively boy smash the tube and let out all the quicksilver in a bit of innocent play that ought to have ended better. We have adopted for our favourite barometer a respectable and substantial means of protection in the form of a zinc case, which fits the instrument as high as the index, which of course, is exposed. This case is attached to the wall by a few nails that can be drawn in a moment if needful, and it is painted black. It is not unsightly, and it not only keeps the instrument safe but delivers one entirely from the dreadful fear of the morning broom.—*The Garden Oracle*, Edited by Shirley Hibberd.

FISHING EXTRAORDINARY.—On Monday evening last, the Duke of Buccleuch, after a few day's hunt, killed within an hour, in the pool close by Monteviot three salmon, two perch, and a pike of 14 lb., with a single gut line. Besides those secured, his Grace ran several other salmon and another large pike; and one of the most remarkable points of the fishing adventure was the recovery of a hook and line in the mouth of a kelt of 8 lb. weight, which again took the hook after having broke away from the first take. As a suitable termination of such sport his Grace at night speared twelve fish in the same pool.—*Sunday Times*, April 26, 1835.

EPPING FOREST.—At a meeting on Saturday last of the Council of "The Epping Forest and County of Essex Naturalists' Field Club," the following resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. Francis George Heath:—That the Council of this Society on behalf of the large section of the population of London interested in the pursuit of natural history, desires to record emphatic protest against the proposal of the Great Eastern Railway Company to carry a line across Epping Forest believing that it is wholly unnecessary for the railway to take the route projected, and that it will not fail to prejudicially affect the advantages secured by the Epping Forest Act, which directs that the forest is to be preserved as far as possible in its natural aspect."

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1881.

REMINISCENCES OF A DAY'S SALMON-FISHING IN NORTH TYNE.

BY AN OLD ANGLER.

SOME years ago—which now, alas! amount to nearly twenty—I held the Admiralty living of Thorneyburn, in Northumberland. The parish was situated on the banks of the Tarsset, a tributary of

North Tyne, in both of which rivers, as also in the Reed, another tributary, I have killed salmon and trout innumerable. There was very little preservation in those days, so I was able to have many a day and enjoy my favourite sport of angling. My belonging to a border clan also was a sufficient introduction to most of the water within a circuit of many miles: so the Rector of Thorneyburn went far and wide, and cast his flies over many streams, and no one said him nay. There was one stretch of water, however, in North Tyne, near Falstone, which belonged to a namesake of mine, and was most jealously preserved by him. It was almost a thing unknown to get a day's fishing in it; however, I at last obtained the coveted permission, but for one day only, and started accordingly one fine morning, accompanied by my son, who now sleeps in a soldier's grave in India. The day was much too bright and calm for salmon-fishing, and I must confess my hopes of success were but faint. There was not above a mile of water to fish in all, and the greater and best part of it consisted in a long sheep-washing pool, about a quarter of a mile in length, deep and dark; the stream slow, and running deepest on the further side, where the bank was built up with large stones. When we reached the river, and I beheld the aforesaid pool presenting an appearance of the most unruffled and detestable placidity, my heart sank within me. However, giving way to despondency was not the way to mend matters, so I got the gear in order, selected a medium-size and rather dark fly, and commenced operations. I fished the pool most carefully foot by foot, from the top to the bottom, expending a couple of hours in the process, without having the ghost of a rise—in fact, not a fin was stirring; there was no breeze, but there was an unmitigated sun which I wished at the North Pole. I came out at the bottom of the pool considerably disgusted, as I knew it was one of the best in the river, and that salmon of 24 and 25 lb. were not unfrequently taken out of it. My son was sitting, smoking on the bank, and on my joining him, "improved the occasion" by chaffing his respected parent, and volunteered the promise he "would carry to the station all the salmon I killed that day." I was too disturbed in mind to make any rejoinder, and sat silently watching the river. At the end of half an hour, the aspect of things improved most materially. The sun kindly went out of sight, and a tidy breeze sprang up, rippling the surface of the pool deliciously. "Here goes again," said I, and commenced again at the head. Before I had fished 50 yards, there was a grand rise and a boil, followed by a heavy tug and a strain upon the line. I could feel he was well hooked, and let him have his own way, which he took with many a frantic rush for a time. Gradually, however, science prevailed over brute force, and after three quarters of an hour's compound of mingled ecstasy and agony (known only to the initiated) I persuaded my friend to come within reach of the fatal gaff, and my boy landed, very cleverly, I must say, a fine clean fish of 13 lb. "There's something, at all events, for you to carry to the station now, my boy," said I, in jubilant tones. The youngster did not crow quite so loud now, as the station was a good mile from the river, but still preserved his equanimity. "Now for another," said I, and just as I was entering the water, I saw a splendid rise a long way down the pool. I marked his *locale* by a stump on the bank: saying at the same time, "I mean to hook another before I reach him." I fished on steadily for a few minutes, and then had another tug, which made my heart leap to my mouth. I struck, and found all right, and after a struggle of half an hour, brought salmon No. 2 to bank, a very pretty fish of 12 lb. It was my turn now to crow, which I did accordingly. "Well, there's a fish for each hand now, my son." A demurrer was now put in by the youngster, to the effect that he "could not carry the fish to the station, if I killed them at that rate." I assured him I should

hold him to his promise, and then went in again to try for the fish I had seen rise low down the pool. I commenced, of course, a good way above him, and fished every inch of water. At last I reached the place where I had seen him rise, and with a beating heart I cast exactly over the spot. There was a tremendous boil, then a heavy tug, and then a furious rush. I never saw that fish from that day to this. For an hour and a half he ran up and down the middle of the pool, deep down in the water, and resisted all my efforts to draw him to the edge. My rod top was double the whole time, and yet I could not get him to the surface. At last my arms began to ache, and I said to my boy, who was standing by my side, gaff in hand, "I'll give him a twitch, and see what he is like." I did so, and gave him a pretty sharp one, when he turned up a tail that seemed to me a couple of feet broad. I could now first discern him under the water, and drew him close to the edge on his side. He was done, and in another half minute he would have been my captive, but I suppose, in the excitement of the moment, I must have slackened my hold, for the fly came out of his mouth, and he rolled away into the depths of the pool. He must have been a noble fish, and very heavy, as my arms and back testified. Need I tell the result? I flung my rod down on the gravel, broke the top short off, flung myself beside, and, like Job, bewailed the hour I was born. Still, I had my two fish to console me, but oh! if that third one had only been added to the spoils of the day, how triumphantly should I have returned home.

J. S. R.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 26).

FLAT-FISH are ranked under the same head as the cod tribe, viz.:—*Malacopterygii subbrachiati*. The property of this order is, that the ventral fins are placed under the pectorals, and the pelvis is immediately suspended to the bones of the shoulder; and this occurring as well in flat-fish as in the cod kind, accounts for their being arranged by naturalists under the same order; though to the eye of the casual observer, no two kinds of fish could be presented bearing so slight an apparent resemblance to each other.

Between flat-fish and all others there is this marked difference: (1) In the extraordinary formation of the head; the eyes being both placed on the same side. (2) In the flatness and thinness of the body, and the singular difference in the colour and form of the sides—the side on which the eyes are placed being always strongly coloured, and the lateral line strongly marked, whilst the other side is of a uniform whitish colour, and the lateral line scarcely distinguishable; it certainly occasionally happens that both sides are of the same colour, in which case they are called double, but instances of this sort do not occur very frequently. (3) That flat-fish always swim horizontally on one side, with the dark side uppermost. (4) In the absence of the air bladder; though it must be confessed that this defect is not confined to flat-fish alone, as it occurs in the common mackerel.

Flat-fish never rise to the surface, but confine themselves entirely to the bottom, and are usually found on sandy or muddy grounds, where their peculiar form enables them to conceal themselves from their enemies, or to lay in ambush for their prey.

The species of flat-fish that frequent our coasts are (1) the turbot, (2) the brill, (3) the scald fish, (4) the top knot, (5) the whiffe, (6) the plaice, (7) the flounder, (8) the dab, (9) the smear dab, (10) the halibut, (11) the sole, and (12) the red back. Of these the first five have the eyes placed on the left side of the mouth, and in the remaining seven the eyes are placed on the right. Instances, however, have occurred of the eyes being

placed in a different side from that in which they are seated in the rest of their species. The only occurrences of this sort that have come under our notice have been in the common flounder; but we have every reason to believe that it may happen as frequently with any other species of flat-fish, and unless to persons well acquainted with the subject this peculiarity would escape detection.

The turbot being the best of his genus, if not the best fish the sea produces, we must treat of first; and though his form appears so well known, and his merits at the table so duly appreciated, we still consider that a slight description of the former, and a few observations so as to render him as pleasing an addition as possible to the latter, may not be wholly superfluous. Our reason for the first is, that we have often been invited to partake of turbot which, alas! were not turbot even in name, but only by a false reputation. Dealers in fish (of course we do not mean the better class of fishmongers)—we mean the soft and gentle sex—who, though (and with regret we write it) not famous for a good selection of words or epithets, are never known to cry stinking fish, and not unfrequently manage to palm off anything in the shape of a great overgrown flat fish on their inexperienced customers under the exalted name of a beautiful fresh turbot, only just out of the water! Few persons, indeed, not well acquainted with the fish would easily detect the difference between a brill and a turbot, unless they saw the two fish together; but it has not unfrequently happened that even a halibut, a fish wholly unlike the turbot, (except that it is flat, grows very large, and is white on one side) has passed current under the name of turbot—a name, however, we must admit, he has acquired by reputation on the northern coasts of this kingdom; whilst in the neighbourhood of Plymouth the brill, called in the north a pearl, by a change of names just as singular, is termed a halibut. How or why this change of names took place we are wholly at a loss to discover, as there is so little resemblance between them; both the turbot and the brill being remarkably broad in proportion to their length, whilst the halibut is longest of all flat fish except the sole. And now for our reasons for offering our observations as to rendering the turbot agreeable to the table, which are simply these: Turbots, like many frail mortals of a higher grade, with all their good qualities, have been utterly ruined by falling into bad hands. Some we have seen half boiled, others half deluged in boiling water, which has been soused, fish and all, into the dish; some we have seen half-covered with scum, others boiled to rags, or, at least, cracked all to pieces; and once, but only once, we saw one actually make its appearance with the dark side uppermost! This has brought us to nearly the termination of this series of papers. It will be noticed that we have not given any diagrams of the tackle used for the capture of the fish named; but it was not our intention to omit them. They are very simple in their construction, but are difficult to convey their several parts without graphically appealing to the eye by the aid of the pencil. Having done this we purpose devoting a few columns of this journal to practical instructions for cooking fish. It is lamentable to think, with all the advance of knowledge—school boards and other adjuncts for the acquisition of knowledge—how doggedly the lower classes, and, indeed, the middle, adhere to the wasteful systems of their early ancestors. We take three familiar instances of waste going hand-in-hand with ignorance. In boiling a leg of mutton, all its valuable juices are lost, unless it is the purpose of the cook to utilise it for hashes, &c. Rashers of bacon are toasted now as they were two centuries ago, it being submitted to a process which robs it of three-fourths of its most valuable ingredients. In frying, again, for the want of the most simple knowledge of the chemistry of the frying-pan, the valuable

fish may either be rendered an object of absolute beauty to the eye of the colorist or disgust by its greasy, broken, and attempt-to-patch-up, condition.

CREEL.

EELS AND EEL CULTURE.

(*ANGUILLA ACUTIROSTIS.*)

(Continued from p. 29.)

FOOD OF EELS.

THE food of eels forms an interesting study. They are among the most voracious of carnivorous fishes. They eat most inland fishes except the gar-fish and the chub. Investigation of 600 stomachs by Oswego River fishermen showed that the latter bony fish never had a place on their bill of fare. They are particularly fond of game fishes, and show the delicate taste of a connoisseur in their selections from choice trout, bass, pickerel and shad. They fear not to attack any object when disposed, and their bite in human flesh shows even a vicious attitude toward man. On their hunting excursions they overturn huge and small stones alike, working for hours, if necessary, beneath which they find species of shrimp and crayfish, of which they are exceedingly fond. Of shrimps they devour vast numbers. Their noses are poked into every imaginable hole, in their search for food, to the terror of innumerable small fishes.

Eels are to the water what the fish-hawk is to the air. They are perhaps the most powerful and rapid of natatorians. Again, they hide in the mud beneath some log or overhanging rock and dart out with tremendous fury at the unsuspecting prey. They attack the spawn of other fishes open-mouthed, and are even said to suck the eggs from an impaled female. They fearlessly and rapidly dive head foremost in the mud, disappearing from view in the twinkling of a star. They are owl-like in their habits, committing many of their depredations at night.

EELS AS FOOD.

No fish is yet reported to utilise a grown eel as food. Pickerel, garfish and bass, which are particularly numerous in these lakes, are supposed to literally devour the young fry. Mr. Sawyer describes the operation of the pickerel darting through a long column of young eels, open-mouthed, and devouring vast numbers of them.

As a food for man the eel is a favourite to those who have tasted its meat smoked. Eels are shipped smoked, dressed and alive. Previous to being smoked they are salted for twenty-four hours, freshened and smoked over a cob fire from two to three. When dressed they are opened on the abdomen, skinned and shipped in powdered ice. When shipped alive they are packed in a barrel, with a chunk of ice, in which way they will keep twenty-four hours alive, and often longer.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Endurance.—The subject referred to last brings up an incident. On my return from Caughdenoy to Fulton, one of the hottest days in summer, I put an eight-pound female eel in a small air-tight wooden box. In this manner I kept it some five hours, carried it twenty miles on the cars, and put it in a large tub of water, where it lived thirty-six hours.

On this subject Frank Buckland writes in *Land and Water* :—

“The eel, as is well known, will live a long time out of water. This habit is of the greatest services to him, as sometimes it is necessary for him to migrate from place to place by an overland route. To enable him to live out of the water the eel has a most elaborate yet simple form of mechanism, by means of which he is enabled to keep his gills moist even though he is not in the water. It will be observed that immediately, or if not, very soon

after, an eel is taken out of the water two great swellings will take place on each side of the head, and if the eel is placed back in the water this swelling will immediately disappear. Let us now take a dead eel; we shall find close to the pectoral fin a slit in the skin which acts as a valve. If we take a probe and pass it through this slit we find that it enters a large cavity; next, take a pair of scissors and cut open this cavity; inside we shall find the gills proper. It is this cavity which the eel has the marvellous power of filling with water, and keeping a supply which shall not allow the gill fibres to adhere together, and thence of necessity stop respiration. This cavity is, of course, made of a large and loose skin-like membrane, which holds the required quantity of water; but in order to enable him to fill and empty this cavity, an elastic yet firm mechanism of some kind is absolutely necessary.

“See for yourself what a beautiful piece of machinery is provided by the Creator. A framework of very delicate bones, each bone connected with its neighbours by an elastic membrane of the consistency of gold-beater's skin, forms a fan-shaped covering over the gills; its action is very like, if not exactly the same as the action of an umbrella. When the eel wishes to take in his water supply he, as it were, opens the umbrella-shaped framework and fills his reservoir; when he wishes to expel the water he, as it were, closes his umbrella, as his reservoir is no longer required to come into action.

“If an eel be taken out of the water and laid on the floor of a room, and left there for some time, it will be seen that he will very soon expand his reservoir. After a time he will be desirous to refill his reservoir; take him up, and put his head into a basin; you will see that he will immediately take two or three great gulps so as to restock his breathing bags. It is by this beautiful piece of mechanism that the eel is enabled to live so much longer out of water than any other fish; and also, as I have stated before, to shift his quarters when it is desirable to do so.”

Mr. Hopkins, of Caughdenoy, told me that a dozen eels were kept in a crate anchored in the current for ten months without food. At the end of that time the box was let loose by a flood and is floating now, for aught I know. The incident illustrates the fact that fresh water is the staple food of the eel, particularly the female. The eels were boxed for the express purpose of experimenting on breeding. Unfortunately the largest specimens were selected for the experiment, which were of course entirely females. I believe that if both males and females were put in a large water crate, and arranged with soft mud and weeds on the bottom, they would breed at the proper time.

Tenacity.—When an eel gets into a slit in a weir, it squirms to get through. They are wedged in so tight sometimes that the fisherman simply cuts off and saves the part remaining above the slits.

The largest eel ever taken by the fishermen weighed twelve and one-half pounds, and was caught at Horseshoe Dam.

A large catch on any particular night in the Fall is regarded as foretelling a frost by fishermen.

The length of life in the eel is practically unknown.

In conclusion, permit me to say in behalf of the new persecuted fishermen of the Oswego River and the State of Delaware :

That I believe their fence dams are of great benefit to the State in holding back and retaining the water when it is low ;

That the eel is a terrible enemy of game fish, particularly bass and trout, and its extermination is advantageous to the protection of those fish ;

That the sportsmen of Northern New York who are endeavouring to pass laws to harass or break up the fisheries, are common enemies of a lawful industry, the interests of science, and the most enlightened views of this enlightened age.—*Chicago Field.*

THE CULTURE OF CARP AND CONSTRUCTION OF PONDS.

BY RUDLPH HESSEL.

PART III.—CONTINUED.

IN small ponds, situated in parks or gardens, which possess favourable soil and river-water, the increase of weight will be even a little greater if feeding is had recourse to, for such small ponds (covering only half an acre) cannot produce sufficient food themselves. On the whole, feeding is a makeshift, as will be seen presently, and which in very large ponds of more than from 20 to 1000 acres, should not be made use of.

The above calculations are only admissible for Central Europe, from the Adriatic to the Baltic and the North Sea; in countries further north, as in Sweden, the growth of the carp is less, as, on the contrary, in more southern countries than Central Europe, for instance in Illyria, Dalmatia, Southern Italy, Southern Spain, and partly, also, Southern France, the result is more favourable still. There a milder and warmer climate, an early spring, a very warm summer and autumn, and a late winter which, in addition, is mild and short, combine to exercise a favourable influence upon the thriving condition of the fishes.

In these warm climates the fish becomes lively at a much earlier season, if it does at all pass the winter in that lethargic state, without taking any food, than it does in the countries of the northern parts of Central Europe.

The pond-carp of Central Europe generally leaves its winter retreat, when the rays of the spring sun have warmed the water thoroughly, while at the same time it begins to seek for food at a somewhat earlier period in rivers and lakes. At the beginning of the month of March the eggs have developed themselves considerably in the body of the fish, and it only needs a few weeks of warm weather to bring about the spawning season. This commences in the middle of May in such lakes and ponds of Central and Northern France, Southern Germany and Austria, as have a warm situation and are sheltered from the cold winds. It continues in some localities throughout June and July, and sometimes in more elevated situations, until August, as, for instance, in Franconia and Upper Bavaria. The spawn of so late a season, however, is scarcely fit for breeding purposes, as the fish cannot grow much more during the short space of warm weather. It remains very small and suffers greatly from the ensuing winter weather, and is easily dwarfed at that time. The spawning of the individual fish does not take place all at once. Days and weeks may pass before it will have left the last egg to the care of nature. At times, upon the setting in of rainy, cool weather during this period, it will be interrupted, but re-assumed as soon as the temperature grows warmer again. Culturists altogether dislike cold weather at this time, as not only the eggs but the young fry also suffer much from it. Wet cold summers are no more profitable to the culturist of carp than to the agriculturist. In the southern part of Europe the spawning-season commences at an earlier date than in Central Europe. In Sicily, in the neighbourhood of Palermo, where there are some private ponds, the carp begins to spawn at the commencement of the month of April. This is said to be the case also in the French province of Constantine, Algeria, Africa.

The abundance of eggs in the carp is very great, and it is this circumstance which will explain its extraordinary increase in the natural waters. A fish weighing from 4 to 5 pounds contains, on an average, from 400,000 to 500,000 eggs. Other statements figure still higher. I not only made calculations myself, formerly, repeating them in 1876 on a female mirror-carp which I obtained from the environs of Gunzenhausen, Bavaria, and which, curiously enough, at the end of November was entirely ripe; but I also ob-

tained statements from culturists on whom I could depend. The calculation I made in the following manner: After freeing the eggs from all the fat and the enclosing membrane, and after having washed them in alcohol, I counted off exactly a thousand of them; these I weighed, and according to the result I deduced the number of the whole. In the somewhat longer-bodied scale-carp I generally found comparatively more eggs than in a mirror or leather carp, though all were of equal age and weight.

During the spawning season an appreciable change takes place in the male, protuberances, like warts, appearing on the skin of the head and back, and disappearing upon the expiration of that period. This is a peculiarity with most of the cyprinoids. Some time before the spawning season sets in the falling out of the pharyngeal teeth takes place; these grow anew every year.

Some days before spawning the fishes show an increased vivacity; they rise more often from the depths below to the surface. Two or three or more of the male fish keep near the female; the latter swims more swiftly on a warm, sunny morning, keeping mostly close to the surface, followed by the males. This is called "*streiben*"—running-spawning—and is more frequent in warm than in windy and rainy weather. The female prefers spots which are overgrown with grasses and other kinds of aquatic plants, such as *Utricularia*, *Nymphaea* and *Alisma*. The male fishes follow close to the very water's edge, as far as the diminished depth will allow them. They lose all their timidity and precaution, so that they may be taken quite easily. They lash the water in a lively way, twisting the posterior portion of the body energetically, and shooting through the water near its surface with short, tremulous movements of the fins. They do so in groups of two or three males to one female fish, and forming an almost compact mass. This is the moment when the female drops the eggs, which immediately are impregnated by the milt. As this process is repeated several times, the female drops probably only from 400 to 500 eggs at a time, in order to gain resting time, so that it will require days and weeks before it has given up the last egg.

The eggs of the carp are adhesive, not detached, like those of the *Salmonidae*, these latter lying loosely on the ground, while the former adhere in lumps to the object upon which they have fallen. As soon as the egg has left the body of the fish it swells up a little, the mucus, which surrounds it, serving as a means to fasten itself upon some aquatic plant, stone or brushwood. Those eggs which have no such object to cling to, are lost. I found numerous eggs on the reverse sides of the leaves of the *Nymphaea* and their stems, the *Phellodryum* and *Utricularia*, but the greater number of them I discovered on the *Fistula fluitans* which among the fishermen is known generally by the name of "water grass." Its narrow, long, strip-shaped, thin leaves spread softly over the water's surface, as also its numerous branches in the water afford to the fish the sought-for opportunity to deposit its eggs upon its tender leaves. The seeds of this grass are an excellent food for the carp. This may be regarded as a useful indication so be acted upon in the construction of ponds.

The eggs will develop themselves quickly, if assisted by warm weather. As early as the fifth or sixth day the first traces of dusky spots, the eyes, will be visible, and toward the twelfth, or at the latest the sixteenth day, the little embryo fish will break through its envelope. This rapid development takes place only in shallow, thoroughly-warmed ponds, or in such as were expressly constructed for hatching, and called breeding ponds. If these ponds are deep, consequently their water is colder, the hatching process may require as many as twenty days. In from three to five days the young fish has absorbed the yolks, and seeks its food. If the breeding pond be productive to furnish the

necessary food for so many young fishes, these will grow very rapidly. I shall return to this subject hereafter.

I remarked above that the carp prefers stagnant or slowly running water with a muddy bottom, and that it lives upon vegetable as well as animal food, aquatic plants, seeds, worms, and larvæ of water insects; it is therefore no fish of prey. It does not attack other fishes, and has no teeth in its mouth, but only in the throat, and is, on account of its harmlessness, an excellent fish for the culturist, as well as for stocking large lakes and rivers in general.

MY EARLY ANGLING DAYS.

MY first experience in trying to catch fish dates from a very early period—during my schoolboy days—for I have now passed my threescore years, and I look back to many pleasurable moments in my youth, when I have been engaged with my companions in angling for sticklebacks and stoneloach—for that was the only kind of fishing within reach in the neighbourhood where I then resided. The time is quite fresh in my recollection, as well as the various little streams where the amusement was practised. My appliances for fishing were of very rude material; the rod was my own manufacture, made out of a hedge-row stick, and the line of ordinary cotton; the hook generally consisted of a bent pin baited with paste, and sometimes with worms. The little fish were generally plentiful, and I seldom returned without affording some evidence of sport. When I got home the youngsters were put into a pudding basin, as aquariums in those days were uncommon. Gradually my stock became exhausted, as there was seldom a morning without finding several deaths; but as the half-holidays of Wednesdays and Saturdays came round, the afternoon was devoted to fishing, and each occasion if it did not increase the quantity it supplied the place of those that had ceased to exist. These juvenile fishing excursions were, without doubt, the formation of my first ideas of angling, and I refer to them with no small feelings of satisfaction in these later days, as having been the early promoters of my present position—although a small one—in the piscatorial world. I find my own family at the present time pursuing the same course, and in pleasant weather rambling after the same tribe of sticklebacks and stoneloach, and the scullery is made a receptacle of large fruit bottles, tenanted with the small fish. There is the same tale, most days, of death amongst them, or the naughty cat has been pulling them out with her claws. It is pleasant as I walk through the country lanes to witness the real enjoyment of the youngsters catching the little fish, and, then looking far beyond that period into the distant future when they will doubtless become greater anglers amongst the larger species. My first advance above the stickleback tribe was amongst the perch, and from that day perch-fishing has been my greatest delight. One of my scaley mates was related to the coroner, who lived in a nice house, and on the grounds there was a fish-pond that contained a large quantity of perch. We had permission to go there when we liked, and I well remember my first visit. By this time I had cast on one side the rude little stick and cotton line, and become possessor of an actual rod of three joints—not an expensive one, by the way, but it was a real fishing-rod, made of hazel, of the value of eighteen-pence, and I had line and hooks to match. On this first visit I happened to get into a good swim, and nearly every time I had a bite. The sport was exciting as the fish one by one came on the grass, to the envy of the others who were doing very little. It was a moment of importance to me—it was the great stepping-stone to my future in angling, and most anglers date back to a similar period, which settled their determination to become piscators. My brother, who was then with me, never had such a day and never became an angler; his taste got pushed on to other sources,

and if he is not an angler now there is not—though I say it—a better business man in the world. From that evening's sport, to which I have just referred, my taste for angling became a fact, and when I could not get any other place to practise it, I used to visit the warm water ponds at the various mills, which were full of gold and silver fish, putting back again the greater, if not at times the entire, portion, as they were useless for eating purposes, and only for globes as ornaments. I had now, as a matter of course, given up sticklebacks and stoneloach, and gradually found out places where I could get permission to fish for jack, perch, roach, dace, &c., a journey of 10, 12, and 15 miles being no consideration if angling was to be got. Of course, I was not always successful in getting fish, but the determination to go on never ceased; my evening's perch-fishing, as I have remarked before, was my first impression, and the remembrance of it has never left me. At this time I lived in Staffordshire, but at the age of 30 I came to reside in the suburbs of London, on the banks of old Father Thames. The days of sticklebacks, stoneloach, and gold-fish were entirely over but not forgotten, and now lay before me the beautiful River of Thames for my future sport. Thirty years ago the papers gave no weekly reports of Thames fishing as they do now; and as a fishery it was only great to the comparatively few who at that time fished in it, and not as it is to the multitude now. I had to get new rods and lines, and under the direction of one of our best of Thames anglers—who has long gone to rest—I had a couple of rods made on purpose for me, by Messrs. G. Little and Co., of Fetter Lane, both of which are as good now as they were on the day I first had them. It will thus be seen that the juvenile anglers are not to be despised—if they fish in the little rivulets and streams for such apparently useless things as sticklebacks, which at that time affords them innocent enjoyment. It may be, as it was to me, to make them future anglers in our lakes, canals, and rivers; and I for one would gladly encourage the youngsters in such amusement, as leading them forward in the right way to angle for fish worth catching. In making them good anglers they will become good citizens; for it is safe to affirm that piscators, as a rule, are of a genial and kindly disposed class of beings, following out the golden rules of fishing—patience and perseverance!

B.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

Tired Hands and Arms.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices; Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

Thames (Richmond).

Prospects very bad, some 3 feet of snow on the land here, while the river is full of ice and snow. On Tuesday the snow fell from early morning till yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

The river is now in splendid condition (not for angling) for skating, and some thousands of persons have crossed the river on the ice. The oldest inhabitant does not remember the river closing up with ice in so short a time; it was only last Saturday we had a rowing match round the celebrated Eel Pie Island with Daddy Wotten, manager of the Island Hotel, and Joe Sadler, ex-champion. If the frost continues we intend having a skating tournament by torch light.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).

Since my last we have had a most wintry appearance outside. Several inches of snow and freezing cruelly hard, and although the sun has shone brilliantly every day, not a shadow of a thaw have we had. But this morning (Monday, 17th) between six and seven o'clock, we had a heavy fall of snow, with every likelihood of more to follow, thus further putting a stopper to angling operations in the canal and many parts of the river. In the former the ice-boat, drawn by four, and sometimes more horses, has been in daily use, but if this frost continues a stopper will be put on that. The thermometer has registered, when fully exposed, as low as 26 degrees below freezing point. Mr. Carter's return shows that we had, on Saturday, the 15th, 20 degrees of frost in the day, and the thermometer has not shown such low readings since 1861. The tench ponds at Exminster, as also all other ponds, are thickly frozen, and are well patronised by the skating fraternity. The river, both up and down from the bridge, is also in good condition. Many hundreds are now skating and sliding on the lower side especially, the upper side being rather rough. Most of the wildfowl have gone farther westward, although many have fallen rather heavily in their flight across the marshes. Curlews, whimbree, herons, lapwings, golden plover, oyster catchers, sanderling, and fieldfares are very plentiful, and, with the exception of plovers, seem to stop with us, they only alighting for a short time then pursue their course westward. Previous to the frost some splendid fresh run salmon were seen upwards, and the Topsham fishermen have reported to me that they have seen them there, and they expect a good season on that account. Herrings are as plentiful as ever at Exmouth, also sprats; other kinds scarce. There has been a slight thaw this afternoon, and the wind shifted from N. to S.S.W., but at no time has the glass stood above 2 degrees above freezing. It is now (7 p.m.) 3 degrees below, the clouds very heavy and low down. Expect much snow before morning.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Lee (Co. Cork).

A meeting of the Fishery Conservators of the River Lee was held on last Thursday, and it was announced that prompt and vigorous measures would be taken to check poaching. The announcement was not made a bit too soon if the reputation of the Lee as a salmon river was to be maintained. The proceedings were interesting in many respects, and were marked by what may be called a new departure in our river preservation. A deputation of the draft-net fishermen of Blackrock and Cork waited upon the Board and promised to aid their efforts in putting down poaching. As an earnest of their sincerity they undertook to give pecuniary aid, and to form themselves into a sort of vigilance committee. If this engagement is honourably carried out on the part of the net-fishermen we may look for some effectual remedy to the present evil of illegal fishing. On the part of the proprietors they have promised to subscribe a certain annual sum which has been fixed by assessment on their fisheries, to supplement the manifestly insufficient means which the ordinary resources of the Fishery Conservators supply. The assessment varies from £5 to £20, according to the value of each fishery, and will aggregate something like £200 a year. If this money is regularly paid it will enable the conservators to grapple to a very large extent with poaching, especially when aided by the volunteer forces referred to above. The meeting decided to purchase a steam-barge and to employ an efficient staff of bailiffs. It needs but the faithful and prompt execution of these plans, to insure a great improvement in angling during the approaching season. The spring fish are now commencing to run, and the stocking of the river must depend upon how far protection is afforded during the next month. It is a gratifying fact to find the net fishermen, who are themselves regarded as the most formidable violators of the law, coming forward and proposing to assist the Conservators. These men have learned by experience that their own interests are best served by protecting the breeding fish, and that the better and closer the protection the more abundant will be the harvest which the fishermen will reap at the proper season.—ANGLER.

Trent (Newark).

Since sending my last note, we have had weather of more than usual severity, and angling has been, in consequence, at a complete standstill, for I have not heard of a rod being out. In fact, I shrewdly suspect that if some angler of more than ordinary courage had been seen this week on the banks with a fishing-rod, he would have been deemed a fit candidate for the nearest lunatic asylum for the weather has been, without intermission, very sharp; to say nothing of the icebergs that have been constantly floating down the river. Tonight (Thursday) the weather still continues the even tenour of its ways; so I

can form no opinion as to when the angler may recommence operations, but he must content himself, like some of our Newark anglers, with a bit of skating. According to the account of your correspondent, Thomas Davis, Kingswood, the Avon, between Keynsham and Saltford must be a regular chub Paradise; but if he will communicate with me through the editor, I shall be happy to put him in the way of catching some of those chub with pith and brains, and also send him a tackle, with hook, &c., complete, as a sample. The Editor of this paper will give him my address.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The weather during the last few days has been so severe that the Trent in the neighbourhood of Nottingham is completely blocked up with ice, and all the backwater is covered with a thick coating of ice, so that a good number of the anglers have laid their rods aside and taken to skating over the very spots they should now be angling for pike. The weather still continues to be very sharp, and I cannot see any chance of sport for some days to come, besides we have several inches of snow on the ground which, if it should go away quickly, will doubtless cause another flood. The prospects altogether at present are very much against the rodster. A good number of eels have been caught by breaking holes in the ice in places where eels are known to resort during the winter months. A spear was then used to fetch them out of the mud; though some believe the fish will come to such broken spots for air, of which I must say I have but little experience. There is nothing further to report about in the way of angling, and doubtless you will receive similar accounts from other rivers.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had some very severe weather in Derbyshire since my last report—a very great quantity of snow having fallen, which causes all our anglers to turn from the rod to the gun and skating, as all the ponds and backwaters are now frozen up; and the weather being bitterly cold makes it very enjoyable to the skaters. A very great quantity of geese and ducks have been flying over Derbyshire for the past week—some of the geese in large flocks. We shall have no angling while this weather continues, although both rivers are in first-class condition for fly and bottom fishing.—G. J. EATON.

The Yore (Yorkshire).

It is almost needless to inform my readers that angling was at a complete standstill in the Yorkshire district, the rivers being frozen over and the cold intense, and even when that abates, the heavy floods that will ensue will for some time preclude all possibility of angling. I daresay that most of your readers will have seen Mr. Francis's letter in the *Field* of last Saturday, extolling some most extraordinary gut which he had seen at the shop of Mr. R. Ramsbottom. As it appeared to be what I have vainly sought after for years, I immediately wrote for a supply, and was the fortunate recipient of a hank by return of post. I use the word "fortunate" advisedly, as Mr. Ramsbottom wrote me to the effect that even then he had twice as many orders as he could supply; Mr. R. also sent me one of his trade price lists, in which he quotes every possible requisite for the angler at very reasonable prices, and as regards quality, all I can say is, that if his other wares bear favourable comparison with the gut that I have received from him, they must fall very short of perfection, as it (the gut) is the most unique sample that I ever saw, and fully merits every word of praise which Mr. Francis Francis bestowed upon it, and I trust that during the coming season, it will be answerable for some heavy dishes of trout and grayling.—F. M. WILBRAN.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Several members were out on Sunday, but our tray was empty at night. The prize will be put off for a week or two for some better weather.—C. HARTLAND.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 16th several of our members were out despite the severe weather, but only one succeeded in taking fish, viz., Mr. Hobden, who weighed-in chub from Bourne End. If the present weather continues I am afraid our reports will become scarce.—VORTEX.

SOUTH SEA WHALING.—Whaling in the Southern Ocean has been on the decline for many years past, and, though the fishery is still kept up, the number of vessels engaged in it is annually decreasing. Tasmania is the principal colony which still clings to the old industry, and Hobart Town—or Hobart, as the capital was to be designated from the commencement of the current year—is the head-quarters of the fleet. This consists, however, of but a dozen small barques, and their returns have been so unremunerative during the past decade that it would appear probable that the fishery will soon be altogether abandoned. Lord Howe's Island used in old days to be a favourite place of call for whalers anxious to obtain fresh vegetables, but the inhabitants now contemplate deserting their solitary paradise in consequence of there being no market for their produce. It is possible, however, that the fishery may be looked upon as not altogether a hopeless investment of capital, in consequence a great capture of whales at Swansea, on the east coast of Tasmania, three months ago. The inhabitants, having seen a large school of whales embayed in shallow water, manned boats, and succeeded in killing or driving ashore no less than 86 fine fin-backs, the smallest of which measured from 25 to 30 feet in length. The entire beach at Swansea was covered with the huge carcasses, giving the appearance of a stranded fleet of dismasted coasting vessels, and there was quite an exodus from the capital to view so strange and unwonted a sight. In Orkney and Shetland such scenes are not unfrequent, and Sir Walter Scott has graphically depicted a whale *battue* in "The Pirate"; but no Tasmanians have ever before witnessed so great a slaughter of the monsters of the deep.—*The Colonies*.

A CHECKMATE TO RATS AND MICE.—The seeds and other valuables are suspended on a rope or wire, and a few round discs loosely fitted are added. When the performer attempts to get over one of these its spins round and throws him over. The bottoms of old preserve tins pierced in the centre answer well to supply discs but discs of stiff cardboard from old boxes answer just as well.—*The Garden Oracle*, Edited by Shirley Hibberd.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FRESH-WATER FISHES.

BY J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

THE CARPS—(continued).

IT is said by some that carp are occasionally hermaphrodite, but this I confess I cannot satisfactorily vouch for. I have certainly seen rudimentary organs of both sexes in one fish, but I do not think there is sufficient ground for believing carp can at any time produce both ova and the milt. Oftentimes I have found on examining an old and large fish that its deformity of the ovum would prevent it secreting and shedding any ova at all. This has been caused by the earlier secretions of ova becoming consolidated from a cause which I put down to be an internal parasite in the shape of tapeworm (*ligula digramma*), an immature cestode which largely infests carp and its *confreres*. The ovarum, in such cases of retention as have come under my observation, has positively been so hard as to resist the knife like a piece of beef, and its section has shown the form and substance of healthy eggs, hardened either by desiccation or pressure. Such fish oftentimes have two and even three lots of such ova in the abdomen in consecutive position, and are of aldermanic proportions; indeed, the ovarum and its contents, on one occasion, weighed a third more than the rest of the fish itself.

When healthy, the fish occasionally errs in an opposite direction, *i.e.*, it spawns twice in the year. Aristotle said the carp produce spawn five or six times a year, according to the stars—of course that statement is all moonshine and has nothing star-like about it; however, I am convinced that in warm situations the fish will deposit its eggs twice during the season, first in May and then in August. Whether the latter deposition comes to life or not is debateable. I should think not unless artificially cared for.

The number of eggs produced is really prodigious. A carp of 9lb. has been found to contain 621,000 eggs. These are of a greenish hue and about the size of a fig-seed. The gambols and excitement of carp during the season of generation are intensely amusing. I have seen the fish dance out of the water five feet or so, and like a salmon they will even “go for” an obstacle at this period. It is said that a hybrid between carp and bream is found in Holland, and a frequent hybrid between carp and roach in Prussia. With what degree of physiological truth this statement has been made I cannot here say.

Eel, like the carp, during the coldest weather, seeks the deepest and muddiest parts, and burrowing, if possible, beneath the surface either strictly hibernates or remains torpid till warm weather again arouses its vitality. Its power of sustaining without loss of life excessive cold is really marvellous. Sir John Franklin (first voyage) said that when after being frozen, their stomachs were struck out by a hatchet, on being gradually thawed, animation returned. Sir John Hunter, however, after some elaborate experiments on the eel—which I shall refer to when reverting to that animal—demonstrated that fish could not sustain a temperature below 30 deg. Fah. I shall criticise the conditions of the celebrated surgeon's experiments when the time arrives; at present I can only say that my experience bears out the truth of Sir John Franklin's statement. I have resuscitated perch after they have laid frozen for 36 hours—frozen so hard, indeed, that I could have broken them. Professor Owen has explained the endurance of the carp in a somewhat abstruse manner, by saying that it results from the “formation of the vagal lobes of the *medulla oblongata*.” What peculiarity is here exhibited, I do not know.

Possibly this peculiarity enables the carp to live out of water or in mud. They have been found in situations so strange as to warrant the supposition. So Willoughby thinks of spontaneous

generation. Of course this idea is untenable. Buffon states that they were fattened out of water at Anhalt Dessau, where they were fed on bread steeped in brandy. In any case considerable revenues are levied annually within the precincts of the German Empire from the culture of these fish.

Referring to the culture of this fish in the usual manner, it may not be amiss if I here give an outline of the procedure. The usual way in Prussia, is to drain the pond every seven years and sow the bottom of it with rye-grass or some such green stuff. The rich black mud favours the growth of the seeds to an amazing extent and after the grass has been allowed to exhaust itself—several consecutive cuttings being made before this occurs—the digging out of the soil is a comparatively easy matter. After this is accomplished, common hayseeds are sown and allowed to appear in a good strong plant. The water is then let in and the pond restocked with strong young carp. The grass is especially beneficial to the stock fish, and a few years show a capital pond of fat marketable carp.

For the purpose of accelerating the growth and improving the size of carp, a method of castrating carp—a sort of caponising process—was shown Sir Hans Sloane by a Mr. Tull. Sir Hans subsequently showed it to George IV., and gave a full description to Mr. Geoffrey of the Paris Academy of Science. It appears from this that the ovary leads out of the part termed the cloaca, and the experiments consists in severing its ligamentary muscles and the membrane, and after closing the wounds by means of a silk thread. The fish is afterwards returned to the water and the result is said to be an increase of voraciousness and a decidedly superior flavour when brought to the table.

(To be continued.)

THE BROADS AND RIVERS OF NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

PART II.—CONTINUED.

IT may well be imagined that yachting and boat-sailing is a favourite amusement on these waters. The pleasure-craft in general use is a boat of from 6 to 10 tons, with a roomy cabin, in which two or three persons can sleep comfortably, and with a fore-castle which will accommodate one or two men. A two or three weeks' cruise in one of these boats is a most pleasant way of spending a holiday, and one very often resorted to. There are always plenty of yachts to be had on hire at a moderate sum per week, and we can most strongly recommend this mode of seeing the Broads. Indeed, it is the only way of doing them thoroughly, as it would not do to depend upon inn accommodation and a boat at many of these out-of-the-way spots. There are two flourishing yacht clubs; and there regattas, at short intervals, make one or other of the Broads or river-reaches gay with white sails and many-coloured flags. The usual rig of these yachts is the sloop, consisting of a mainsail and large jib; and they are uncommonly handy. Formerly, the fashionable rig was the lateen, and many of these old craft are still in existence. The great wing-shaped foresail is picturesque, but the immense yard is awkward to handle, and the rig has gone out of fashion.

The marshes often present a curious sight. If the spectator is on the same level scarcely any water may be visible, and the expanse of marsh may seem continuous; yet here and there and everywhere are the sails of yachts and wherries gliding through it, their hulls invisible.

One constantly sees, generally moored in some creek, a large rough boat with a hut built upon it. These are the abodes of men who live by catching eels and other fish, and spend all the year round on the water. The lives of these men are much the

same as those of the "Broad-men," described by Mr. Lubbock.

"When I first visited the Broads, I found here and there an occupant 'squatted down,' as the Americans would call it, on the verge of a pool, who relied almost entirely on shooting and fishing for the support of his family, and lived in a truly primitive manner. I particularly remember one hero of this description. 'Our Broad,' as he always called the extensive pool by which his cottage stood, was his microcosm, his world—the islands in it were his gardens of the Hesperides, its opposite extremity his *ultima Thule*. Wherever his thoughts wandered, they could not get beyond the circle of his beloved lake; indeed, I never knew them aberrant but once, when he informed me, with a doubting air, that he had sent his wife and his two eldest children to a fair, at a country village two miles off, that their ideas might expand by travel: as he sagely observed, they had never been away from 'our Broad.' I went into his house at the dinner-hour and found the whole party going to fall to, most thankfully, upon a roasted herring-gull, killed, of course, on 'our Broad.' His life presented no vicissitudes but an alternation of marsh employment. In winter, after his day's reed-cutting, he might be found posted at nightfall waiting for the flight of fowl, or paddling after them on the open water. With the first warm days of February he launched his fleet of trimmers; pike finding a ready sale at his own door to those who bought them to sell again in the Norwich market. As soon as the pike had spawned and were out of season, the eels began to occupy his attention, and lapwings' eggs to be diligently sought for.

"In the end of April the island in his watery domain was frequently visited for the sake of shooting the ruffs which resorted thither on their first arrival. As the days grew longer and hotter, he might be found searching in some smaller pools near his house for the shoals of tench as they commenced spawning. Yet a little longer he began marsh-mowing—his gun always laid ready upon his coat, in case flappers should be met with. By the middle of August teal came to a wet corner near his cottage, snipes began to arrive, and he was often called up to exercise his vocal powers on the curlews that passed to and fro. By the end of September good snipe-shooting was generally to be met with in his neighbourhood; and his accurate knowledge of the marshes, his unassuming good humour and zeal in providing sport for those who employed him, made him very much sought after as a sporting guide by snipe-shots and fishermen: and his knowledge of the habits of different birds enabled him to give useful information to those who collected them."

The older men have many yarns to tell of the gigantic pike and eels, and great catches of their younger days, with sometimes a spice of adventure, as the following tale will show. The men from the Yare and the Waveney having well harried their own waters, used to go up the Bure, and their depredations with nets and set-lines stirred up the wrath of the men of the Bure. There was then no remedy save that of force, so the natives banded together to expel the intruders. Our informant and his mate were engaged one dark night near Ranworth in setting eel-lines, when they heard the sound of muffled oars up the stream. They listened and watched, and at last became aware that at least half-a-dozen boats were creeping down in search of them. They took to their oars, and then the chase developed itself into a hot and eager one; both parties pulling their lustiest, the one to inflict, and the other to escape rough punishment. The pursued were nearly caught, when they opened up a reach, down which there blew a fair strong wind, and hoisting their lug-sail they slipped away, and gained such a lead that the pursuers gave up the chase.

Notwithstanding that there is so much marsh the climate is not unhealthy. There is, owing to the improved drainage, a

constant though slight movement of the water everywhere, so that it does not form the foul stagnant puddles that it formerly did. There is always plenty of wind, and often a salt air from the sea, so that the marshes and lakes are well purified. At Somerleyton, near Lowestoft, there has been found an exceptional quantity of ozone. The matter may have been different when the puddles and pools in the marsh dried and festered, and the dead fish putrefied, causing bubbles of foul air to arise and sometimes ignite in a blue flickering flame. Many years ago Will-o'-the-wisp were common enough, and the wherry-men have even lit pieces of paper at the uncertain flame. The last time at which we have satisfactory evidence of a Will-o'-the-wisp being seen was twenty years ago. The marshes are sweet and pure enough now.

Mention has been made of reed-cutting. This is the "Fen folk's harvest," and one purpose to which the reeds are put is to be used instead of laths for the formation of ceilings and "lath and plaster" partitions.

Among the Broads the shooter and the angler will find abundant sport, the naturalist full occupation, the yacht sailor opportunities such as no other part of England presents, the artist colour and effect, and, lastly, there are subjects enough for the antiquarian to ponder over. Wherever one looks there are churches—there are 740 in the county. Three or four spires may be seen from every coign of vantage.

St. Benedict's Abbey, on the banks of the Bure, presents some interesting ruins. Burgh Castle at the head of Breydon Water is a spacious fort of Roman origin. The wall and towers on three sides of it are very perfect. The semi-Dutch town of Yarmouth, with its singular narrow streets, or "rows," is worth a day's peregrination. And Caister Castle, three and a half miles from Yarmouth, is a picturesque ruin.

In winter when the flooded marshes and the Broads are frozen, the skater will have ample elbow-room, and the naturalist and sportsman may penetrate into the very fastnesses of the wild-fowl."—*Blackwood*.

SPECIAL SEASONABLE ENTERTAINMENT TO THAMES RIVER-KEEPERS.

IT has been the custom for some years to give a seasonable dinner to the river-keepers employed in the protection and preservation of the Thames fishery below the "City stone" at Staines. The idea originated from the present secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and was at first limited to the bailiffs attached to it; afterwards the keepers of the Thames Conservancy were included, and, since the lock-keepers have had deputations given to them on the recommendation of the Committee of this society, it has received the still further addition, together with one or two fishermen, who have always been ready to assist the keepers when their services have been required. During the last year there has been great activity evidenced amongst the general body of keepers and several important convictions; therefore it was determined, for that and other reasons, to give the men a specially-arranged entertainment in London, instead of the customary gathering at one of the Thames-side houses, which only on this particular occasion will be deviated from. One other reason which, it is believed, prompted the secretary to suggest the present deviation, was his desire, on the termination of his twenty-one years' connection with the society, to see the men gathered around him over something extra to the usual gatherings. In response to a personal application for admission to the Westminster Aquarium at a reduced rate, Captain Hobson, the active and respected manager, most liberally and cheerfully granted the men free admission, supplementing his liberal policy with an offer to escort the men over the entire

building. The equestrian performances, under the talented management of Mr. Percy Williams, being one very great attraction, as of unusual excellence, a request was also made to the members of the Piscatorial Society for permission to let the men see their splendid fish museum in the club room at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, which was readily acceded to. The closing portion of the programme was the most substantial feature in the proceedings, and that was to dine at the Holborn Restaurant—which has become so noted for its first-rate dinners and excellent management. A deputation, consisting of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, Mr. Alfred Jardine, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, waited upon Mr. T. J. Hamp, in reference to this part of the arrangement, who met them in the most liberal manner, and adopted a *menu* of soup, fish, joints, roast and boiled turkey, mince pies, plum puddings, cheese, and dessert, as being one of a suitable and substantial character. The gentlemen forming the deputation were very much pleased with Mr. Hamp's readiness to meet their wishes, and were satisfied he would do all that was possible to make the men happy and comfortable. In order to obtain a goodly gathering at the dinner, and to make it more attractive, it was arranged to admit the members of the committee and their friends to dine at the same tables with the men, but at their own cost, and who would doubtless contribute to the harmony of the evening. Invitations were then issued to the following river-keepers, assistants, and lock-keepers, setting forth the special arrangements made for the 18th of January, the day set apart for their seasonable entertainment:—Messrs. G. J. Rough (Wandsworth), J. Drewe (Kew), C. Brown, J. Smith, and E. Brown (Richmond), Henry Walters (Twickenham), J. Tame (Teddington), John Johnson, sen. (Kingston), W. Milbourne, Palmer Scott, and Daniel Philips (Moulsey), John Milbourne, Alfred Stroud, and Henry Joist (Sunbury), George Hove (Walton), Alfred Trodd (Halliford), David Hackett, Herbert Carr, and J. Newble (Shepperton), T. Watford (Chertsey), and Alfred Thompson (Staines). The head-keeper, Henry Walters, whose efficient services have been highly distinguished, acted as captain of the occasion. Mr. Thomas Spreckley kindly undertook to occupy the chair, and the following gentlemen arranged to become visitors at the interesting gathering:—Messrs. Alfred Jardine, T. W. Reilly, A. Benningfield, John Knechtli, George Watts, F. H. Lemann, Harrison, H. B. Lemann, W. H. Brougham, Richard Lord, B. Perelli-Rocco, C. P. Wheatstone, T. Plews, F. C. Hatfield, W. Brooks, T. Brooks, Alfred Nuthall, G. H. Thurston, J. Perrin, J. P. Wheeldon, P. Geen, F. C. Clench, W. D. Lewis, James Pattison, Thomas Huggett, &c. The day, unfortunately, as regards the weather, was of the most disagreeable character such as has been seldom experienced in London, but in spite of this unlooked-for drawback, there were only two or three of the men absent; and thanks to the good marshalling of Mr. F. C. Hatfield, after witnessing the performances at the Aquarium, they were taken, first of all, to his house, the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, and inspected the splendid collection of fish belonging to the Silver Trout Angling Society, and thence to Ashley's Hotel to see the Fish Museum of the Piscatorial Society, arriving at the Holborn Restaurant in time for dinner. Very great praise is due to Mr. Hatfield, as without his kind services, this portion of the arrangements would never have been carried out. There was a great expression of regret at the absence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who it was expected was blocked up at home with the snow; and his excellent partner in Cannon Street—Mr. Samuel White—kindly took the chair. There were comparatively few of the gentlemen absent who had arranged to come as visitors, and they must have come at great inconvenience with scarcely any idea how they would get home, as there were no cabs or conveyances, and the unwelcome report of

several lines of railway being blocked up. After full justice had been done to a very excellent dinner, which all thoroughly enjoyed, Mr. White proposed the toast of "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," and then Mr. Alfred Jardine gave "The Health of the River Keepers," which was replied to by John Milbourne, of the Thames Conservancy, and Henry Walters, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The next toast, which was given by Mr. S. White, was "The Chairman (Mr. T. Spreckley) and the Secretary (Mr. W. H. Brougham)," which was responded to by the latter. Mr. Brougham gave "The Health of Mr. S. White," and the only other toast was "The Press," proposed by Mr. Alfred Jardine and replied to by Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, but it was brought to a much earlier termination in consequence of the anxiety of getting home, under the difficult circumstances before mentioned. Had the weather been at all favourable, the occasion, as regards the enjoyment of the entertainment, would have been one of pleasurable recollection, and as it is it will not be forgotten from the severity and difficulties encountered in a heavy blinding snowstorm.

MERCILESS FISHING.

MANY of your readers will, I am sure, agree with much that is said in the article headed, "Merciless Fishing," in your last issue; but it appears to me there are other considerations besides those so ably referred to by your experienced correspondent. I would, therefore, in the first place, ask your readers to reflect a little and to consider for what purpose angling societies are established. They are, I believe, established for the meeting together of anglers, and in most cases for giving prizes for the best show or shows of fish caught on certain days; prizes for specimen fish; and, in some cases, prizes for the greatest weight of fish caught during the season. Such being the case, members are desirous of doing what they can to secure such prizes; nor, from my point of view, do I see aught but honour to them if they are successful in so doing; always provided their club rules do not allow them to show or weigh-in undersized fish, which certainly is the case if anglers weigh-in to the sizes fixed by the Thames Conservancy, there being a growing opinion amongst many Thames anglers that the sizes so fixed are much too small, especially with regard to pike and barbel. If, as suggested, specimen fish only are shown, half the pleasure of the weekly meetings would be removed; as, in the natural course of events, it would only be occasionally there would be fish upon the club tables. With such a state of things I feel convinced there would be a difficulty in getting your members together. The question between anglers would be: Shall I see you at the club to-night?—I don't know. Is there anything on?—No, nothing particular; and the member, feeling pretty confident no fish would be shown, would fail to attend. This would be carried on *ad infinitum*, ultimately ending in the breaking-up of the society. In the second place I consider it an especial honour for an angler to secure a large gross weight in competition on a certain day or days. In the Piscatorial Society, to which I have the privilege to belong, some of the pleasantest evenings we spend in the year are the evenings of our various competitions. During the past season we have had five, viz.:—Pike, barbel, chub, perch, and roach, and we are particular that the fish shown are none of the small fry referred to in "Merciless Fishing." No fish is eligible to be weighed-in for competition under the following sizes:—Pike, 3lb.; barbel, 2lb.; club, 1lb.; perch, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; roach, 6oz. If angling clubs would make their limit not less than the above weight, I do not think much harm would be done by gross-weight competitions, but one must entirely and emphatically agree with

your correspondent, that when the size of barbel are only 12 in. from eye to fork of tail, and I assume other fish in proportion, gross-weight competitions are most seriously to be deprecated and should be discountenanced by all angling societies, so far as the Thames fishing is concerned. I do not think the angler ought to be debarred by any club rules from occasionally having a heavy take. He is already heavily handicapped. What with the constant wash of the steam-launches, the dainty appetite of Thames' fish, and their thorough education, they will on most occasions be quite a match for the most experienced. In my opinion he deserves a day now and then which will cheer him on to further exertion. Referring to the remarks about private fishing, a good rule would be that all club prizes should be for fish caught in public waters. The angler would not then have the same motive for carrying a number of fish from private waters to his club, and would content himself with taking one or two or more specimen fish. In replying to your correspondent "B," it appeared to me there were other sides to the question. I have endeavoured, feebly I fear, to explain my views; some of your numerous readers will, perhaps, give theirs, on a subject which is open to many arguments. "B" deserves the warm thanks of all for calling attention to the matter, which is one well worthy of deep consideration. Raising the sizes of the fish allowed to be weighed-in at the clubs, appears to me to be the true remedy. It can easily be adopted by angling societies, without in any way giving offence to their members, and would tend most certainly to prevent what your correspondent so justly calls—"Merciless Fishing."

T. HUGGETT.

MANCHESTER ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER.

THE third annual dinner of the Manchester Anglers' Association was held on Tuesday evening, January 11th, at the Albion Hotel, Piccadilly, and was numerously attended. Colonel John I. Mawson, the President, was in the chair, and amongst other gentlemen present were the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Baker), Alderman Heywood, Messrs. James Crossley, president of the Chetham Society; Edwin Waugh, the Lancashire poet; Professor Williamson, of Owens College; George Milner; Abel Heywood, jun., hon. sec. of the Association; Francis Francis, editor of the fishing department of the *Field*; J. H. Nodal, editor of the *Manchester City News*; E. De Jong, C. Estcourt, city analyst; the Revs. W. White and G. Sumner; Messrs. E. G. Simpson, T. Harker, G. Harker, Geo. S. Woolley, F. J. Faraday, Robert Burn, and Alfred G. Jardine, London. After the loyal toasts,

Mr. Francis Francis proposed "The Manchester Anglers' Association." He said the subject of angling was one which he had very much at heart, and he would yield to none in his love and veneration for the gentle art. (Hear, hear.) He began his angling experiences in Portsmouth, where he need hardly say the difficulties of pursuing such a recreation were not few. He should think the difficulties to Manchester were quite as great, however, but it was quite evident from the large assembly before him that angling was a delight to many people in this city. And it was well that this was the case, for it was a pursuit from which many benefits both moral and physical may be derived. (Hear, hear.) Whenever he felt wearied or sad he went out angling for a week or ten days, returning quite fresh and vigorous; and he believed it was due to this fact that he had outlived many of his London acquaintances, who, he was sorry to say, were not anglers. Putting it, therefore, upon no higher ground than that, angling was an art worth following. (Hear, hear.) But in addition to this, it had a refining influence, the effect of that silent communing with nature which accompanied the pursuit. It was also productive of good fellowship, there being a sort of brotherly feeling amongst anglers all the world over. (Hear, hear.) He was delighted to see that the Manchester anglers were treading in the footsteps of good old Izaak Walton, and he felt that the manner in which he (Mr. Francis) had been received by them was a compliment to the whole world of anglers. They were setting his London friends an example in more ways than one; that beautiful and artistically designed menu card, for instance, was something they were not yet equal to in London. Then there was the society's volume, some of the papers in which were extremely good, far beyond what might be expected from amateurs. It was pleasing to see that members of the association would take the trouble to keep such interesting records of their experience, for the information of brother anglers. It was the first time to his knowledge that any anglers' association had taken a step of this kind, and it was therefore all the more creditable to Manchester. He was glad to learn that the association was so prosperous, and would now ask them to drink to its success. (Applause.)

The President, in responding, said that twelve months since he had

the great delight of welcoming a number of brethren and visitors. It was a double pleasure to do so on the present occasion, because of the many additional faces he saw around their board, men whom at one time they could scarcely hope to see, but whose good wishes and assistance they had been striving to obtain, and at last they had got them. (Applause.) Time was when the association was looked upon as a dozen anglers who did not know what to do with themselves—(laughter)—and at their previous anniversary, instead of having the Mayor of Manchester amongst them, they had the Chief Constable, as if they were a lot of doubtful characters. (Renewed laughter.) They were all delighted to see his worship present, as they hoped it was some evidence of his willingness to assist them in restoring the streams of this district to something like their original purity. After referring in graceful terms to the presence of Mr. James Crossley, Mr. Waugh, and other representatives of literature and art, he expressed a hope that the monthly meetings of the association would be more numerous attended than hitherto, and concluded by thanking the assembly for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast.

The Rev. G. Sumner, in proposing "The Manchester Corporation," began by saying that he was about the last person in the world they should have selected for that duty, because he owed the Corporation a grudge. (Laughter.) He then gave a humorous description of the circumstances which gave rise to this grudge—viz., the seizure of his dog in August last, for being at large; his subsequent attendance before the Nuisance Committee with the intention of lecturing them on muzzling, and finding, to his dismay, that the word "muzzle" was never once mentioned in the official notice as to canine madness, and his ultimate punishment, of having to pay half-a-crown penalty. Speaking seriously, however, he was sure no eulogy of his was required to convince the citizens of Manchester that they have an excellent governing body. (Hear, hear.) As a body of anglers, they looked to that Corporation as the conservators of their local streams, and he would just like to describe to that meeting a vision of what he believed was possible. He saw in the future, the pleasures of angling being brought to their own doors by the purification of the Iwell, the Medlock, and the Irk. He saw Thirlmere the citizen's lake, as a centre of recreation for Manchester anglers—(hear, hear)—he saw the possibility of all these changes being brought about by the combined efforts of the Corporation and the Manchester Association of Anglers. (Applause.)

The Mayor responded. He said that as the association had the Chief Constable with them at the last annual dinner, and they had the Mayor this year, it might be fairly said they had "taken a rise" out of the Manchester Corporation. (Laughter and applause.) When he received the invitation, he determined at once to accept it, because it recalled his early years, when, as an angler, he used to enjoy the country, and the sparkling rivers which traversed it. (Hear, hear.) That habit he continued as long as he had leisure for it, and he did not hesitate to say that it brought him a great deal of out-door enjoyment, besides making him acquainted with many delightful books in the English language, first and foremost of which was that of dear old Izaak Walton, who, to his mind, was as immortal as Shakespeare. (Applause.) He (the Mayor) had also been a collector of books on angling, and although he had not now the opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with those volumes, he looked upon them as old and dear friends. (Hear, hear.) In one of these, written by a collateral descendant of Humphrey Chetham, the writer spoke of the Irk producing "fat and luscious eels." (Laughter.) He only wished he could live to see fat and luscious eels there again. (Hear, hear.) He had listened with delight to the pleasant dream which the proposer of the toast had indulged in, and he trusted that dream would some day be realised. If some means could be discovered of producing heat without smoke, then he believed our rivers might become once more habitable to fish, because, in his opinion, the present pollution of those streams was in a great measure due to the smoke which pervades this district. As for the sewage, that could be kept out of them, and with these two causes of pollution removed there would be some chance of Mr. Sumner's dream being fulfilled. (Hear, hear.) He sympathised with that gentleman in his troubles about his dog, but thought he made a great mistake when he went to talk to the Nuisance Committee, for it was like taking coals to Newcastle. (Laughter.) He had found out that those men are most prized in the Council who talk least, and that was the reason he had been made Mayor. (Laughter and applause.) In conclusion, he rejoiced at the success of the association, and hoped it would continue to prosper, as he had little doubt it would do, seeing the energy, intelligence, and enthusiasm by which its members were characterised. (Applause.)

Alderman Heywood being also invited to respond, said there were one or two questions now before the Corporation of great public importance, the proposed transfer of the Royal Institution to the City being one of them. If the public think that transfer would be a proper one, the public ought to speak out upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) Let there be no mistake. Don't let the Corporation suppose there is a degree of apathy amongst the people of Manchester in relation to that transfer, for if the present offer of that institution be not accepted they might not have a public art gallery or museum for many years. (Hear, hear.) Another question of great public interest and of special interest to this association was the cleansing of our rivers. But that was a work which could not be accomplished in a day or a year. He was sure, however, that the Manchester Corporation would not be wanting in their efforts to bring about so desirable a result. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Davies having proposed "Our guests,"

Mr. James Crossley responded, and was enthusiastically received. He said he supposed he had been selected to discharge that duty because he was the oldest person in the company—a circumstance

which very nearly prevented his being present, for some of his friends had called upon him to protest against his going to the dinner on any account. They said to him, "Look at the number of dinners you have been to already. (Laughter.) This is a time when you might graciously give up all such enjoyments, for they are only

'Double, double,
Toil and trouble.'

He would not say what he had told those friends, but this he would say, that he had never found dinners of this sort to be

"Double, double,
Toil and trouble."

(Laughter.) He never went to a dinner of this sort without feeling better for it the day after, and feeling he had been doing his duty as a citizen. These annual dinners were great consolidators and harmonisers of society, and he doubted whether any society was legally and properly constituted whose members did not occasionally dine together. (Laughter and applause.) Another reason he had for going to these dinners was that he was a lover of the human face divine, and he never saw it under a more benignant or amiable aspect than on such occasions. (Laughter.) On behalf of the guests, he felt sure he might say that it had been a great pleasure to them to be present. He looked upon angling as a sort of mental school, whereby the character of those who pursue it is elevated as the result of the patience and perseverance required. He believed that when a man becomes an angler he becomes a better citizen, and whenever he was introduced to a stranger, if he was told he was an angler, his confidence to him was at once increased. (Hear, hear.) He had read the papers of this association with very great delight, and hoped the members would go on disseminating such information relating to the gentle craft. He also thought the purification of our streams was a very proper subject for the association to take up, and he sincerely hoped the good results in that direction would some day be seen. (Applause.)

Mr. Edwin Waugh and Professor Williamson also responded.

As usual at the gatherings of this club the singing was a feature of the evening, the pieces mostly having some reference to angling. Mr. David Reid sang with his customary vigour and effect the society's special ballad, written by Mr. G. Davies, with its triumphant tramping chorus—

"We'll all go a-fishing to-day,
When nature looks smiling and gay;
We'll leave the rude throng that goes jostling along,
And we'll all go a-fishing to-day;"

which was taken up with immense gusto by the members. Mr. Thomas Rawson sang, amidst frequent bursts of hilarity, a new and clever version of the "Three Jovial Huntsmen," which rumour accredited to the pen of the honorary secretary. The first verse of this runs:

"There were some jolly anglers, who a-fishing used to go,
And they fished with fly and minnow, and sometimes with worm also.

Look ye there!
Some went to fish for salmon, while others tried for trout,
And some there were who did not care whatever they got out.
Look ye there!"

Mr. H. Stevens presided at the piano. The menu card, referred to by Mr. Francis in his speech, was designed by Mr. W. G. Baxter. It represented Colonel Mawson, the president, in the character of Neptune, surrounded by the members of the Council of the Society in the guise of fishes and birds, the caricatured likenesses being in almost every instance easily recognisable. It is most cleverly done.

NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

TO BE HELD IN NORWICH, APRIL, 1881.

Special Prizes for the Best Models, Apparatus, Plans, Essays, Manufactures, &c., prepared by the Exhibitors.

- 1.—Plan or Model of the best Fish Culture Establishment. £25. E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P. Horstead Hall, Norfolk.
- 2.—Fish Hatching Apparatus, full size, with Appliances and Implements. £5. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 3.—Model of Fish Pass. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 4.—Essay on the Acclimatisation and Cross Breeding of Fish. £10. Thomas Mann, Esq., Thelton Hall, Norfolk.
- 5.—Essay on Pisciculture as a source of National Wealth. £20. T. J. Mann, Esq., Bournemouth.
- 6.—Model of a Fishing Trawler. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 7.—Model of a Fishing Drifter. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 8.—Apparatus and Gear complete for a Trawler. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 9.—Apparatus and Gear complete for a Drifter. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 10.—Collection of Nets used in Deep Sea Drift Fishing. £20. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 11.—An Improved Trawl Net, capable of allowing Immature Fish and Refuse to escape therefrom. £20. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 12.—Crab and Lobster Pot. £3. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 13.—Plan or Model of the best Fish Curing Establishment. £25. The Corporation of Great Yarmouth.
- 14.—Collection of Inland Fishing Tackle, comprising an Anglers' Outfit. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 15.—Collection of Sea Fishing Tackle. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 16.—Collection of Fishing Implements, Tackle, &c., used in the Norfolk and

Suffolk Waters. £10. The Yare Fish Preservation and Angling Society.

- 17.—Angling Associations, the best Code of Rules for their Management in a Sportsmanlike manner. A Salmon Rod with Winch, Fittings, and 12 doz. Salmon and Trout Flies. R. B. Marston, Esq., Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.
- 18.—Model of a Boat suitable for General Fishing in the Norfolk and Suffolk Inland Waters. The models to be $\frac{1}{2}$ full size, and the price not to exceed £12 complete with all fittings. Each Exhibitor must guarantee to supply as many boats as may be ordered of him at the price he may name. £10. The Yare Preservation and Angling Society.
- 19.—Boat, full size, complete with all fittings, for offshore fishing in rough weather, requiring not more than four hands. The first consideration being stability in a surf—the second cost—the third weight. Each exhibitor must guarantee to supply as many boats as may be ordered of him at the price he may name. £25. Samuel Hoare, Esq., London.
- 20.—Dress for a Life-boat Crew. £10. Dr. Eade, Sheriff of Norwich.
- 21.—Plan for a Trap or Sluice for taking Eels, so as not to interfere with other Fish. £5. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 22.—Mode of Fishing for Shrimps, Sprats, and other Fish, such mode intended as a substitute for fixed Engines in the Estuaries of Rivers, and must satisfy the following conditions:—
(1) Its capacity for catching Fish to be equal to that of the fixed Engine.
(2) Its action not to be prejudicial to the Fisheries of the River. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 23.—Essay on Oyster Breeding. £15. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 24.—Essay on the Utilisation of Localities generally suitable for the Cultivation of Oysters. £15. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 25.—Essay on the Utilisation of Localities in Norfolk and Suffolk suitable for the Cultivation of Mussels and other Shell Fish. £25. The Corporation of Great Yarmouth.
- 26.—Essay on the Artificial Propagation of Anadromous Fish other than the Salmon, and the Restocking the Tidal Waters of our large Rivers artificially with Smelts, &c. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 27.—System of saving of life at Sea in the transport of Fish from the Fishing Vessel to the Carrier, Illustrated by Model. £25. Royal National Life Boat Association.
- 28.—Plan of Improved Fishermen's Dwelling. £15. The Right Hon. Lord Suffield.
- 29.—Model of Refrigerating Fish Van. £20. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 30.—Ditto, Fish Van, not Refrigerating, suitable for general use by road or rail, the cost not to exceed £75. £30. J. J. Colman, Esq., M.P.
- 31.—System of Signalling at Night for Fishing Fleets and Vessels. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 32.—Process for the Utilisation of Condemned Fish and Fish Refuse as a Manure. £30. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 33.—Process for rendering Innocuous to Fish-life streams polluted by Sewage and Chemical or other works. £20. S. Grimmer, Esq., the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Norwich.
- 34.—Essay on the Salmon Disease, its Nature, Causes, and possible Remedies. £10. R. B. Marston, Esq., Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.
- 35.—Essay on the Parasitic and other Diseases of Fish other than Salmon. £5. The General Prize Fund.
- 36.—Essay on the Principle upon which any Legislation on the Fisheries of the Country should be based, and is it desirable that Boards of Conservators should have the Management of all the Fisheries in the Country, with power to impose Licenses. £50, 1st prize. The Right Hon. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts. £25, 2nd prize. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 37.—Collection of Stuffed Fish caught in Norfolk and Suffolk. £5. A. J. N. Chamberlin, Esq., Wroxham.
- 38.—Specimens of Dried, Salted, Smoked, and Tinned Fish of all kinds. £10. Edmund Johnson, Esq., London.
- 39.—Collection of Inland Aquatic Flora and Fauna. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 40.—Collection of Edible Shell Fish. £10. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 41.—A Light, Portable, Waterproof Package, to contain Set of Tackle for Inland Angling, with compartment for Luncheon, and suitable for carrying in the hand. £2. F. Sutton, Esq.
- 42.—Essay on the Migrations and Spawning of Sea Fish, especially Soles, Turbots, Plaice, and other Flat Fish. £20. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 43.—Essay, accompanied by Maps showing Localities where Mussel Beds can be established, and how existing Mussel Beds can be best cultivated and protected so as to afford an increased supply of Mussels as Bait for the Long Line Fisheries. £30. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London.
- 44.—Fishing Rod, Line, and Fittings complete, best suited for general use in the Norfolk and Suffolk Inland Waters. £2. J. L. Clemence, Esq., Lowestoft.
- 45.—Essay on the Causes of the Migration of Salmon from Sea to River, as influenced specially by Height of Water, Temperature, and other Atmospheric Conditions. £15. James H. Crossman, Esq., London.
- 46.—Essay on the Natural History and Habits of the Herring, with Suggestions for the Improvement of the Fisheries of the same in the United Kingdom, to be considered as a source of National Wealth. £50. The National Fisheries Exhibition.
- 47.—Essay on the Herring Net, showing the best Mesh for the Capture of the Matured Fish, and means for making the use of such Mesh compulsory in Great Britain and other Nations fishing in the same waters. £21. The London Fishsalesmen's Association.

In addition to the Special Prizes and Government Medals, Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and Diplomas of Honour will be awarded in respect of the Exhibits considered most meritorious by the Jurors in Classes 1 to 5, and Diplomas of Honour only in Class VI. of Loan Collections of the General Classification.

W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS, Hon. Sec., Lowestoft.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CURATORSHIP OF THE BUCKLAND MUSEUM.

SIR,—You do not know with what surprise I read your correspondent's (Charles C. Capel) letter under the above heading, and had not the least idea that Mr. Edon, the present curator, was leaving, or at any rate likely to be succeeded in his curatorship; he being, in my estimation, at any rate up to this present time, the right man in the right place. I knew the museum when in its infancy, and the former curator, Mr. Neville, therefore can say that I have known Mr. Edon during the whole of his curatorship; and more than that, shall never forget the day—and a bitter cold day that was, too—when our dear departed friend, Mr. Frank Buckland, Mr. Edon and myself, were wading the river breast-deep from 10 a.m. until 5 o'clock p.m. at Totness weir and other parts of the river as far as the Seymour Hotel, Totness Bridge, catching salmon and taking the ova which was sent out to various stations in New Zealand, &c., &c., which I am happy to say have succeeded admirably. Mr. Edon was at that time very unwell; but for all that his repartees to lots of remarks made while spawning the fish and packing the ova, pronounced him more than equal to the position he was then fulfilling. I have always found him ever ready, and when in London last February I called to see our dear friend Frank Buckland, who wished me to see as much of the museum as my time would admit. Mr. Edon placed himself entirely at my disposal, and for two whole days did I avail myself, which enabled me to see many new specimens, and also found the whereabouts of several specimens which I had presented to Mr. Frank Buckland since I have been in Devon, and of which splendid plaster casts have been taken; but the principal and most arduous, yet most beautiful portion of Mr. Edon's work is the fish-hatching apparatus, of which there are an immense number, and it is astonishing the thousands of fish annually brought to perfection, and should Mr. Edon be recalled from that position, which he has so well filled, I think with your correspondent it will be a great shame so to treat a worthy public servant—I am, &c.,

FRANK GOSDEN,
Ex-conservator of the River Exe.

LONG LIFE OF JACK.

SIR,—Visiting a friend in North Staffordshire this Christmas, a brother of the angle, and a constant reader of your valuable paper, our conversation naturally became "fishy," and he informed me of the undermentioned facts, which occurred some years ago, relative to the length of time a jack lived after being taken out of the water, which, if you think of sufficient interest, perhaps you will kindly insert in your GAZETTE.—I am, &c.,

19, Norfolk Road, Dalston.

B. SIMKINS.

My father being one day, during the shooting season, about noon down by the California Hole, saw a pike lie some four or five inches deep in the water. My father shot, and an old spaniel he had with him plunged into the water and brought out the pike, weighing about five pounds. The fish, which was shot about noon, had a string passed through its gills, and was carried by the string through the woods for the remainder of the day, being brought home about five o'clock in the afternoon. The string was then taken from the gills and the fish, not showing any signs of life, was put on a large dish and placed on an upper shelf in the dairy. Towards eight o'clock, one of the servants having heard that a pike had been killed, went to look at it, and not being content with looking touched it, when, to his surprise, it sprang off the dish on to the floor. He immediately came and related what had occurred, and on going to look we found it as he said. We then took the pike and placed it in a large cistern of running water, where it soon came round, seeming none the worse. It remained in the stone cistern for about a month or six weeks, when it was killed—this time in reality.

A CORRECTION LEADING TO A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to state that the positively untrue statement which Mr. Spence alleges that I have made is not erroneous. By a typographical error the words "trout with" have been omitted before the portion of the sentence quoted by Mr. Spence—"almost white-coloured fins"; at least, as far as I am aware, I wrote as now stated. The white colour to which allusion is here made being the semi-transparent, yellowish white hue seen in parr and some salmonide, as distinguished from the creamy, or sometimes snowy, white border found on the front part of some of the fins of true trout.

In relation to Yarrel, Mr. Spence, on Dec. 4, himself retracted his erroneous statement in his letter of Nov. 13th, whilst persisting in using the words parr and samlet for the same fish, so as not to enable an opponent to know of what he was writing; and now finally covers that which is at least gross carelessness in quotation, by abuse, and accuses me of what he calls bad punctuation.

I do not wish to follow this example, and therefore still remain, as of old,

THE RAVEN.

[We have examined "Raven's" manuscript and find that the words "trout with" are there, but so blurred as to be almost illegible, and the compositor thought they were erased.—ED.]

PISCATORIAL CELEBRATION.—In looking over a New York paper I found the piscatorial celebration mentioned of the Cincinnati Angling Club, with their president, vice-president, secretary, and twenty-five members. About twelve or fifteen met the day before, and angled for a day and a half with capital success, having caught within that time three hundred and fifty-three bass and salmon, some very large. They spent a very pleasant day, and amongst their toasts they gave "The Memory of Isaac Walton and Charles Cotton." The members of the Pittsburgh Angling Club, the Schuylkill Fishing Company, are still flourishing in full vigour, at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. It appears from these statements that there are angling clubs formed in several parts of North America.—Editor of "Piscatorial Reminiscences," 1835.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

FISHING RIGHTS ON THE THAMES.

(This correspondence will be interesting to many of our readers.—ED.)

Board of Trade (Harbour Department),
Whitehall gardens, S.W.,
23rd November, 1880.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 12th ult., calling attention to alleged attempts to interfere with the rights of the public in the use and enjoyment of the River Thames and its towing paths, I am directed by the Board of Trade to enclose, herewith, copy of a communication from the Thames Conservancy Board, for whose observations your letter was referred by this Board.—I am, &c.,

G. H. Cook, Esq., Caterham Valley, Surrey.

Thames Conservancy,
Offices: 41, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, E.C.
18th November, 1880.

SIR,—I have laid your letter of the 29th ult. (H. 6765), with its enclosure, before the Conservators of the River Thames, who direct me to state in reference to the remarks in Mr. Cook's letter as follows:—

FISHING RIGHTS.

Below Staines, no person claims any right of private fishing, and the public fish in all parts of the river Thames and the side streams.

On the river between Staines and Cricklade, the limit of the Conservators' jurisdiction, claims to private fisheries on the part of the riparian landowners have, in some instances, been brought before the magistrates, whose decisions the Conservators believe to have been conflicting. The Conservators have not supported any of these claims, nor do they recognise the right of any persons to prevent the public from navigating the side streams or small branches of the river.

The Act of 1866, transferring the jurisdiction of the river Thames above Staines to the Conservators, confirmed the reservation of the rights to private fisheries provided for by the Act of 1864.

In making the bye-laws for the protection of fishing in all parts of the river, the Conservators allowed the owners of private fisheries to use certain nets and engines, under special restrictions within the limits of those fisheries, a statutory declaration having previously been made by each claimant setting forth the grounds of his title.

TOWING PATHS.

The towing paths below Staines are entirely in the hands of the Conservators being either their property or rented by them; in no case has the reasonable use of these tow paths by pedestrians been interfered with.

Above Staines, the towing paths are almost entirely the property of private owners, to whom the Conservators make an annual payment for the use of the towing paths solely for navigation purposes.

The Conservators have, therefore, no power to oblige the owners or occupiers of these towing paths to allow the public to use them for any purpose except that of navigation.

The ferry boats in the hands of the Conservators were established solely for ferrying over the horses and persons employed in the navigation.

It has been a convenience to allow foot passengers to be ferried over in these boats, and in most cases the boats are used in this manner; but in two or three instances owners or occupiers have complained that persons have been landed on their land without permission, and were, in fact, trespassers.

The Conservators therefore felt bound in these cases to stop the public using the ferry-boats, except for navigation purposes, especially as the Conservancy Act of 1870 declares that the establishment of a ferry shall not give a right of way over any towing path or other place where a right did not exist at the time of the passing of that Act.—I am, &c.,

E. BURSTAL, Secretary.

The Assistant Secretary, Harbour Department, Board of Trade.

OTTER CAUGHT BY LINE AND HOOK.—Mr. John Wane, of Penrith fishing with bait in the Eamont, at a place called Udford, caught a young otter, and, after much difficulty, succeeded in taking it alive. Whilst he was taking the young one out of the water, two old ones made their appearance and had nearly succeeded in rescuing it. Mr. Wane was an excellent line-fisher.—*Sport Mag.*, vol. xlv.

OWL CAUGHT BY ANGLING.—We ourselves once caught an owl—not with the fly, nor the worm, nor the minnow, but with the live mouse. As soon as he felt himself hooked, he sailed away to Josey's barn—in at a hole, and on to a bulk; but after a desperate struggle, and with the aid of a terrier, we captured him on the hay-mow, had him stuffed, and he is now in the museum of our University.—*Blackwood*, July, 1835.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS FROM MR. JESSE'S GLEANINGS IN NATURAL HISTORY.—The perch is the boldest and most familiar of any of the fish. I found no difficulty in getting them to come with eagerness, and take a worm out of my hand. The barbel were the shyest; when not seen, they would show considerable playfulness. The trout appeared to bear their confinement with less philosophy than any of the others. The chub were also very restless, being constantly on the move, but they could never resist a cockchafer when thrown to them. Flounders moved at night. Eels always made their escape; they had no other way than climbing up the brickwork. The carp and tench were soon reconciled to their situation. The pike, of which I had eight, about 5 lb. each, kept up their character for voracity. Out eight hundred gudgeons counted into the reservoir, there was scarce any to be seen at the end of three weeks. I should mention that three large barbel, and six good-sized perch, probably partook of them. But of all my fish, the bleak were the most amusing and playful. Fish have the power of hearing the firing of a gun; they have also the sense of smelling, by preferring paste and worms that had been prepared with different perfumes; they have also curiosity and affection. For further information, the account which Mr. Jesse gives of his "Piscatorium," is, like his work, uncommonly amusing. Fishes that swim and take their food near the surface, die soon when taken out of the water, as trout, dace, mackerel, and herring; on the contrary, those fishes that swim and feed near the bottom are all tenacious of life, and continue to exist for many hours after their removal from the water, such as carp, tench, eels, and all flat fish.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning. Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1881.

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.

TO all those who are on the look-out for a spot in which to spend their next holiday, not too difficult of access, yet not till now overrun by the British Tourist; a spot where fair, sometimes first-class, angling, and a little wild shooting, with a chance

of birds rare on the mainland of Britain, together with a bracing climate, can be obtained with economy, we say, try Shetland.

Those who have tried it there is no need to advise to return, for any one who has mastered the rudiments of angling will get sport sufficient to entice him back, not to speak of the hospitality of the people and the general "good times" he is sure to enjoy. Hospitality, to be sure, is here a necessity, as, so far as we are aware, there are only two inns in the islands outside of Lerwick, the capital, and of these one is so dirty that we cannot conscientiously recommend any one to try it; for having, on one occasion, had the misfortune to be storm-stayed there for two nights, we set off on the following morning on spec, not knowing where we should lay our head that night.

But let us commence at the beginning. Our first consideration is how to get there. Lerwick, the port and capital of the islands, is some four hundred miles north of Edinburgh; and as Edinburgh is, by rail, about the same distance from London, the distance to be overcome is considerable, and the time necessarily consumed in going and coming makes it impossible for any one having less than three weeks of freedom to manage this trip. At the same time, those who have time can perform the whole journey by boat, changing steamers at Leith or Aberdeen, so that the bother of luggage is reduced to a minimum. During the autumn the boats leaving Leith for Shetland are apt to be much crowded; but as, we believe, an extra mail-steamer is to be run next summer, this objection will to some extent be obviated. The boats used to run on Tuesday and Friday mornings, but of course this may be changed when the new arrangement comes into force. A return ticket, Leith to Lerwick, available for a month, costs thirty-nine shillings, and the average length of the passage may be set down as about thirty-six hours, though we have seen it so little as thirty-two.

Of course, the voyage is sometimes a little rough, and we have noticed stray specimens of the British Tourist who have found their way so far north looking most miserable; but your sportsman is, as a rule, made of sterner stuff. *Experto crede*, a good dose of castor-oil is the best preventive of sea-sickness going.

The voyage is broken at Aberdeen, Wick (Friday sailings) and Kirkwall, so those who have no appetite on board can escape starvation by getting their meals ashore. We scarcely think that many will be of so economical a disposition as a friend of ours, not a brother Scot, who, in summing up his probable expenses, said, "If I'm so lucky as to be sea-sick, that will be so much saved."

At Lerwick our sportsman's troubles begin; there is no pier fit for large vessels to be alongside of, so passengers have to be landed in small boats. The steamship company land those who wish in the mail-boat, free of charge. The usual fare for a private boat is a shilling a head, far too much for a row of less than a quarter of a mile. There is, however, this advantage in "having a boat of yer ain," like the M'Nab of Noah's time, that you can get your boatman to carry your luggage to an hotel or boarding-house.

This matter of hotels used to be a very serious one; there are only two in Lerwick, which used to be badly-managed and dear in proportion to the accommodation supplied. Matters are much better now, we are told; but for ourselves we should infinitely prefer a boarding-house, and can strongly recommend Mrs. Crutwell's, which is close to the pier where the mail-boat lands. It is clean, quiet, and the food and attendance good; besides which, as it is much frequented by the "old hands" who frequent the islands, a stranger may get a "tip" as to what sport to expect and where to go.

The next step is to get out of Lerwick, for the sport to be had in the neighbourhood is much inferior to that to be obtained else-

where; so a prolonged stay there, unless you can get leave for Loch Strand, of which more anon, is unadvisable.

The less baggage you have the freer you are; and if you can carry your belongings on your back so much the better for you, for then you can trust to your own legs. Hiring is expensive and dreadfully slow; so slow that the writer has started only one hour ahead of a party "hiring" to Walls, about twenty-six or twenty-seven miles by road from Lerwick (the machine was, of course, late—your true-born Shetlander has no idea of the value of time), and by dint of short cuts and a ferry, which saved two miles, arrived there fully an hour ahead, to the great disgust of the occupants of the dog-cart. This excessive slowness is due to the native custom of getting out of the trap to walk up all the ascents and down most descents. As the road is very hilly, a drive is not unlike Paddy's ride in the bottomless cab—if it were not for the honour of the thing, you might as well walk.

By far the pleasantest, and, we believe, most expeditious way to travel in Shetland, is by sailing-boats; and this method also allows a good view of the magnificent rock-scenery, which can, indeed, be properly seen in no other way. Unfortunately, however, at the very time when the islands are most frequented by visitors, the main body of the men are away at the different fishings; so those who remain have visitors at their mercy, to a certain extent. Always remember, in bargaining with a Shetlander, that you must expect him to ask more than he means to take, and that you will certainly have to pay more than a native would.

It is our intention at present to treat of the western peninsula of the mainland, principally because we are better acquainted with that part of the islands than any other; and because, both from our own experience and the reports of others, we believe the fishing there to be, under ordinary circumstances, the best in Shetland.

This district we may sub-divide into two parts—the Wiesdale division, and that accessible from Walls; these being the two places at which lodgings can be most easily obtained.

There are three courses open to the traveller who wishes to reach either of these places. He may either walk, hire a machine, or try for a seat in the mail-gig which leaves Lerwick for Walls every night on which the mail-steamer arrives. The fare by this last is four shillings to Wiesdale, and the same from Wiesdale to Walls, luggage being charged for separately; but it has this drawback—that it usually starts between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., reaching Wiesdale between 3 and 5 a.m., and Walls about 11 next morning—not very comfortable hours to be crossing bleak moors and hills bare of all shelter, even in fine weather.

Wiesdale, to which we intend to lead our readers in the first place, lies at the head of a long narrow Voe (narrow arm of the sea) about half way betwixt Lerwick and Walls, and boasts of one of the two inns to which we referred previously. In this inn we have frequently stayed, and found it both comfortable and moderate, and lodgings can be had elsewhere. For purposes of description, we shall suppose the traveller to walk. Let him leave Lerwick by the north road—which, after passing round the foot of the fort, runs in a north-westerly direction for about two and a half miles; he will then find himself looking into a deep valley through which a burn—the Dales Burn—preserved by Messrs. Hay, of Lerwick, runs. This is a most disappointing stream; it looks fishy, and at times contains a few sea-trout, but is literally crowded with small fry both of river and sea trout. Crossing this glen our wayfarer sees before him another valley equally deep, but less confined; to his left he sees a lake. (There are no lochs in Shetland; they are there called lakes, or, more commonly, "waters," though the Shetlanders, in speaking to strangers, often use the word loch; by way, we suppose, of bringing themselves to said strangers' level.) This is Tingwall Lake, where the Thing, or

parliament, of the islands was wont to meet—how handy for treating obstructionists to the cold-water cure! It contains good trout, but from its proximity to Lerwick is a good deal fished, hence the fish are more fickle than in most Shetland waters; still a decent fisher should be able to take ten or twelve pound weight on any fair fishing day, but it contains no sea-trout, for which most visitors to Shetland look.

About a mile and a half to the spectator's right, however, lies a loch of a very different character—to all appearance an insignificant pond, fed by a streamlet such as schoolboys in less favoured climes frequent for the purpose of catching sticklebacks and minnows—the Loch of Strand, with its adjacent voe, gives probably the best sea-trout fishing in Shetland, but it is preserved by Messrs. Hay, of Lerwick.

At the spot where we have supposed our traveller to be standing the road bifurcates, the right-hand section going almost due north past the Loch of Strand, whilst that on the left runs almost due west, and it is this latter which leads to Walls. Of the next few miles of this road we have little to say. There are no lakes or burns near the road of a trouty nature, and the only thing worthy of remark is a magnificent view from a place called Wormidale, from which you have a splendid outlook over three splendid voes, studded with rocky islands; while to the west, the bold promontory of Skelda Nep, and in the blue distance the mighty cliffs of Foula may be seen; whilst, on the south, the famous Fitful Head rises. Turning abruptly round the corner of the hill, the road displays to view the Loch of Strome, discharging its waters by a short stream, crossed by the road into Stromness Voe. This loch, which is of considerable size—about three miles long by more than half-a-mile in the broadest part—is one of a kind not common anywhere, but oftener found in Shetland than any other place we know of; it is in reality an arm of the sea, but the communication being very narrow, and there being a considerable burn flowing into its upper end, the water is sometimes very salt at one end and only brackish at the other. Sea-fish are to be found at one end, common trout at the other; and all through the loch, one is, at every rise, in a pleasing state of uncertainty as to what your captive may be. We have caught, within ten yards, common trout, sea-trout, and peltachs (the second stage of the coal-fish), and have been informed that cod and herrings have been found in it. We have never done much in this loch, but a friend, who was once in the habit of fishing it a great deal, assures us that when the requisite local knowledge is obtained it is well worth a visit. He says, however, that one must know it by land, or rather water, marks, in the shape of stones, which there is no time to do in the kind of hurried visit we are sketching. After, or better still, during a flood, the stream already referred to as entering the head of this loch contains numbers of good sea-trout, besides being full of fry and common trout. We well remember our first visit to it, when, in the midst of a torrent of rain, with light trout tackle and a nine-foot rod, we hooked, in about an hour, over a dozen very large sea-trout; but being unprovided with landing-net or gaff, had to try to drag them up the steep banks, with the not unnatural result of losing all but one or two of the smallest. We had on two or three of close on four pounds each, and one certainly quite five pounds; but though well-hooked, and played to the last gasp, their weight was sufficient to break the hold when we tried to pull them up a distance of three or four feet. Our favourite flies for this, and, indeed, most Shetland burns, are teal-wing with black hackle and red body, claret hackle with orange body, and a jay-wing with blue hackle and black body, all three dressed with silver tinsel.

This burn, which has a course of some eight or nine miles, passes through two lochs called, respectively, Sand Water and Petta Water, both of which contain numbers of loch-trout, and are

said to hold sea-trout; this is probable, as there are no obstructions on the burn fit to stop sea-trout; but though we have often fished for them in these waters, we never saw any.

Returning to the road, we pass another sheet of water, similar to Strome in having a free communication with the sea, but differing from it in having no fresh-water tributaries; it is called Huxter Water, and contains no trout of any kind. About a quarter of a mile farther on, stands Airv House Inn, which we have already referred to, and about a mile and a quarter beyond that is the head of Wiesdale Voe, where the burn of the same name joins the sea. This is a capital burn; though a good deal fished, the fish never seem to get shy, and a spate is sure to bring up large numbers of fish; whilst, when the water is not dead-low, there is always a ginnock or two to be picked out of its pools, by using small flies and delicate tackle, or, better still, by fishing worm in the way suited for such streams. The space in which the sea-trout are found under ordinary circumstances is limited to about half a mile, as, except in very heavy floods, the fish are unable to ascend a dam which supplies water to a flour mill. The largest fish we ever landed in this stream was 6 lb., but we are informed that they have been taken 14 lb. weight. The common trout are small and worthless. As this is a small stream, such as an active man could jump across, under ordinary circumstances, and has no locks to keep up the supply of water, we need scarcely inform our readers that the fishing is most uncertain, a remark which may be applied to the whole district, so far as sea-trout are concerned. The same flies as were mentioned as useful in Strome Burn are good here; besides which, we have done well with teal wing and green body, and woodcock wing, with red body and hackle. As to the size of hooks, we generally use a No. 7 or 8 Limerick, but when the water is low, reduce this to No. 10.

The accommodation to be had here is, of course, limited. We have been in the habit of putting up at the inn, or at a small croft about 100 yards west of Wiesdale Bridge, held by a Mrs. Hunter, where we found ourselves comfortable in a rough way. We believe that accommodation can also be had at the school-house, and Mr. Smith, at the flour mill before referred to, told me last autumn that he intended to fit up two rooms for the accommodation of anglers. This last would certainly be very central for fishing the whole district, especially as a new road is being made, connecting the north road at Sandwater with that to Walls.

Before going farther, it may be as well to mention a fine common-trout loch, which should, perhaps, rather belong to another district, as it lies by the side of the north road, about thirteen miles from Lerwick, but, as it is most easy of access from Wiesdale, we may mention it here. This water, called Girlesta, lies about four miles due east of Wiesdale; the road makes it about six, so it is most easily attained by climbing two ranges of hills, and crossing the valley of Strome Firth. It is well worth the trouble, as it holds fine trout, and it is said that sea-trout were shut up in it by the building of an embankment at the foot, and bred there; it certainly holds trout quite undistinguishable from sea-trout as to outward appearance. It is also said to hold red-bellied trout (char, perhaps), but these we have never seen. We heard a rumour last year that this loch was to be preserved. The flies must be small, and we have generally found a white tip, with green or purple body, taken best; but the fish are very shy, rising best in a gale. There are two or three other small lochs near this one, but we have never tried them, though no doubt they all contain trout.

To the west of Wiesdale Hills the whole country is studded with lochs and burns, which may be divided as follows:—Burn of West Burrafrith, with its lochs; Lochs discharging into Aith Voe and the Clouster Loch, which last are half-way between Wiesdale and Walls; all these discharge to the north side of the island.

On the south side there are no lochs till we reach the Walls district, but two fair burns, at Toomlin and Bixeter.

To reach the first-named lochs, which are about three miles from Wiesdale Bridges, you must climb the steep sides of Wies-Hill, when you will see three lochs lying to the north-west; make straight for these. The two nearest are called Maa and Truggles Waters, and discharge into the Atlas Burn, which, after a round-about course, join West Burrafrith Burn, which latter stream rises partly from Lamba Water, the remaining loch. All these lochs are of a very similar character, deep and peaty, containing quantities of common trout, about three to the pound, and easily taken, but they hold no sea-trout. There are several other small lochs sending tributaries to Barrafrith Burn, but we have never fished them. There is a very pretty fall on this stream, above which, of course, there are no sea-trout; but a few are to be had in it after rain between this and the sea, a distance of nearly a mile. We are told the estuary is much netted.

Proceeding westwards, across the moors from Truggles Water, we find, at the head of Aith Voe, a weedy loch connected with the sea by a mere ditch, and containing fine trout, of high quality from a cook's point of view, and giving fine play from the angler's point of view. The average varies much with the character of the day, but is between half-a-pound and three-quarters, and there are plenty of them. It is named Houser Water. Into the west side of the same voe, a loch, whose name we do not know, empties itself. It is deep, of considerable extent, and holds good trout which rise freely; and we are told that sea-trout are found there at times, but don't believe it, as we believe our informant confused this with Clouster Loch, which lies near.

Separated from this loch by a low hill, and to the south of it, we find another good-sized loch called Var, which discharges into Clouster Loch. We came upon it in the gloaming one day as we were returning to Wiesdale from an exploring expedition, and as we had quite seven miles of bog-trotting before us, only fished about half-an-hour, during which time we took nine trout, the largest a pound and a quarter, the rest between that size and half-a-pound, so we imagine it must be good, and, from its inaccessible position, but little fished. Of Clouster Loch we have only fished the upper end, and that during an almost dead calm, so can only speak of it from report. It is said to be a capital loch both for common and sea trout, but, unless lodgings can be had at Vimentry, perfectly inaccessible, and, from its extent, must take a "great deal of knowing."

We give a table of distances from Wiesdale Inn to the places just mentioned. Tingwall Loch, 7½ miles; Strome, Burn and head of loch, 1½ miles; Sandwater Loch, 3½ miles; Girlesta Loch, 4 miles; Peta Water Loch, 8 miles; Lamba Water, &c., about 4 miles; Burrafrith Voe, 6 miles; Houser Loch, 5 miles; Loch Var, 7 miles; Loch Clouster, about 8 miles. All these distances are, of course, only approximate, and strangers must bear in mind that owing to the boggy and broken nature of the ground a mile seems quite equal to two on a level turnpike, and if he lose his way there are very few houses, and those are always close to the sea. We have known an experienced bog-trotter, accompanied by a native, have to sleep out on the moors during a mist, which overtook them in a part of the country they were both well acquainted with, and have ourselves taken nearly four hours constant walking to find our way home, a distance of two miles, over a country with which we were well acquainted. SCOTUS.

[In spite of the drawbacks, we think our readers would be glad to take their chance—we should.—ED.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal books. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

MID-WINTER ANGLING.

ANGLING, as a sport to be pursued in the depth of winter, doubtless presents to the imagination of many, even to those who really enjoy a day's fishing, anything but the realisation of what may be called a day's pleasure; but granted that winter fishing is divested of those lovely accessories of blue skies and bright warm sunshine, there is no doubt much more and greater sport can be obtained during the winter months in our rivers than is generally believed by those whose acquaintance with piscatorial matters is but slight. Always leaving out of the question that select art of fly-fishing, the Act of Parliament recently passed prohibits angling for three of the most pleasant months of the year, viz., March 15th to June 15th, during which time most freshwater fish are out of condition, owing to breeding operations; then, during the next three months, the fish are very difficult to entice, owing to the fact that they get plenty of natural food from insects and water vegetation, on which they mostly feed in preference to any bait, however temptingly presented to them by the disciple of the rod; consequently, owing to wise legislation and force of circumstances, the wintry half of the year is left for the angler to pursue his pastime, at which time all fish except the trout are in the best condition, and afford, when hooked, the greatest amount of sport. "Possibly so," says our careful friend who cares not to face a cold day out. "Consider what may be the result: I might get my death of cold, or be frost-bitten, or sow the seeds of chronic rheumatism, or other unfortunate conditions of things may happen to me." My recommendation to such chilly mortals is, decidedly, "Do not go out fishing; stay in town, and go for a quiet stroll through some of the windy streets, and catch the chill you so much dread whilst stopping to admire some object of interest; at least, then, my favourite pastime will not be accused of your misfortune." What can be more bracing to the overworked man than a day off duty, —a bright and frosty day, away in the country anywhere on the Thames? A "City" bright and frosty day is nothing to one in the country; there it is clear, and the sun's rays warm even in the depth of winter, whilst in town you see the sun for a short time over the housetops and through the mist, and then it is gone, and it comes on cold and dark and you shudder at the idea of fishing, unless you are a regular angler and know from experience that clear of the town it is quite a different matter.

Let us leave the dull City after an early breakfast, and about nine o'clock (usual business hour) find ourselves near the river some twenty or thirty miles from "the office." A lovely bright morning, hard frost, and no cutting wind to chill us through and through; the stream is running clear and the very tint for our day's chubbing. With what a splendid sense of freedom do we row up-stream, after removal of our overcoat and wrappers (for the winter angler should be one of the most careful of his health in this respect), to be resorted to again when we stop rowing, as we now do, having arrived at those overhanging bushes under whose boughs in summer the great chub lay with their white-rimmed lips partly opened, ready to snap up the fly or bee which may be unfortunate enough to drop into the water, but under whose roots now they are securely ensconced; for in winter the chub love to congregate under the protecting roots of trees and bushes, and in holes in the river's bank wherever the water is deep and quiet. Carefully we tie our punt to the bushes ten or fifteen yards above that quiet circling eddy we intend to fish, examine our rod and winch, and neatly place upon our triangle hook a clean piece of pipe-like bullock's pith; now we throw in some chopped bait to draw the fish out of their fastnesses. See how the stream carries the little white pieces right into the eddy where they will sink and be carried under the roots, and over the noses of any chub who may happen to be at

home; out they will come to the welcome feed, and presently some big fish will espy the piece of pith, which we have meanwhile let float down stream, and dexterously manipulated right into the eddy, and as near the bank and roots as we dare. Our big fish will seize our bait in preference to all else; is it not bigger and whiter than those insignificant little pieces floating about? So thinks Mr. Chub, and he opens his capacious mouth; while above water, we, who are anxiously watching our float, suddenly see it sharply disappear; we strike quickly, and feel an instantaneous and firm resistance—a root, we imagine; no fear, that desperate plunge of Mr. Chub for the fastnesses of his abode dispels that thought almost sooner than it comes into the mind. We hold our rod firmly and don't give an inch of line, or he'll get round a root or something. Now we point our rod right out into the stream, and once we get our fish away from the banks and out into the current, then we can enjoy the sport of tiring him out. If he is a big and strong fish we let him have line only when we are in fear that his plunges will snap our tackle, and we wind it in again on the first symptom of weakness on his part, and finally triumphantly land our fish and catch more from the same swim; for when they are on the feed we can get many out of the same swim before the remainder become alarmed. No thoughts of the thermometer being nearly at freezing point worry us while the excitement of catching fish is on; and then, when the sport gets slow, untie our boat and row to another haunt of the chub, until finally, with a well-filled well, and a light heart, we row down stream, and arrive contented, and warm with our healthful exercise, and after partaking of a good tea we return to town and display the result of our skill and pluck to admiring friends, who exclaim, "Oh! what big fish. I thought there were only little ones in the Thames;" and, "How cold you must have been this dull, bleak day;" while really we have had the reverse of such a day, and have not felt cold at all, having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and obtained that bracing relief to the mind and body of which we were in need. To the winter angler I would offer some advice: don't go out in a cold east wind, you will catch very little fish, and an east wind has the power of discovering the weak point in the strongest constitution; don't sit on the river bank all day, have a boat or punt and exercise your body; and never go out without a complete suit of waterproof, from boots to head-covering. The man who is careful on these points can have a day's fishing in the winter with as much pleasure and more profit than during the summer months.

R. W. H.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 39.)

THE turbot is often confounded with the brill, but it possesses very distinctive characteristics.

The turbot is of a remarkably round form, its eyes are exceedingly small, and sunk deep into its head, and between them is a slight crest; the mouth is large, and the jaws well-armed with small teeth, the lateral line is very much bent near the head. The dorsal fin advances towards the edge of the upper jaw, and extends as well as the anal, almost to the tail. The tail is rounded at the end. The upper side of the body is brown, marked with numbers of black spots, the belly white; the skin is without scales, but greatly wrinkled, and mixed with small short spines, dispersed without any order. A turbot, if in good season, is thick, and the belly of a yellowish-white, or pale cream colour; if thin, with a bluish cast on the belly, it is out of season.

The brill, which by many is much preferred to the turbot, bears a very close resemblance to it; but the body of the former is much thinner and narrower, and the eyes are also further distant from each other than in the turbot; it is also free from any

spines, and the skin is covered with small scales; the dorsal and anal fins are also less arched than those of the turbot. The colour of the upper side, also, is usually lighter than in the turbot, and is marbled or spotted in different specimens, generally with large and small spots of a deeper colour, and many small white spots sprinkled irregularly over the surface; the under side is of a pure white and scaly.

The brill, although said to be inferior to the turbot, is nevertheless a most excellent fish, and may fairly lay claim to the next place to him for goodness. We have before remarked that this fish is called a halibut in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, whilst in the North it is called a pearl; and, in addition to these names, on the coast of Cornwall it is called a kitt.

The turbot fishery was formerly wholly occupied by the Dutch. Such, at least, appears to have been the case in Dr. Brooke's time, as he, in his "Art of Angling," with the true feeling of a disciple of the piscatory art, justly reprobates the want of energy in his countrymen in allowing the Dutchmen to catch the fish from under their very noses, and sell them in their markets; the produce of which, after being safely deposited in the pockets of their broad and ample breeches (for which the inhabitants of that country have ever been so justly famous), was sure to find its way to the other side of the water. But times and men are much changed since Dr. Brooke's time, and now our fishermen may challenge any one in the world for activity, diligence, and perseverance. We now propose to give an insight into the manner in which this fishery is carried on, and will confine ourselves to such practical remarks on the subject as have come within our immediate notice.

The lines usually used in this sort of fishing are bolters, which frequently are even miles in length; the hooks are placed about a fathom apart from each other, and baited in the same manner as for cod and ling. Lines are frequently laid down for both descriptions of fish at the same time. The best baits are, we believe, herring and pilchard, or a moderate-sized herring-sprat put on whole. But sand eels, sprats, lampreys, common eels, either whole or cut in pieces, as also pieces of mackerel, garfish, conger, and, indeed, most small fish, either whole or in pieces, of a proportionate size, are often used with success; and it is also said that, when nothing else can be procured, that bullock's liver will do tolerably well.

The fishermen also, in addition to their other baits, frequently stick on small fish alive, which are by them considered to render the bait more attractive; as turbot, and in fact, most other fish, prefer seizing their prey alive. This plan, however, we have never tried. A turbot, when attached to the line, seldom makes any great stir, but from its particular form, and by means of raising its upper side, it is very heavy to raise from the bottom when it has been but recently hooked. One thing, however, the fisherman has not to apprehend, and that is, that the hold will give way, for a turbot seldom bites without swallowing the hook, which when once stuck in his throat is not easily disengaged. He should, therefore, be hauled up steadily; and if of any size, no attempt should be made to haul him on board without the assistance of the gaff. When the fish is fairly on board, the best plan is to cut the snead and put on a fresh one, and not run the risk of mangling and tearing out the gills, &c., in endeavouring to dislodge the hook, to say nothing of getting your hands well scratched, which, if our memory deceives us not, may happen. In order to make a turbot look well, it ought as soon as caught to be bled in the vein near the tail, which is generally visible through the skin, as it is otherwise apt to acquire a reddish cast about that part which gives it an unpleasant appearance. Although turbot are usually caught with spillers, yet it sometimes happens that they are taken with hand-lines when fishing on the bottom; but, as this has not often

happened to us, they have generally been supposed to be rays, till on hauling the fish near the surface, and looking over the boat's side, the absence of the tail of the former, and that peculiar sporting looking brown colour on the upper side, which can never be mistaken, has afforded the pleasing conviction of the value of the prize.

The smaller turbot are also frequently caught in dredging for bass, and also on lines banked between high and low water mark; but on the Cornish coast, to which our fishing has been latterly chiefly confined, we do not ever remember catching a single small turbot outside the breakers, though we generally succeeded in taking them between high and low water mark. The reason of this we suppose is, that when hungry they always come into shallow water in search of food; or, perhaps, the larger turbot may drive them in shore, and retain the deeper waters to themselves. The larger turbot certainly confine themselves to deeper water, and we never knew an instance of one over three pounds weight being caught between high and low water mark. Two pounds, however, was not all an unusual size, though, perhaps, a pound weight might be taken as the average. The best baits are sand eels, which cannot be too fresh. The brill is taken with the same baits as the turbot; the only difference seems to be that the smaller brills may be taken in deep water, as well as the larger ones, and are, in fact, much more rarely taken with banking and dredging than the turbot. Both the turbot and the brill may strictly be called sea-fish, their usual places of resort being sandy ground and deep water; but towards the herring and pilchard season, they usually approach the coasts in search of their favourite food. Yet it does not appear that they often pursue them into rivers, though the latter is found sometimes to do so, and at certain seasons of the year it is said to be common in the Elbe.

And now for the cookery—that is, how to boil a turbot, for we know no better way of dressing him. Soak your fish an hour or two in clear spring water and salt, before it is dressed; then score the skin across the thickest part of the dark side. The turbot kettle must be sufficiently large to hold the fish, and must contain sufficient cold water to cover the fish completely. Put a large handful of salt, a glass of vinegar, and a piece of horse-radish into the kettle; rest your fish on a fish-strainer, and put it into the kettle, and when it comes to boil, skim it well, taking care that no blacks fall into the kettle; let it, however, boil very gently for about 15 or 20 minutes; when done, drain a little, and lay it on a dish provided with a strainer, or else lay it on a dry napkin. Time was when the spawn of a hen lobster was most wantonly used to garnish the dish, as well as in making the sauce, but horse-radish makes a capital substitute. The best sauce is lobster, of which we have seldom seen too much; next shrimp sauce, or, for those who prefer it, plain melted butter. Brill or halibut should be dressed in the same way as turbot. In making lobster sauce, be careful only to warm it on the fire; for if it boils, it loses the fine red colour which renders it so pleasing to the eye, and consequently, to a great extent, the palate.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

Thames (Twickenham).

Since writing last week we have had quite a fête week on the ice, including skating and dancing by torchlight, lighted tar-barrels, and large bonfires every evening. Last Saturday an open tent was erected, with two large fires in the centre, and a whole sheep roasted, which was distributed among some of the gentry of the town, including Lady Adeliza Manners and sons, F. Ashton, Esq., J.P., and daughter, and many others, not forgetting the poor. The whole of the expense was defrayed by public subscription, and after paying the same, we handed over five guineas, the balance of the above; to our parish soup kitchen. The ice is now in a bad state, owing to the thaw setting in so rapidly, or otherwise Mr. Andy Anderson, of the Island Hotel, and myself intended to undertake the management of roasting a whole bullock.—A. PERRIN.

Lee (Co. Cork).

The fishing prospects on our southern rivers this season are not such as to fill us with favourable anticipations for the year '81. Very few spring fish have yet reached the upper waters, and in the short interval between this and the commencing of operations there will hardly be sufficient time for the stocking of the river, unless, indeed, that a lucky combination of constant flood and increased preservation intervene. The weather during the past month has been disappointing from an angler's standpoint. There has been no rain, and for the past fortnight the river has been quite frozen up. To-day, indeed, a welcome change has set in. A thaw has been succeeded by a gale from the south-east, followed by rain. We have hopes it will continue for some time, and, if so, the fish, which are already showing in the tideway, may be expected to run in considerably quantity. A break after a long spell of dry weather is generally followed by an immense run of salmon.

The Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The season for salmon and trout fishing opens on Tuesday next, the first of February. Little hope is entertained of having much sport during the early part of the month, owing to the extreme severity of the weather for the past three weeks; for many years we do not remember such hard frost. To-day, we are glad to say, a thaw begins, and if we had a good flood this week to carry away the snow water, we might then have a prospect of some fishing. The cot-men will fare well, but the rod-men on the lower waters have seldom any chance of getting a fish till later on. The trout are always in bad condition and seldom take a fly on the river here, but on the many streams they take the spider flies rather freely, but like the worm best until the days begin to get a little warm. There has been only very little poaching, we are glad to say, for some time, and consequently we hope, as the water kept pretty high during the early part of the winter, that there will be a share of good fish for all the anglers. The best trout flies for early part of season are hares' ears, gold wrens and silver-black hackles.—DORA.

Trent (Newark).

Last Sunday I thought the weather showed indications of a break up of the frost, but it turned out to be a delusion and a snare, for it was only a temporary lull, to break out again with redoubled vigour; but to-day, Thursday, there seems to be a very good prospect for a thaw, which I hope will continue, if it should be a rapid thaw. I should think by the time this is in print, our river will be flooded; but I should advise anglers to procure a stock of cockspur worms; for as soon as the water gets into anything like condition, roach, dace, bream, &c., will be found to be nicely on the feed. I believe if the angler will operate on a swim about 6 or 7 feet deep, with a nice sandy bottom, he will find himself in luck's way. If any angler has the luck to be in a suitable swim to-day, Thursday, I believe he will find fish on the feed. The weather to-day is nice and mild, and thawing very nicely. In a few days I hope to be able to have some good sport.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Angling operations have been quite out of the question during the past week owing to the severity of the weather. It has frozen keener than ever up to last night (Wednesday) when there were slight indications of the storm going, for we have had a slight downfall of both snow and rain, and it is much warmer to-day (Thursday) with every appearance of it turning to rain. There will be no angling while the snow continues, although both rivers are in excellent condition for all kinds of fishing. We have had a good many ducks and snipe on the Derwent during the past week, and many small birds have been picked up dead owing to the severity of the weather.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Stark-holmes, Matlock Bath.

The Yore (Yorkshire).

Arctic weather still prevails in this county, although there has not been such a fall of snow as in the more southern districts. Both the Yore and Wharfe are frozen over with a considerable thickness of ice—much to the delight of the skating fraternity, who have, during the past ten days or so, made the most of their opportunities. In fact, one night an enthusiastic party of them ignited a tar-barrel on the banks of the latter river, and by its light skated to an advanced hour. Even granted that an improvement in the weather takes place this month, it will be at least the middle of February before we shall have any chance to get at the greyling; and then very little time remains in which they are fit to be taken. I am told that a great many fine salmon have

been found on the banks of the Yore, killed by otters; and, from personal observations, I am inclined to think that there are more of these brutes on that river than a great many people seem to think.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.
Jan. 25th.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE half-yearly dinner of this young but flourishing society took place at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Thursday evening. Mr. J. Munro, as usual, provided an excellent dinner, and the whole of his arrangements gave the greatest satisfaction. Mr. F. C. Olench (treasurer), and was supported on the right and left by Mr. Spreckley (treasurer), and Mr. Brougham (secretary), of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, while the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Abbot, the treasurer of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. Dessert having been served, the Chairman prosed the usual toasts with commendable brevity, staying, however, to claim the Duke of Edinburgh as an angler.—Mr. Rowe responded for the reserve forces.—In proposing "Success to the Richmond Piscatorial Society," the Chairman referred to the manner in which the society was conducted, and the services it had rendered, and also acknowledged the kindness of those who had given prizes.—Mr. Dean, whose name was coupled with the toast, referred to the formation of the society in August, 1879, when they had only seven members, and to the excellent fishing which he believed would always be obtained between Teddington and Isleworth.—The chairman then presented the prizes won by the members of the society during 1880. The challenge cup given by Mr. T. Abbott, was won by the donor, together with 10s. 6d. presented by Mr. Crew, 5s. by Mr. Munro, and £1 1s. by the society. An equipment of fishing tackle, value £2 2s., presented by Messrs. Gaynor and Son, was won by Mr. Wm. Abbott. Prizes of 15s., presented by Messrs. Abbott, Rowe, and Houghton, and 6s., presented by Mr. Munro, were taken by Mr. Dean. Mr. Field was the winner of 10s., given by Messrs. Abbott and Houghton, 5s. by Mr. Abbott, 5s. by Mr. Ford, and a fishing-rod, value £1 5s., by Mr. T. Keyes. The health of the prize-winners was afterwards drunk, Mr. Thomas Abbott responding. The Chairman next proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," speaking in high terms of the services rendered to that society by its treasurer and secretary, with whose presence they were honoured, and whose names he coupled with the toast. Mr. Spreckley, in responding, said his society endeavoured to do its best for the Thames Angler, their one object being to preserve the fish for the benefit, not only of the members of angling clubs, but also of the poorer angler who stood on the bank, and who, if he only got a barbel or a chub, made a meal of it. He hoped his society would secure their confidence and warm sympathy in all that they were doing. No doubt the river had been much improved during the last few years, although they had the basest and most crafty of men to deal with amongst the poachers. He appealed to them all to exercise watchfulness when they were near the river, and to immediately report anything that looked suspicious. The Thames Conservators were very busy at present, but he hoped that in a short time they would have netting done away with from Richmond to Kew Bridge, or at any rate to Brentford or Isleworth. He hoped they would soon be able to find a gentleman in Richmond who would take an interest in the matter, and to whom their keeper could go for support, assistance and advice.—Mr. Brougham also acknowledged the toast, and, in reply to a question by Mr. Thomas Abbott, he said that the portion of the river over which the Thames Angling Preservation Society exercised jurisdiction was not fettered by private rights, but measures were being taken to settle the question raised by the riparian owners higher up. Before resuming his seat he proposed the health of the chairman, who, he said, for many years manifested great interest in things piscatorial.—The Chairman responded, and afterwards proposed "The president and vice-president of the society."—The toast having been honoured, Mr. Gaunt, the honorary secretary, tated that H.S.H. the Duke of Teck (the president) was on a visit to the Duke of Edinburgh, and therefore unable to be present that evening, and Major Bull (the vice-president) was prevented from attending by a severe domestic affliction. The toast of "The treasurer and secretary" was also proposed by the Chairman, who remarked that they were both excellent officers, and Mr. T. Abbott and Mr. Gaunt responded, the latter stating that after the forthcoming audit he hoped to show that they had a handsome balance in hand, and that the society now had over 70 members. He also referred to several useful works in which the society had been engaged. The other toasts proposed by the Chairman were "The donors of prizes," acknowledged by Mr. Crew; "The Visitors," for whom Mr. W. A. Abbott responded; "The host," to which Mr. Munro answered; and "The Press," acknowledged by Mr. Dimpleby, of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*. As the company included a large amount of musical talent, a number of songs and pianoforte selections of an unusually able character were given.—From *Richmond and Twickenham Times*.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessors in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FRESH-WATER FISHES.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

TENCH.

"EPHEMERA" describes the tench as a "mucous blackish olive carp," and the description is good: but Yarrell more correctly and fully speaks of it as follows:—The length of tail alone being considered 1, the total length of the head, body, and tail fin, is as 5; depth of body at its deepest part is one-fifth more than the length of head; all fins are rounded at the extremities; tail fin not at all forked, nearly square with corners rounded off; mouth small and toothless, with one barbel at each corner; scales very small; colours: head, sides, and cheeks, golden green, darker on the back and fins, orange yellow under the belly, irides bright orange red. Carp and tench are usually connected—as are roach and dace—colloquially. Why, is not apparent, except that they are usually found in association. In some respects there is a total dissimilarity between them. Thus, the carp has the largest scales of any fresh-water fish; tench have the smallest. Carp are known to be a good bait for pike, whilst tench is the worst, or one of them. In their general habits, also, they are widely different from each other.

The spawning season is a momentous one to tench. They go stark raving mad at this time; dancing, prancing, and gambolling with most absurd and antic vigour; now pursuing one another until almost on dry land, and anon resting side by side stubbornly refusing to be alarmed at anything. I have taken many a tench with my hand during this period of mental aberration. The ova, which is shed amid the weeds in somewhat shallow and muddy spots, is greenish in hue and prodigiously numerous. In a female of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., no less than 297,000 eggs have been estimated.

The angler may always distinguish between the male and female by the shape of the ventral fins. In the female these are of ordinary size and shape, but in the male they are like a green concave shell, the concave side being uppermost. The age to which tench attain is not known with certainty, but fifty years has been recorded as the limit.

Tench are excessively tenacious of life, and the very best way to transport them any long distance is to pack them in wet moss loosely, unless, of course, the thermometer points very high: If packed with ice, this does not signify, however.

The power of hybernation possessed by the carp is greatly enhanced in the case of tench, and it can live and grow big in almost impossible places. Daniel, in his "Rural Sports," speaks of one which weighed 11 lb., and was found in a most peculiar position. Here is the account of it in his own words:—

"A piece of water which had been ordered to be filled up, and into which wood and rubbish had been thrown for years, was directed to be cleared out. Labourers were accordingly employed, and, almost choked up by weeds and mud, so little water remained that no person expected to see any fish except a few eels, yet nearly two hundred brace of tench of all sizes and as many perch were found. After the pond was thought to be quite free, under some roots there seemed to be an animal which was conjectured to be an otter. The place was surrounded, and, on opening an entrance among the roots a tench was found of most singular form, having literally assumed the shape of the hole in which, of course, he had for many years been confined. His length from eye to caudal fork was 33 inches, his circumference, almost to the tail, was 27 inches; his weight 11 lb. 9½ oz. The colour was also singular, his belly being that of a charr, or vermilion. This extraordinary fish, after having been inspected by many gentlemen, was carefully put into a pond; and, at the time this account was written, twelve months afterwards, was alive and well."

This is the largest size on record.

Tench are said so be found locally rather than generally. It is unquestionably an English fish, being spread all over the country. It is also found in Holland and all the European lake provinces. 1514 is the date assigned to its introduction to Britain. Ireland does not possess many, and Scotland still less. It seems, as the foregoing episode seems to point out, to thrive best in old pits, muddy lakes and ponds and deep still holes in rivers. The Thames, Mapledurham way, presents some exceptionally beautiful specimens.

The food of tench is, shortly, worms and all water insects, as well as such vegetables as young shoots of water weed, and land vegetables of a similar character to those beloved by his neighbour, *Cyprinus carpio*.

(To be continued.)

THE FISH OF THE TRENT, AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

PLAIN PAPERS FOR PLAIN ANGLERS.*—No. 6.

By the TRENT OTTER.

THE BARBEL, *continued*.

I MENTIONED in my last, that when the barbel were biting you could catch no dace, and when the dace were feeding you could catch no barbel; "of course, I allude to the two fish in the same swim at the same time." Now I don't want it to be understood, for a moment, that you never catch the two together, for occasionally, dace and barbel are taken together, but I mean it is not a general thing to find the two fish feeding very freely at the same time, and in the same swim. I remember once fishing in a good barbel swim, a short distance above Newark, with an old friend—a very good angler; we had baited the swim properly, and reckoned on a good take of barbel, but that time we had reckoned without our host. Water was right, tackle was right, bait was right; in fact, everything was right, except the barbel, and they were conspicuous by their absence, for not a single barbel did we take, either that day or the next, but nearly every swim we took a dace. Now I supposed there were no barbel in the swim, or else the dace would not have fed so freely, and I have still every reason to believe I was right in my supposition; the barbel were not in the swim, and so the dace held high carnival. And on the other hand, we were again fishing—this time below Newark; and I remember I took a barbel, then a dace, then a flounder, then an eel, then a bream, and then another barbel; but as we only took three dace all day, I should think I shall be right if I say there were not many dace in the swim (and there were not many barbel there either; if there were they would not bite, for we only took six), and if it had not been for a few bream, eels, and flounders, we should have had a very poor show. Now, if you elect to bait your swim with whole worms, and first thing in the morning, the best plan is to take 500 the first morning, 300 the second, and 200 the third, and then go the next day to fish it; and if you could see the fish eager, and waiting for their breakfasts—being used to it for three mornings, they begin to look upon it as a matter of course—I say if you could just see them, you would feel very much inclined to shout, "Three cheers for barbel-fishing"; only remember, don't fish the swim the same day that you give them the last dose of worms, but on the following morning; and also remember what I said before—always cut up and throw two or three dozen in before you put your tackle together.

When I was first initiated into the mysteries of the Trent and its fish, I supposed, as the barbel was a big fish, I should require very powerful tackle to take them. I had for a companion an old

friend with the same opinion; in fact, you may put us down as being very much tyro's just then. We have learned a little since then. Well, as it happened, we had got our ground-bait in all right, "more by good luck than good looking," I must now confess; water very bright; tackle very coarse. My old friend who had a predilection for spectacles had them as usual astride his nose, when, by accident, they fell off and sank to rise no more; but the loss of the spectacles was of no account, for I believe he could see as well without. There we were with coarse tackle in a fine water trying to catch barbel; no go, two small fish in five hours. "There are no barbel in the swim," says my old friend, "let's give it up and go home." "Oh, no," says I, "let's try a little longer. I believe it is all owing to your spectacles that we are getting no barbel, for I believe there are a lot down there, only they keep putting your gig lamps on in turns to examine the bait." The idea of a big barbel with a pair of goggles on was too much for my old friend's risible faculties, for he looked at me and then laughed, drew the cork from the bottle and, as he said "the joke was too good to pass by without wetting," took a good swig. About half-an-hour after another angler came down with his rod and tackle. We explained our difficulty to him. He knew his business; he looked at our worms, they were all right; so, at our invitation, he put his tackle together, and now, for the first time, I saw my mistake. His tackle did not look strong enough to land a paltry six-ounce roach—at least, in my inexperienced eye it did—while his line, I thought, would hardly do to whip hooks on with, so fine was it; but in about an hour eight more good barbel lay on the grass, all killed with his fine pale blue tackle, without losing a single fish; this was rather a severe eye-opener to us, and proved to us by demonstration that fine tackle was decidedly superior to ours. If you make your tackle yourselves, I should recommend you to take a hank of ordinary roach gut, round and smooth-drawn, of a pale blue colour, and make your tackle about 5 feet long. When you use it you will be surprised at its strength, and the ease with which you can kill your barbel. There is also a sort of gut called drawn gut, sold at the tackle shops; it is very fine and very strong. I like a length of it on the bottom of the tackle. Mr. Slater, Newark, makes barbel tackle up with a length of drawn gut on the bottom. I have seen Mr. Rudd, of the Reindeer Inn, use a barbel tackle made entirely of this fine-drawn gut; and with a very light float he has succeeded in making some grand catches of barbel. Once, in particular, I remember he and three visitors were barbel-fishing; he used that sort of tackle, and at nearly every swim he was fast in a barbel, till he had landed a very good catch, whilst his companions could not show a single fin. Some anglers like round-bent hooks, and some like neck-bent ones; now I think a round-bent Carlisle hook is the best, for you can put a worm on it so much nicer than you can on a neck-bent one; a No. 6 is the best size for the bottom, and a No. 8 for the lip-hook. If you bait your swim with the scratchings, potatoes, &c., that I described some time back, your tackle must be similar to the worm tackle; except in the case of the hooks, for you will not want a lip-hook, and instead of having only a single hook on the bottom, two No. 7 or 8 hooks whipped back to back will be found the best. When you have baited your swim with scratchings, you may perhaps catch as many chub as barbel, for it is a bait that a chub is very partial to. If you find it is not possible to fish the swim with a float, then you will have to do what is locally known as plumbing; a bottom-tackle two or three feet long will be quite long enough for this purpose with a few split shots on it; and on the line close to the loop of the tackle put one of the flat triangular-shaped leads known as plumbs on the Trent; this will keep the bait at the bottom; put your bait on the same as for the float-tackle; throw it in; hold the rod in your hand, and you will easily feel when you have a bite.

In No. 3 of my articles, published on February 28th, 1880, the following passage occurs:—"Some anglers let the spring of the rod kill the fish, and don't allow the line to run off the reel, but I should say don't play him where you first hook him, if you can help it; draw him out of the hole, and bring him up stream a few yards, and then he will not disturb the others." Now, when that passage was printed, and I read it, I thought it was hardly satisfactory; some anglers would think I meant a sort of a pulley-haul system, a neck and crop dragging out of the fish; but let me explain. It certainly does look like it at first sight, but it would ruin all the tackle in creation to follow that plan. "Don't play your fish where you first hook him;" so far so good—(a shoal of barbel might perhaps be congregated in a hole of only a few yards square)—if he rolls and tumbles about there he will most likely alarm the rest. When you first hook a barbel, he will at once bolt away; let him go, as far off as he likes, and when he is spent, draw him to you, taking care that he does not bolt into the haunt; and get him as soon as you can directly under the point of the rod, and when he has expended his strength in the first mad rush or two, you can easily persuade him to come under the point of the rod. A very steady pressure will accomplish this, and remember, the further you can keep him away from the others "if you know it," the greater is your chance of success. I am very sorry I did not notice the mistake before I sent the MSS., but I hope our friends will forgive me, and I must be careful in the future. I might just mention that when you are barbel fishing from the bank, and you hook the fish, and he bolts towards the middle of the stream, you may know that it is a barbel; but if he bolts towards the bank he is a chub; I have often found it so. An old friend of mine, when barbel-fishing, after the first mad rush or two of the fish, and when he once begins to wind on him, and gets the float above water, hardly ever allows the float to disappear again, but holds him tight, and lets the spring of the rod kill him. I don't recommend this, but still it is done by that old friend of mine, and he is a very good and successful angler. If your barbel is only a small one, it is perhaps as well to hold him tight; but if he feels heavy don't risk losing fish and tackle by not allowing him to have a little of his own way. The mouth of a barbel is situated very much underneath, and he has some very hard leathery jaws, so if you hook him firmly you need not fear the hook cutting through; a moderately sharpish stroke is necessary to fix the hook well, and when he is once well hooked, the hold very seldom gives way.

(To be continued.)

MERCILESS FISHING.

I AM very glad that my article on "Merciless Fishing," which really means "gross-weight competitions," has called forth a reply from Mr. T. Huggett, and if all correspondents were to write in the same gentlemanly and courteous spirit, there would be some pleasure in conducting a discussion on a subject in which there may be a difference of opinion. I can thoroughly agree with him that on the days of competition for one particular kind of fish, there is a large amount of enthusiasm in the club-room in the evening, to witness the return of the competitors and their show of fish. There is a great deal in his friendly remarks, which are in union with my own views, and one especially, in reference to the sizes of fish adopted by some clubs very far in advance of the Thames standard—particularly in that which relates to barbel. Unfortunately, the great number of angling clubs have not the same regard for the sizes of fish as the Piscatorial Society, of which I know he is a worthy and respected member; and, although a barbel of 2 lb. is the recognised weight instead of a fish of 12 inches from the eye to the end of the tail, a tray full of

such fish—say about a dozen—would receive less admirers than one containing half-a-dozen barbel of 4 lb. and 6 lb. each. I do not think the competition nights would be deprived of much interest if the limit was made to the larger fish—competing members would be more desirous of getting the heavier fish than going where they know a quantity of small ones could be obtained. I was very much pleased the other evening at the dinner of the Richmond Piscatorial Society to find that Major Bull, the vice-president of the Society, gave a large tankard as a prize for three of the largest fish, and it was a remarkable circumstance that three of the members made a tie, and the cup was not won, as there were no conditions—as in a pigeon match—to fish it off. Still, there is the principle recognised of the “largest fish” instead of “gross weights;” and that is the feeling I am anxious to enforce. The rule of the Piscatorial Society, as regards jack of not less than 3 lb., is a very good one, and I should like to see it universally adopted. I have been out with angling members of that excellent Society, who have put back all fish under 3 lb., simply on account of that capital rule; but where is there another club that possesses so high a standard? The West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies requires the clubs affiliated to it to recognise a size of 18 inches, the extreme length of the fish—which would be three inches less on the old plan of measurement from the eye to the end of the tail—as the proper standard. Of course there would be no objection raised against any of those clubs if they adopted a larger size, but it may safely be affirmed that not half-a-dozen go beyond the extreme length of 18 inches, which would only be a good-conditioned fish of 1½ lb., and not more than a pound, out of condition. I have weighed several jack of 1 lb. each, which when out of season weighed only ¾ lb. I am confident Mr. Huggett will agree with me that the adoption of such fish in a gross-weight competition would be nothing more or less than an encouragement to merciless slaughter. In the jack competition of the Piscatorial Society, the competitors have to compete on the Thames; and I do not think, as a rule, anywhere, fish caught in private waters are allowed, except in gross weights for the season, or for specimen fish. I have had a deal of correspondence lately in reference to the “gross weight” question, and all agree with me in the movement I hope I have established, to get the practice abolished; at the same time, I shall be glad to hear the opinions of others who may differ from me, if they will only write in the same courteous strain as that which characterises Mr. T. Huggett’s remarks in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE last week. I am satisfied of one thing—that, when the principle is recognised, many of those who are against it now will be found hereafter in the ranks of its most able advocates. The angling clubs, through the central associations have done great things already in making a standard of sizes, instead of what there used to be—a gross weight of fish, irrespective of size or of Thames regulations. Whenever the river-keepers in those days came in contact with bank anglers indiscriminately bagging *all* fish, upon an interrogation, they were simply informed, “Their club allowed fish of all sizes to be weighed in as gross weights.” It is not so now, I am thankful to say, and thanks very much to the Central Association for it. It was undoubtedly a move in the right direction, and has done much good. There remains much more to be done; and, in the advocacy of the abolishment of gross weights, I know I am supported by many of our best anglers. It, perhaps, cannot be done all at once, and I would venture to suggest that some few of the clubs should make an example. Let the prize-givers offer prizes for a certain number of the best fish, as in the case of the Richmond Piscatorial Society; it will do more to enforce the principle than all the writing in the world. I shall now leave the question for a time, as I have done before,

in the hope that the seed which is sown will shortly bring forth some fruit; but I cannot conclude without expressing my deep acknowledgments to Mr. Huggett for the sensible and kind remarks he has made as a reply to my article on “Merciless Fishing.”

B.

THE THAMES POACHERS.

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO OF THE BODY, AND SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN OVERHEARD AT BRENTFORD.

WISEMAN: I thought we should have had a good turn the other night at Twickenham.

THREESTARS: You mean when that blessed Keepers’ Dinner was going on in London.

WISEMAN: Yes, that’s what I mean; and if it had not been for them confounded blocks of ice we should certainly have done something, or tried for it.

THREESTARS: But, old friend, let me tell you one thing: I heard last year that when that last Keepers’ Dinner was on some one belonging to the Angling Clubs in London, and who is on the Thames Angling Committee, was on the watch with a party, and he has a warrant to act as river-keeper. You know we could not agree that night what to do, and we did nothing.

WISEMAN: That’s all very well, but I think we should have tried hard this year. That keeper they call Walters at Twickenham is always on the look out, and he would have had us the other night if his other mates had turned up. He’s one of those men that will not be bought over, for in that last case he was offered five sovereigns to square it.

THREESTARS: He’s the only fellow I’m afraid of, and he’s already spoilt us of many a little game. Do you know where the fellow came from?

WISEMAN: Well, I’ve heard he’s been on the sea, and them sailor chaps are awkward fellows to deal with. Them blocks of ice beat all the keepers and protects the river from us folks better than they can.

THREESTARS: It must have made Walters scratch his head when it didn’t require it, when he saw us that night stripping the river and he couldn’t get at us. He thought of keeping his being, you know where, a secret, but it was blown to us the very next day.

WISEMAN: I’m told them Richmond Piscatorial folks are now working with the Thames Angling Society and they can make the river very troublesome for us. They had a feed last week, and some of the Thames angling people were there and said they were going to get some of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood to act with their river keeper. We shall have to keep our eyes and ears open, as you know the beaks are all dead against us, and that last affair cost about £30, which is a big sum.

THREESTARS: Well, if they stop us netting the Thames we must go to some of them private waters, for fish we must have, and we’ll have them too.

WISEMAN: You know there is a lot of us in it, and we always have a watch boat in front and one behind, and if we smells a rat we can easily hook it. I never knew the river so full of good fish as it is now—look what them angling chaps here done in getting their 40-lb. weight of fish in the day. They may say what they like, but that Thames Angling Society has never worked so hard to stop us fellows from poaching as it has done the last two or three years. That man of their’s at Twickenham has nipped many a proposed visit of ours in the bud, and poaching is a deuced awkward game now, I can tell you.

THREESTARS: Yes, it was all that fellow’s doings in that last Brentford case, though he did not get the best part of the credit for it. What are you going to do when this frost has gone?

WISEMAN: We shall have another try, although I hear Walters is determined to pull me if he can; but he's got to catch his hare first before he can cook it.

THREESTARS: All right, old fellow; so here's luck, and good night. B.

THAMES STEAM NAVIGATION REGULATION BILL.

The following extracts from the above Bill will be of interest to our readers:—

A BILL FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF STEAM NAVIGATION ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE RIVER THAMES.

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

2. The following terms shall in this Act have the meanings hereinafter assigned to them; that is to say,

"Steam vessel" shall mean any vessel propelled or constructed to be propelled wholly or partly by steam:

"Conservators" shall mean the Conservators of the River Thames for the time being appointed in pursuance of any Act or Acts of Parliament in that behalf.

"River" shall mean that portion of the River Thames which is within the jurisdiction for the time being of the Conservators between Putney Bridge in the county of Surrey and Cricklade in the county of Wilts.

"Night" shall mean the period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

8. Every steam vessel registered under this Act shall have the registered name, letter and number of such steam vessel conspicuously, and to the satisfaction of the Conservators, painted in letters and figures, not less than twelve inches long, upon each side of the bow and also upon the stern, at a height of at least six inches above the water line, and also upon the front of the funnel at the highest point thereof above the hull. Such letters and figures shall be painted white on a black ground or black upon a white ground.

9. Every steam vessel registered under this Act shall, when under way at night, carry the following four lights, viz.: as a head light on or before the foremast, or, if there be no foremast, on a staff at the bow, and also as a tail light on a staff at the stern, at a height in each case above the hull of not less than six feet, a bright white light behind an opal or frosted glass shade or slide, upon which the registered letter or number of such steam vessel shall be legibly and conspicuously painted in black, such letter and figures to be not less than twelve inches long; on the starboard side a green light, and on the port side a red light.

10. No person shall at any time cause or wilfully suffer to be concealed the registered name, letter, or number of any steam vessel, or cause or wilfully suffer to be obstructed any of the said lights.

11. No person using or assisting in using a steam vessel for the purpose of navigating the river shall cause or permit the speed of such steam vessel to exceed the regulated maximum speed of six miles an hour or to exceed one half the above maximum speed at night or in a fog; and every such person shall ease, stop, or reverse the engines of such steam vessel when rounding any point of land and also when approaching or passing any boat or other vessel propelled otherwise than by steam, and navigating or lying in the river, in such manner that neither the speed of such steam vessel nor the wash thereof shall endanger the safety of such boat or other vessel as aforesaid or any person therein, or cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person therein, or undermine, carry

away, or otherwise injure any portion of the soil forming either bank of the river, or injure any of the property or works of the Conservators.

14. Notwithstanding anything herein contained, it shall be lawful for the Conservators, by special licence under their common seal, on the subject to such terms as they may think fit, to authorise any person or persons to navigate any registered or unregistered steam vessel on such part of the river, for such period of time, and at such speed, exceeding or not exceeding the maximum speed herein before authorised, as shall be mentioned in such special licence: Provided that every steam vessel navigating the river by virtue of any special licence shall carry and display a red flag with the word "special" on each side thereof in white letters.

15. Every person committing any breach of or in any way infringing any of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence against this Act, and shall be liable to be summoned before a magistrate; and shall, upon being convicted of such offence, be liable, subject and without prejudice to section five of this Act, to a penalty and forfeit a sum not exceeding ten pounds; or, as an alternative penalty, to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding six calendar months, and with or without in each alternative the additional penalty of the forfeiture of his licence (if any), and costs.

16. If upon an information laid before a magistrate, it shall appear that an offence has been committed against this Act by any person or persons using or assisting in using any steam vessel for the purpose of navigating the river or being on board any steam vessel, but that such person or persons, or any of them, cannot be discovered or apprehended, the registered owner of such steam vessel shall be liable to be summoned as in this Act provided, and shall, upon proof of the offence having been committed, be liable to the penalty or penalties herein before provided, in addition to any other penalty to which such person or person may be liable by virtue of any law or statute in that behalf, without prejudice to the liability for the said offence of such person or persons as aforesaid, if he or they shall afterwards be discovered and apprehended: Provided that in the event of such person or persons as aforesaid, or any of them, being afterwards convicted of such offence, the magistrate before whom he or they appear may, if he think fit, then or at a subsequent time remit or cause to be remitted, on such terms as he may think fit, any penalty which may have been imposed upon the registered owner under this section, if, in the opinion of such magistrate, such registered owner was not to blame directly or indirectly for the said offence, and had not done or permitted anything whereby information had been withheld as to the person or persons actually guilty of such offence, or whereby the course of justice had been in any way impeded.

FUNGUS IN SALMON.

SOME salmon, recently found dead in the river Lee, Co. Cork, were found to have been attacked with a fungoid disease. To what extent the disease prevails is not yet known, but three or four fish have, up to the present, been picked up; and on these the dark spots which mark the infected parts were plainly visible. One of the salmon was seen struggling on the top of the water, as it was borne down by the current; and, when taken out dead, was found to have this fungus growth on its body. The spots are in appearance resembling a mole, and about the size of a florin. The surface is of a greenish hue, and comes off like a piece of flock. Beneath is a cancerous sore, which eats into the backbone and destroys life. A few years ago the disease appeared among the salmon in the Lee, but at that time it developed itself

late in the season, when angling was practically over. Its presence at this early period, and before the fishing has opened, may be productive of serious injury to the angling prospects of the new year.

ANGLER.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS AT DINNER.

THE termination of the calendar year in some of the angling societies in London is made the end of a season as regards the weighing-in of fish and in fishing competitions. But if it finished on the 31st of December, it is only to make a commencement on the day following for another similar period of time. The last day of the year is the day of reckoning, and in the long list of prizes the success or failure of competitors is made out. The accounts of another year are made to close, and all begin afresh on the first opening day of a new year. It is so with the Friendly Anglers, who hold their meetings at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park; and a famous and spacious club room they possess, with a liberal and genial proprietor who, without let or hindrance, allows them to assemble in his capital hostelry. It is no wonder the "Friendly Anglers," imbued with the right spirit, finding their club room required a fresh doing up, they decided at their own cost to redecorate it, and put it in decent order. This has recently been done. The walls have been covered with a rich crimson paper, the ceiling fresh whitened, and the cornices elaborately embellished. The magnificent collection of preserved specimens of fish, embracing, amongst others, a handsome Thames trout of 10½ lb., some large pike, a remarkably fine perch of 3½ lb., and other good members of the finny tribe, form the adornments of the walls, surmounted with deers' heads and antlers; and with pictures and paintings, together with a ludicrous model of an angler fishing in a water-tub, gives to the splendid room a charming and effective appearance. It was in this room the members and a few invited visitors assembled on the evening of Wednesday, January 25th, for the purpose of sitting down to the annual dinner—covers were laid for fifty, and exactly fifty sat down—and it is remarkable the number exactly corresponds with the limit of members to be enrolled on the books of the society. The hour of six o'clock was the time appointed to serve up the dinner, allowing half-an-hour's grace to "the worthy host," who, true to the time so fixed, was ready in the room waiting the signal of the occupation of the chair to commence operations. The menu was of a substantial character—in a word, of a good English dinner of fish, joints and poultry, with sweets and cheese. Mr. King, the respected proprietor, appears to be a fine example of a genial and worthy host; and if his attention and devotion to the comforts of the guests assembled on this occasion can be received as an evidence of his qualifications, he is richly endowed with the necessary gifts, and, with the assistance of his son combined, left nothing wanting to give perfection to the whole. All being seated, Mr. Mitchell, a thoroughly practical and hard-working angler, judging from his position on the prize list, occupied the post of chairman, with Mr. Bloxham in the vice-chair. Amongst those present were Messrs. Nobbs, Hoblyn, T. Cliff, W. Pain (treasurer), C. M. Le Good (hon. sec.), W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, Woodhall, T. R. Sachs, Henderson, Brown, Emanuel, Barwell, Beale, Freeman, Hodgkinson, Berry, Newson, &c. Of the dinner itself too much praise cannot be given, as there was plenty of everything, and everything was exquisitely cooked. It needed not the eye of an epicure to discover the fact that in the oyster sauce which accompanied some first-rate codfish that they were "real natives," and not the tinned substitution. Plenty of time was taken to discuss the good things, and the discussion was perfect and satisfactory. At half-past eight the cloth was quickly removed from each table, and it is understood as the signal to commence smoking—favourite pipes were soon displayed, and the room was quickly filled with what to the smoker is a rich fragrance of clouds of tobacco and cigars, but to the non-smoker, whose numbers are few and far between, the dreaded part of the programme of dinner proceedings. All being charged, and the glasses too, Mr. Mitchell, adopting "brevity as the soul of wit"—and he is not far wrong—simply gives "The Queen, and the rest of the Royal Family." He reserves himself for the higher and more important one—the toast of the evening—"Success to the Friendly Anglers"—which he gives in a thoroughly practical style. He assures those present that the club is growing older, that it is still in good prosperity, and that the members most nobly carry out the designation of the Society—they are in every respect "friendly anglers." Referring to the prize list of last year he remarked that the offer of prizes is one of the largest they have had for some time, but the shows of fish on the meeting nights have been lamentably deficient. He attributes this falling off to the bad sport of the Thames. Those members who have usually brought in such good takes of Thames fish having done very little—both as regards size and quantity. The barbel have been very small, and there has not been a jack heavier than 5 lb. Mr. Mitchell then refers to a movement amongst some of the members to do away with gross-weight competitions and gross-weight prizes; but in this the majority have decided against them, and he, for one, was much in favour of gross weights as giving a great interest to the weekly meetings. After some further business-like observations, he concludes by asking those present to respond to the toast in a hearty manner, his request being complied with amidst great enthusiasm. Mr. C. M. Le Good, the excellent and devoted honorary secretary, takes the opportunity of informing those present that the society has recently increased the standard weights of fish, and that the entrance fee, which has been five shillings, is increased to one guinea.—The Chairman then proceeded to distribute the prizes, and according to

the rules no member can take more than three prizes. Mr. Emanuel, who is an excellent trout-fisher, and who, with Mr. F. Hoblyn, has during the season made some magnificent shows of the spotted beauties, takes no less a sum than £16 18s. Mr. Mitchell, the chairman, comes next with an amount of £9 19s. 6d., he having secured the gross-weight prize of the season. Mr. Howard is credited £8 18s. 6d., and Mr. Hughes with £7 17s. 6d. Then comes Mr. Garrett and Mr. Hunt with four guineas each. Mr. Newson, Mr. C. Calcott and Mr. Hawkins £3 13s. 6d. each; the latter member having won a rod of the value of £2 5s. Mr. F. Hoblyn, Mr. Brown, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Berry three guineas each; Mr. Craggs, two guineas; Mr. Batson, £1 11s. 6d.; and Mr. T. Cliff, Mr. Grant and Mr. Freeman, one guinea each. The amount of prizes offered for competition last year was £118 14s. 6d., of which £98 19s. had been won. The distribution of the prizes created great enthusiasm, and each recipient was warmly applauded. The remainder of the evening was occupied in the usual routine of toasts, responses, and some excellent singing amongst the members. The dinner commencing at a tolerably early hour, there was no necessity to get an extension of time, and at 12 o'clock all that remained were ready to depart in peace to their respective homes. The entire proceedings were regarded to be of a specially interesting character, affording ample proof that amongst the roll of London Angling Clubs none were in a more healthy position or with a better class of true Waltonians than the "Friendly Anglers," and long may they go on prospering and to prosper and yearly increase in wealth and usefulness. There is no fear of this with so active and intelligent a secretary as Mr. C. M. Le Good, and so capital and zealous a treasurer as Mr. W. Pain.

A FIRST EXPERIMENT FISHING FOR BLACK BASS AND PIKE WITH A FLY.

FREMONT, NEB.

I AM glad to see that Dr. Henshall is to continue his *Western Angler* series, as it was reading them which led me to try fly-fishing for black bass. I did not place much faith in fly-fishing, never having seen the fly cast aright; but I fitted out and started for the lakes with a friend whom I could not trust, for I had my doubts about our bass being fooled with a wad of feathers, and before starting I was careful to stow away in my hunting coat pocket my favourite "fluted Skinner," and the usual "bed cord" line which never failed to bring in everything it hooked on to.

We arrived at the lake in due time, and found a gentle breeze, just enough to ruffle the water, yet I had no faith, so after persuading Smithy that I had seen a flock of prairie chickens light in a draw near the head of the lake, he started with dog and gun, and I drew out rod, reel, and line, and fastened to my six-foot leader, a mongrel, made from wood drake feathers and yellow floss, which looked about as much like the usual food of bass as a bull pup. I could see the bass "breaking water" every few minutes, and felt relieved when I thought of my "fluted spoon." I reeled off about eighteen or twenty feet of line, and having "read up" on casting, braced myself in the most approved style, and made the prescribed circle with the rod, and the line also circled around my legs. I verily believe the fly struck a dozen rushes before I could get the line straight, and the hook caught every time.

As it was getting tiresome I stepped into a boat that was lying near and shoved clear of reeds and brush and tried it again; this time with better success, and managed to lay the line out straight, and only about half of it struck the water before the fly, but I was dumfounded to see a rush and break, and away went fly, fish, and the line, whizzing. Such music as that reel made I have never heard before. Fortunately, the fish was so ravenous he had hooked himself, as I never thought to strike, and before I could recover he had about twenty yards of line, and was doing his level best on the last five. I tell you, then, I thumbed that line for dear life, raised my rod, and succeeded in checking him with about six turns of the line on the reel; then he broke and took a survey of the situation, and after three or four minutes running, gave up. He was a fine one, weighing two and a half pounds; but that was only the beginning.

I subsequently took seventeen bass and two pike, one six and the other four and three-quarter pounds; and you may be sure I have never used a spoon since, and it would be just about as interesting with a net as a spoon to me now.—In *Chicago Field*.

W. T. J.

A DOG'S PRESENCE OF MIND.—A story illustrating a dog's presence of mind comes from New Brunswick, N.J. One morning recently, a little brown and white dog, owned by one of the workmen on the Pennsylvania railroad, was playing about the depot. During his gambols he got between the tracks just as the two lightning through trains were approaching, which pass each other directly in front of the depot. The dog apparently saw his danger, for he quickly looked in either direction, and calculated that if he should attempt to cross the track on either side he would certainly be crushed to death. Then he did the only thing which could have saved him—he stretched himself out upon all fours, placed his nose between his paws, and remained in that position until the trains had passed.—*American Paper*.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

MERCILESS FISHING.

SIR,—Every one interested in the preservation of our rapidly decreasing fresh-water fish is deeply indebted to your able correspondent "B," and Mr. Huggett for bringing the question of "Merciless Fishing" before the public through the medium of your valuable journal.

There can be, I fear, but one opinion amongst Thames anglers generally, that, prolific as the river has always shown itself, there is still a limit to its productiveness, and that, in spite of the indefatigable exertions of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, a good day's sport on our grand old river is now rarely to be met with, even under the most favourable state of the water or the most persistent and judicious baiting.

We have not far to look for the causes: for what with steam-launches; those pests, the swans; and the ever rapidly-increasing number of anglers and angling societies; the river, as well as the fisherman, is "very heavily handicapped."

That competitions are enjoyable most of us will admit, considerable excitement being frequently afforded on the arrival of the several competitors with their small or large takes; yet I venture to assert we should find it equally exciting if the prizes were awarded to members showing either the largest fish or the greatest number over a given weight, which might easily be determined by the committee; and I feel sure the majority of us would rather see a pound perch on our club-room table than a dozen of half the size, or a 2 lb. chub than a corresponding number of pounders. We should also have the additional pleasure of knowing that, at least, those spared would live to propagate the species and afford sport on a future day.

I would also suggest that gentlemen making a big bag of fish, and only caring to retain one or more of the largest, should take care that all they do not want be returned to the river in their presence, and not left to die in the punt's well, or share some equally ignominious fate.

For my part (having fished the Thames for the last 15 years), I confess I always feel more than satisfied if I am so fortunate as to take one or two good-sized fish in a long day's outing, fresh air and exercise fully compensating, in my humble opinion, for any deficiency in the bag.—I am, &c.,

W. H. HARE WINTON.

Wood Street House, Wood Street, near Guildford, Jan. 25, 1881.

MERCILESS FISHING.

SIR,—Referring to the two letters which have appeared in your valuable journal upon the above subject, I cannot think that your correspondent "B" has made angling clubs his special study; my idea is, whether a man goes out with rod or gun his aim is (or should be) to obtain all he can in a fair and sportsmanlike manner. If this is strictly adhered to, and the fish taken are sizeable, I can assure "B" that he has no cause to fear that the river will become denuded of fish.

Members of angling clubs generally despise keeping an undersized fish (except for the purpose of bait). "B" makes barbel a specialité; in the club to which I have the honour to belong, the minimum measurement allowed is 15 inches extreme length, but for specimen fish a much larger one must be attained. I quite agree with Mr. Huggett that the limit for pike and barbel might be increased, but I venture to say that I do not think it would be advantageous to do so in the case of many other fish, as the result would very often be an empty bag and disappointment for the angler.

Referring to prizes for gross weight: it is this which stimulates the angler to extra exertion, so as to obtain a prize, thus keeping up the interest already evinced among the members of the various London and provincial clubs. If this prize is taken from the annual list, I feel sure it would strike a severe blow at the very foundation of angling societies. If the authorities could turn their attention to the banks in the summer part of the season they would find a great number of juvenile anglers who take scores of undersized fish from the Thames in one day. I myself have seen many taken off the distillery at Hammersmith and also at other places. Respecting "B's" idea of ground baiting, I beg to quote our rule relating to it:—"In society matches, if a member be known to ground bait (or cause to be ground baited) any swim or swims before the day named for the competition (unless the conditions of the match allow him to do so), he will be disqualified from all participation in the match."—am, &c.,

VORTEX.

CURATORSHIP OF THE BUCKLAND MUSEUM.

SIR,—I have read Mr. Capel's and Mr. Gosden's letters and fully endorse what they write about the fitness of Mr. Edon as curator of that museum. I have always found him most attentive and obliging and second to none in the science of fish hatching and knowledge of each of the contents of the museum, which are arranged and kept in admirable order. He will give any explanation to questioners, and his ardour is so great that it amounts to what Lord Beaconsfield calls verbosity. He was a great favourite of our late friend Mr. Frank Buckland, he has journeyed with him in the coldest weather to the salmon rivers and waded with him to catch the salmon for procuring their eggs. He is deservedly esteemed by the authorities of the Kensington Museum, and the most unlikely thing to occur would be their parting with him for any one else. The person Mr. Capel alludes to, did bring a memorial of his own concoction to the Piscatorial Society and showed it to me and others. The following week he brought it up to the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and in answer to questions, he distinctly stated that he had not the slightest desire of interfering with Mr. Edon as curator of the museum.

As an important name was appended to the memorial, several of the Committee, including myself, signed their names underneath, but from what I have since been told I withdraw my name from that memorial.—I am, &c.,

T. R. SACHS.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—I regret to find that I must once more trouble you on this "personal matter." The first misquotation to which I referred was not so much using the word parr, where I distinctly said trout, as changing the expression "whole-coloured," to "almost white-coloured,"—a very different thing. To quote "Raven's" own words, there is "at least gross carelessness" here; and note the coolness of "Raven's" attempt to interpret this in a manner to suit his own purposes. As to the other matter referred to, the "Raven" attempts a quibble, trying to confuse the matter under discussion by referring to a confession of mistake I once made, which has not the least connection with the matter re-

ferred to. I acknowledged when I was in error, and am sorry to see that "Raven" has not the moral courage to do the same.

Besides this, the "Raven" accuses me of "purposely using the terms parr and samlet of the same fish," so as not to enable an opponent to know of what he (the opponent?) was writing. The only true part of this sentence is that where my opponent confesses to not knowing of what he was writing: so far from the assertion that I "used the terms samlet and parr of the same fish," being true, the opposite is the fact. I have looked over my letters and only find the word samlet four times; of these, three are quotations from "Raven's" own words, so if there be any ambiguity he has himself to thank. The only other case is in my letter of December 4th, where I say "Raven's letters on the samlet and parr," and in this case there is no ambiguity. Had I committed this dreadful crime I should have had Couch and Yarrell (first edition) as companions under the "Raven's" ban.—I am, &c.,

T. SPENCE.

GERMAN TWINE.

SIR,—Can you, or any of your readers, tell me where I can purchase the German twine? It comes over in 100 yards, different sizes, and is wound on cardboard.—Yours, &c.,

A SUBSCRIBER.

48, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale, London, W., Jan. 25.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The general visit. Mr. Medcalf in the chair, faced by Mr. Say in the vice. Mr. Coppock, pianist, from the Clifden Club. Mr. Medcalf opened the evening's harmony by singing "Neapolitaine;" Mr. Say, "The Old Bedstead;" Mr. Wilts, "Out in the Green Fields;" Mr. Hunt, "Louis Renouf;" Mr. J. Killing, "Dear Friends of Old;" Mr. Mitchell, "Never Prove False to Your Friend;" Mr. H. Pinkington, "Tom Bowling;" Mr. High, "Silver Moonlight;" Mr. Cole, "The Maid and the Magpie;" Mr. Phillips, "Black-wall Dock;" Mr. Longdon, "The Anchor Weighed;" Mr. Fowler, Irish song; Mr. Hadkiss, "Paris Exhibition;" Mr. Lack, "The Flying Dutchman" and "The Vagabond." Mr. Bonvoisin addressed the meeting in a very feeling manner with respect to the death of Mr. Foster, Secretary of the Knights of Knightsbridge, whose death occurred while undergoing a very dangerous operation. Mr. Ghurney also addressed the meeting on visit and club matters generally. On the roll call being made 27 clubs responded:—The Alliance, Hoxton Brothers, Great Northern, North Western, City of London, Odds and Evens, Metropolitan, Sir Hugh Myddleton, Convivial, North Eastern, Isaac Walton, Knights of Knightsbridge, Good Intent, Alexandra, Norton Folgate, Hammersmith United, Hearts of Oak, Eustonians, Canonbury, Dalston, Bermondsey, Little Independent, Never Frets, Burdett, Golden Tench, Bridgewater Brothers. The hosts of the following clubs were present:—Hoxton Brothers, Bridgewater, Alexandra, Good Intent, Canonbury, and Bermondsey Brothers. The next visit will go to the Alliance. Mr. Haggatt sang after the roll call, "The Wolf," and "The Lads of the Village;" Mr. Coventry, of the Clifden Club, "The Redskin Hunter;" Mr. Lee, from the same club, gave the "Charge of the Light Brigade;" Mr. Pinkington, "Empress of the Wave;" Mr. Feetchum concluded the entertainment by the "Song of Songs," after which the National Anthem by the company.

J. WORLEDGE.

SONS OF THAMES.

Will the secretary of the above Society be good enough to inform me as to where I shall forward their copy of the FISHING GAZETTE. Paper forwarded last week, returned, marked "gone away, no address." PIXIE.

Jan. 26, 1881.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

In consequence of the weather which has prevailed during the last fourteen days, none of the members of the above ventured out, therefore the prizes given for last Sunday's competition, will be added to those given by Mrs. Coleman and the Society, viz., £1 is. and a box of cigars, to be competed for, on Feb. 14, weather permitting. Competitions to follow will take place on the 5th and 10th of March. The first will be for £2 2s., given by Mr. Brown, jun.; £1 is. by Mr. Piolaine, and £1 is. by Mr. Warren. The second for £3 3s., given by Mr. J. Collins; £1 is. by Mr. C. Bansback, and £1 is. by Mr. Parks. Now, "brother Bobs," mend your tackle, so that you do not have to complain of having lost a "big'un" through weak tackle. PIXIE.

Jan. 26, 1881.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

A special meeting will be held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, W., on Friday the 4th February, to discuss a new scheme for visiting list, and election of three officers for the same; important discussion in reference to Grand Junction Canal; and distribution of the balance sheet. The best means of rendering assistance to poor George Foster's widow will also be brought forward for discussion. The names of societies represented will be inserted in the reporter's letter to the FISHING GAZETTE. It is important that each society should elect delegates who can and will attend; much valuable information is lost to members because their society is not represented.

Jan. 25.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—To be LET or SOLD, together or separately, a well-built detached HOUSE, containing Dining and Drawing-rooms, Study, six Bed-rooms, Butler's Pantry, Kitchen, &c., Coach-house, two-stalled Stable, and commodious outbuildings, large Garden in excellent condition, and orchard planted with choice table and cider fruit. The lawn skirts the Arrow, a noted trout and grayling river for 80 or 100 yards. Shooting also may be had. Soil gravelly. Five minutes' walk from church. Five miles from the Borough town of Leominster. Two from either Pembroke or Kingsland Railway Station. Also two COTTAGES with gardens, and additional stabling and barn. The premises occupy altogether about two acres. Seven acres additional land may be had if required. Apply to Mr. LLANWARNE, Solicitor, Hereford; or Mr. ELLIOTT, Grecian Chambers, Devereux Court, Temple London.

N O T I C E.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. B. R. Bambridge, 74 and 75, High Street, Eton, Bucks.
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 Mr. Wm. Reid, Northgate, Darlington.
 Mr. R. Pearsall, 11, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham.
 Mr. G. T. Gibbons, 10, Bridge Street, Salisbury.
 Mr. Thos. Heppleston, Manchester.
 Mr. J. Perry, Minster Parade, Reading.
 Mr. S. Dale, 7, St. John Street, Nottingham.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1881.

TROUT FISHING TWO HOURS FROM LONDON.

IN common with a vast majority of my brothers of the angle, I had hoped for a dry and open winter, with plenty of fishing; but, alas! for the frailty of human wishes, such was not to be the case; and we who love our sport so much are constrained to remain

at home with our fishing books and our almanacks, thinking of the coming season and of the many days we hope to spend in fly-fishing, trolling and bottom-fishing, and in reflecting upon the best places where such can be obtained, at some reasonable distance from home.

The 15th of March will soon be here, when we all so well know the Thames fishing will be closed. I will therefore endeavour to point out especially to those of your readers residing in or near London, and who are fond of trout-fishing, some splendid water, where, with hairy line and fly falling like gossamer, some good and well-fed trout may be obtained, running in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 3 lb., or perhaps more. I would mention that it is not advisable for the tyro to try the quarters here recommended, or in all probability he will return to his home a vexed and disappointed man. I will therefore at once say that the water to which I refer is at and near the cathedral town of Winchester, only a two hours' run from London; and the fishing belongs to that worthy disciple of Walton, John Hammond, whose residence is well known to the Jehus who attend the railway station with carriages to meet the trains, and who will at once drive the angler to John's house, if so requested. Parenthetically let me tell you that Hammond sells rods and fishing tackle of every description; he maintains his single-handed rods are something wonderful for power, considering how light they are. He once told me he could accommodate me with bed and board; but I mention this in confidence, not knowing if it is his rule or his exception. His house is close by the water side, in fact a stream passes his garden gate, and the enthusiast might, if so inclined, fish from the bedroom window of his house. There is no lack of hotel accommodation at Winchester, either at the Royal Hotel, the George, or the Swan, all of them being about half a mile from the commencement of the fishing. I can speak with confidence of the Royal as being most comfortable, Mrs. Spriggs, the hostess, and Saunders, the head waiter, attending the angler's every wish. It is necessary to take fishing stockings and brogues, or wading trousers and brogues would be preferable, as the meadows are, in many places, soft, especially where the best fishing is. I would advise any who might go to apply to Hammond for the flies they may require; he keeps a good stock—they are of first-rate quality, at very moderate prices. There is plenty of water for a week's stay, or even longer, fishing fresh water each day. In my opinion the best water is the old Barge River, in the College meadows, close to John's house. The fish are there in great abundance; very very, knowing ones they are, too. Some of the College boys practise on this water, and try and try again until they become thoroughly skilled, not only in throwing a long and light line, but in fishing with a *dry fly*—a perfectly upstanding, floating dry fly, looking as much like nature as possible. Only one fly is used here, and for the following reasons.

It must be dry, and floating as above mentioned; and should the angler be fortunate enough to get his hook into one of the larger gentlemen (trout), if he had more than one fly he would get it foul of the weeds, of which there are plenty on the bed of the river; and he would then, in all probability, lose his quarry. It is also absolutely imperative the angler should keep well away from the waterside, for the trout are well-educated, and if they see him whipping and whipping away they absolutely refuse the daintiest and driest fly possible; *ergo*, not only keep away from the bank, but fish up-stream. I have seen this part of the water literally boiling with fish when the natural fly is up, and the visitor will in all probability often be almost alarmed by the desperate splashing made by some of the lusty ones, who nearly all day long, are, here and there, springing and leaping out of the water. The angler can well and profitably devote two days to the College Meadows. The third day he can devote to the water at St. Cross, the bank

nearest the church being the only one belonging to Hammond. After the St. Cross there is a break, and the angler will not be able to commence operations again until he has followed the main road at Twyford for about half a mile. Near the turnpike gate, after having crossed the second bridge, here Hammond's Water again commences, and the fishing continues on the left bank of the Barge River right away to Shawford Bridge, crossing which he can fish from the right bank down the river for another mile at the least. I may here mention, however, that it is not usual to fish down-stream, and the majority of the local men fish up. To do so, a good plan would be to take a fly over to Shawford, between three and four miles, and work from thence, going either down to the bottom of the water and fishing up to Shawford for the fourth day's fishing, returning to Shawford Bridge in the evening, where he can order a fly to fetch him, or walk by the river-side to Winchester. Mrs. Baylis, at the Inn, Shawford, is always both anxious and willing to do all she can to make the angler's visit to this water thoroughly agreeable. She will also provide lunch if ordered, and her charges are moderate. On the fifth and sixth days, Shawford may again be fixed upon as the angler's starting point, there being abundance of water; fishing up for two days, or, for the matter of that, a week's fishing between here and the turnpike-gate before referred to. I have seen some very fine fish in the first lock below Baylis' house, as well as in the first lock on the way back to Winchester, both of which I recommend to be well tried before leaving. I do not consider the water below Shawford so good as that above as some time ago (three or four years, I think) this portion of the river was run dry to allow of repairs to some of the locks. I would in all these matters, however, recommend the visitor to consult with Sergeant Moore (Mr. Hammond's head keeper), who is most attentive, and always ready and willing to give sound practical advice, especially respecting this portion of the river; perhaps he knows it even better than his master. He will show and point out the homes of some good fish—"Some good big shouldered fellows and plenty of them too"; I quote the sergeant's own words here. Should he attend on you, the angler must, on no account, forget his flask filled with potheen for this son of Ould Oireland; it is a good investment. He will tell some good tales, and in all probability put you in the way to find a good fish or two for your basket.

Hammond sells daily and weekly tickets. I forget his charge, but I did not consider it excessive, considering you have miles of really good trout-fishing water. Only one word more and I have done. It is universally admitted that the fly-fisher who can take fish at Winchester can kill trout anywhere, therefore this communication is more especially intended for those who have a fair knowledge of fly-fishing, and I should regret it being the means of misleading an inexperienced amateur, who, in all probability, would catch nothing more than a cold. Trout there are galore. The skill to catch them is all that is required.

THOS. HUGGETT.

NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, NORWICH.

DURING the past few weeks, the applications for space from intended exhibitors have been so numerous that the Committee have been compelled to remove the *locus in quo* from St. Andrew's Hall to the Drill Hall—a large and commodious structure; and the City of Norwich Corporation have granted to the Committee leave to erect a large temporary building as an annexe to the above in Chapel Fields Gardens.

We have no doubt this popularity is mainly attributable to the fact of the Government having promised to award the gold, silver, and bronze medals and diplomas of honour to successful exhibi-

tors, and also to the highly attractive character of the general classification and the valuable money prizes offered in the "Special" list.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 53.)

IT may be well to premise before we enter into the detail of the tackle generally employed in ocean fishing, that it may be classed under the spiller or ledger line, which is moored or fixed to a certain spot, and hand-lines which are used without a rod, either from a boat or cast from the shore. The spiller, likewise called bulter, and of which we give an illustration, is a stout line or cord, usually from 50 to several hundred fathoms in length, with hooks, attached to sneads from a foot to a yard in length. These hooks are placed at intervals, from one to two yards asunder; consequently, many of these lines have two or three hundred, and not unfrequently double or treble that number of hooks attached to them. The spiller, as we have termed it, is differently designated on many parts of our coast. In the neighbourhood of Southampton and the Isle of Wight, it is called a trot; on the coast of Cornwall, a bolter—though the fishermen in the latter place frequently apply that term to such lines only as are used for the larger sorts of fish—as turbot, cod, and ling—and the term spiller to those adapted for smaller fish. And probably lines of this sort are distinguished by many other names on parts of the coast with which we are unacquainted.

These lines, when baited, are sunk, by means of heavy weights, to the bottom, when, after a respite of some hours, they are either hauled on board or under-run, in order to secure the fish that may have been entrapped in the meantime, and for the purpose of being fresh baited. By this mode of fishing, some of the best fish that approach our shores may be taken—as turbot, brill, halibut, and, in fact, every description of flat-fish; as also cod, ling, haddock, hake, bass, conger, whiting, bits, breem, and the whole genus of gurnards, to which we may add John Dorey and surmulet, to say nothing of rays, wraps, monks, and the whole of the shark tribe—a family to whom we must candidly confess we are by no means wellwishers, and would gladly see extinct. Amongst so many fish, both great and small, it necessarily follows that the hooks, tackle, and baits must be proportioned to the size and habits of the fish they are intended to ensnare. But as it would far exceed the limits of this present number to point out the different sized hooks and baits adapted to each particular species, we must, for the present, confine ourselves to the mode of fitting out and laying down a spiller in the way most likely to ensure success. This may be done either in deep or shallow water, but it seems better adapted to a clean bottom than to a foul ground, as the fish most likely to be caught by tackle of this description are not so usually found amongst rocks and weeds, in addition to which the tackle would be greatly endangered in such places. The plan we have adopted in fastening the hooks and sneads to the line is, to have a loop whipped to one end of the sneads and the hooks whipped to the other, which is fixed to the line in the same manner as a bob-fly to a gut bottom in fly-fishing, and which may be put on or removed when requisite, without difficulty. All the fishermen, however, that we have met with, fasten their hooks to the sneads by two half-hitches, which, in addition to its clumsy appearance, renders it quite out of the question, in many instances, to bait the hooks in a proper manner, as, in order to effect this, it is often requisite to run the bait some distance up the sneads, which the two clumsy half-hitches effectually prevent. Most fishermen also prefer having only two strands to the sneads, as, when twisted and kinked by the fish, as they frequently are, it is easier to set them to rights again. We, however, have always used three strands, which not only look

much neater, but are, in fact, much stronger in proportion to their apparent stoutness, as two strands look just as large as three, and are therefore just as likely to scare the fish, who are much more wary of coarse tackle than even fishermen themselves are inclined to give them the credit of. And even with three strands, the kinks may generally be got out when the line is quite dry, and if not, it is only to put on a fresh hook. In many of our rivers and creeks, the small crabs prove a great annoyance in clearing the baits from the hooks as fast as they are laid down, so that catching fish under such circumstances is scarcely possible. The best remedy we know of is to have the sneads double the usual length, and pieces of cork, just big enough to keep the baits from the bottom, fixed about two-thirds of the length of the snead from the line. We must, however, admit that a line fitted out in this manner looks very like a trap, and consequently not very attractive to shy fish; yet in many places it would be utterly useless to lay down lines in the usual manner, as every bait would be eaten off clean in less than five minutes, or else so mauled and mangled that no fish would touch it. Now, supposing your spiller properly fitted out, and yourself being well provided with bait, and full of malice preposse towards the finny-tribe, it must very naturally occur how this line is to be baited and laid down. And there's the rub: for if this is not skilfully done, a tangled line, mangled baits, pricked fingers, and perhaps some expressions—

“ Which grave folks say—
Scare fish away ; ”

will be the consequence—but no fish. Yet, with a small portion of patience and practice, this difficulty may be surmounted. In order to accomplish this, the hooks, when they are attached to the line, should be run on a cleft, which is merely a groove cut in a flat piece of wood about a foot long and two inches deep. The groove must be just wide enough to admit the hooks, which, as they run on, must be placed side by side with the sneads and lead hanging down. In order to be baited, the hooks must be run off the cleft one by one and baited in a wicker basket, such as washer-women use to carry clothes in. To manage this properly, the end of the line next the first hook must be tied slightly to the right-hand handle of the basket, one or two hooks may then be run off the cleft, and the first hook, after being baited, must be placed at the other extremity of the basket, and close to the edge, after which the line must be coiled neatly till you come to the next hook, which having baited, place close to the side of the other, then run off two or three more hooks, and bait and place them in the same manner, taking care to keep the coil clear of the hooks till all the hooks are baited, which being done, fasten the other end of the line to the remaining handle of the basket. At first, the assistance of another person to run the hooks off the cleft is a great advantage, but after a few attempts it may be easily managed alone. If the line is baited on shore—which we would always recommend persons not much accustomed to the sea, to do—care must be taken in carrying the basket on board, where it should be stowed away snug, so that there may be no danger of its being upset or disturbed, which would most probably so entangle your hooks and line as to cause you to lose your labour. The next thing to attend to is to see that you are properly provided with buoys and sinkers. The sinkers should be stones or pieces of iron, sufficiently heavy to keep the line safely moored on the bottom, and without danger of being moved by the current. Two of these sinkers should have buoys attached to them, with a sufficient length of rope to watch at high water. In addition to these, you must have ready two or three other sinkers with straps, either attached to them or the line, so as to be ready when required; and being thus prepared, you may venture forth—that is, wind and weather permitting—to lay down your lines. On approaching the intended ground, get ready your sinkers, and see that your buoy-

ropes are clear, then throw your first buoy overboard, and fasten your line to the sinker, and take care to fix it firmly. Having done this, take your landmarks from the shore, which may enable you to find the same spot again, which might otherwise be attended with some difficulty, as it is not easy to see a small buoy at a considerable distance from a boat, particularly if there is any ripple on the water. Having fixed on proper landmarks, lower the sinker gradually to the bottom by the line, clearing the hooks from the basket as the line goes overboard; when the sinker reaches the bottom, which is easily felt by the line becoming tight, the boat should be gently rowed or sculled along, and the line and hooks, one by one, sent overboard as it proceeds. After 30 or 40 hooks have been shot, it will be proper to attach another sinker to the line, which need not, however, be so heavy as those at the extremity; then lower away as before, and at every 30 or 40 hooks, fix another sinker. When nearly arrived at the other extremity of the line, look out to make fast to the last sinker in time, and as soon as the line becomes tight let it go overboard, still, however, holding on by the buoy rope, and lowering gradually to straighten the line till the sinker touches the bottom, then take up fresh landmarks, and throw over the buoy, and your line is set. After the line has been allowed a sufficient respite, the next consideration is the best way to haul or under-run it. In order to effect this, after having got sight of one of the buoys, get forward in the bow of the boat, and having got hold of the buoy, haul away by the buoy-rope till the sinker is on board, then haul the line on board and coil it away as neat as you can in the basket, unhooking the fish as they come on board. Be prepared with a gaff-hook to gaff any fish that may be too large to be hauled on board by the sneads; and also with a knife to cut out the hook if necessary. Some care is requisite in hauling the line, for if not well stowed in the basket it is very apt to get entangled and cause a considerable degree of trouble to clear it. If it is intended to bait the line again directly, it should be turned out of the basket by turning it bottom-upwards, when the hooks, unless the line has been hauled very clumsily, may be easily cleared from the line and fresh baited, and placed in the basket in the same manner as when run off the cleft. In many instances it may be advisable to under-run instead of hauling the line on board, which is managed in the following manner:—The sinker, and about nine or ten hooks, must be hauled on board, and the fish, if any, unhooked; and the hooks being fresh baited, must be lowered again to the bottom. The boat must then be moved along gently in the direction of the line, which must be run along the gun-wale, and the fish taken off, and the hooks fresh baited, as it proceeds. When you arrive at the other extremity pull a little ahead to straighten the line, which, when you feel tight, let the sinker overboard, holding on by the buoy-rope till it reaches the bottom, in the same manner as you would in setting the line. When the line is brought on shore the hooks should be immediately run upon the cleft, and the line hung up to dry, for if left damp any time, particularly in warm weather, it will soon become rotten. In addition to what we have already mentioned, you should be provided with a creeper for the purpose of recovering the line, in case, by any accident, the buoys should not watch, which sometimes happens through weeds getting foul of the buoy-ropes. But if your landmarks are well taken up by throwing your creeper overboard and rowing gently across the spot where the lines are, you will be sure to find them. Indeed, in some places where the fishermen are more numerous than honest, it seems more safe to trust to this plan than to use a buoy, lest some of those worthy gentlemen, *i.e.*, gallows worthies, might, on seeing the buoys, mistake yours for their own; and our experience has taught us that there are some parts of our coasts where the natives, although sharp

enough in other respects, are very apt to mistake other people's property for their own. And now we have troubled our readers with what we fear rather a tedious account of setting spillers, in deep water, we must still venture to intrude further on their patience some observations on laying them down in shallow water—a method which may perhaps suit many, who, though very fond of fish, will not trust their precious carcasses to the fickle and unstable element, or encounter the pains and penalties of sea-sickness for the purpose of catching them. Spillers may be used in shallow water either in banking or dredging. Banking is where the line when baited is moored to heavy stones on a beach when the tide is out, which, having flowed over it, is visited as the tide recedes. In dredging, a line of about fifty fathoms, and with about the same number of hooks, is laid down at the very edge of low-water mark with a stone sufficiently heavy at the end next the water to keep the surf from washing it ashore, but still not so heavy but that it may be drawn along the sand. To the dredge line is attached spare line of from fifty to two hundred fathoms in length, which is wound on a square reel and held in the hand or secured to the shore. This line is unwound as the tide approaches, the fishermen standing just at the edge of the waves, until the whole of the spare line is out, when the dredge is drawn gradually nearer the shore, by which means the fishing may be continued till high water. On this subject, however, we shall treat more largely when we come to the subject of bass fishing—this being by far the best way of catching fish of that description. But turbot, rays, flounders and congers are also caught in this manner; and we are rather surprised that these two modes of fishing are not more practised, as the best time to expect success is when the sea is agitated by a strong gale, and too rough to venture to sea. Fishing of this kind is, however, better adapted to an open sandy beach than to rivers or creeks, although in the latter we have frequently set them with considerable success; and a friend of ours succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations with a dredge in the Truro river, opposite Mopas Passage, very much to his own satisfaction and the astonishment of the natives, who had never before seen such a plan adopted. The way in which our friend managed was to carry the outer end of the line with a sinker attached to it, about sixty yards from the bank, by means of a boat, and the other end was held in the hand until a bite was felt, when the fish, if secured, was hauled on shore, and the line again carried out as before. A curious method of setting lines of this description seems to have been adopted on the north coast of Cornwall, where the want of harbours denies a safe shelter for fishing boats. This was by means of a lester cock, a curious sort of machine, consisting of two flat pieces of wood about three feet long and four inches wide, made in the form of a cross. At each of the two extremities of the cross two masts are fixed with a sail between them; one end of the line is fastened to another extremity, by which this machine is kept steady, and is by the wind carried from the shore into deep water. This method of fishing is now, however, become nearly obsolete; but we have met two or three fishermen who have used it, and, as they stated, with considerable success, upon the strength of which we had one fitted up for our own use, but we must confess we never tried it. We believe that in fresh water this machine is termed the “otter,” and is looked upon askance by the fair sportsman.

CREEL.

(To be continued.)

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—II.

TOWARDS the end of our notice of the Wiesdale district we mentioned two burns which cross the road to the west of that place, and which we should perhaps have noticed in that

connection had it not seemed that they would more naturally fall to be mentioned in describing the road to Walls. Leaving Wiesdale by this road, there is no fear of missing the way, as there is but one. We set a stout heart to the “stae brae” which separates Wiesdale from Tresta Valley, and on reaching the top have two splendid views, both east and west. With the former our wayfarer has already become acquainted from a different point of view, but it merits another look; that to the west give a fine view of the Brouster and Clouster hills with a fine lake-like voe, the Effirth Voe, in the foreground. The road skirts the northern margin of this basin for the next four or five miles, and we have occasionally taken small sea-trout, with an occasional burn-trout, by casting from the side; but this is a feat not often to be accomplished, though from a boat larger sea-trout might perhaps be taken either by trolling a minnow or with fly; we say perhaps, because in one voe sea-trout will rise freely to the fly, whilst in another, containing quite as many fish, they have never been known to do so. About four miles from Wiesdale Bridge the burn of Toomlin crosses the road—this burn, like that of Wiesdale, has no lochs connected with it, and consequently soon becomes small. We have never been able to find any sea-trout in it when low, but when enlarged, which is only for a very short time after rain, there are plenty of small and moderate-sized sea-trout to be taken in it, and we are told that in heavy “spates” heavy fish are to be had. The Shetlanders have a way of dividing sea-trout according to their size, which is sometimes convenient; they call small fish of the size known in Scotland as finnock, “herring,” and sometimes “peltock trout;” the small-sized run of sea-trout—adult fish on their second visit to their native stream—“haddock trout”; these fish will weigh usually from 1 to 2 lb.; the larger fish are called “cod trout.” Taking this division as a guide, we should say that there are about equal numbers of the first two sets to be taken in this stream. There are a few houses near here in which it might, perhaps, be possible to get lodgings, and if this could be done it would be a very convenient locality from which to fish many of the lochs to the west of Wiesdale, mentioned in our last, and some of those of which we shall soon have to speak. Besides this, there is a burn on the other side of the Effirth Voe, bearing the significant name of Laxaburn (*lax* is Norse for salmon), which is quite inaccessible from either Wiesdale or Walls, as also some lochs, of which no one seems to know anything.

About a mile farther on, we fall in with another, but smaller, burn, which seems to hold a few good common trout; at least, we have taken such where it crosses the road, and only last autumn took a lanky specimen of the common trout, which had it been in good condition would have weighed about 4 lb. we suppose, as it measured 23 inches long nearly; what its actual weight might be we do not know, as so far as we are aware it may still be enjoying itself in the stream. We are told it contains sea-trout sometimes. About a mile and a half further west, we reach the first loch of a series which, united by a good-sized burn, extends almost across the island, discharging into Uenyifirth, pronounced Onafirth, Voe. This water, called Hulma-Lees, has a length of about a mile and a half, and is studded with small islands, called in Shetland holms, whence, we suppose, its name. It lies for fully two-thirds of its length by the side of the road, and holds common and sea-trout. The loch-trout are of about the usual size, viz., three to the pound; and the sea-trout are generally from 2 lb. to 3 lb. When there has been much rain this loch is probably the best of the chain, as, though there are two lochs above it, one of them, Tordale Water, of considerable size, sea-trout do not run into them, except, perhaps, in the spawning season. Hulma-Lees discharges itself by a short burn into Grassawater, a lake of very similar appearance and dimensions. This is a good sea-trout

loch, but, owing to the irregularity of its bottom, which is every now and then either raised into a sub-lacustrine table-land, or sunk into deep pits, a difficult water to fish. In fact, though it contains the most beautiful sea-trout of any round Walls, we for a long time wasted our time on it without adequate result, but now that we know it we feel inclined to place it second only to the next loch of this series—Culyerin. This loch is connected with Grassawater by a very short run, and is a small irregularly shaped pond, not three-quarters of a mile round. As, however, it is the first loch of pure fresh water which the fish meet in their run, it is much patronised by sea-trout, which run up to a good size. We once took a rise, —no, not one but three rises—out of a big brown monster here. The last rise was almost at our feet so there was every opportunity to note his dimensions, and we then estimated him at about fifteen pounds. As, however, he was not caught, this is fisherman's weight. The largest we ever took was four pounds, but we have known larger. And here let us remark that all weights given here are actual avoirdupois, not fisherman's weight. This tarn, with Grassawater, holds, besides common trout, a moderate-sized variety of *salmon ferax*; but as no one, so far as we are aware, has ever trolled for them, for the same reason as the cherubs in the Ingoldsby Legends didn't sit down—that there is not *de quoi*, meaning that there is no boat—we cannot say whether there are any large ones to be had. There are, however, at times a few of from one and a half to two and a half pounds to be taken with fly, and we have a very pretty specimen in our collection of two pounds and a quarter in weight.

We had almost forgotten to mention that into the south side of Grassawater, and about the middle, a small burn flows, which comes, after a very rough-and-tumble course down the sides of Brouster Hill, from two lochs situated on the very top of that hill. When full they become one, and in dry weather are only divided by a narrow spit of gravel; but the quality of the trout in them is very different. Those in the southern division are as red as salmon in their flesh; these in the northern and rockier division are black and poor. These twins are called Hylawaters. Returning to Culyerin we follow the burn which runs from it seawards for about a quarter of a mile, when we come to a sea-loch called the Vadels of Henyifirth. This is at times a famous locality for sea-trout, and as it contains a fair admixture of fresh water, those fish rise freely under favourable circumstances, especially when the tide is beginning to flow into it. As it is very shallow in proportion to its size it is no difficult matter to find the lies of the fish. Of course, such a loch is not always good, but during a spell of dry weather—and more especially when rain is at hand—it is the likeliest place for sport near here. It also contains a few loch-trout. A loch containing only loch-trout discharges into the farther side by a small burn, but scarcely deserves mention as there are many better waters in more accessible situations. We may briefly put the state of matters as regards sea-trout fishing in these lochs thus: in dry weather or before rain the Vadels are far the best; after a single spate or moderately wet weather, Culyerin is best, Grassawater a bad second, the rest nowhere: after a succession of spates Grassawater, and later in the season Hulma Lees. To prevent disappointment we must, however, mention that there is said to be a good deal of netting in the Vadels and head of Unyifirth Voe.

About half a mile north-east of the loch which we mentioned as discharging into the Vadels, lie a couple of lochs called Clenswaters, of which the upper and larger contains good common trout. These discharge into South Gloucester Voe, and are separated from Gloucester loch by a barren rocky ridge about a mile broad. On a hill to the east of Grassawater loch lie the ruins of what must have been a very considerable Pictish fort.

AN AFTER-DINNER REVERIE.

IT is winter now, and as I sit in my comfortable arm-chair before the cheerful fire of blazing logs, and watch the snow being whirled and drifted by the fierce gusts against the window-panes, I know my favourite pastime is put a stop to for some time to come; and as I turn, with a shiver, to the glowing fire, and sit, half-waking, half-dreaming, what a flood of recollections of sport in past seasons come back to me!—even my first fishing-rod and my first day's fishing for minnows, and then my first capture of a gigantic perch, some 6 inches in length, comes as vividly before me as if it was but yesterday, although it is now thirty odd years ago. How many a jolly companion since then has made his last cast, and started on the long unknown journey from which there is no return, and which we shall all, sooner or later, have to travel!

What fun we had as boys when home for the holidays, spending the summer days fishing in the marl-pits for carp and tench, catching sometimes as many as 60 or 70 in a day; and then, later on, when fully equipped with fly-rod and all the necessary appurtenances thereto, wandering by the sparkling streams, what varied experiences and what queer little incidents have occurred! How well I remember catching the big trout, whose home was beneath the overhanging willow pollard!—how he sucked in the little “iron blue” which I had dropped just above him!—with what a rush he made off up the stream when he felt the cold steel, and when forced to succumb, he came floating down the stream. My good wife that is now, in her eagerness to net him, missed her footing and tumbled into the pool. Although I had then lost my heart, I did not lose my head, but holding the rod in one hand I dragged my sweetheart up the river-bank with the other, and then landed my fish, which was upwards of 2 lb.

My recollections now carry me away to a little seaside town in Devonshire, situated near the mouth of the river Axe. I know few pleasanter places wherein to spend a fortnight in the hot days of July or August, whether it be sauntering along the rugged cliffs to Branscombe Head, towering hundreds of feet above the ever restless sea, with its cluster of fishermen's cottages nestling in the valley below, and its tiny trout-stream, which here loses itself in the mighty ocean; watching the fishing-smacks from Beer tacking in the offing, and the stately outward-bound vessels speeding under a cloud of canvas down the Channel; or spending the summer evenings with salmon-rod and tackle, and a large white fly, fishing for bass at Axemouth. Rare good sport have I had, too, after the pollack, amongst the rocks by the Landslip, and sailing after the mackerel in the open bay. Ah! Devonshire is a lovely county for the fisherman, with its narrow fern-clad lanes its pretty hills and dales, and ever-attendant babbling streams, well stocked with game and handsome trout.

My mind now wanders to the sister county of Dorset, where, on a day last season, with a brother angler and attendant boatman, we were being gently rowed over a noble lake in one of the finest parks in the county. The ruins of an old castle overshadow the water on one side, a stately mansion, with its well-kept lawns and pleasure-grounds bound us on the other. We had ample time to take in all the beauties of the scene, for the lake was as smooth as a mirror, and the cunning jack refused to accept the most tempting baits. By and by a breeze sprang up, and ruffled its hitherto placid surface. Then was our time for action, and while it lasted what fine sport we had!—killing nine good fish, besides returning to the water all under 3 lb. weight.

The cheerful voices and merry laughter of half-a-dozen youngsters, and the pattering of as many pairs of feet along the passage towards my sanctum, drive away all further soliloquising.

RED ANT.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"The thorny point
Of bare distress hath ta'en from me the show
Of smooth civility." —SHAKESPEARE.

"First it blew, then it snowed, and then it thawed. Then it blew, then it snowed, and then it froze again." This is about as true a description as I can give of the past three weeks' weather, so I trust you will, Mr. Editor, forgive the above quotation, as, in consequence of either the "snow" or the "thaw" or some incivility on somebody's part, you have not inserted my two last Mid-Thames reports. Fortunately, I have little of import to communicate, for angling has been a dead letter for some three or four weeks in consequence of the adverse state of the elements. As I write, the river has, in consequence of the thaw, jumped up into a plethoric fit; nothing can confine it to its bed—in short, it has been and will be for weeks a wandering *aqua-ae*. Fishing is altogether impracticable. Before the thaw, at Henley, some decent perch and chub were had, and at Marlow a piscator with Hatch got some splendid perch, the best scaling 2 lb., also some good chub, largest going 4 lb. Thursday evening.—River in high flood, and full of snow broth and floating ice.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

A flood will take a week to get the water in order again if it keeps fine. Water going down, but very slow. Prospects look bad at present for much more fishing this season, unless we get better weather.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The snow and ice have gone off the land, but we have got it in the river now in the shape of a flood—the river stands bank-high at low water. Those who took the opportunity to have a day's fishing before the snow-water got in the river had some good sport here. Bank anglers have caught a fair lot of dace in the eddies since the water has been high. It will be some time yet before we have the water low enough to have a good day's sport, if we have one at all this season.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Since writing last week I am pleased to say the snow has entirely disappeared, but of course angling is quite out of the question at present. We have had some very high tides this week, and with the immense quantity of land water coming down from up the river we have had quite a sea. I am pleased to say we have not heard of a single accident to any person or craft through the breaking up of the ice. Mr. Anderson, of the Island Hotel, taking the precaution by employing a number of watermen to break the ice around his well-known yacht, the "Red Cross Knight," and bringing it safe into dock, or otherwise it might have taken a moonlight trip, which might have ended in a watery grave.—ALFRED PERRIN.

P.S.—I am sorry to say that poor James Brand, better known as the "Veteran," has been confined to his bedroom for several weeks through a severe illness. Brand's character as a true fisherman is better known to my numerous customers than I can pen it. Any small subscriptions will be thankfully received by A. Perrin, Two Sawyers, Twickenham, for J. Brand.

Bure.

All angling has been put a stop to here during the past few weeks owing to the frozen state of both river and road. A. J. N. Chamberlin, Esq., writes "that (Feb. 2) the broad is still safe, and the ice in good condition for skaters," this is a proof of the "Arctic nature" of the recent weather. We saw an energetic angler breaking holes in the ice on the broad the other day, vainly trying to tempt a pike; but the frost was so sharp, his lines were frozen like sticks in a few seconds.—ANGLER.

Devon (Ilfracombe).

Very little doing in sea fishing at Ilfracombe lately, the weather being so cold and stormy. Fishermen have had no chance of working their tides properly. I believe there is plenty of fish on the coast, for when the boats put out for an hour or so they returned with good catches, considering the time out, some nice catches of codlin, pollock, pout, dabs, &c., have been taken from the pier and adjoining rocks this week by hand-lines. Large shoals of porpoises have made their appearance on the coast, and on Sunday last they came on the outer pier and amused hundreds of spectators by jumping out of the water, turning summersaults, &c., for an hour or two, when they disappeared in deep water.—HENRY COMER.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Trout in this river are pretty forward, though angling will not become general for several weeks. A gentleman, minnow fishing near Mayfield last Tuesday, caught several, well over spawning; but, of course, they were promptly returned to the river. Chub have been biting fairly well during this week in the still depths, but angling operations have been much interfered with by ice in the water. However, all of it has now disappeared, and we think plenty of sport will be enjoyed next week, not only amongst chub, but grayling, bream, perch, dace and roach. The best catch we know of this week is one of 14 lb. of chub and barbel. These were taken with cow's brains, near Clownholme. There are plenty of salmon in the river, and prospects in this respect are first-rate. By the way, Mr. Worthington has resigned the honorary secretaryship of the Trent Fishery Board, on account of bad health. The Dove is a tributary of the Trent. South-country readers may not all be aware of that fact, and therefore we mention it.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe and Canal (Exeter).

An "empty shell" really, as far as sporting in the shape of angling is concerned, and to all appearances there will not be for some time to come. The

intelligence from all quarters is still, "Frozen out," although the thaw has been moderately sharp, and the river has already carried down the majority of the ice below bridge; but, then, we have an immense quantity of snow still upon the hills, and if anything, to make it more tantalising, a very sharp frost has again set in, therefore it does not look very tempting, and should say it will take four or five days longer to reduce the river into fishing order let the thaw still continue. The fishermen's list of slaughtered will be a small one for this month, not having seen a single pike, perch or tench since the 15th, as reported in the FISHING GAZETTE "River Reports." Several fresh-run salmon have been seen, about 8 lb. each, going up, and during the breaking-up of the ice several retts were seen going back in the heavy snow water. This looks well, but I am sorry to say that news has reached me with regard to salmon having been taken from the Exe and other rivers during the last month in the tideway. I hear of one person having one of 14 lb., and another as having had a piece of 4 lb. weight sent in from the country. Will exertions be made to put these illegal proceedings down, or must this nefarious practice drop down to a business pure and simple, and confined to a class of men who openly defy the law. The prospect of the future is a very cheery one; but if the frost continues the silver beauties will soon have the benefit of the rodsters, whose close time expires this day, the 31st of January, viz., for the Exe, and I wish them every success, last season being a very indifferent one; and as there is nothing stirring, not even the weather glass, I will conclude, but if it would only move upwards there would soon be some hope for us, but until it does all anglers will feel with me, and like Othello, that our occupation's gone. Wind S.S.W. during the day, shifting eastwards; bright starlight sky.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Lee (Co. Cork).

The rain has returned and come down plentifully, and the river has been flooded during the last two days. Spring salmon have been seen passing up in considerable quantities, but they have been very much interfered with by poachers, who take the fish by gaffs as they run on the weirs. The weather continues unsettled, and should the water continue high, there may be a reasonable prospect of good sport in the opening. The Blackwater opened on the 1st inst., and the weather was favourable for the nets. Very little angling has, however, been done, as the river has not been in a fishable condition, and probably will not for a few days longer.—ANGLER.

Trent (Alrewas).

No angling news of any description has reached me from any of our rivers in the Midlands; the water has been in such an unsettled and muddy state in this locality that angling has been completely out of the question. The prospect at the time of writing is very far from inviting. Heavy rain has fallen to-day (Thursday), which will not improve matters. A worse season for pike-fishing in the Trent has not been experienced for years. The weather is remarkably mild, and with the rivers of a more settled character, roach and dace will be sure to feed freely, and the small cockspur worm will prove the most successful lure.—JAS. GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

Owing to the rapid break-up of the frost, our river has been all the week in a state of flood; and nothing much has been done in the way of angling. A few dace and an odd roach or two have been taken by one or two of the most fortunate anglers, but nothing worth mentioning. Rain fell very heavily several hours yesterday, which will not improve matters. In fact, the water is now rising, and a very nasty colour; so the prospect for the next few days does not look very promising. The weather, at the time of writing, looks very unsettled, raining at intervals during the day, with a mild south wind. Thursday night.—Water still rising, and nearly as yellow as mustard. Every appearance of a heavy flood. Will be a few days yet before it will be in anything like form for worm-fishing.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather opened the beginning of the week beautifully fine and mild, which caused a good many anglers to turn out on the Derwent both on Monday and Tuesday, trying their hands with both worms and gentles; and I am pleased to say that there were some decent catches of grayling, roach, and dace killed, the branding worms killing the most of the fish. Since Tuesday we have had a good deal of both snow and rain fall, which has caused both rivers to rise considerably. To-day (Thursday) has quite knocked angling on the head for a short time. According to the Fresh-water Fisheries Act, trout are allowed to be taken after the 1st of this month, and if advantage is only made at the proper time, I have no doubt but that the angler will be well rewarded for his trouble, that is, where there is a good store of fish in the rivers, as the trout generally takes the worm most greedily at this season of the year. While the sun was out shining last Monday, I saw a great quantity of flies out in the water—viz., the long fleet-winged browns, also the old cock-wing duns, which some anglers call the hare's ear dun. The brown fly is the first and earliest fly that appears on any of our Derbyshire streams; it is called by some anglers the "red fly." The body of this fly is very much like the alder, only rather more claret and not so thick; wings from the hen pheasant. There are a great many flies now made that take well for this fly. For instance, the March brown, the partridge rump-hackle, dressed with yellow silk, with a small portion of hare's ear, spun sparingly; wren-tail fly, with the same body, or honey-dun hackle; forelegs ribbed with and without gold twist, and the hen-pheasant's winging. I myself seldom ever use it, as I find other flies a great deal more killing. I heartily wish all anglers a better fishing season this year than the last one was. Angling prospects not very encouraging for next week, only with bottom, as there has been a great deal more rain fall to-day (Thursday).—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

Nothing yet has been done here of any account owing to the swollen state of the river. Mr. Harper, of the Buck Inn, Thorpe, had a fine take of roach this week on the small broad near Thorpe Gardens. This, in such rough weather, augurs well for the future. The pike fishing match of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society which should have taken place last week, has been postponed owing to the severe weather, and the thickness of the water.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

After I had sent my last week's report there appeared unmistakeable signs of a general break up of the frost, and by the time that it appeared in print both the Yore and the Wharfe were in full flood. After a very severe frost, such as we have just experienced, it is a grand sight to stand near one of the numerous weirs on the Yore, or on one of the bridges and watch the large masses of ice come sailing down stream, and when they reach the summit of a weir, rise one above another and go crashing down below. I have been told that higher up the river, where there is a large fall of water named Aysgarth Force, the effect is finer still, but I have never had the good fortune to be there during a break up of the frost.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE FISH OF THE TRENT, AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

PLAIN PAPERS FOR PLAIN ANGLERS.*—No. 7.

By the TRENT OTTER.

THE BARBEL, *continued*.

TIGHT corking is a plan that is adopted by many barbel fishers on the Trent. For this style a cork float, a trifle larger than the one you use for traveller fishing, is the best; only adjust it so that the bait lies well on the bottom, say about two feet deeper. The bait is thrown in and allowed to swim down as far away from you as you think requisite; it is then held stationary, and you can tell at once, by the bobbing of the float, when a barbel attacks the bait. This plan is chiefly used if the swim is a deep hole or eddy not far from the bank. I like the plan under these circumstances, but as a general rule I prefer to fish with a traveller float, so as to let the bait be always moving about all over the swim, or where the ground bait is.

And now I must say a few words about the water. If the water is low and bright, you will find the barbel in the deepest water as a rule, but if, on the other hand, the water is high and very much discoloured, you will find them on the shallows, for they, like pigs, like to root amongst the sand on the bottom. I remember only last year that one of the night-line party set their lines during a fresh on the shallows below Winthorp, and for two or three nights, while the water was up, they had some very nice catches of barbel; but as soon as the water went down they ceased catching barbel there, for the fish had retired into the deep holes. During a fresh in August or September, some good barbel are often taken by ledgering or plumbing, as I mentioned in my last, on the shallows; you cut up and throw a few worms in and bait your hook as mentioned before, and work the bait "all over the shop" as well as you can. If there are any barbel there they will soon take it, for they are roving about in search of food, and if you fail to get a bite, then shift to another place and try again. An old friend of mine, Tom Bentley, a very good fisherman, told me some time back that he had instructed a friend of his to bait a barbel-swim with worms, some few years back. He said he expected he had done it to his instructions; but judge of his disgust, when they went to fish it, to find that, instead of throwing the worms in the hole, where there were 10 or 12 feet of water, he had thrown them in so that they worked into a bit of an eddy, where there was, on ordinary occasions, about 4 feet; but then there had been a lot of rain for a few days before, and the water was just rising, and, as Tom said, it was the luckiest chance in the world (as it afterwards turned out) that the bait was put in where it was. He said the water rose a yard during the day, and at night they had one of the best catches of barbel he ever saw. They had two big baskets with them, and they were both full, as much as they could both carry home; whereas, he said, if the bait had been put in the hole, ten to one if they would have caught a single fish. He said he was sorry when he first went down, and found where the ground-bait was; but before night his sorrow was turned to rejoicing. I have always found that just when the water is rising you can catch barbel, for they then begin to work about in search of food; but it is no good to bait a swim during a fresh. A few worms cut up and thrown in is quite sufficient; and, remember, the first day the water comes on is worth all the rest of the time it is up, put together.

At the beginning of the barbel-fishing season, say about the middle of July, cad bait is a first-rate bait for barbel. These curious-looking grubs are called caddis-worms, that are found close to the sides on the bottom of a river, sticking to the stones,

on the bottom side, next the bottom of the stream. I have found these grubs in the Trent from May to August, and sometimes odd ones in September. If you see a lot of stones in the water carefully pull one or two of them up, and as carefully turn them over, and on the bottom of the stone you will see something that looks like anything except a grub; but what you do see is their outside shell or covering. This covering is about an inch long, and a quarter of an inch thick; it is composed of very minute pebbles and shells on the outside, while the inside looks to me to be composed of sand and slime from the insect. The shell is rounded off at each end; and now, when you have gathered a quantity of these things, they are ready for use at once—the sooner the better—for they become soft and flabby if they are kept any time. Some anglers just put them in a vessel with some water, and change the water two or three times a day; they are under the impression that they will keep a day or two treated in this way; I have tried it, but they always become soft after the first day. Now I have tried several dodges to keep them in good order, and I find that the simplest way is the best, that is—hanging them up in a bag in a cool place; I have left them hanging for a week, till the outside shell was real hard and dry, but the grub was very little the worse, a trifle smaller, perhaps, if anything. I have also kept them in damp moss, and it is a very good plan to keep them good for a few days; but the best of all is to use them as you gather them, if it is possible, for I believe the fresher they are, the better. When you use them for bait, carefully open one end of the shell and draw the grub out; a good one is a bright yellow colour with a black head. I have seen some of them taken from the Trent that have been larger than wasp-grubs; some of them are a dark colour, and some green—these are useless for the hook; as I said before, the yellow ones are the best; they are the larvæ of various water-flies, and are rather tender, so that you must be careful in putting them on the hook. These are a grand bait for all sorts of fish, two of them on a No. 7 or 8 hook is a bait that a barbel cannot resist. Rove about, and drop them in all likely looking spots, and if the fish are on the feed, you will not only take barbel, but chub, dace, roach, &c.; in fact, some grand bags of all sorts of fish have been taken by this bait; barbel will bite at them freely in the month of July, and in such places as weir holes, old bridges, by the side of old walls, or piles, or any retired nook of any sort, provided there is four feet of water or more in the swim. I have heard of all sorts of fancy baits being used for barbel, but I have never tried them. I have tried faithfully to give you the plans used on the Trent; if I have succeeded in making myself understood, I shall be repaid, and if some brother tryo has been instructed by my simple directions, I shall be doubly repaid; but if some do not feel quite clear upon any point, I shall be only too happy to answer them to the best of my ability, either through the columns of the "GAZETTE," or privately. Anyone may have my name and address by writing to the office of the "FISHING GAZETTE," and send me a stamped directed envelope, and I will answer any question that they may happen to be not very clear upon. I shall next proceed to treat of the chub, and the various methods of taking them.

TROUTY "TAILS."

THE monster trout caught at Reading last year, and presented to, and graciously accepted by, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of England, was probably a little "thing of beauty" when the late Mr. Henry Simonds, the popular brewer, whiled away summer evenings in spinning for trout in the central mill—"tail" of the virtual county town of Berkshire. The world-wide popularity of Huntley and Palmer's biscuits had caused the place to be commonly called "the biscuit borough," or "the biscuit

town;" but side by side with this most successful enterprise has been the equally successful one of the Messrs. Sutton and Sons' seeds and roots and flower establishment. Hypercritics have objected to the great biscuit factory and equally great seed stores firm enjoying an overpowering monopoly of names; but people will not therefore forget that Reading gave to the world of literature, of rich poetic fancy, of eloquence, and of legal acumen, a Talfourd, and that Mary Russell Mitford had rendered famous for all time the roadside village of Three-mile-Cross. But the Readingites had not been behindhand in other respects, notably, for present purposes, the formation of an Angling Preservation Association to protect and preserve a portion of the Kennet and that fine stretch of the Thames from the Roebuck Inn, at Purley of pleasant memories, to the lock at Sonning, hard by the beautiful "hanging" wood belonging to Holme Park, so long the residence of the late Mr. Robert Palmer, M.P. for the county.

But there are other trouty "tails" along the Kennet, especially at Newbury, &c. Whenever, in past times, the Kennet trout-fishing was mentioned, the angler other than local always thought of Hungerford, the inhabitants of which old roadside town being singularly blessed, not only in having such miles of splendid fishery as an inheritance for ever, but also in having a club of gentlemen anglers to preserve the fish and protect the streams for the benefit of both sides. There have been monster trout at Newbury, too. It is said of an old gentleman whom I can just remember (Mr. Toomer) that he kept several "monster" trout in a stew connected with the river, and boys five and forty years ago used to try to look over the hoarding that divided the tow-path and the stew in which these big fish had been kept. Only last year a trout of about 11 lb. ("monster trout" are only "monsters" here and at Reading when they arrive at from 17 to 19 lb. weight) got nabbed at one of the said "tails," other than with rod and line; while another fish (trout), of the moderate size of 8 lb., was found injured in the Kennet at Newbury. I mention these facts to show that while "monster" trout are not commonly caught, yet what would be called very "large" trout elsewhere, are by no means rare either at Newbury, Reading, or Hungerford. The local mill-tails have always been favourite harbours for the larger trout, and perhaps the Newbury waters are occasionally recruited, and with trout that come away in flood-time, in middle life, from Lord Craven's preserved back-waters and the old river, or even from Hungerford itself; and after knowingly winking their "weather eyes" at each and all the seductive art-made flies that "Ephemera" ever grew enthusiastic over, or that Mr. Francis Francis had ever "tied," or tried, with or without the aid of Judson, had come down into Newbury's trouty "tails" to live in peace and honourable retirement.

But here also the tempter was busy at times, in the person (among others) of friend Tayler, the jobbing tinman of Northcroft Lane, and a most devoted angler. Often and often have I seen him trying hour after hour for trout, as patient as the lady who, it is said, got up in a monument and smiled at Grief; and while I and other boys were flicking out the dace from off the scour by the town mill "tail," near the beautiful old parish church of St. Nicholas,* Newbury, Mr. T., with his home-made tin-ferruled rod, had got his eyes fixed on his taut line (leger), and on the hook was, probably, a nicely-scoured worm, and Spot and Co.'s noses not far off, perhaps, curiously wondering why the lively wriggler didn't come down along in a "nateral" sort of way. But when the honest tinman did "strike" and hook his fish, he was still as cool as a cucumber! He played his trout like an artist—a knack

he had, I believe, acquired far away from West Berks, and finally landed the beauty at the very convenient horse-watering shallows. Some few nice trout were caught last year at West Mills "tail."

The Newbury Angling Preservation Society are striving to gradually improve the all-round fishing in the Kennet within its beat, as well as a portion of the Lambourne, for the smaller kind of trout. The thing can't be done in one year nor two. Coarse fish are plentiful, and always have been plentiful in the canal hereabouts (with bleak and dace, gudgeon and minnows), which includes a good stretch of the old, or original, Kennet stream. At Hungerford only trout are allowed, so to speak, in the streams which are netted at intervals and jack and other coarse fish captured. But at Newbury this is not so, although it is a moot point whether the pike would not be better out of the river altogether. The Kennet is admittedly the finest river in England for trout, or is capable of being made such. The eels are superb for the table, large in size and silver-bellied. I was, as a boy, betrayed into setting a night-line in the borough waters, from seeing, hard upon 45 years ago, an old "weaver," as he dubbed himself (probably the son of one), lay down his fishing-rod one summer's evening, and soon after throw a line into the Canal—hooks baited, and a stone at the end. I did the same thing in a day or two, baiting with a nobby lob-worm that had been through the moss, and, lo! and behold, early on a certain dewy morning I found that

A twister a-twisting had twisted a twine,
And made a rough coil of my first night line.

Mr. Slimy spoiled my waistcoat, but what mattered that to capturing a 3 lb. Kennet eel? This sort of thing, and other forms of irregular fishing, is now of course prevented as far as possible in the interests of anglers generally, and of local ones in particular; still, no doubt a patient angler might capture a good eel with rod and line, even in daytime, for, next to a Kennet trout, commend me to a Kennet eel.

In the good time coming for anglers, the towpaths of *all* canals might be perhaps open for angling therefrom. Already, in the case of the Newbury Angling Club, Mr. Lloyd Baxendale, J.P., of Greenham Lodge, and also Mr. A. Tull, J.P., of Crookham, have generously allowed the members to fish in that part of the Canal that passes through their respective properties, reserving the tributary and other streams flowing through the private marshes and meadows to themselves. This is reasonable enough, because gentlemen do not like their waterfowl and birds disturbed, nor tenant-farmers their ground game, especially in these horrid bad times. The Towpath Question is not yet ripe for discussion. Agitation, in the common acceptation of the term, will ever avail little in inducing noblemen and gentlemen to grant the privilege of fishing from the canal towpaths over which they may have manorial or reserved rights. For good or for evil, London especially is absorbing the population from rural parts to an enormous extent. The tendency is observable in other directions to a less extent, independently of emigration. When the boys of to-day shall have become men, nothing will so much contribute to their pure and healthy and innocent enjoyment than a love of angling and of country scenery. Already some of the railways run cheap angling excursion trains, thus fostering a love of the sport. In time, when all rivers and canals shall happily be more and more preserved in the fence months, and protected from poaching, the London and other anglers will no. be slow in supporting those Clubs within reasonable and reachable distance by rail from large cities and towns; and in proportion that angling tended to improve the health, temperance, recreation, and elevation of the working and wealth-producing artisan and other busy bees, so the State will gain in many ways.

F.

* This was one of the grand old parish churches built years before the Reformation, when

Fair Italy sent forth that true "Masonic" band,
That rear'd a wealth of Gothic fanes in our lov'd land.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FRESH-WATER FISHES.

BY J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

TENCH, *continued*.

IN my remarks on "pike," in the first paper of this series of notes, I expressed my belief that the fresh-water shark, either from gratitude or dislike, would not touch tench. I was quickly corrected by gentlemen, whose testimony I fully believe, who stated their experience, which amounted to having found tench in the interior of a pike. I have before said that carp will take their young—why, I cannot really determine—because for such an act of prey they are totally unfitted, both by structure and general inclination. In the case of the pike, there, however, seems no reason, except the sliminess of the fish, to deter it from taking a mucous-coated tench. Even this is hardly a reason against its taking the fish, for the pike will take and enjoy eels, which are insufferably more slimy, and will frequently capture and gorge the ruffe, which is still more mucous in certain seasons than either. That pike will not make a meal on tench, unless under exceptional circumstances, is abundantly proved, both by my own experience and that of other abler anglers, past and present. Mr. Fennell says (and his testimony is but a sample of many others), "I procured some small tench and fished with them as live baits for a whole day in some excellent pike water, but *without getting a touch*. In the evening I put on a small carp, and had a run immediately. I also tried some pike in a stock pond with the same tench, but they would not take them; and though left in the pond all night—one on a hook and one attached to a fine thread—both baits were alive in the morning, some pike-marks being visible, however, on the hooked fish." Of course, these marks rather strengthen the assertion held by Fitzgibbon, Hofland, Salter, Hollinshead, Oppian, Walton, and a lot of others, that the pike will not willingly take a tench. Salter tried the same experiment as Mr. Fennell, leaving his trimmers all night, and found that every trimmer but those baited with tench had "fished."

Why is this reluctance, then, in the pike? may be asked. Ah! dear reader, I cannot say. But the following is the reason given by some, admirably done into verse:—

"The pike—fell tyrant of the liquid plain—
With ravenous waste, devours his fellow train.
Yet, howsoever with raging famine pined,
He spares the tench—a medicinal kind;
For when by wounds distress and sore disease,
He courts the salutary fish for ease.
Close to his side the kind physician glides,
And sweats a healing balsam from his sides."

Hence, out of gratitude—how rare in mortals!—the pike refrains, says the poet. This is a pretty conceit, but I am afraid is not tenable.

Yet the tench is unquestionably a "physician of fishes." I always like a tench in trout stews—it cures byssus and generally keeps away *malaise* engendered by confinement and the irritable nature of the fish. Camden, in his "Britannia," speaking of the fish stews of Southwark, says:—"I have seen the bellies of pikes, which have been rent open, have their gaping wounds presently closed by the touch of tenches, and by his glutinous slime perfectly healed up." Yet another extract bearing on the subject, lest I seem to pronounce too pointedly of myself. Mr. Wright, in his book on "Fishes and Fishing," thus states the case:—

"A gentleman who was unfortunately unable to leave his house for some time, through an accident, amused himself by making small artificial flies, which he did very neatly. He kept some minnows and a tench, about 2½ inches long, in a very large wide-

mouthed bottle; all the minnows had died except one. My friend was just finishing a fly as I went into his room, and he held it upon the surface of the water in the bottle, as he was often in the habit of doing. The minnow darted at it so rapidly that he could not withdraw the fly in time to prevent the hook from pricking the minnow. The little fish descended three parts of the way down the bottle, poised itself for a moment with its nose pointing downwards, then swiftly went the remainder of the way, rubbed his nose during a few seconds *against the side of the tench* and again swum about as lively as before. We both joined in the opinion that it is really no fable as to the tench being the Esculapius of fishes, for here was an example before our eyes of a fish being wounded and immediately instinct directing him to seek a remedy."

I shall add no more quotations. I have never seen a pike rub its sides against the "kind physician," but I know that a low death-rate accompanies a tench into fish-stews. I only wish to insinuate, anent the tench *v.* pike question, that the instances many correspondents gave of pike taking tench *might* have been the effect of ravenous hunger or mistake on the part of the former.

GLISSADERMOS.

THIS Glissadermos is the best thing of the kind ever brought before the shaving public. Anglers will find it invaluable, as it enables one to have an "easy shave" in a few seconds. You merely have to press a tube on your chin, and then apply the razor; the preparation seems to soften the hair, and the razor clears it all off. A gentleman friend says the ladies are in raptures over it, as it leaves the delightful operation of kissing without a drawback in the shape of a scrubby male chin. This alone ought to make its fortune.

RODS MADE TO PATTERN.

IF any of our readers ever require a copy of some favourite rod, or, indeed, a new rod of any kind, we can, from the experience of several friends, who are first-class anglers, strongly recommend them to do a hard-working man a good turn and get satisfaction themselves by trying Mr. Irving, fishing-rod maker, Metcalf Place, near the Angel, Islington. Mr. Irving has made rods for over fifty years, and can make anything from a heavy spinning-rod for jack to a light fly-rod for trout; he has now in stock some splendid, almost solid, cane for spinning-rods. He makes split cane fly-rods beautifully; in fact, we have killed thousands of trout with his rods, and never been disappointed, except in one case, where we hampered him with various suggestions. If you tell him the kind of fishing you want the rod for, and leave him alone, you will be delighted with the result and its very moderate cost.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ANGLING CLUBS.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES AT THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

WE are extremely glad to hear that the Grand Norwich Piscatorial Exhibition is receiving such support from all parts of the United Kingdom, that already the Committee have had to take a much larger space than the large building (St. Andrew's Hall) at first decided on. Over eleven hundred pounds have been subscribed for prizes, and the Committee at a meeting last Saturday decided to give a first prize of £20 and a second prize of £10 for collections of preserved fresh-water fish, and special arrangements as regards their carriage, &c., will, we believe, be made. We trust our club friends will lend their collections freely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE CURATORSHIP OF THE BUCKLAND MUSEUM.

SIR,—For the last two or three weeks letters have appeared in your journal, written by gentlemen who have taken a great interest in my welfare. I sincerely thank those gentlemen, and also the members of the Piscatorial and Thames Angling Preservation Societies, for their kind considerations of the welfare of myself and family.—I am, &c.,

RICHARD EDON.

Museum of Fish Culture, South Kensington.

GERMAN CORD.

SIR,—In reply to an inquiry for German cord, it is to be obtained of Carter and Sons, John Street Road, Islington. I have had one in use about twelve months, and it is strong as new.—I am, &c.,

ANGLER.

Newington Villa, N.

GERMAN LINES.

SIR,—In reference to your letter about German lines, we beg to state that we keep them, and shall be most happy to give your correspondent prices, &c.—I am, &c.,

G. LITTLE AND CO.

15, Fetter Lane, London.

FISHING IN THE UNITED STATES.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers oblige me with some information with regard to the fishing in the United States? I contemplate a visit there this autumn (August to November), and I want to know what sport I may expect during those months and the kind of rods, winch, flies, spinning baits, &c., I shall require.—I am, &c.,

G. H.

[There is first-class fishing of all kinds in the United States, but you will find full particulars in "The Anglers' Guide," published at the *Field* office, Strand, London, price 1s. 6d.—ED.]

TO FISH-CULTURISTS.

SIR,—As I am now busy with a new edition of my German book on fish-hatching, it will be of very much value to me to know of all recent observations and improvements connected therewith.

I therefore beg, in the most friendly way, that you and your correspondents will assist me by communicating (in English) any interesting particulars and results you and they have obtained in pursuing the science of fish-hatching.—I am, &c.,

MAX V. D. BORNE.

Berneuchen bei Wusterwitz, Preussen.

THE PEACOCK FLY IN AUSTRALIA.

SIR,—I have a letter from my cousin, a merchant in Melbourne, dated December, 1880. He says that, feeling tired, and wishing for a couple of days' rest, he went up to Ballau, 100 miles from Melbourne, where he stayed with my brother. He took with him the spliced rod (Chatterton's pattern) which I got for him, and tried one of the rivers for trout with fly. He failed to get a rise; but, on going over to an artificial lake, he put on one of the peacock flies I gave him (my own pattern and manufacture), and ere long rose and captured a beautiful $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. trout. It gave grand play for fifteen minutes, and was landed without net, gaff, or assistance. Since then, he writes that his cousin, with the same rod and fly, had captured a $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ditto. What joy this would have given to the heart of poor Buckland, had he been still with us! Talking of him, may I ask you and all anglers to read the notice of his life in "Macmillan" for February, 1881, by Walpole?

So enthusiastic have my cousins become, on touching such blood as $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., that I have just received an order for two more spliced rods and a lot of peacock flies. I wish them all success. I may state that on opening the trout to examine the contents of their stomachs, they were found to contain an immense quantity of small beetles—my cousin says, "like enclosed," but, I am sorry to say, he forgot to send it. I trust to get the sample some day soon. There are no minnows in Australia. If the peacock fly be said to represent a minnow, either that opinion is wrong, or hereditary instinct came into play!—Yours, &c.,

JOHN BRUNTON, M.D.

21, Euston Road, Jan. 31.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—It is with inexpressible regret that I trouble you with one more letter, short although it be, but I am compelled by Mr. Spence to substantiate my statement, as nothing but absolute reference to the occasions and manner in which this gentleman uses the word parr, will bring home to him the meaning of his own words. I find in Mr. Spence's letters the following allusions:—

Nov. 13th, seventh paragraph. Allusion to a fish under the name "parr," with accusation of inaccuracy and apparent support of statement grounded on Russell, Yarrell and other modern authorities; in fact, those authors who call the samlet, parr.

Dec. 4th, paragraphs two to seven. The word parr is used throughout; the distinction of species is denied or doubted, and anatomical structure repudiated (paragraph 2). Paragraph five contains a wholly untrue statement, for parr and parr-marked fish are found abundantly where migratory salmonids are absent, and hundreds of anglers know this fact well. Paragraph six contains a statement which I challenge as matter of fact; for I deny that Mr. Spence could have opened and examined dozens of real parr without convincing himself that the fish were entirely distinct from salmonids, but nearly allied to true trouts. Yet if Mr. Spence can prove that he has opened dozens of fish having the structure which I have described as belonging to the parr and not that of the samlet, I should think his case no better, for then I should conclude he was incompetent to form an opinion. Seventh paragraph, acknowledgment of former error.

Dec. 11th. In the last paragraph but one, two allusions are made regarding the identity of the parr and samlet.

Dec. 18th, paragraph 4. "The apparent scarcity of female parr with ova of

any great size." There Mr. Spence is absolutely speaking of the samlet; he has yet to prove that the real parr conforms to this assertion. I have shown that the same writers have known little of the parr, and in the matter of females with ova and males with milt have made remarks which only apply to the samlet. I challenge the statements in paragraphs five, six and seven as well as eight; whilst I deny that it is the pectoral fin of the parr, which is described either by Yarrell or Parnell, as quoted by Mr. Spence, even allowing that this gentleman has made a correct quotation.

Jan. 15. Retraction of misquotation in letter of Dec. 18th.

Jan. 29th. Here Mr. Spence seeks to quibble on the matter of white-coloured fins, when my allusion could lead to nothing, but his own statement relating to whole-coloured fins. Whether I wrote "white" or whole, I am not certain, as I made a quotation; I suppose I meant whole, but may have accidentally crossed the "l" and made it "t." But whether this was so or not, it does not alter the facts in any way; but having substantiated my statement, I hope Mr. Spence will no longer protract the discussion by meaningless quibbles to have, womanlike, the last word with

THE RAVEN.

DAME JULIANA BARNES; BOULT.

SIR,—Can any of your readers furnish me with the names of the fortunate possessors of any of the 16th century editions of Dame Juliana Barnes's treatises of "Haukyng, huntyng and fysshynge"? I allude to copies not in public libraries nor in the Spencer or Huth collections. The information is required for the new edition of the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria."

The opportunity will also serve for asking for particulars (title, date, place of publication, and size) of "Boul's Sportsman's Companion."—I am, &c.,

Downshire Hill House, N.W.

THOS. SATCHELL.

SNIPE-SHOOTING WANTED.

SIR,—Do you think any of our numerous readers can inform me as to where I can obtain some snipe-shooting for the day, and if so, at what cost?—I am, &c.,

J. S. PERCIVALL.

FRANK BUCKLAND DEAD.

(From the American *Chicago Field*.)

It is officially announced in England that Prof. Huxley has been appointed Inspector General of Fisheries in place of F. Buckland, deceased. The appointment is good, but who will fill the place of the dead naturalist in all those respects wherein he was prominent and chief? Who will guard so jealously the fishing interests of the United Kingdom? Who will frame such sumptuary laws for Parliament to enact? Who will do so much for the love of doing, and so little for reward?

Frank Buckland's death, on the 19th of December, 1880, is described as a national loss. Perhaps it is even more; for the influence of his labours reached beyond the oceans of both hemispheres. It was felt in Australia as well as in America, and the intermediate continent of Europe. By the persistent labours of this indefatigable student, as the *FISHING GAZETTE* puts it, "He has stocked a continent with fish, and in his person and almost at his own expense, has done, so far as it was in the power of one man to do, for his own country what is done by the Government of other lands." This is the concession which the press of London claims for his efforts. Enthusiastic beyond compare in this particular branch of national science, ichthyology, his services were handsomely acknowledged at sundry times by testimonials and medals from various societies and corporate bodies in France and England. He was honoured, not only with many public offices, but by membership in many associations for the promotion of natural science. Educated as a physician and surgeon, he early abandoned his profession to devote himself to fish-culture and propagation, and, as early as 1863, established at his own expense the "Museum of Economic Fish-Culture," under the Science and Art Department of South Kensington. He was repeatedly appointed a special commissioner to inquire into the economy and abuses of the fisheries of England and Scotland, and his reports were made the basis of Acts of Parliament to regulate and govern the same. He was instrumental in planting and establishing trout and salmon in New Zealand and Australia.

Potential as were his leading efforts, the sum of his great usefulness was comprised in those constant investigations and contributions to natural science which he made throughout his long connection with the Fisheries and Natural History Department of *Land and Water*, features of that valued publication which earned for themselves the stamp of authoritative utterance and conclusive demonstration. Genial and easily accessible, he was the patron of fishermen, and the constant recipient of everything monstrous, rare or curious in nature; never despising the humblest inquiry, or refusing his services to those in search of knowledge. In this way he was enabled to discover and determine a vast number of new species and varieties, and thereby to greatly extend the sphere of acquired knowledge. Who, then, shall designate a person of his peculiar composition qualified to become his successor? It is for this reason, possibly, more than any other, that his death is deplored as a national loss.

Once in a generation some special spirit of genius rises up to elucidate those problems which have long baffled investigation, and having shed its effulgent radiance of scientific light and accomplished its sublime mission, disappears, to be succeeded by some other luminary of different elements, aims, and purposes. In this way, by here a little and there a little, the light of universal knowledge is diffused and permanently established. Frank Buckland was one of those special spirits of genius.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

SUBMERGED ICE.

WE shall be much obliged to our correspondents who send particulars of the state of the rivers if they will ascertain if the bed of the river is free from ice. It frequently happens that there may be no appearance of ice on the surface and yet all fishing may be stopped because the water is deadly cold at the bottom from the ice there. Mr. Jardine gave us this hint, and says the ice will remain for weeks yet on the bed of the river in certain places.

CLUB REPORTS.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit of No. 1 District will take place on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Dalby Tavern, Dalby Street, Kentish Town, when we hope to see all that can make it convenient to come.—H. TAYLOR, hon. sec.

THE BROTHERS RUMMUNS.

On the 2nd a meeting was held at the head quarters of the above society, the Rose, Thomas Street, Kensington, for the benefit of Mrs. C. Lacon (late of the Flying Dutchman) and her children, who have been left destitute, and to make things worse one child has just met with an accident. Mr. Thomas Haynes, P.G.M.B.R., presided, assisted by Mr. W. Breewood, S.L.A.S. The case was warmly supported by Messrs. Palmer, S.L.A.S.; C. Ellis, S.L.A.S.; J. Swindall, W.W.A.S.; Sutton, K.A.S.; the Brothers Raymond, K.A.S., and numerous other anglers and their friends. The vocal abilities of some of these gentlemen enabled all parties present to pass a very pleasant evening. The amount of money collected during the evening amounted to £6 7s. 6d., for which Mrs. C. Lacon returns her sincere thanks to those kind friends who have come forward to her assistance.—PIXIE.

Feb. 3rd, 1881.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Eastern District visit to the above society, took place on Monday last at the Albion, East Road. The chair was taken by Mr. Letch, ably supported by Mr. Wright. There were some capital songs sung during the evening, by the following gentlemen; Messrs. Letch, Wright, Gay, Monday, Key, Gould, Allan, Harding, Fowler, Humphreys, Comer, Waye and Shafe. The roll, being called the following clubs were represented.—The Amicable, Alliance, Convivial, North Eastern, Eustonians, Little Independent, Sir Hugh Myddleton City of London, St. John, Isledon and Hoxton Brothers. The next visit will be to the Little Independent.—W. H. PEARCE.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIALS.

The half-yearly supper of the above society was quite a success; over 50 sat down to a capital spread; chairman, Mr. Trott; vice, Mr. Lynch. During the evening a number of prizes were given by different gentlemen. Amongst them were Mr. Bigsworth, brewer, £1 is. a year. The members of the above society will compete for a number of prizes on Sunday next at Taplow.—W. STEBBING, sec.

FREE ANGLERS SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held at the club-room, City-road Inn, Gaythorne, Manchester, on Friday, 21st January, when after the ordinary business of the evening was gone through, the election of officers for the ensuing season was proceeded with, the chairman, Mr. Ridgway, and vice-chairman, Mr. Mitchell being re-elected for the fourth time. The treasurer, Mr. Sumner and the secretary were also re-elected, and the committee being Messrs. Foster, Shillitto and Smalley, all thorough and enthusiastic anglers. Finding there were ample funds in hand it was arranged to hold the annual dinner on the following Friday (28th January), when members and friends mustered in good force and partook of an excellent repast provided for them by the worthy host and treasurer, to which all did full justice. The dinner over, a most enjoyable evening followed, each vying with the other in adding to the general enjoyment, and with such effect, that the evening passed much too quickly, as it was time to separate when least expected or desired. The toasts were six in number, the first being the usual loyal one of "The Queen," coupled for the sake of brevity with the Royal Family, which was duly honoured; the others were the chairman, vice-chairman, then the toast of the evening, "Success to the Free Anglers," and visitors and friends. The secretary, host and hostess, all with musical honours, and as most anglers are particularly great in chorus a hearty response was the result in each case. Interspersed with the toasts, songs, recitations, were given: the sentimental, motto, and comic, having its representative; and as most of the songs had a good swinging chorus, the effect was lively and fine in every sense; this was the more noticeable as a good and friendly feeling accompanied the singers in their efforts to add to the enjoyment of the evening; in fact it would be difficult to find a society where a better feeling exists, courtesy being the rule at all its meetings, which has had its effect in creating and cementing friendships which it is to be hoped will never be dissolved. One of the visitors was very happy in his remark on this good feeling, saying that "We do not angle for fish alone, we sometimes hook a friend and when once hooked, he is landed for all time." There is an end to all things, and anglers' dinners are no exception, so the Free Anglers had to separate at one o'clock, after passing one of the pleasantest of the many pleasant nights they have past together, all expressing regret they had to part so soon just as they were thoroughly enjoying themselves, the worthy host giving each a parting salute by opening sundry bottles of sparkling champagne.—W. R. R. sec.

GOLDEN BARBEL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Scarcely had the thaw commenced than some of the members of the above Society also commenced to make arrangements to visit "Father Thames" on

the 30th ult. Among them was that well-known veteran, Mr. J. Green, and Mr. J. Stanton, of chub fame some years ago. Both these gentlemen were rewarded by the "Ancient Pater" for their energy and perseverance, the former with 11 fish, and the latter with 2.—PIXIE.

Feb. 2.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society gave their fourth musical entertainment of the season on Wednesday, Jan. 26th, when a most attractive programme was put forward and very creditably carried out, for although the inclemency of the weather prevented several of the most prominent artists being present, a large number of members and friends assembled. Mr. G. F. Spencer, the president, occupied the chair, and was supported by Messrs. P. Geen, C. Davison, G. Nicholson, W. Tucker, W. Creak, E. Dangerfield, A. Piolaine, &c., the vice-chair being filled by Mr. F. Boyce. Before the entertainment commenced the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the President, in a few well chosen words, in which he highly eulogised the well-known efforts of Mr. Geen in promoting the interests of the great body of anglers, thanked that gentleman on behalf of the members of the society for his visit. Mr. Geen, who replied later on in the evening, in the course of a few able remarks, spoke of the pleasure it had given him in being present that evening, and although he had made it a rule, when he retired into the country, not to accept any invitations to such meetings, still there was no rule without an exception, and he had proved the rule by being there that evening. Continuing his remarks, Mr. Geen very forcibly urged the claims of the Anglers' Benevolent Society on all anglers and angling societies, and said that he considered it worthy of all support on account of the amount of good it had done. Several matters in connection with the private rights on the Thames were touched upon, and in conclusion, Mr. Geen (who was heartily cheered) expressed himself as having been highly entertained with the music and singing he had heard, and thanked the members for his evening's amusement. The concert was opened with a selection on the pianoforte given by Mr. Hallé of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, after which Mr. A. L. Burgess gave, in his usual well-known telling style "Hearts of Oak." Mr. J. Edmondson received great applause for his rendering of the "Monarch of the Woods," as also did Mr. A. L. Green for his singing of "The lost child" (the original), and "Young Mrs. Crop." Mr. W. Wilden was very amusing with a "Parody on the Village Blacksmith." The "Burlesque Scene" of Mr. T. Sylvester was a great success and the "Bone Solo" of Mr. Fred Howe, literally "brought down the house." Mr. A. Creak met with warm applause for his singing of "Vanity," Mr. Fitzgerald received a flattering recognition of the manner in which he gave "Donnybrook Fair," whilst Mr. Cranch sang two songs in telling style, and the recitation of "The Signal Box" by Mr. W. Spencer was given as effectively as hitherto. I must not forget to mention that the pianoforte solos of Mr. Hallé were certainly a great treat. The following gentlemen, among others also materially assisted in making the entertainment a success. The entire musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. G. F. Spencer. General regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Messrs. R. Edmondson, J. Lovett, A. Glover and C. Broadlake. The next musical evening will be held on Wednesday February 23rd. Owing to the numerous applications for membership, it has been decided to increase the number of members from the present limit and also to enrol honorary members.—VERITAS.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We were saved from a blank on Sunday evening, and we little expected it. Two of our members tried their luck, and succeeded in bringing in a nice little show of roach—Mr. Scott, 7 lb. roach; Mr. Humphreys, 2½ lb. roach. Hoping to send you better accounts before the close of the season.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

January 31.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this old-established angling club takes place in the Prince's Saloon, at the Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday evening next, when a large and influential attendance is expected. Mr. Arthur Otway, M.P., who is taking great interest in the regulation of the Speed of Steam Launches Bill, will preside on the occasion, and Mr. Thomas Huggett, a thoroughly-practical angler, who presided at the summer dinner last year, will occupy the vice-chair. Several members of Parliament interested in angling matters have been invited.

PRINCE OF WALES'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit was paid to the above society on Thursday, the 27th ult., when eight clubs were represented. Our old friend Mr. Osmond, of the Cambridge Friendly Angling Society, was voted in the chair for the evening, and was faced by Mr. Chambers, of the Cavendish Angling Society. The harmony commenced with a comic song by Mr. Chambers, and was followed by Messrs. Walter, Lovett, Willcocks, Rickards, Till, Beck, Parker, Sharp, E. Chambers (P.W.A.S.), Munslow, Edwards, Pierce, Osmond, and Roberts. During the evening Messrs. Walter, Lovett, Rickards, and Parker were loudly encored, and, as usual, had to oblige again. Our worthy host also came into the room and sang a good song, he also exhibited his good intentions towards us by giving all members present glasses each, of which between fifty and sixty partook. We drank to his jolly good health; and, after several more songs, we wound up an enjoyable harmonic evening in our new club house. The address of the society is—Victory Tavern, Newnham Street, John Street, Edgware Road.—W. LEE, sec.

Feb. 1.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit will be paid to the above-mentioned society on Wednesday, February 9th, at 8.30 p.m. The new clubroom is spacious and capable of accommodating 150 guests, with every convenience upstairs. I hope our friends will rally round us on this occasion and give our new host a bumper. Leo. Bonvoisin, Esq., in the chair, Will Fowler, vice, and Messrs. Morgan and Ghurney, have promised to preside. The undermentioned gentlemen have promised to attend:—Messrs. W. Phillips, Fitch, C. Watling, and J. Wating, Great Northern Angling Society; Messrs. Mitchel, Hunt and Elliott, Brothers Well Met Angling Society, and many others too numerous to mention.—Only one of the members ventured out on the 30th January, Mr. G. Rogers. I

told him it was useless going angling, most rivers being full of ice and snow; still he thought otherwise. After plodding about in the mire all day he managed to capture one tench and 5 gudgeon, weight 1 lb. 6 oz., which made him the winner of £1 is.—G. CABORN, sec.

Jan. 31.

ST. JOHN'S CLUB.

A committee meeting was held on the 28th inst., when it was proposed that we close the fishing season for Club prizes on March the 7th; and what prizes there are left will be fished for on March the 14th. As there are a goodly number of prizes not won as yet, I hope members will come forward and make this a day to be remembered. We propose having a complimentary visit early in March, to give our worthy host, Mr. Gill, an idea of anglers in general, when we shall be happy to see some old faces at our new quarters, the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, where we have first-class quarters. The date of the visit will appear in next week's FISHING GAZETTE.—F. T.

Jan. 31.

A VERY SERIOUS, IRREGULAR PISCATORY ECLOGUE.

(Written in the Hackney Marshes.)

RECITATIVE—(*affetuoso*).

BOBBER (*log.*):—

My pretty dears, will you please to bite?
Waiting your pleasure from morn till night,
I've tried each wheedling art I know,
But, alas! my Sweets, it's all no go.

I see you all, as along you float,
With your pearly sides and sea-green coat,
And silvery waistcoats turned to the sun;
But my worthy friends you're not to be done.

CYPRINUS ALBURNUS (*log. banteringly*):—

Though I'm a Bleak,
Yet I'm not so weak;
Go try your fudge on
My friend, the Gudgeon

BOBBER:—

He will but trudge on,
And tak't in dudgeon;
And not a Roach
My bait will approach.

The big-headed Chub,
Whom I long to drub,
Like an ugly cub.
He does me snub.

And the glit'ring Dace,
He stares in my face;
And the wily Carp,
Is for me too sharp.

CHORUS OF FISH:—

The truth is, friend,
It will not do;
We don't intend
To be had by you.

We're up to snuff; you're a reg'ler muff;
You don't fish for us half fine enough;
With delicate palates, rather queasey,
We're longing for something rich and greasy.

But the water's bright,
And it's our delight
From morn till night,
As we have the right,
To frolic and play
All the sunny day;
And when night is come
And the sun's gone down,
We'll soundly sleep
Till morn doth peep.

Now to Beresford's* go and take your tea,
On the bank of our bright and sparkling Lea.
We'll on with our night-caps, and wish you good night,
For the devil a fish any longer will bite.

Exeunt omnes—laughing.

A BIG CONGER.—On Saturday, the 14th inst. (Jan. 14, 1769), a conger eel of an enormous size, was sold to a fishmonger at Billingsgate for five shillings; it was seven feet in length, and to the middle of the body was as large as the thigh of a stout man, weighing upwards of 100 lb. This extraordinary fish was discovered by the people of a Peter boat on the shore somewhere below Gravesend, who had the dexterity to land and throw a net over it, which intercepted the eel from recovering the river. Without this method or weapons, it could not have been overcome, as the conger will, when attacked, bite his assailant in as desperate a manner as some dogs.—*London Magazine*, 1769.

* The White House, Hackney Marsh.

FINE SPORT AT GUAYMAS, MEXICO.

BY CLIMAX.

WAMBAUGHT, one of the "gang," writes to Billy Carroll, from the above named place away out in Sonora, Mexico, giving a description of a fishing expedition, which is novel and interesting. He says:—

"No beer, no ice: muscat brandy and good cigars in abundance. Thermometer marking 115° in the shade; steel rails so hot that the natives have to wear leather gloves in handling them; yet with all these difficulties to contend with, I had a royal time. We got permission to use the tug boat belonging to our company, the *Ferro-Carril de Sonora* (Limitada), and on board we shipped a splendid lunch to add to the pleasure of our party, which consisted of six fellow *Ferro-carrilarios*, and an equal number of dark-eyed, black-haired *senoritas*, and the boat's crew, and off we put into the Gulf for a heavy fish.

"Well, if we didn't get it, and in a way that beat all my expectations.

"The boat's pocket—fourteen feet by six and five feet deep—was completely filled, as was the deck also; in all more than two tons of cavares, a fish built almost like our rock bass, but weighing from forty to sixty pounds each, splendid white meat, good flavour and fine sport. Our tackle consisted of very closely-knitted grass lines, five-eighths of an inch thick, and two hundred yards long; a chain snood one-half inch thick, with a steel hook proportionately strong, with the shank about eleven inches long, and a half-pound sinker.

For bait the much-dreaded octopus, or devil-fish, which, with all other kinds of salt-water fish, abound in the waters of this Gulf. Those used on this occasion, fourteen in number, were small ones, measuring one foot in diameter. They were taken by our native boatmen, by feeling down among the rocks, until one was found, then allowing the monster to clasp its snake-like arms around their wrists and hands in an embrace from which it never relinquishes its prey, then quickly drawing them on board, where they are at once despatched with a blow from an axe. One arm serves to take a number of fish, as the skin is so tough it cannot be torn from the hook.

"A good-sized cavares gives a man all he can attend to, and must be killed before landing him.

"The party also took and killed eight sharks, ranging in length from four to nine feet, ugly customers in the water, just large enough to take off a leg or an arm, and 'make a corner' on you.

"Since our arrival here one devil-fish, measuring twenty-two feet, has been killed, and others still larger are occasionally captured. The fishermen do not like to tackle these fellows, as they are very dangerous.

"The 'Spanish mackerel' taken in these waters are the most beautiful fish I ever saw, weighing from one to twelve pounds, and as game as a mountain trout. I thought of you as my charming companion was preparing a three-pounder for our dinner.

"Sunday is a grand holiday among the Mexicans. After our return from fishing (which, by the by, was on a Sunday), theatres and balls were in order, all very nice and cheap. The girls dance like sylphs, and the men are polite, so much so that *stilletoes* and 'Colt's 44' can be had for the mere asking occasionally *en el atro lado tambien*.

"This is a lovely country, and when the connections are made with the Sonora railroad, and those in Arizona, no more delightful trip could be made. The people are as different from ours in the States as though they were on another planet, yet it is partly due to that fact which makes me enjoy my sojourn here so much."

EPHING FOREST.—We understand, says the *Hackney Express*, that a strong move is about to be made by the opponents of the Great Eastern Railway Company's projected line from Chingford to High Beech. What is the nature of this move is at present, it seems, a secret, but the details will probably transpire in a few days. Mr. F. G. Heath is still, we understand, vigorously promoting the resistance to the measure. There is no doubt that the Railway Company and the Corporation (should the last-named body adopt the suggestion of its Epping Forest Committee) will have to encounter formidable opposition; for Mr. Heath and those he represents have already the support of the *Daily News*, the *Saturday Review*, *Punch* and *Fun*, the *Globe*, the *Echo*, the *Graphic*, the *Morning Advertiser*, the *Garden*, the *Gardeners' Magazine*, the *Weekly Times*, and *Lloyd's Newspaper*.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1881.

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—III.

RETURNING to the road, we see on our left a small loch called Murister, which contains trout strangely mottled, but otherwise not remarkable; and after a trudge of about two miles round the base of Brouster Hill, with a splendid peep down

the narrow Grutting or Brouster Voe, reach the Bridge of Walls, where the Brouster enters the sea, forming a small salt-water pond, above the road, at high water. This pond contains good numbers of sea-trout at times, but, during the open season, both it and the voe-head are a good deal netted. After the wicked have ceased to trouble, however, those who know how to fish such places, for they require a special mode of angling, may do well in both; but such sport always partakes of the nature of a lottery. We must confess to not being very partial to angling in salt-water for sea-trout; one day you may fish till you are fit to drop from weariness and vexation, yet not see a fin; another day fish are leaping all around you but never a rise touches your fly, except, perhaps, when some peltok or sillock (coal fish) takes your fly and, for a moment, raises your hopes only to dash them once more to the ground; and again you go home with a "toom creel"; whilst on the third day, when you have given the business up as a bad job, somebody's little boy or some unmitigated duffer happens to light on a good take, has splendid sport and comes home to crow over you. Methinks some one says "sour grapes," but we can assure our readers it is not so, we have had splendid sport *at times* in salt water, but the blanks in the lottery are far more numerous than the prizes, at least such is our experience.

The Brouster, with its chain of lochs, offers a splendid run for sea-trout, and should contain far more fish than it does; but, owing to the netting which was once practised to an overwhelming extent in this district and still is, though on a smaller scale, the fishings have greatly deteriorated of late years. When we first visited Shetland there were always a good number of fish to be had after anything like a flood, but at present we should not like to make any such assertion: Two or three years ago the trustees of the late Dr. Scott, of Melby, to whom the whole western end of the island belongs, issued a warning to the tenants against netting; this was done in consequence of a petition from several anglers who had for some years been in the habit of staying at Walls for fishing, but the edict does not seem to have had much effect, judging from the numbers of fish to be found in the lochs here last year.

Of the lower or salt-water loch of Brouster we have already spoken; above it there is a short stretch of the stream much broken by walls built across the stream for the purpose of taking the fish on their return to the sea we believe, and above this comes Brouster Loch proper a shallow sheet of water, but one which used to give capital sport, and, though times have changed, a few fish may still be brought to bank by the angler. The eastern side is in our opinion best, and the lower end, there being more holes there; but if the angler fishes from the boat (for there is a boat on this loch) sea-trout may be taken all over the loch. A day with a moderate breeze is best here; the loch trout is small, about five to the pound, but of good flavour and "game."

After another quarter-mile or so of burn, we come to a larger loch called Voxterbee, where both loch and sea-trout runs larger than in Brouster, the former averaging about three to the pound; whilst, though it would be difficult to give an average weight for sea-trout, we may mention that we have on one day seen four fish of over five pounds brought to Walls from it. We may mention that we have seen several specimens of the fish, described by Couch under the name of Slender Salmon, taken in this loch and Brouster; a close examination of these fish showed, so far as we could see, no difference from the common salmon except in shape; unfortunately we had no books of reference with us so our examination was necessarily a little less thorough than we should have liked; but as to the main facts we can speak confidently. The shape was much that of the plate in Couch's

"Fishes of the British Islands," but the colour much less bright, which might be due either to the peaty nature of their habitat or to the colouring in Couch's book being too brilliant, or to both causes. The teeth were as in the adult salmon, there being a certain amount of roughness on the fore part of the vomer as if there had been teeth there. The number of abdominal coeca on the one examined was over sixty, sixty-three we think, and the number of rays in the pectoral fin fourteen. The specimen examined was thirty-five inches long, and only weighed five-and-a-half pounds. All the specimens we saw were taken in the autumn of 1874, and, we believe, were all pink fleshed. We were unfortunate in not being able to procure a specimen ourselves, or else we should have preserved it; but having landed one for another angler we noticed, what most experienced anglers know to be a characteristic of the true salmon—viz., that on seizing it round the base of the tail the fish could be securely held and lifted, a fact due to the great expansion of the gristle of the tail.

We once had a busy two hours in Voxterbee Loch some years ago. We had fished all day and caught nothing with fly, the day being very cold and rough, with a heavy gale blowing and the burn being in flood; so about five o'clock we fished with an artificial minnow at the mouth of the burn which runs in. In a very short time we took a dozen and a half good common trout, and then the take stopped; we had, however, seen enough to show us that the little bay into which the Brouster runs must be alive with fish, so, after again trying fly without effect, put on a stout worm cast with two hooks. Till seven p.m., by which time the rapidly falling darkness warned us to stop, we kept pulling out fish as hard as we could bait and cast in; and we may at once mention that the contents of our bag were a hundred and one loch trout, the largest about a pound and a half, the total weight being thirty pounds, besides one sea-trout of a pound and three-quarters. This was not such butchery as it may seem, as our landlady had a barrel of brine in which she pickled these fish for her winter use; still it was rather too much of a good thing, and our punishment followed it quickly. We were little more than two miles from Walls, and about three-quarters of a mile off there was a road being made which we meant to strike and so reach home in the dark. But we were not aware that in this road there was a gap of two or three hundred yards in width, and, as luck would have it, in the dark we passed through this gap, with the result that we spent the next few hours feeling about with the butt-end of our rods in the midst of a most uncomfortable mixture of bogs and small lochs. At last we saw a light and went "cross country" for it, now up to our knees in a bog, now flat on our face, and now and then descending some steep bank in a heap, till at length we reached the cottage, whose light we had seen, more like an animated mud-pie than a human being. The "gudeman" got out of bed and insisted on accompanying us more than a mile on the road home, though we only wished him to direct us; nor would he accept of the least remuneration for his trouble, nay, more, he actually called next day to ask how we were. We found we must have gone very straight in the direction in which we had started, as we came out on the main road some two and a half miles to the west of Walls at a place called Fontabroch.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 64.)

WE do not know how we can very well avoid drawing upon Mr. Wilcocks' "Sea Fisherman," Mr. Lord, Mr. Young, and other writers on sea-fishing, for the best description of the tackle necessary effectually to ensnare our prey, as they all agree in our experience. The first-named writer, from his long practical

experience of coast fishing in all weathers and seasons, is entitled to every confidence, as we personally know he does not recommend anything which he himself is not in the constant habit of practising. His descriptions of ground-fishing gear are as clear as it is possible textually to make them. He tells us the methods of fitting gear for ground fishing differ much in different localities. Much more, in fact, than necessity requires. The truth being simply this—that any tackle which will work clear, and place the bait within reach of the fish, will be sure to catch them; the form of the gear being bound, as far as success is concerned, by no arbitrary rules. But to fulfil its requirements, whatever be its form, the tackle must be the best of its kind, or it will prove a failure. In very deep water heavy sinkers are of course required, and even then it is impossible to keep the baited hooks near the bottom, during the strength of the stream of tide at the springs, which is necessary. For although the fish are sometimes found at a less depth, yet this is quite an exception to the general rule, and the baits should therefore be kept just clear of the ground. Off rocky headlands heavy gear is also necessary, even in a moderate depth of water; but in bays, and off parts of the coast where depth and stream of tide are not beyond the average, much lighter sinkers may be used, provided they will keep the ground. The most common error, says Mr. Wilcocks, is to use a stout line where a fine one would be just as effectual. This by necessity involves a heavy sinker, because a stout line holds so much tide that the bottom cannot be kept with a light one. Leads of one and of two pounds weight are very useful for most kinds of ground fishing along shore, and in common with others of greater weight are always filled with booms or bearers off to keep the hooks from twisting round the lines; which booms, whether they consist of wire, wood or whalebone, are known by the general name of chopsticks. Some are fixed, others revolve.

A snood, snead or sid, consists of the lengths of material to which the hooks are attached, and is of hemp, flax, silk, single or twisted gut, and twisted hair. The length of the snood is regulated by the kind of gear of which it forms a part.

Dip leads are of various forms: sugar-loaf, conical, bullet, &c. The Southampton dip is generally furnished with a sinker of one pound in weight in the form of an octagonal cone with a piece of brass wire, both firm and stout, about two feet long, cast into its base. This wire should have eyes turned at each end to which to attach the loop of the snoods. If small brass swivels are placed between the loops and the hook links the likelihood of the snods to kink will be prevented. The snoods must be always of such a length apart that the two hooks when brought towards each other will not touch each other. The loop on the top of the sinker being now attached to the tackle, and the hooks baited, the tackle is ready for use. The boat being anchored, the lead is dropped overboard and allowed to find the bottom; it is then raised a few inches to keep the bait out of the reach of the small crabs; and when a bite is felt a slight jerk will secure the fish, when it should be drawn on board with an even upward movement as rapidly as possible. Objections have been made to this tackle if used in water more than the depth of about twelve fathoms, as the cross piece of wire (or whalebone) offers a very great resistance to its passage through the water, and the shortness of your snooding is a great objection, particularly if the fish are shy. This description of gear is likewise used on other coasts, and in the North Sea for cod-fishing, with a four or five feet bar $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch thick, the resistance of which in hauling up from a great depth, "nearly," says Wilcocks, "doubles the labour for no adequate advantage."

There are other rigs, such as the Dartmouth rig, the Spool rig, boat-shaped rig, the Kentish rig and the Portsmouth rig, but they are more or less fitted up on the same principle; a sinker and

booms called chopsticks to keep the snoods from entanglement. In the Portsmouth rig there are often two or more chopsticks so placed on the line at intervals to attract fish at various depths.

We should advise, in the first place, the amateur to purchase in the locality a complete rig, which he would by examination have no trouble to imitate. Leads of all shapes may be easily moulded in wood, freestone, or moulders' sand from a foundry. Our own were made from moulds sunk in hearthstone, or what is known as Lardner's brick. If wires as fixtures are to be inserted this should be done while the lead is in a molten state; or if a hole though the length of the mould is required a piece, of wire of the necessary thickness should be worked backwards and forwards in the direction until the mass is cold when it can be withdrawn. To prevent the mould from cracking during the process of moulding it should be filled with hot ashes previous to using.

(To be continued.)

THE FISH OF THE TRENT, AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

PLAIN PAPERS FOR PLAIN ANGLERS.*—No. 8.

By the TRENT OTTER.

THE CHUB.

I APPROACH the chub with feelings of very great respect, if not of actual veneration, for the chub with the white spot on his tail was the first fish that our father Izaak introduced to us; and after I had, metaphorically speaking, swallowed that chub, how eagerly I swallowed the rest of his grand old book; and then, like Alexander, who mourned because he had no more worlds to conquer, I mourned because there was no more to swallow. Although the chub does not enjoy a very good reputation from a culinary point of view, yet he is a tolerably handsome-looking fish; and when he is in good condition and hooked, he will fight hard for his liberty; and when we consider that it is absolutely necessary to fish for him with fine tackle, he is just the fellow to try an angler's patience and the strength of his tackle, especially if he happens to be a good-sized one. The chub is found in most of the rivers of England, and likes deep quiet holes, under overhanging banks, or willow bushes, the bottom of old walls, retired nooks, or where old piles and posts stick up out of the water, providing the water is tolerably deep; and yet he is not confined to such places as those, for you will find him in strong rushing streams, and contending with the most rapid waters. During very hot weather they may be seen basking on the surface of the water, over some deep hole, sometimes in considerable numbers, and the moment they become sensible that some one is looking at them, they sink down to the bottom in an instant, being perhaps, with scarcely any exception, the shyest of all fish. They spawn about the first or second week in May, and deposit their eggs on the gravel in very shallow water, and the operation is supposed to occupy them about ten days. He is a gross feeder, and will take kindly to almost anything in the shape of a bait, if it is only delicately offered him; he will swallow worms by the hundred, devour any amount of scratchings, gobble up all your ground bait, and still wish for more, even if that same bait happens to be rotten cheese; and I read somewhere that the French fish for them with a ripe cherry. He will take almost anything, from a fly to a small frog, or from a grain of creed wheat to a bunch of lobworms; and I have known him even to dash at a spoon-bait when pike-fishing.

His bill of fare is a very lengthy one: nothing seems to come amiss if he is only in a biting humour. He will take the artificial fly or natural insect on the surface; a bunch of lobworms from the bottom, or gentles and grubs from midwater; while the black slug, a small frog, cheese, or scratchings, all come to swell the list of attractions for our leather-mouthed friend, the chub. He will bite at nearly all seasons; hot weather or cold makes no difference to him. He can be taken by anglers knowing his habits and haunts in the winter months, as well as in the summer, spring, or autumn; only he seems to me to be a bit of an epicure, for the bait that he will take one month he utterly ignores the next. I don't mean all baits, but in some particular instances," for sometimes he will revel in the luxury of a nice bunch of gentles, and then perhaps you may go a week or two after and he will have none of it, but just drop a wasp grub over his nose, and your float will disappear with a rush, as though he had half digested that unfortunate grub in less than a second, or else would give you the idea that he meant to take it home for his wife and family, and was bolting off for that purpose. I will try to tell you, to the best of my knowledge and ability, the best baits to try all through the season, and how to use them, and when. But hold! the chub will sometimes attain a considerable size. We have heard of them being taken out of some Continental waters of the weight of ten pounds; but in England they seldom exceed the weight of six pounds. Indeed, if an angler is fortunate enough to capture a chub of six pounds, if he can afford it. I should say by all means have it preserved; it will be an ornament to his room, and every time he sees it it will bring back to his memory the recollection of the glorious bit of sport he had with it before it was grassed. The largest chub by far that I ever took out of the Trent weighed five and three-quarter pounds, a splendid fish, who fought hard for his liberty; but the biggest that I ever saw is one that was taken by Mr. Cubley, No. 9, Crown Street, Newark, out of the Muskham Waters of the Trent. Mr. Cubley is a first-class angler, and the chub I have just mentioned is now in a glass case as a proud trophy of the angler's skill; it is twenty-five inches long, sixteen inches in girth, and weighs six pounds, a splendid fish in the opinion of all anglers who have seen it. I hope it will be my good luck to take just such an one; but still, if an angler takes one of four, or four and a half pounds, he may congratulate himself that he has got a very good specimen; and if an angler by a bit of very good luck, should happen to take in a day's chub-fishing twenty fish that will weigh forty pounds altogether, he will find that to be a very good average, for large chub are not so plentiful now in the Trent as they used to be, according to the statement of Mr. Bailey, who a short time ago wrote an account of a few days' fishing here at Newark some years ago. He thought nothing then, according to his own account, of taking three chub out of one hole that would weigh twelve pounds. I cannot hear of any anglers who have been so fortunate as that this last few years, and I should hope for, as far as chub-fishing is concerned, a return of the good old times. Mr. Bailey is a perfectly trustworthy man, and I would not for the world accuse him of drawing the long bow; but nowadays a four-pound chub is a rarity, while, as I said before, in a day's chubbing, two pounds each fish would be a very good average weight.

(To be continued.)

THE ANGLER'S MISSING LINK.

WHO is to replace the link, now missing, in the great chain of usefulness that has existed for so many years between the anglers and the late Inspector of Salmon Fisheries? The question is not so much the appointment of a successor to dis-

charge the ordinary duties of that office. It takes a wider and broader view of usefulness than what is to be comprehended in the naturally limited sphere of a Salmon Inspector, and the angler has yet to realise what is to be to him the missing link. The late Mr. Frank Buckland became, as it were, every angler's property, and nothing delighted him more than to be made useful, in every possible way, to the angler. If a fish possessing some peculiar malformation was caught, no matter by whom, rich or poor, it was safe to be sent to Albany Street for information, with the absolute certainty that it would be clearly and properly explained. If there was some disease carrying off multitudes of fish, from a cause that wanted to be traced, as in the Norfolk and Suffolk rivers some two years ago, the opinion of the late Mr. Buckland was anxiously sought, and everything would be sure to be accurately described. If an angler succeeded in catching a fine specimen fish of any species, he would be sure to let the late Inspector know, and a cast would inevitably be made, either by his own hands or under his personal superintendence. Everything that was curious in natural history, and required explanation, was sent to him for his opinion, which was decisive, as no one ever doubted his authority. None of these things can be or will be necessarily attached to the duties of an Inspector of Salmon Fisheries, and it must not be expected that a successor will devote himself, as the late Mr. Frank Buckland did, in such matters as these, disconnected as they are from the Salmon Fisheries work. It was a self-imposed duty on the late Mr. Buckland, in which he delighted to labour, and it is there more especially where the link will be missed. He was ready to attend angling meetings and angling dinners, not altogether as an Inspector of Salmon Fisheries, but, in the society of anglers, to tell them of his work, and to suggest or advise anything that would benefit even those who catch the commonest species of fresh-water fish. He did it so lively and distinctly that all were in raptures with him during the progress of his remarks—his ready wit and humour always keeping his hearers interested in what he was saying. The annual dinner of the Piscatorial Society never appeared complete without his presence, but he has been absent on the two last occasions, all present regretting that indisposition alone prevented his putting in an appearance. He never came without bringing with him something in the way of specimens or casts to illustrate his remarks. His long and tedious illness prevented for some time previous to his death his public appearance in the assemblies of anglers, though he maintained all the briskness of his faculties to the last; and at Albany Street, if he was not elsewhere, his intelligence was always at work, and his well-constructed mind ever ready to impart information to the anglers, or to give his opinion upon any question of natural history. As long as he was alive the link still remained, and his usefulness, even during bodily suffering, kept it untarnished. His name, everywhere, was a talisman—it was an introduction and a passport to any one possessing the privilege of his friendship, and not a few have got into the best circles in that way. The great question is now, "Who will supply this missing link?" To a certain extent it can never be supplied. Few men possess the same warm, genial and liberal disposition which so deeply characterised the late Mr. Buckland. But the question will have to be guessed somehow. What the anglers want to know is this—to whom can they send any curious specimens of fish for information and get it done in the same way as it was done in Albany Street. It is not the kind of information which can be got through the columns of a newspaper that is wanted. The late Mr. Buckland went far beyond this by the processes of analysis and taking of casts, and he was at no end of trouble therewith. It was really made by him a labour of love, and not for pecuniary gain. These remarks are not simply intended as a panegyric on one who is

gone, although they naturally point to such an idea, but they are of a practical character. Whether they can be answered or not it is difficult to say. There can be no doubt that few, very few, men would undertake to do what the late Mr. Buckland did; and it is to be apprehended that his untimely removal from labours so useful and universal will create the greatest difficulty to be experienced by the anglers, and the conclusion will be that his death will long be felt as "The Missing Link." B.

FISHING QUARTERS IN DERBYSHIRE.

THE picturesque village of Rowsley, on the Liverpool and Manchester branch of the Midland Railway, is known to many anglers, but for the benefit of those who have never been there, I will try to describe its fishing resources, as it is well worth a visit. There are two inns there, the Railway and the Peacock, but the latter is the most resorted to by anglers; and Mrs. Cooper, being quite accustomed to have brothers of the craft as her guests, does all in her power to make them comfortable, her efforts, I will add, always meeting with the approval they deserve. The angler has the choice of two rivers in which to throw his fly, viz., the Wye or Derwent, the former of which empties itself into the latter a short way below Rowsley Bridge. Of the two, the Wye carries off the palm for fly-fishing, being a stream in which trout love to dwell, clear, rapid, sparkling, and flowing over a gravelly bottom, with quiet deeps too, to suit the taste of the shy grayling. The Derwent is broader and quieter than its sister stream, and is rather hard for a stranger to fish with much hope of success, as a knowledge of the fishing spots of the river is generally considered necessary. The Darley-Dale Club preserves the water from a little above Rowsley Bridge down to Matlock Bridge, but tickets can be got at the inn close by the river at Darley Dale (to which the angler must go by train), which give him permission to fish from there to Matlock, a nice long reach of water. Spinning the minnow and bottom-fishing are practised on the Derwent with more success than throwing the fly; in these two ways fish of 5 lb. have been taken. The river has also a few coarse fish in it, viz., pike, roach, barbel, &c. When in flood, many good trout are taken by fishing close to the banks with worms, allowing the stream to carry down the bait—a bite, of course, being known by its stoppage. A friend of mine in this way caught 4 trout, of 2½ lb., 2 lb., 1½ lb. and 1 lb. respectively, besides some smaller ones, and I myself have made some good baskets. The Chatsworth Club preserves the water through Chatsworth Park, which is the higher reach of water above Rowsley. Below Matlock Bridge the fishing is open; few fish, however, are taken, except in the deeps at Matlock, where the angler may, at times, obtain a few by bottom-fishing.

In order to fish the Wye in Rowsley Meadows, which is the best fishing to be got in any county, in my opinion, the angler must apply for leave to Mr. Nesfield, Bakewell, who is the steward to the Duke of Rutland, to whom the fishing in the Wye belongs. Leave is rather hard to obtain, but one day's fishing here is worth a hundred elsewhere. The stream is pretty free from obstructions, though in some places a detour has to be made round a plantation at the river side. The fishing extends from the bridge, a little above the junction of the two rivers, up to Tilleford Bridge. There are some splendid bits of fishing in it, and though only about two miles long, it is better than all the other reaches of the Wye put together. From Tilleford Bridge to Bakewell, a reach of 9 miles, may be fished by paying 2s. 6d. for a day ticket, obtainable at Mrs. Cooper's; or by staying at the Rutland Arms, Bakewell, this part of the river may be fished free. It is poor, however, when compared with the other reach, on account of its being much fished. I have seen as many as eight anglers

on one day perseveringly flogging it. Above Bakewell come the Ashford and Millersdale fisheries; the latter may be fished by paying 1s. 6d. for a day ticket. Above these, again, comes the Buxton fishery, on which the angler may fish by paying 1s. The trout here run very small. In rainy weather fishing is at a standstill there, on account of the white mud from the road—which runs alongside—being drained into the stream, when it becomes a dirty white torrent, in which it is a wonder to me how the fish manage to survive. The Lathkill, by the way, joins the Wye just below Tilleford Bridge, a stream well known for its fishing resources. No one is allowed to fish in it, except the Duke's particular friends. Six brace is considered a very good day's sport here. The fish run from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., the average size being $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. No fish may be taken on the Wye under 10 inches, and the only bait permitted is the artificial fly. On the Derwent 9 inches is the minimum length. I should mention, too, that no close time is observed for grayling on the Wye, but on the Derwent, the month of April is set apart for that purpose. The fishing on the Wye begins on April 1st and ends September 30th: on the Derwent it commences March 24th, and ends October 10th. The trout in both streams are very shy, seldom rising much, so great skill is necessary to effect their capture. The best flies to use are the blue and yellow duns, the soldier-palmer, and the black gnat, which must be dressed small. These are all sure, and no more are really necessary; but you may add the hare's ear dun, March brown and bumbles if you choose. I may add, too, that the finest tackle is necessary.

BLUE DUN.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

THERE was a largely attended meeting of the delegates of angling clubs affiliated to the above Association at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Baker Street, on Friday evening in last week. Mr. Leo Bonvoison in the chair, with Mr. Beckett in the vice-chair. Most of the principal clubs in London were represented, and amongst the names well known to the angling public were Messrs. R. Ghurney, Noble, G. S. Spencer, Dean, Gaynor, Murphy and others. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read over and confirmed, Mr. Thomas Hoole, the energetic secretary of the Association, read a letter he had received from Mr. W. H. Brougham, inviting a renewal of the contribution annually given to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The Chairman observed, as they had the pleasure of Mr. Brougham's attendance on that occasion, he would ask him to address the meeting at once, and he was sure those present would be very pleased to hear what he had got to tell them. Mr. W. H. Brougham, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, expressed the pleasure he always felt in addressing them. It was not long ago when he specially attended a meeting for the purpose of soliciting their opinion in reference to some suggestions about to be made to the Thames Conservancy for some important and necessary alterations in a contemplated revision of the Lower Thames bye-laws, such as the sizes of fish, the measurement of fish, the season for jack, the enlargement of the Bait Act for fishermen only, the abolition of netting between Richmond Bridge and Kew Bridge, the power of imprisonment in lieu of fines, and the season for taking of trout. There was then some slight difference in their opinion compared with the views of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, but he was pleased to tell them that their opinions upon further consideration had been unanimously adopted. He regretted very much the absence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley that evening, as they all knew he was a friend to all true anglers; and he was authorised to state that had he known of the meeting earlier than that morning (having previously made

another engagement) he would have been present. Mr. Brougham then referred to a visit he and Mr. Spreckley had made to the Conservancy House on the previous Tuesday, in reference to the disgraceful catching of the dace at Teddington Weir last year, when they were heading up to the spawning grounds above, and the paddles being all closed, obstructing their further progress. They had now made the most satisfactory arrangements for this year; instructions were given for the opening of some of the paddles of the weir at the time of the fish heading up; a notice board would be put up to prevent persons from fishing on the top of the weir; and the river-keepers would be in attendance to carry out these arrangements. Mr. Brougham remarked, that as regards the question of private rights, which was now occupying great attention, he was happy to say their portion of the Thames was not at all fettered by them, but his society was not without sympathy in the movement that was being made for the upper Thames by the Thames Rights' Defence Association, though they could not, as being out of their district, unite with them. It would be desirable for any legal action to be taken by the association referred to, and not for the public to look to the Thames Conservators, as they were not in a position under the upper Thames Acts, to take the initiative, although he felt assured they would not discourage any attempts that were made for the removal of all assumed private rights, and would do all they could to encourage free fishing. Mr. Brougham concluded an interesting and practical address, which was listened to with careful attention, by urging the Association to renew its customary grant of twenty guineas. They were all aware of the exertions which were so energetically made by Mr. Thomas Spreckley which kept the whole machinery in constant and active operation, and he would with unerring confidence leave the matter in their hands.—Mr. Murphy thereupon, after some complimentary remarks, proposed that the usual sum of twenty guineas be given to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. He felt that their Association was mainly established to assist in the preservation of the Thames, and after what they had heard from their friend Mr. Brougham, they could not support them too liberally.—Mr. Dean seconded the motion.—After some few observations from the Chairman and others, the resolution was unanimously carried.—Mr. Brougham, in returning thanks, said that when he came before them again another year for a similar purpose, he trusted they would all feel that their liberality and confidence had not been misplaced. At that late hour he would be compelled to leave them, in order to catch his last train, and sincerely wished each of them a hearty good night. Mr. Brougham left the room with expressions of good wishes from all, and the meeting afterwards proceeded to the transaction of general business.

Magnetism and magnetic appliances have now become Household Words. Yet it is only a few years ago that the discovery of magnetism as an efficacious remedy in cases of nervous prostration and weakness of the system was first made, and this useful invention turned to man's profit. Since that time magnetism as a curative aid has made wonderful progress, and is now welcomed and recognised by the Medical Faculty. We have been favoured with a pamphlet, entitled "Curative Magnetism, or Nature's Aid to Health," the perusal of which is the mainspring of these observations. It set us thinking, and we are not without benefit from reading it. It is published by Mr. J. Hugh Martin, 272, Regent Circus, London, W., to whom we can confidently recommend any of our readers interested in the subject, to apply, as one holding a well-defined position as an authority on the subject.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep,
And in his simple show he harbours treason."

—SHAKESPEARE.

The Thames just now is running very smooth and deep, but there is treason in it with a vengeance, as fishing is impracticable, and the minds of anglers who had anticipated a final day or so, or even week, in a favourite haunt amid the perch and jack, are filled with malice, hatred and all uncharitableness. Well, never mind, something may turn up for good, for it is surely an ill wind that does not do even an angling man some good. In the mean time I would advise prudent piscators to "look well to their tackling," oil each rod, varnish ring whippings, try every line yard by yard, and give a coat to comfort, in enforced laziness—in short, let not a tackle be disregarded, or an unconsidered article be unseen to, for wily damp and disuse will assuredly take off the keen edge of beauty and usefulness if these little matters are neglected. During the frost and snow J. Rixon, of Hurley, had the good fortune to shoot close to Newhook Weir a fine female otter, which scaled 17½ lb. and measured 42 inches in length. The "beastie" was subsequently purchased by Mr. Sykes and exhibited at the Piscatorial Society, most members expressing their pleasure that Old Father Thames was rid of such (a "thing of beauty" in death) an arrant poacher in life. Thursday evening.—River in high flood; and as to the rain, it raineth every day, this state of aquaphobia is likely to continue, and even much increase. Angling out of the question.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

The water is very thick, and a flood water going up again. There will be no fishing for some time. The weather is very gloomy, with every appearance of more rain. There will not be much more fishing this season. Bad times for we poor fishermen.

Thames (Kingston).

A trout was found dead close to F. W. Bond, Esq.'s, Swiss Cottage, Hampton Wick. Length, 2 feet 8 inches; girth, 1 foot 3 inches; weight, 9½ lb., ought to have weighed over 14 lb. There has been nothing done here in fishing, only a few roach from the bank. The river is all over the place, and still rising.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Teddington).

The water is rising, and very thick after the very heavy rains we have had; but, if the weather keeps fine, the water will soon run down again, as the tides are very low. In one day Mr. Edwards caught 9 bream, and 1 carp of 9 lb.; Mr. Haley caught 2 carp—one 3 lb., and one 4 lb. Weather dull and cloudy.—J. BALDWIN, Fisherman, Teddington.

Thames (Twickenham).

I am sorry to inform my customers, whom I advised last Sunday not to go out fishing, that the river does not look any better now, than it did then, and there cannot be any hopes of starting for at least another week. The land water is standing at high-water mark.—ALFRED PERRIN.

N.B.—I am sorry to say that poor Jem Brand is still very ill, but I am pleased to say that Capt. Moss (one of Jem's old patrons) has kindly opened and headed a subscription list, and will kindly receive any small subscriptions on his behalf. Address: Capt. Moss, Easterfield Villa, Hanwell.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Water, water everywhere, and more than enough, not only to drink, but to drown an army. We have had a perfect deluge of rain since Monday, and the river is now running like a mountain torrent. There was good sport on Saturday, one gentleman caught 4½ brace of grayling below Mayfield with the cocking and winter duns. Two other catches of 5½ brace and 4 brace respectively near Uttoxeter and Birdgrave have also come to hand. I can hear of no coarse fish being taken. Trout are occasionally landed while grayling fishing, but of course have for the present to be returned to the river. Some of the private pike waters are now closed.—THE SPLODGER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

For the last few weeks the river has been ice-bound and snow-bound, and, instead of fishing, we have had skating. That has now passed and left the waters in an unfit condition for fishing. On Sunday we had a large number of anglers from all parts, anxious to try their luck, but, on account of the unsettled state of the waters, their takes were small. Should we be favoured with fine weather by the end of the week and the waters go down, we may look forward for better prospects.—S. SEWELL.

Lee (Co. Cork).

An immense quantity of rain has recently fallen, and the river is flooded to an extraordinary height. At the meeting of the conservators to-day, it was stated that a large quantity of fish had gone up, and that the prospects for the opening on Tuesday were very good. The weather continues unsettled, and the bank-height floods are likely to last for the week.—A. H. S., Cork.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

We have had a high flood here since Sunday last, and we hear of great numbers of salmon going up the river, so that the upper waters will be well

stocked with fish. The cots killed at Clonmel on Monday, eighteen; Tuesday, eleven; and Wednesday seven, and would have caught greater numbers, only they, thinking the river too high, did not venture out, but had such success during the first draw that they have continued to fish still in the flood, which they usually used not to do. The cot-men tell us the river is swarming with spring fish. No salmon have been, to our knowledge, caught by rod as yet, but when the water gets low we expect to hear of good sport. The trout fishing is better than we anticipated, some good ones were caught on Sunday last. On Monday Captain Dixon, Mr. Park (18t1), and Mr. Wilkinson killed five dozen on the Clodiagh with both flies and worm. Major Toppin, Mr. Middleton and several others being successful, also Major Chalmers. There is not much poaching doing at present, we heard of one case of it yesterday on Glenmorgan stream. A young man hunted a salmon (kelt) down the stream into a pool, and when going to strike the fish on its head with a stick he fell himself into the pool, but however succeeded in landing the fish, which certainly was unfit for use. The killing trout flies are gold-spiders, red hackles, and rat's-fur and red-hackle. The rain still continues to-day so we expect there will be no fly-fishing for a little time on the Suir, but some of the mountain streams can be always fit for flies, the flood runs down so quickly.—DORA.

Feb. 9.

Trent (Alrewas).

The idea that we had got rid—at least, for this season—of biting blasts, and all the Arctic terrors by which we were besieged a few weeks ago, has been utterly dispelled. Just when we were beginning to anticipate an early commencement of piscatorial enjoyment, and with some prospect of the spring dawning upon us, and genial sunshine taking the place of leaden skies and a phenomenal atmosphere, we find ourselves completely settled by another disastrous flood. Snow commenced to fall heavily on Monday followed by an incessant downpour of rain. All the rivers in the Midlands are now out of bounds and hundreds of acres of meadow-land completely submerged. With the elements so unfavourable, nothing has been done in the shape of angling; neither are the prospects for the next week at all favourable. The weather, at the time of writing, is still unsettled; and the wind is blowing a gale from the north-east.—JAMES GREGORY.

Thursday Night.

Trent (Newark).

On Monday the water in the lower Trent had begun gradually to go down and I entertained hopes that I should soon be able to commence operations; but the decree had gone forth that I, as well as numberless other anglers, would have to wait a little longer, for, early on Monday, we had a terrible snowstorm, to be succeeded in the afternoon by a heavy rain. So, on the following day, the water again begun to rise, and we have had a quantity of rain since Monday—notably, last Monday night—when it rained very heavily for ten hours, so that to-night (Thursday) the whole valley of the Trent is covered with a dreary waste of water. The water is still rising, and is now only a few inches lower than the great flood of a few weeks ago; so that anglers may rest contented and wait with what patience they can for a favourable change. Nottingham and Sheffield anglers, who make Colliingham their fishing-quarters, will be sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mr. Turner, of the Jolly Bargeman Inn. He took a couple of horses to meet his boat at Marnham Ferry, and he had no sooner got there than he fell down and died in a few minutes.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The weather during the last eight or ten days has been so unpropitious for rod-fishing that nothing worth mentioning could be done. The last frost together with the heavy fall of snow, went away so gradually that some of the rodders thought there would not be much extra water come down. In this, however, they were deceived; for after one day's fishing, in which there was some good execution done among chub, roach, and dace; and in a few hours after the river began to rise rapidly, which at once put a stop to angling. Sunday, however, turned out a fine dry day, which caused the river to somewhat settle down, and there appeared at about midday a chance of the water getting into condition on the following morning for bottom fishing, which turned out to be quite right, and several anglers were prepared to start; but before they got to the station there was every indication of more snow, and in a short time after it came down proper, and was quite a snowstorm during the remainder part of the day. Rain then quickly followed, which sent the snow away rapidly. The result was as was expected, another flood; and up to the time of writing there does not seem much prospect of any rod fishing being done for several days. Though the weather seems to have changed for the better, and it will only remain so for a few days the Trent will soon be in condition for bottom fishing.—W. BAILEY.

Wensum (Norwich).

This small stream, not much patronised by anglers, was visited during the past week by several gentlemen of Norwich. Amongst them, Mr. Waythe, of Mile End, a most enthusiastic angler, who succeeded in landing forty decent-sized roach—bait used being brandlings—whilst another gentleman, close by him, using red paste, did not take a single fish. This stream will undoubtedly become a favourite resort during the coming season, as, since the passing of the Fisheries Preservation Act plenty of fish of every description are to be had. The best spots are the Horse-shoe Hole, the Dolphin Staithe, and Masters' Reach, between the New Mills, Norwich, and the Mills at Hellesdon. I am informed also that there are plenty of pike in this river, which I hope may be true.—ANGLER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Monday morning opened with a very heavy fall of snow, which fell heavily all day. Then it turned to rain in the evening, which continued up to Wednesday. The rain scarcely ever ceasing, with the wind raging with unabated fury nearly the whole time, has caused Derbyshire to be visited with one of the largest and most disastrous floods ever known to be to the oldest inhabitant living, doing an immense quantity of damage. All down the valleys of both the Wye and Derwent have been one vast sheet of roaring water. All along the valley of the Wye, from Ashford, Bakewell, Haddon Hall and Rowsley, and on the Derwent, from Bastow, Chatsworth, Rowsley, Dailey Dale, Maslock, Cromford, Whatstandwell, and even down to Derby, have had the appearance of a large lake—the waters being furiously driven up and down by the hurricane, which was prevailing nearly the whole time the flood was out. At Matlock Bridge the flood was once over 5 feet high in the houses, both furniture and other things floating about in the houses from Rowsley. The Midland Railway Company had a very great quantity of sleepers washed away with the flood. The foot-bridge which leads to Matlock town from the Dale, which crosses the river Derwent, was washed down, also a great quantity of barrels

and other things were washed away from Mr. Steven's Paint Works, Matlock Dale. Both Matlock town and Matlock Bath suffered very much from the effects of the floods—it caused very many persons in both places to have several feet of unwelcome water in their houses, in fact, there was a boat race in the main street at Matlock Bath, while the flood was at its height. There have also been several dead sheep and deer, and a great quantity of rabbits have been seen floating down the Derwent. The bleach net party have killed a good deal of fish during this flood with their nets, viz., trout, grayling and coarse fish. The trout in very good condition considering the early season for them. There will be no angling with rod and line for some time to come.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

P.S.—Can any person be summoned or convicted for taking trout at this time of the year where he has permission to fish? I think not, as the Fresh-water Fisheries Act for 1878 will protect him.—G. J. EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

The water has again risen very much owing to the late heavy rains, and all prospects of angling for several weeks are put a stop to. A man netting for bait opposite Messrs. Wright and Wellington's timber yard, King Street, took two large pike, and he informed a friend of mine that he had repeatedly seen several in that vicinity of late. I am sorry to have to report a very narrow escape of the worthy chairman of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society (Mr. C. S. Fowler), whilst trolling for pike at Fornsett near Norwich. His bait-kettle having slipped into the river from the bank, he was endeavouring to recover it when the rail upon which he was leaning gave way and precipitated him into the river, and, unfortunately, into a deep hole—depth about 12 feet. His shouts for help were heard by his brother, who fishing some distance from him, and fortunately arrived just in time to rescue him after he had gone down the second time. He was speedily removed to a neighbouring farm-house, where everything was done to render him comfortable, the worthy farmer lending him an entire change of clothes, which were very acceptable; when, after refreshing the inner man, he arrived home to the club house not much the worse for his immersion.—ANGLER.

Yare (Norwich).

The water has gone down considerably and is much brighter, so much so that two gentlemen of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society ventured out for a few hours' roach fishing on Friday last, but without much success. Mr. G. Hart, of the Thorpe Gardens, whilst angling on the broad on Tuesday last captured a very fine tench, weighing upwards of 2 lb., also, on the same day, he succeeded in landing a brace of jack. Mr. Harper, of the Buck Inn, Thorpe, showed us some very fine carp, which he had taken from a pit on a farm a few miles from Norwich. I have just heard that circulars are issued to members of the Yare Preservation Society, calling a meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of improving boats for angling. The sky has again assumed a wintry appearance, and snow has commenced to fall.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

My star of hope was in the ascendant on Saturday last, as the main river was running in beautifully, and other two days of fine weather would have found me on the banks of the stream, rod in hand. Unhappily it was destined otherwise, for on Monday snow fell incessantly all the day, followed by a rapid thaw on Tuesday, which once more filled the river bank full with snow water, and again put off all chance of angling to an indefinite period.—F. M. WALBRAN.

ANGLING DESCRIBED.—A cynical writer, who evidently knew nothing of the pleasures of angling, and seems to have had a great contempt for what he did not understand, once described the occupation of fishing as "a stick and a string, a worm at one end, and a fool at the other." It has long been the custom to attribute this rather foolish saying to either Dr. Johnson or Dean Swift. Some years since Mr. Pinkerton pointed out (*N. & Q.*, 3rd S. x. 472) that the thought was due to a French writer of the seventeenth century named Guyet, who quoted an old saying:—

"La ligne avec sa canne est un long instrument,
Dont le plus mince bout tient un petit reptile,
Et dont l'autre est tenu par un grand imbecile."

It would be of some interest to know when and where these lines are to be found, and who was the writer, as there were several of the name of Guyet; but it would be still more interesting to know upon what grounds the saying is so constantly attributed to Swift and Johnson.—Edward Solly in *Notes and Queries*.

ICEBERGS ON THE YARE.—Many tons of ice came floating down with the tide on Tuesday, and some of the pieces before colliding with the bridge at Yarmouth, appeared as wide as the river itself.—*Norwich Argus*.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P., it is said, seldom smokes during the Parliamentary session, but, in the holidays or recess, when by loch or river, angling for salmon—fit sport for such a man—the right hon. member indulges in the fragrant weed, preferring the best cigars.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

THE NEW INSPECTOR OF FISHERIES,

THE *Athenæum* is our authority for stating that Professor Huxley, F.R.S., will not resign any of his appointments in consequence of accepting the post of Inspector of Fisheries. As, however, these appointments already include the important ones of Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Lecturer in the Royal School of Mines, and Secretary to the Royal Society, it is not an unfair question to ask how much time will in future be devoted to the inspection of fisheries, which would be none the worse off even if there were three inspectors for every one employed at present.

THE FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

A REPORT has just been issued by Dr. Spencer F. Baird on fish and fisheries of the United States of America. He deals with the history and statistics of the food-fish of the different coasts, rivers, and lakes; their decrease and the mode of preventing it; their propagation; the quality of the fishes; their value and economic uses; all points of considerable interest at the present time, in relation to the exhaustion of many of the British lakes and rivers and the rapid decrease of several descriptions of fish around our shores.

RAT CAPTURED BY AN OYSTER.

THE accompanying illustration represents a very curious capture of a rat which was brought under our notice some time ago by Mr. Prosser, the well-known oyster merchant, close by Temple Bar. Rats, we know, have a remarkable instinct in finding out good quarters for themselves, not only where they will be comfortable and securely lodged from the intrusion of unwelcome visitors, but where they will also have easy access to plenty of good food. Mr. Prosser's establishment in Fleet Street presents what may be called a very paradise for rats. Throughout the whole house from roof to basement are innumerable nooks and crannies behind the wainscoting, under counters, and between the floors, in which are many secure retreats. Provisions of all kinds, moreover, are plentiful, so it is scarcely to be wondered at that Mr. Prosser is constantly troubled by depredations on his stores from these hungry feeders. He has tried various means to get rid of them—traps, poison, etc.—but all to little or no avail, as, no matter how many are killed, the numbers appear to increase rather than fall off. He has now given up traps and poison, and depends altogether on two bull-terriers to keep these pests of the household in check. These useful little dogs are constantly and suddenly let loose in the vaults beneath, where oysters, etc., are stored. They are very quick, and generally manage to account for a rat or two, who, taken unawares, are quickly despatched. Rats appear particularly fond of oysters, and appear to know what a good one is, as they as a rule pay particular attention to the natives. Numbers of them are kept below, and during the cold weather are covered with sacks to keep the cold out. The rat the hero of the accompanying sketch, was found exactly in the position represented. Mr. Prosser, entering the vault, heard a rustle under a sack, and on going to see what was the matter was



astonished to find a fine, well-fed rat closely fastened by the tail in the mouth of a native (the artist has unfortunately not been very successful in his attempt to represent a "real native"). The rat was struggling hard to free himself, but the oyster held close grip and would not let him go, so Mr. Prosser called his terriers, one of which soon put an end to the rat's struggles. Some of the oysters in the barrel showed that Master Rat had been feeding on them, and Mr. Prosser thinks that by some accident the tail of the rat got into the mouth of a lively open-mouthed oyster, who, not liking the intrusion, firmly closed "his jaws" and held on tight. We have seen several instances of mice being caught by oysters. In the collection of the late Frank Buckland were several specimens, but in all these instances the mice were caught by the heads. In one case two mice had fallen victims to an oyster. The case of the rat given above is, we think, worthy of being recorded as a curiosity of natural history.—*Land and Water*.

[We are indebted to the courtesy of the editor of *Land and Water* for the loan of the illustration of this most curious incident. We hope Mr. Prosser will preserve the bivalve and its captive, and exhibit it in his shop, which, by the way, is one of the best in London for oysters.—ED. F. G.]

STATEMENT OF THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION TO THE CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER THAMES.

"WE have been asked by the Conservators to place our views and wishes before them in writing.

"We applied to the Conservators because we regarded them as a body appointed by Parliament and the Crown, to watch over and protect the rights of the public in regard to the river, and to regulate the due enjoyment of those rights; and that such purposes might be effectually secured, the Conservators were empowered to raise funds, by taxation of the public, under Acts of Parliament.

"Various occupiers of land abutting on the river have been attempting to claim, as private, certain Public Rights upon or adjacent to it. There is good reason to believe that the claims, so set up, are quite unfounded, and our Association being interested in maintaining those rights of way, navigation and fishing, on the river, which have been enjoyed by the public for a very long period, applied to the Conservators to uphold the Public Rights, and to resist attempts made to infringe them.

"We beg to suggest that Clauses should be introduced by the Conservators in the Bill now before Parliament, relating to the Thames, so as to secure to all anglers, oarsmen, and pedestrians the enjoyment of the river and the streams flowing therefrom, as previously used by them. In order to attain these objects, we conceive that the Act should prohibit, under penalties, annoyance to, or interference with, the public while reasonably exercising their rights.

"If any riparian owners or occupiers persist in claiming alleged Private Rights in antagonism to the Public, we respectfully submit that all such claims should be carefully and properly investigated by competent impartial authority, before the same are allowed. It is much to be regretted that this was not done before the later Thames Acts were procured by the Conservators, in which clauses regarding alleged private rights have been introduced, which we respectfully contend are open to serious objections in the interests of the public.

"We further submit that every riparian owner or occupier, whether a member of the Board of Conservators or not, should be prohibited, whether as a magistrate, or in any other capacity, from adjudicating upon claims by any other riparian owner or occupier opposed to public rights.

"If the river is public, those who use and enjoy it, as of old, ought not, in our view, to be annoyed or proceeded against for using it. If the river is private, we fail to understand why the Conservators should have obtained powers from Parliament to protect and preserve it, and to improve the fishing for the benefit of claimants of alleged private portions of the stream, or why the public should be taxed, and its money spent for such purposes.

"As regards the tow-paths, they could probably be purchased now for far less than they would cost later on, when the value of building frontages, &c., is likely to increase.

"We understand that claims have been made by some riparian owners below Staines, for instance, at Thames Ditton and Walton.

"We regret to observe from the Conservators recent replies to the inquiries made by Mr. Cook, and by the Common Council of the City of London, that the Conservators contemplate leaving the public unprotected against attempts at usurpation by riparian owners and occupiers, and we now beg to ask whether the Conservators, upon an instance, or instances, of infringement of public rights on the river, being laid before their officers, supported by proper evidence, will or will not interfere to protect the public rights.

"We trust that, upon further consideration, the Board will

decide to support and uphold the rights of the public, and thereby add to the kindness which has heretofore been shown by the Conservators and its officials to anglers and other frequenters of the river.

"From various causes we have been unable to forward this communication earlier, for which we beg to apologise.

"On behalf of the Thames Rights Defence Association.

"11, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., February, 1881."

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

IT has now become an institution for the members of the Piscatorial Society to hold their annual dinners in the Prince's Salon at the Holborn Restaurant, and the month of February in each year is looked forward to with increasing interest for repetitions of the event. In this popular dining establishment these dinners are always regarded as the great banquet of the year, and the management gives them marked and special attention. The Piscatorial Society, which dates its origin from the year of grace eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, has risen to the highest eminence as an angling club; and at the present time has no rival as an active and useful society. No matter whether it is in helping to frame a Freshwater Fishery Act, to discuss the question of private rights on the Thames, to restrain, if possible, the dangerous speed of steam-launches, or other matters of similar importance to the general constituency of anglers, it comes forward at the right time to ventilate each question and moves them in the right direction. It thus becomes a leader to all that is desirable in the interests of angling, and it is eminently fitted for such a position, from the undoubted fact that enrolled amongst its list of members are the names of some of the best and most thoroughly practical anglers in the great city of London. It would be difficult to enumerate them all, yet there are those to whom most piscators are familiar, such as Jardine, Sachs, Rolfe, Gillatt, Pearce, Goodger, Nicholay, Wheatstone, Knechtli, Blamey, Perelli-Rocco, Huggett, Hare-Winton, Lemann, Wheel-don, Adlington, Lovelock, Pattison, and a host of others. It is no wonder, then, that the Annual Dinner is regarded as a big event, and that the Prince's Salon, which seats one hundred and twenty, necessarily limits the attendance to that number. When the Holborn Restaurant possesses a much larger room amongst the improvements and additions which are now being made, the number of guests will be as largely increased, for it is at present the only regret of the members that the accommodation, large as the number now is, should be limited, and they will go nowhere else to hold their annual banquets. It was at one of the annual dinners of this society that the late Mr. Frank Buckland first intimated the fact that on that particular day he had received his appointment as one of Her Majesty's Inspector of Salmon Fisheries. Formerly it was the custom on these occasions to distribute the prizes that had been won by the successful competitors during the previous year; but this has for several years been abandoned, owing to the large amount of time required for such a purpose; the Committee wisely postponing it to the next weekly meeting of the society, in the club room at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, it being made special for such an occasion. Amongst the surviving founders of this society are Mr. F. G. Pearce, the respected treasurer, and who has all along taken a lively interest in the progress and growing prosperity of the Club, and Mr. J. Mann, and who is also the oldest surviving member of the first volunteer force enrolled in this country. As a proof of the energy and zeal of Mr. James Lander, the hon. secretary of the society, he was presented at the last annual meeting with a complimentary honorarium of twenty pounds, and there can be no doubt that during his years of office the success of the Club has

become due to his unwearied exertions, and it is to be hoped he will long continue to hold a position for which he is so eminently and practically qualified. The announcement that Mr. Arthur Otway, M.P., had consented to take the chair on this occasion, and that he would be supported by Mr. McLaren, M.P., invested it with particular attraction, in addition to the society being represented in the vice-chair by Mr. Thomas Huggett, one of its most useful and practical members. The assembling of the guests in the spacious saloon, enriched as it is with plate-glass walls and gold embellishments, together with a series of elegantly laid-out dining tables with floral decorations, presented a scene which would baffle description. The arrangements were perfect and complete. Each table branching from the long centre, or chairman's table, was presided over by Messrs. Alfred Jardine, F. H. Lemann, B. Perelli-Rocco, T. Gillatt, H. Gray, and C. P. Wheatstone; the middle one, in a line with the chairman's seat, being occupied by the vice-chairman, Mr. Thomas Huggett. In order to prevent any confusion the presiding genius over each table was made responsible for his guests. Mr. Alfred Jardine, the champion pike-fisher, exhibited his case of two monster pike of 37 lb. each, caught by himself, exquisitely preserved by Mr. Saunders, and it can be no doubt there is not a similar case evidencing an angler's skill in the capture of the two such remarkably fine specimens in the world. This gentleman had also a fine specimen of a lump-fish of 17 lb. There was a very large attendance of members and friends, including, in addition to the chairman and vice-chairman:—Messrs. McLaren, M.P., F. G. Pearce, T. Spreckley, T. R. Sachs, T. Gillatt, B. Perelli-Rocco, H. Gray, James Lander, T. Marsh Brougham, F. H. Lemann, Harrison, A. Nuthall, Alfred Jardine, H. L. Rolfe, J. A. Nicholay, J. W. Gant, D. Goodger, J. G. Addrews, W. A. Maloney, G. H. Thurston, C. P. Wheatstone, Lodge, Clemow, T. Pattisson, W. Jarvis, Elliott, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, R. B. Marston, Small, &c., &c., in all about 120 guests. The chairman, Mr. Arthur Otway, M.P., having proposed "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," in a thoroughly loyal speech, which was as loyally responded to, Mr. James Lander, the honorary secretary, read the annual report which, whilst it congratulated the members on the position of the society, as regards the number of members and its financial character, observed that the total weight of fish shown during the last year was less than the previous one, doubtless owing to the great increase in the limit for size, to fewer members being registered, and to exceptional floods. The quantity of fish weighed-in was 1421 lb. 8 oz. from public waters, and 414 lb. from private waters, making a total of 1835 lb. 8 oz. Out of £71 14s. offered in prizes, £62 13s. was won by the members, and which are to be distributed in the Club-room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening. The Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "Success to the Piscatorial Society," which he did with great sincerity. He looked upon himself as their honoured guest, but he could not help thinking they might have selected some one else better able to speak of the virtues of the Society. He was, however, pleased to find it was in a most flourishing condition, and if the members had exhibited a less quantity of fish, it was perhaps due to the increased intelligence of the fish, who had shown themselves up to certain dodges, and they were not such fools as they looked. The fish were therefore entitled to great congratulation. As for himself, he thought the more he knew about the fish, the greater was his esteem for them, though he should not like to come into contact with one of those monster specimens which were exhibited in Mr. Jardine's splendid case. He regarded fishing as one of our oldest recreations, and old as the connection was between men and fishes he hoped the relationship would long continue. The prolific capacity of fish

was undoubtedly great, and everything that could be done for the benefit of anglers should receive every attention of the legislature, whether as regarded the assumption of private rights and the prevention of steam-launches disturbing their pleasure, and his advice to the anglers was that they should endeavour to maintain all that really belonged to them. The toast was drunk with great applause. Mr. W. A. Malony then briefly gave "The Officers and the Secretary," referring in complimentary terms to Mr. F. G. Pearce, as Treasurer, Mr. H. Gray, as Librarian, and Mr. James Lander, as Hon. Secretary, whose name he associated with the toast and each of those gentlemen having given a short reply, Mr. McLaren, M.P., proposed the toast of "The Press," in which he referred to its progress in the past, and its value in the present day. There was a large amount of super-human labour attached to those who worked on the Press, and it was astonishing the facilities exhibited in the parliamentary reports, as in a division that afternoon, he found, in coming to the dinner, two hours afterwards it was in the evening papers. He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. T. P. Wheeldon and Mr. Smale, and those gentlemen having respectively replied, Mr. Alfred Jardine gave "The T.A.P.S. and Kindred Societies," referring to the great advantages the anglers derived from the preservation of rivers, and, although the preserved waters were more hardly fished—where there used to be one there was, perhaps, 1,000 now—the fishing had not been much diminished. There was a good stock of fish in the Thames. After some further remarks, which were full of practical humour, he told the chairman he knew of the whereabouts of a 50-lb. jack, and if he would accompany him, he would lend him a rod and show him how to catch it. The Chairman calling out "Bargain," which Mr. Jardine accepted. He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, of the T.A.P.S., and Mr. Elliott, of the Tunbridge Angling Preservation Society. Mr. Thomas Spreckley said it was a pleasing thing to be there that night to hear the remarks he had done; he himself took great interest in the matter of angling, which was simply in its infancy. He felt the success of his society was a kind of ruling power to kindred associations which were continually writing for advice. The Thames, to the London anglers, gave great joy and solicitude; he valued more their going-in for specimen fish than taking away large quantities. They had on their committee two gentlemen who had accepted deputations to act as river-keepers; he referred to Mr. Alfred Nuthall and Mr. P. Geen, who were ready to assist the men whether it was day or night. He concluded by referring to the willingness of the Thames Conservancy to assist in the removal of any evil whenever they were properly approached. Mr. Elliott briefly replied. Mr. Thomas Huggett, the vice-chairman, thought there had been some omission in not including the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, in his connection with the *Field*, and Mr. R. B. Marston, of the FISHING GAZETTE, and hoped he would not be considered presumptuous in asking them to drink the health of those gentlemen, which was done in the most enthusiastic manner. Mr. W. H. Brougham remarked that as regards himself he felt the fault, if there was one, was more his own, as he had specially pleaded for a quiet evening. He had for so many years been called upon to reply to the toasts of the "T. A. P. S." "the Press" and sundry others, he imagined his position coming before a Justice of the Peace with so many aliases, would be sure to get a conviction against him. He, however, heartily thanked them for their warm recognition of his name, and his friend, Mr. Huggett, for so kindly introducing it. Mr. B. B. Marston, in some appropriate observations, thanked them for the compliment that had been paid to him. The remaining toasts were "the Chairman," "the Vice-chairman," and "the Visitors." Mr. Pearson, as the professional vocalist, afforded the company a great treat in his

splendid rendering of "My Pretty Jane," and other songs; and Herr Edouard Friederichs at the pianoforte, in two solos, and as an accompanist, evidenced the highest attainments as a musician.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

HENRY EDWIN PIERCE (Windsor).—The jaw-bones of a fish found near Wraybury Fleet have been sent on to Mr. J. H. Keene, and he replies to your letter as follows:—"The jaws are unquestionably those of a member of the *Cyprinidae*, or its sub-division the *Leuciscine* family. The jaws of the chub are usually five and three teeth on each side, but sometimes five and two, as in the present case, owing to the easy fracture of the third small tooth. The carp has five and four teeth, and I think it is extremely probable that the jaws are those of about a six-pound carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). There are indications of a fracture of a secondary tooth on one of the jaws, and in view of this fact I cannot precisely determine whether they belonged to the chub or ordinary carp. I incline, as before indicated, to the opinion that they belonged to the latter fish."

DACE AT TEDDINGTON.

SIR,—Having heard Mr. Brougham's very lucid speech at the committee meeting of the West Central Association on Friday the 4th instant, I am very pleased to find that the Thames Angling Preservation Society are continuing their good work by stopping the fishing from the lock island and weir at Teddington during the time the dace are working upwards, as, if such fishing is allowed, I can well understand the term "merciless" being applied to it. An ardent angler has informed me that when the dace were working last season numerous so-called anglers took as many fish in a foul manner as they did otherwise. Of course not being present myself I can only give you the statement as I received it, but I have no reason to doubt its accuracy. He also states that no river keeper was present. As the puntmen cannot be stopped from fishing fairly in the spot mentioned during this interesting period, may I venture to suggest on behalf of myself and many brother anglers that a river keeper be told off for the special duty of preventing the nefarious practice of "snatching." If this is done I feel sure that the T. A. P. S. will earn the gratitude of every true sportsman.—I am, &c.,
VORTEX.

FISHING AT WINCHESTER.

SIR,—Allow me to draw your attention to the first article in last Saturday's FISHING GAZETTE, signed "Thomas Huggett." A more misleading production for stranger fly-fishermen it is impossible to conceive, and a contribution most damaging to your paper. Hammond has lost a portion of the Barge meadow now held by a most respectable man, Chalkley, the taxidermist, who deals in flies and fishing-tackle. The St. Cross water is now held by Mr. Cox, the gunmaker and fishing-tackle dealer, and whose wife is the most painstaking person I know to get flies carefully and correctly tied for her customers. From the St. Cross water there are some lengths strictly preserved in the Itchen proper, over which Hammond has no right whatever, but I believe he assumes a right in the canal which the fishermen here set at defiance! Sir W. Heathcote now claims this length, and John will get into trouble should he send his ticket-holders into the lower waters. John has a small meadow between Shawford and Brambridge; perhaps two, but to talk about "four days' good" fishing, may be as well read four hours. Three men who read Mr. Huggett's letter in my presence all said "If the FISHING GAZETTE publishes such misleading and unreliable rubbish, the sooner it shuts up the better."—I am, &c.,
RESIDENT.

Winchester, Feb. 8, 1881.

[About eight or nine years ago we fished Hammond's water at Winchester, and were perfectly satisfied with our sport. We have not been there since, and as Mr. Huggett's account of the water, &c., is quite correct, as far as we remember, we presume that there have been some recent changes. Hammond was very civil to us, and we have found his flies kill well, not only in the South of England trout streams, but also in those of the North. Mr. Huggett has done good service in drawing attention to Winchester as good head-quarters for trout-fishing, and of course if there have been changes since his visit he will be obliged to "Resident" for pointing them out.—ED.]

A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—The "Raven's" last letter on this subject is an even more surprising, not to say saddening, production than his previous attempts. I do hope he is not writing merely in the spirit which he attributes to me, of "trying to have, woman-like, the last word." That he should have been capable of conceiving such an idea, gives a very pretty insight into the motives by which he himself may be moved. Not that I would impute motives: that I consider cowardly.

This last rignarole of our friend's is merely an attempt to run a kind of metaphorical red herring across the scent. I accused "Raven" of having falsely attributed to me two expressions. The first was that I spoke of "parr with almost white-coloured fins;" this, "Raven," in his last, calls a "quotation." Heaven save us from such quotations! Of the whole clause, the only words to be found in the original are "with" and "fins," and "Raven's" very lame explanation of this is, first, to lay the blame on the printer (wouldn't the cat have done as well?) for suppressing the word trout, and then by saying he might have written the word "whole-coloured." This explanation (!) does not mention how the words "parr" and "almost" made their appearance. As to the other point, "Raven" accused me of writing that "Yarell was describing the samlet under the name parr." Now, whether this were true or not, I never said so, and my anonymous friend, well knowing this to be the case, tries to sink off under cover of a cloud of ink, attempting to lead me away from the main charges by an accusation of which the least examination must have shown him the groundlessness, viz.: that I "persisted in using the words parr and samlet of the same fish." This I last week proved untrue, so this time I am arraigned for using the term parr, which I chose expressly because it was put as the heading

to "Raven's" first letter on the subject. If I am not to be allowed to apply either name to this imaginary fish, would "Raven" kindly tell me which of the following three names (all giving due honour to the only person who seems to have ever seen the creature), viz., *Salmo Corvenis*, *S. Ravenensis*, or *S. Humbuggii*, he prefers? I should suggest the last.

As to the major part of "Raven's" letter, it is simply an attempt to renew a controversy, which you, sir, have decided must end, by a side wind; and I shall not allow myself to be misled into so doing by the pernicious example of another. The "Raven" may consider such conduct honourable; but I have my own ideas on the subject. I shall, therefore, only point out that he again makes a false accusation against me of making "a wholly untrue statement, for parr and parr-marked fish are found abundantly where migratory salmonids are absent." Had I made this statement, I should have been quite correct, except as regards parr-marked fish; but I did not make it, for, in the paragraph referred to, my words were, "there are always other salmonoids of some kind." I said nothing about parr-marked fish, and I specially avoided the word migratory, as I was presupposing that the parr was a distinct fish, for the purposes of argument. Therefore this is a good sample of "Raven's" disingenuous—not to use a harder word—habit of misquoting what has been said. I had till now given him the benefit of the doubt, but at last see with regret that such an opinion is no longer tenable; for such a succession of mistakes cannot be due to mere carelessness. As to his doubting my word, it is only natural to judge others by himself; but "facts are chieftains that winna ding." One parting word; the expression salmonoid, or salmonid if he prefers it, is applicable to all the salmon family, not excluding the true trouts, as "Raven" seems to imagine.—I am, &c.,
T. SPENCE.

THE RIVER LUGG, HEREFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—Knowing the Lugg to be one of your favourite streams, as also sure to be the same with many of your readers, and being moreover able to follow my friend "Benjamin" in the whole course of his description of that river, I have no hesitation in forwarding his letter for perusal by your readers, and it may suggest further information from some one or other of them.—I am, &c.,
P. F. DAVIS.

THE RIVER LUGG.

To the Editor of the *Worcestershire Advertiser*.

SIR,—As promised last week, I send your readers a description of the river Lugg. Beginning at the lower end, viz., Lugwardine, near Hereford, there is good general fishing here—pike, chub, and other white fish, as well as trout and grayling. Above Lugg Mills the water is pounded up for a long stretch until you reach the aqueduct; here the fords begin to show, and here is good fishing, the grayling, trout and dace being large, and good baskets may be caught. Leave may be had here. Withington parish and up the stream to Moreton station is capital fishing. There is a club on the water from here up to Bodenham, and on to Dinmore right up to England's Gate, near Hampton Court, which is preserved by Squire Arkwright, who owns the water and land up to and above Ford's bridge station. Leave may be had about here and up to Leominster, where the town water is between this and the next preserved stretch of water, up to Kingsland. There is a club here. The tariff is high, the proprietor and keeper, Mr. Williams, keeping it very select for gentlemen only. Going on up stream there is no white fish—only trout and grayling, and some splendid specimens are often taken. Higher up to Mortimer's Cross, is the Rev. Kepple Davis's water, which is strictly preserved, and excellent fishing is obtained by a few friends of the proprietor. Higher up stream to Amstey, the fishing is still strictly preserved, and all in private hands. Then comes Lord Bateman's waters, with keepers living on the banks of the stream, which is preserved for angling alone, and highly valued is the fishing about here. On up stream to Shirley and Kinsham is the upper end of this river, where grayling abound. It is comparable to Leintwardine on the river Teme, as higher up stream there are no deeps and suitable water for this splendid fish to congregate, but trout abounds in great quantities where strict preservation is put on, the water keepers being on all this river as far as and above Presteigne, and up through Radnorshire. The proprietors think more of the fishing than shooting, so that there is no free or club water like there is on the river Severn, but of all the rivers that I know—and I have fished in, the river Dove, in Derbyshire, and in a great many rivers—there is none like the river Teme, and if old Isaac Walton had angled in the Teme much, he would, no doubt, have given his verdict for that splendid stream instead of the Dove. There is a very good tributary of the Lugg, called the Arrow, which runs into the Lugg about a mile below Leominster. This river contains trout, grayling and white fish as high up as Eardisland; higher up, only trout and grayling, the latter ceasing to go higher up in any quantity above Pembridge, but up stream to Staunton-on-Arrow and Titley, and on up to Kington is considered the best trout stream in that country. There is a club on this river called the Kington Club. The club water extends from Huntingdon, five miles above Kington Downs, to Titley, about 10 miles of water. Fly-fishing and spinning only is allowed. The tariff is moderate, and the town and railway accommodation is near it. There are some good small streams about here, within a few miles of Worcester, viz.: the Spedsborne and others, that rises out of the Lickey and other hills north of Worcester, and runs into the Severn. It contains capital trout and white-fish. A good fishing station is at Hadley Bowling Green, where leave can be had, and if the fish do not sport freely, the parties can enjoy themselves on the bowling-green, there being no nicer more or cosy place for a small tea-party.—I am, &c.,
Feb. 7.
B. SMITH.

THE PEACOCK-FLY IN AUSTRALIA.

SIR,—Will it be troubling you or any of your readers to inform me what the above, mentioned in your last by Dr. Brunton, is like? I know of a peacock-fly given in "Ronald's Fly Fisher's Entomology," but that is quite small, and I should not think a trout would take it for a minnow as it is nothing like one. Would it be the "Alexander"? this fly is most like a minnow that I have yet seen—wings several strands of a peacock's feather, about 1½ inch long, dressed flat, and a silver body. I have used this fly for large trout that seldom rise, and found it very killing, especially when let sink and given the short jerking movement that a natural minnow has. Dr. Brunton remarks that there are no minnows in Australia; would there not be trout fry? if so, it may possibly account for the peacock fly being taken freely.—I am, &c.,
Hastings.
H. B.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

SIR,—Greville Fennell, Esq., having presented two handsome paintings for the benefit of the funds of the above society, the committee have decided to dispose of them by a draw on the Art Union principle; the tickets are one shilling each. Should any one require tickets, I shall be pleased to forward them on application. All tickets unsold must be returned on or before Friday, March 11th, with a remittance for all sold, as no tickets can be drawn unless previously paid for. The draw will take place under the direction of the committee, the result of which will be published in the sporting journals.—I am, &c.,
R. GHURNEY,
10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

QUERY.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers give me particulars of a work published in parts, called the "Practical Fisherman;" and also I should be glad to know of any Fishing Club near Canterbury.—I am, &c., CYPRINUS.
[You can get the work at the "Bazaar" Office, Strand, London.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The annual supper of the above club took place on Monday, Jan. 31, Mr. G. Oram in the chair, Mr. C. Newton, vice. The supper was served in splendour by Mr. Clark, assisted by Mrs. Clark, host and hostess; Mr. Waterman presided at the piano, and played some excellent music during supper and during the evening. Among the visitors were Messrs. B. Hymns, G. Hymns, J. Haggett, Ghurney, T. Morgan, Maybury, J. Hussey, E. Brocket, jun. Several prizes were given during the evening by the following gentlemen—Messrs. J. Hussey, E. Brocket, J. Morgan, W. High, Maybury, and J. Blackledge. The first toast of the evening was given by the chairman, "Success to the Alexandra Society; the next "Health and Prosperity to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and all the Little Clarkes," cheers and three times three, Mr. Clark responded; next toast "Anglers' Benevolent Society," Mr. T. Morgan responded; T. Gripton, toast, very good. Several songs were sung during the evening by the following gentlemen:—Mr. C. Newton, "Louis Renouf"; Mr. G. Hymns, "Awfully Glad to see You"; Mr. W. Atkinson, "The Ring my Mother Wore"; Mr. T. Cole, "Maid and Magpie"; Mr. T. Gripton, "Long Parted Have we Been"; Mr. J. Morgan, "One More Glass"; Mr. J. Blackledge, "The Heart Bowed Down"; Mr. J. Haggett, "Tom Bowling" and "Spider and Fly"; Mr. Maybury, "Musical Academy at New York"; duet by Mr. J. Haggett and Mr. G. Hymns, "Larboard Watch"; Mr. B. Hymns, "John Brown"; Mr. G. Hymns, "Johnstone's Christmas Party"; Mr. E. Brocket, jun., "Men Mowing Hay" and "Jack's Yarn"; Mr. R. Clarke, "Cottage by the Sea"; Mr. W. Osborn, "Simon the Cellarer"; Mr. J. Haggett, "The Wolf"; and Messrs. W. High, E. Brocket, jun., and B. Hymn, "Afloat on the Ocean. The meeting now broke up, it being two o'clock, everyone having expressed himself quite satisfied with the evening's amusement. On Feb. 6 Mr. C. Hewett just saved us from a blank with roach.—C. HARTLAND, sec.

THE ANGLERS' PRIDE.

On the 6th inst. the members fished for a set of weights and scales given by Mr. Perkins, a member of the Great Northern Brothers. This gentleman gave a similar prize last season, and on each occasion the members have fished for it; jack only to weigh. Some fine jack were exhibited, and the result gave great satisfaction. The following are the names of the members who weighed in:—Mr. Hayes, one jack, 5 lb.; Mr. Mallett, ditto, 4 lb.; Mr. Dealy, ditto, 3 lb. 12 oz.—THOS. FIDDES.
Dec. 8.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of this society were out on Sunday last, and considering the state of the water they met with very fair success. Mr. Greener with 5 lb. 6 oz. of roach and dace from Twickenham; Mr. Hines, 3 lb. 8 oz. of roach and perch from Sunbury; and Mr. Wilson, 3 lb. 5 oz. roach from Richmond.—C. NEWMAN, hon. sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

One member weighed-in, on the 6th, Mr. Castell, some fine roach from the Roding. We fish on the 13th at Watford for prizes given by Messrs. Fowler, Castell, and Mortimer.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this society intend going in actively now after having such a long rest; and very little fish being weighed-in, there are several prizes to be competed for before the close of the season. It is requested that all members should attend on Thursday, Feb. 17th, for important business, W. Anthony having promised to bring home one of the long looked-for bream for approval of members.—E. WILSON, sec.
Feb. 9.

THE EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A special meeting of this now flourishing society was held at the club-house (Host Palmer's) on Tuesday last, when several items of importance were discussed. Brother C. S. Fowler was elected chairman for the ensuing half-year, and Bro. W. G. Capon vice. The pike-fishing match is arranged to take place the last week in the present month (weather permitting). Bro. W. G. Capon (the eminent fishing-tackle manufacturer, of Norwich) offering a very handsome prize, value a guinea, for competition. J. W. Wellington, Esq., also offers another prize, value two guineas, for the largest fish; whilst several other prizes are promised. Altogether, this match promises to be a very decided success, and will be the first of the kind ever held in these parts—the match of the Norwich Angling Club following closely on. The nights of meeting are to be in future the last Thursday in each month, instead of the first Tuesday as heretofore, so that we may not clash with other clubs. Several new members were elected.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some of our members went out on Sunday last to fish for a prize given by Mr. Hornfeck, Mr. Jones being the winner, with roach from West Drayton. Messrs. Stedman, Wink, Neal, and Lawrance had roach and dace.—WM. COLTER.

GOLDEN BARBEL ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Friday the 4th Mr. J. Green paid a visit to his beloved spot on the Thames and managed to get some popes, gudgeon, and roach, the latter being alone weighable in this society. On Sunday the 6th he again returned to his favourite swim, and succeeded in getting some roach and perch, which enabled him to win $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tobacco. On the same day Mr. T. Bigsby visited Reading, and had some sport among the chub, but he only managed to bank one, the interest of which amounted to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tobacco also. The following addition has been made to the piscatorial trophies, which decorate the wall of the clubroom. A tench weighing $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. taken by Mr. Entwistle, and a bream $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. taken by Mr. Rogers; both these fish have been preserved by Mr. J. Lancaster of Camden Town. On the 8th I visited this society and was pleased to see the manner in which the response, was made, to the appeal made on the behalf of the widow of poor George Foster. A few words as to my knowledge of him, such as my poor ability will allow, might not be out of place. I always respected him, and was very sorry to hear of his death, and the painful condition in which his wife and family are placed. I first made the acquaintance of George at the Sir Robert Napier, New-inn-yard, Shoreditch, where we, with several other gentlemen appointed by the various London Angling Societies, met to form the then called "Central Committee of London Anglers," and for five years, or about, we attended and returned home together from nearly every meeting called by that committee. During that time I always found George Foster ever ready to devote his time (and at times he could ill afford to do so) to forward the cause of angling and anglers; for the former in assisting the River Lea Preservation Committee, and the latter in helping to get what is now well-known as "The Angler's Ticket" on nearly all railways in London. I also must say that if ever an appeal was made to him on the behalf of a brother angler, or his widow, who was in distress, it rarely, if ever was made in vain. Therefore I do hope and trust that the appeal which is now being made on the behalf of his wife and family will meet the warm support of all anglers and their friends.—PIXIE.

February 10, 1889.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club held their annual supper at their club-house, the Crown Inn, Church Street, on February 1st; chairman, Mr. W. H. Beckett; vice, Mr. H. Courcha. Over 100 members and friends sat down to a most excellent supper, provided by our worthy hostess, Mrs. Roberts—everything plentiful and of the best quality. After the cloth being removed, the usual loyal toast being given, then the Chairman gave "The Good Intent Society," the Secretary, Mr. R. Murphy, responded; then followed "The East and West Central Association," most ably responded to by Mr. Ghurney, Mr. S. Morgan, and Mr. Bonvason; then the health of our worthy hostess was received with musical honours; and wound up with a long list of prizes being given to the club, the donors being Mr. W. Wright, artist, Bethnal Green Road, portrait, value £5 5s.; Messrs. W. Roberts, H. Courcha, Groom, W. Smith, A. J. Wheeler, J. Julier, Beckett, Murphy, Pluckrose, C. Edwards, H. Brockwell, and a host of others. Harmony prevailed till 2.30 a.m., every one delighted with their enjoyment.—R. MURPHY.
Feb. 8.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

We fished at Watford on Sunday last for ten prizes and a sweepstake. The weather was fine but cold, and the fish dead off, consequently the takes were very small. On weighing, the following proved the winners:—first, Mr. Parker; second, Mr. T. Watling; third, Mr. Smith; fourth, Mr. Cherry; fifth, Mr. Theobald; sixth, Mr. Young; seventh, Mr. C. Warren; eighth, Mr. Perkins; ninth, Mr. Page; tenth, Mr. Grinham. Sweepstake—First, Mr. Parker; second, Mr. T. Watling; third, Mr. Smith. The following members also weighed-in fish:—Messrs. Walker, Stammer, Pica, Reynolds, Fitch, Jennings, Burstow, Cowper and Beeston (Old Joe). The splendid bream (one weighing 6 lb. 9 oz.) taken by Mr. Theobald from the river Wey are now to be seen at the club-house, Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville.—J. FITCH, jun., sec.

February 8th.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Despite the snowy water, three of our members ventured out on the 6th, and fishing in the tideway were successful in catching some dace, roach, bleak and perch. The water was falling rapidly, and if we get no more snow or rain it will soon fine down, so there is a prospect of a little fishing before the end of the season.—VORTEX.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. C. Morrow had some handsome roach and perch on Sunday last (6th inst.) His heaviest perch weighed 1 lb $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and was a very pretty fish. Messrs. A. Salmon, T. Dennison, and J. Hilliar, jun., had roach this day. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday, the 13th inst. All fish weighed according to the society's rules; members to choose their own fishing water; no competitor to leave London before 5 a.m. on the morning of the competition.

Feb. 9, 1881.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

This Society is largely increasing in numbers; there were three members elected to-night, all thorough good fishermen; and I have no doubt, as soon as the water goes down a little, there will be a good show of fish, as the members are all anxiously waiting for the first opportunity—not having dipped a line for several weeks, except in the water-butt, to keep the lines moist.

Feb. 9.

W. H. DABCHICK.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members tried their luck on Sunday last, but the takes were very trifling. Those successful were:—Mr. Scott, roach; Mr. Hurwood, roach;

Mr. Watts, roach; Mr. Hopton, roach; Mr. Wightman, dace. Our district return visit will take place at the Russell Arms, Bedford Street, N.W., on Tuesday, the 22nd inst.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.
February 9th.

TIVERTON FISHING ASSOCIATION.

The general annual meeting of the above association was held at the Angel Hotel on Tuesday last, Mr. W. T. Waldy in the chair. The accounts for the past year being read, showed a balance in hand. Mr. T. C. Daniel was re-elected president, Sir J. Heathcoat-Heathcoat Amory, Bart., M.P., secretary, and the committee, with the exception of Capt. Davis, in whose place Major Vialls was elected, were re-elected. This having been carried, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the Rev. G. W. Owen, seconded by Mr. Wrattislaw, that Mr. W. T. Waldy be elected vice-president for the present year. Messrs. W. T. Waldy and T. O. Lazenby were re-elected supervisors, and Lee keeper for the lower water; and Messrs. W. Leir and J. Barne, supervisors, and Lazarus and Hawkins keepers for the upper water. Power was given to the committee to take the tickets of any member infringing the rules. On the motion of Major Vialls, seconded by Mr. A. L. Francis, it was resolved that the season commence on the 14th inst., and end at the usual time. Season tickets, only issued to residents 30s.; to others two guineas.—P.S.—The Exe is very high, snow going away nicely.

READING AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

In consequence of its length we are compelled to leave the 1881 Report of the above society over until next week.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the above society took place on Tuesday, February 1st, at the club-house, the Walnut Tree Shades, on which occasion the Rev. Mr. Matthews, B.D., gave a most instructive and interesting reading. Subject:—"His experiences of Fishing in North America." A large attendance of members and friends took place, and a most enjoyable evening was passed. Notice was also given that the club-room would in future be open three nights each week for the use of members and friends, and also a "Catch-book" would be placed in the room, so that members could enter their respective catches each time they went out, and Host Palmer announced that he had been promised a prize for the best "takes" during the next six months. A vote of thanks to the chairman was then passed, and the meeting ended. P.S.—I will send a detailed account of the reading next week.—ANGLER.

ST. JOHN'S.

Several of our members were out on the 6th, but we had no fish in the club-room owing to the quantity of snow water in the rivers. We propose having a complimentary return visit on Monday, March 7th. As this will be the first visit we shall have at our new quarters, we shall be glad to see our old friends on this night, as we have a first-class host, who takes an interest in angling, and a first-class house with every convenience. Meeting nights, Friday and Sunday.—F. THORLING.

February 7th.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members were out on the 6th. Mr. Greenfield had 3lb. 14 oz. of roach from the Lea. Mr. Rushbrook just saved himself a blank with one roach from Pangbourne.—A. J. MARRIOTT.
Feb. 7th, 1881.

NATURAL HISTORY.*

FOOD OF YOUNG FISHES.

I CANNOT learn that anything has been recorded respecting the food of young fishes in this country,† nor have I been able to find any evidence that this subject has been systematically studied in Europe, in such part of the ichthyological literature of Europe as is accessible to me. From the translations of papers published in the appendices to the Report of the United States Fish Commissioner, I learn that the artificial use of entomostraca for the food of young trout has been successfully attempted in France. I also find in the bulletin of the Society of Acclimatisation of Paris a statement to the effect that, in the Russian governmental establishment for the cultivation of fishes, young trout and other valuable species are fed with beetles and insect larvæ obtained from stagnant water by means of a small muslin net. Although the use of entomostraca is not specially mentioned in this extract, yet they must, of course, be obtained in the search for insect larvæ.

That this subject should not have been long ago thoroughly investigated seems a surprising fact, when one considers the vast amount of labour which has been spent upon fishes as a class, and reflects for a moment upon the interest to science and to practical fish culture of a knowledge of the food resources of fishes and of the competitions of the various species in the search for subsistence.

Although I cannot yet treat this subject as it fully deserves, the results of such study as I have been able to make during the past season of the contents of the stomachs and intestines of small specimens seem to justify this preliminary notice.

It was early apparent, in the course of the investigation, that the food of many fishes differs according to age; and it was soon found that the life of most of our fishes divides into at least two periods, and many into three, with respect to the kinds of food chiefly taken. Further, in the first of these periods, a remarkable similarity of food

was noticed among species and families whose later food habits are widely different.

The full grown black bass, for example feeds principally on fishes and crawfishes, the sheephead on mollusks, the gizzard shad on mud and algae, while the catfishes are nearly omnivorous; yet these are all found to agree so closely in food when very small that one could not possibly tell from the contents of the stomachs which group he was dealing with.

It is my purpose in this paper to give what facts I have relating to the food of our freshwater species during this first period of the fish's life, avoiding technical details, and mentioning only the general results of the investigation.

The facts are derived from the examination of one hundred and twenty-six specimens, ranging from three-eighths of an inch in length up to an inch and a half, and in a few cases to two and three inches. These specimens belong to twenty-four genera and represent eleven families. In two or three genera no specimens were obtained small enough to be regarded as belonging strictly to this first-food period, but the earliest food is nevertheless plainly inferable; and the general distribution and variety of the species studied is such that I think the main conclusions will be found to stand the test of full investigation.

PERCH FAMILY.

The food of a common perch, from an inch to an inch and a quarter long, consisted wholly of entomostraca and the larvæ of chironomus. The first of these names is applied to the minute crustaceans, which are found most abundant in lakes and other stagnant waters, but occur likewise, to some extent, in running streams. The name of water-fleas is sometimes given to a large section of this group. Chironomus is a small gnat whose larvæ is familiar to all who have ever noticed the minute animals of stagnant water. It has the appearance, to the naked eye, of a minute red worm, which moves through the water with a violent wriggling motion.

BASS FAMILY.

No very small specimens of the bass proper—that is, of white bass and striped or brassy bass—were taken by us, the smallest being a brassy bass an inch and a quarter long. Half of the food of this consisted of entomostraca, and the other half of minute gizzard shad.

SUNFISH FAMILY.

A group of 43 specimens of the sunfish family (which includes the two species of black bass) was made up as follows:—Of five specimens of black bass under three-fourths of an inch long, two of rock bass of the same size, two of goggle-eye from seven-eighths of an inch to an inch in length, ten of common sunfish from an inch to an inch and a fourth, nine pumpkin seed from one and a half to two inches, five of croppie one inch and under, four of poxomys from three-fourths of an inch to an inch and a half, and six indeterminate specimens, probably common sun-fish from seven-sixteenths to five-eighths of an inch long. Ninety-six per cent. of the food of these forty-three specimens consisted of entomostraca and larvæ of chironomus—seventy of the first and twenty-six of the second. The trivial remainder consisting of the larvæ of May flies and other similar insects, a young amphipod, with traces of water mites, water bugs and molluscs—the last taken by the pumpkin seed or bream.

PIKE FAMILY (*Esocidae*).

I did not have the good fortune to obtain any young of the common pike, and can only report on the food of a single salmon pickerel (*Esox Salmoeneus*) an inch and a fourth in length. This specimen, taken at Pekin, Ill., on the 2nd of June, had already begun its life labour of the elimination of little fishes, these making about two-fifths of its food. The remainder consisted of crustacea, composed about equally of young amphidoda, daphniidæ and Lynceidæ. The presence of so large a quantity of these minute entomostraca in the stomach of a pickerel of this size is sufficient evidence that they form the principal part of its food at an early age.

(To be Continued.)

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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* As read at the meeting of the Central Fish Cultural Association on December 16, 1880, by S. A. Forbes.

† Perhaps exception should be made of a note relating to the occurrence of diatoms in the stomachs of two young whitefishes, published in the appendix to the Report of the United States Fish Commissioner for 1872-73, p. 57.

N O T I C E.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1881.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

I THINK I may safely say that there are few things on which so many different opinions have been expressed as about which, among the numberless flies used to allure the trout, are the most tempting. Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell's theory is well known to

most anglers, but I do not think it has met with much approval at their hands. If his theory were adopted, it would certainly make fly-fishing much simpler, both to veterans and amateurs; but I am afraid the poor fly-dressers would rise up *en masse* in protest against it, as their means of getting a livelihood in the world would be thereby hopelessly put an end to. He advocates, as most fishermen are aware, the use of three flies only—"green," "brown," and "yellow"—and tries to prove, in his exceedingly interesting book on angling in general, that these said three typical flies are the only ones really necessary to the wants of an angler, and that all other flies are merely different forms of them. He himself has tested their efficiency against other flies on the chief lochs and streams of England, Scotland and Ireland, and in all cases he has never failed to equal, and often to exceed, the takes made by the most experienced local fishermen. This is a strong argument in their favour; but it must be remembered that the originator of this theory is a skilful angler, and where he did not fail to secure good takes with his three flies, others less skilled would probably do so. It seems, also, too great a revolution to cut down to three typical flies the numberless mites of the insect creation, and though doubtless it would be far better that fewer flies should be used by anglers in general than now are used, it seems a pity that the number should be restricted to three only.

In common with an increasing majority nowadays, I am in favour of the use of a few flies only, though with more diversity of colour than Mr. Pennell's. I think that a great lesson may be drawn from the following fact. In the course of a day's fishing the angler generally meets with one or more "brothers of the craft," all trying to allure the "monarch of the hook" with different flies on each of their casts. We will presume they are all pretty well skilled in the art. If the trout are rising, and willing to be caught, they will bear testimony to the fact by the contents of their baskets, but if the fish are sulky or lazy, then their baskets are considerably lighter than their hearts. It is the same in angling competitions, held in Scotland usually, when two first-class anglers, each employing different flies, engage in contests, and the usual result is, at the end of the time appointed, that their takes are very little different from one another. This shows, I think, that no hard-and-fast rule can be laid down about the number of flies that ought to be used, and which have precedence over others. There is also another fact that shows, I think, the uselessness of having, like many anglers, such a multitude of flies in their fly-books, differing very little from each other in appearance, and looking no different from one another in the water, and that is, that when a fly is in the stream its appearance is quite changed to what it is when dry; its colour fades, the brightness dies out, and altogether it looks a very uninviting morsel for a fish to be tempted into swallowing. For this reason, therefore, it would seem rather foolish for an angler to have so many flies, to distinguish which from which is a work of art, not so much for himself when looking at them dry, but for the fish, who see them presenting a dragged appearance in the water.

I agree partly with Mr. Pennell when he says that three flies are all that are necessary, but I do not think that his three typical flies are the best he might have chosen. A little more diversity of colour would improve them, and he might have added those with wings instead of hackles, although he tries to prove that wings are an incumbrance to "imitations," and should therefore be avoided.

Again, there is another instance which goes far to prove that trout may be taken by any flies almost, so long as they are neatly made and well dressed. If you send for a sample of any fly, say the "blue dun," to four different tackle-makers in the metropolis or elsewhere, you have sent you four samples of flies professing to be "blue duns," but which differ from one another in many

respects, one being dressed with white hackles, another with blue ones, one having yellow silk round the body, another dressed with a brown body altogether. It is the same also with other flies; those bearing the same names are often very differently dressed.

In conclusion, let me say that I think these instances prove that there are a great many flies used by anglers which are totally unnecessary, and that if about four of the best known were substituted for the dozens which fill many anglers' fly-books, it would be a great change for the better.

BLUE DUN.

[Our experience, extending over 20 years, is that it is far better to err on the side of having too many varieties than too few. We have frequently found that after killing well with the *standards*, an unusually hot day has brought out swarms of some nondescript little insect, which the trout are feeding on voraciously, and unless amongst the stock in your book you can find something resembling it, you stand but a poor chance.—ED.]

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—IV

THERE are many other lochs connected with the Brouster: how many we really don't know, for ever as you finish fishing one water another shows itself; but so far as our experience and that of our friends goes, there is no sport with sea-trout to be had in them, though, as there is no obstacle to their passage these fish are sure to enter them, and, perhaps, a worm-fisher might find them at home. Of these lochs the only ones whose names we have been able to learn are Flatpund and Spinner; for though we got a list of names from a friend some eight years ago, we have not been able to identify them. As, however, it may give the reader a better idea of the capabilities of this region we give this list as it was given to us, marking the lochs we can identify and mean to describe with an asterisk. Walls lochs—*Voe or *Bardister, *Song, Huxter, Melby, Norby, Collister, Boust, Danish Waters, Upper Burgo and Lower Burgo, Mill of Shenestwatt, *Flatpund, *Greenland, Brabister, &c. These are not, however, all situated on the Brouster only, as several lie close to the village of Walls and others, viz., Song, Huxter, Melby, Norby and Collister lie on the extreme west of the island. Of the two specially mentioned Flatpund Loch is not situated on the Brouster proper (which, by the bye, enters Vaxterbee not, as might be expected, at its upper end, but about the middle of the western side), but on a small tributary which joins the main stream a few yards above where it enters that loch. This loch lies close to the new road lately referred to, and is well stocked with good loch trout: it may be reached either by following up Foratwatt Burn or by following the new road which leaves the main highway at the foot of Voe Loch, the former course being as short, and better walking. We are thus particular, because we mean to give directions for the more northern chains of lochs by taking Flatpund as a central or starting point.

Spinner is a large deep-looking loch, and also contains good common trout. Many of the smaller lochs have no doubt never been fished within the memory of the present generation of trout, and should therefore, if sea-trout are not to be had, which may of course happen, afford ample sport even to the tyro; indeed we found that as good a way to fill a basket as any was to simply trail our flies along the surface with the rod held over our shoulder, the fish almost invariably hooking themselves; but this, of course is scarcely worthy of the name of angling.

We may conclude this paper by mentioning that there is at Walls a chain of lochs, viz., Voe or Bardister, Greenland and Brabister, which, of course, contain trout, some of them good ones, and at times sea-trout. Of the latter we have seldom taken many,

three being the most we ever took in one day; but we are told that in July, when, of course, there are few stranger-anglers about, there is sometimes a good run of finnock (not ginnocks as it was printed in our notice of the Wiesdale district), that is to say small sea-trout of about 10 inches to 16 inches long into them. There is also a brace of lochs connected with the sea by a small burn named Foratwatt, which winds round the back of the post-office, and in these there are very good loch trout. The burn itself though a mere ditch often contains small sea-trout after very heavy rains: we have caught them in it over 2 lb., so, if the weather be such as to make one unwilling to be far from shelter, a little sport may be had, so to speak, at one's own door.

Having thus exhausted the roll of lochs near Walls, we shall, before speaking of those farther afield, give a table of distances and directions.

Wiesdale Bridge to Toomlin Burn . . .	5 miles.
" " Bixeter or Twatt Burn . . .	6 "
" " Hulma Lees Loch . . .	7½ "
Walls village to " " " . . .	4½ "
" " Grassawater " . . .	4 "
" " Culyerin " . . .	5 "
" " Marly Loch (Vavels) . . .	5½ "
" " Clenswaters . . .	6 "
" " Clouster Loch . . .	7 "
" " Hyla Waters . . .	3 "
" " Murister . . .	3½ "
" " Bridge of Walls . . .	1½ "
" " Brouster Loch (upper end) . . .	2 "

These are reached by proceeding from Walls in an easterly direction along the main road; the following are to be got at by proceeding in a northerly direction up the burn of Foratwatt or the new road:—

Walls to Foratwatt Lochs about . . .	1 mile, N.
" " Flatpund " " " . . .	2 " " N.
Flatpund Loch to Vaxterbee Loch . . .	¾ " " E.N.E.
" " " Spinner " " " . . .	3 " " N.N.W.

Of course all these distances are only approximate, there being no milestones on the moor, nor, for the matter of that, on the roads either.

There is a professional guide at Walls, Halcro by name; and, though we have never ourselves employed him, we believe a stranger might do worse than entrust himself to his guidance at first, though attendants are usually an unmitigated nuisance to any one fond of his own way.

Before proceeding to discuss the angling capabilities of the waters more remote from Walls, it may be as well to mention what accommodation is to be had there. As this is the favourite resort for anglers on the Mainland, there is at times a "crush," and unless lodgings be secured beforehand the tourist angler may be literally left out in the cold, unless he takes the precaution of securing lodgings beforehand. If he does not do so, he runs the risk of having to "chum" with a stranger, who may, of course, prove very objectionable company. Accommodation can be had at (a) the post-office, with Mrs. Nicholson; (b) with Mrs. Watts, next door; (c) at Twatts, the grocer of the village; (d) at Mr. Smith's, Greenland; and also, we believe, at Georgeson's, the public-house. The writer has stayed at the first two, and can recommend them both. The usual charges are from four to five shillings a day, and this is about the usual price throughout Shetland. As it may interest some of our readers, we may mention that on one occasion a party, "quorum pars magna fuimus," camped out at the head of Brouster Loch, and, being much favoured with good weather at first, enjoyed it; but a sudden change of weather convinced all that during good fishing weather

Shetland is not a country suited for tent-life. This opinion was that of experienced campaigners, as several of our number had been often under canvas before. SCOTUS.

[We shall publish next week a map of the district so capitally described by "Scotus." The map has been prepared by him from actual observation, and it is the only map of the district in existence.—ED.]

OTTERS AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

AS the game preserver, in order to secure safety and freedom from molestation for the various birds and animals which constitute his charge, seeks at all times for opportunities, and takes speedy advantage of such, to destroy the different kinds of vermin possessing such habits as bring them into disrepute as continuous and virulent destroyers of his game, often maintained at great cost, so must those who, taking a delight in a rural pursuit of somewhat contrary nature, to wit, the Waltonian craft—and which, it seems almost superfluous to remark, depends upon the extent of expense and trouble devoted to protecting and increasing the fish of multifarious kind which people the rivers, streams, and lakes, large and small, of these islands in particular and other lands in general—so must they, in similar manner, endeavour to eliminate from their aqueous preserves such enemies as their finny protégés may have to encounter and remove such dangers as may threaten them.

Apart from the many diseases which attack fish, we believe, of every kind, there is no worse destroyer of the finny tribe than the otter—an animal whose haunts are as uncertain as its appearance rare, and whose habits render it as obnoxious a pest to those bent on the improvement of their salmon and trout streams, as are such animals as the stoat and polecat to those whose tastes incline them towards game preserving and its attendant features. This, then, is our reason for laying before the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE such particulars concerning the haunts, habits, and nature of the otter, together with all information necessary to enable those who suffer from its depredations to successfully cope with this animal, and by means of capturing to cause a cessation of its maraudings in their fish preserves.

The otter is certainly becoming less frequent in our streams than it used to be, probably owing to the general viciousness of its nature, having brought it into repute so bad that its destruction—whether at the hands of dogs, with all the attendant incidents and excitements of an otter hunt, or unostentatiously at the hands of the fish-keeper—is now regarded as a matter for mutual congratulation by the proprietors of the streams which still afford it comparative safety and the seclusion which it so industriously courts. Were its habits better known and the haunts to which it chiefly clings better defined, it is certain that such otters that frequent streams to which the regular packs of hounds resort in pursuit of their eel-like quarry, would more speedily fall victims to the lures and wiles of such game, or other keepers whose field of supervision extends to the water edge of river; but, as it is, its retiring and most undoubtedly wary mode of existence is less liable to observation and subsequent molestation by such generally acute personages.

Forming as it were the link connecting the terrestrial with the aquatic animals, the otter bears some very curious features; for, although duck-footed and able to remain some considerable time beneath the surface of the water, still it does not by any means fulfil the conditions which might earn for it the attribute of amphibious; for, although able to continue submerged, it is obliged to return to the surface in order to breathe, it being without any means for sub-aqueous respiration, so that it is quite possible for the otter to be drowned. Advantage is sometimes taken of this fact, and nets are set with a view to causing the entanglement of any otters

seeking to pass, in their meshes, when, if the animal be not able to relieve itself with sufficient speed, it must inevitably die. It happens, however, more often than not, that rather by accident an ignominious death puts an end to the marauder's career, rather than by nets expressly made in order to accomplish its discomfiture. The size of the otter is not on an average large, but varies a good deal in individuals, some being as much larger than others as different in general form. The male is invariably the bigger of the two, and measures in length between extremes from 39 to 42 inches, which measurement may sometimes increase so as to attain so great a length as 48 inches, such specimens as these are, however, of but rare occurrence, and sufficient importance to be placed on record. The female, although but very rarely exceeding her male in size, is mostly smaller, measuring for the most part some two or three inches less, while her weight is consequently less; the average for the male being about 18 to 26 pounds, the female from 15 to 23. These figures vary of course a good deal, even in specimens from the same locality, while in different ones with more or less opposite characteristics, the variation in size is still more marked, and even such prodigies as otters weighing forty pounds are of well authenticated occurrence.

The fur of the otter when dry is of considerable beauty, being a dark rich brown, pervaded with a very slight tinge of grey throughout, most noticeable on the inner and under surfaces, where the colour is less striking. A light-coloured spot, of small dimensions, is situate at the back of each side of the lips, sometimes almost unobservable. It is in others almost white. The fur consists of two kinds—an inner one, thick, soft and velvety, lying close to the skin, provides the necessary amount of protection for the animal's body from water, which, except under extraordinary circumstances, fails to penetrate it. The second outer coating of fur is more bristly, longer, and evidently enables the animal to pass through the water with sufficient celerity, offering but little resistance compared to what the other would, as it is only too patent that the otter must be peculiarly favoured to attain the wonderful speed at which it unconcernedly travels. The various parts of its body, too, are equally remarkable. The head is broad and flat; the eyes, small but brilliant, and of considerable power, are placed more forward than is the case with most quadrupeds, protruding slightly, and so situated, moreover, that their owner can with ease distinguish objects above it as well as all round; thus possessing the animal with the peculiar ability of lying at the bottom of the river in wait for fish passing, these being unable to detect the presence of the animal they so much dread. Not only is this the case when the otter is stationary, but obviously it can with equal ease swim up beneath fish and, in any case, capture them with ease. Were this not the case with the animal we discuss, it would be a matter of plain impossibility for it to obtain an existence; for although its movements through the unstable element are made at an undoubtedly astounding rate still, after all, it is but a snail's pace compared to the greased lightning-like dartings of a "speckled beauty." The mouth of the otter is, comparatively speaking, a small one, but by no means less effective. The lips are exceedingly muscular, can be brought very tight together—the upper ones being furnished with long, bristling whiskers. The same exact suitability of the animal to the life it leads is apparent in its mouth, which could not be better adapted for the infliction of deep, tearing wounds, such as is necessary to securely grasp and hold large and powerful fish, as the salmon, with ease and certainty. Further description of the portions of its body are unnecessary; for in every limb, showing some peculiarity favouring the animal's mode of life, is apparent that wonderful litheness of form which the otter at all times so unmistakably displays. Its motions on land, although to some extent not exactly ungainly, or even awkward, are, as it

were, slow, and inspire one with an idea of the unfamiliarity of the animal with the movements necessary to locomotion on *terra firma*; but once in the water, in its favourite element, what a change is manifest! Gliding at one moment with consummate ease and contentment, it is the next moment in headlong course, bounding with inexplicable silence at a rate as prodigious as the movements which originate it are elegant. To our mind, the movements of an otter, unaware of any observer, are among the most elegant of those any animal can execute—turning, twisting, in one easy and delightful gambol, one almost longs to participate in its silent gyrations through the water, and regrets such elegant and apparently innocent enjoyment is but the prelude to wholesale massacre of the trout and salmon and other finny favourites we prize.

When pursuing the fish it seeks to capture, the otter's movements are far more stealthy than when it indulges in its matutinal gambols, and until within, we might say, striking distance, its following of its prey is rated according to circumstances until at length, all things being suitable, and the moment favourable, in one sharp dash it has secured its quarry; and, with complacent slowness, swims with its quivering prey to a spot suitable, whether a rock in mid-stream, adjacent to the bank, or on the bank itself, where it may with comfort regale itself to the best of its ability. What contributes considerably to the amount of havoc committed by the otter is the habit it has of capturing so many large fish. Instead of making a meal from one whose size would determine it as amply sufficient it merely consumes, in a general way, a portion of the back, and leaves the rest lying where it was conveyed, and then proceeds in further search. If the captured fish be of small size, so to speak, it may eat nearly the whole, leaving only such portions as are unpalatable to the dainty tastes of the animal, it being quite able to choose between what are undoubtedly the best portions of its capture. Thus we often find good-sized fish, almost intact, a small part only of the back, adjacent to the head, being devoured. But where food is not so easy of obtainment, and when bent rather on the satisfying of any pangs of hunger it may feel, the otter devours the larger portion of the fish, leaving, unless its cravings be very strong, the part below the vent. When observed in quest of its prey, the otter is invariably swimming against the stream, for what precise reason we are unable to say; but obviously for one having relation to the object in view, rendering the desired result more easy of realisation. The salmon falls, of course, victim to this animal's rapacity; but owing to its difficulty of capture, far less often than the trout, it being averred that in some cases two otters join issue, in the hunt, and by dint of strategy and the additional aid their union produces, capture many noble fish which would be quite able to elude the vigilance of a single one; and that by hemming in a salmon in a pool with shallow and narrow top and bottom, that it is possible for them to so tire the fish by incessant chasings until it at length succumbs to their strategy.

It has been asserted that the otter is undeserving of the disfavour it has acquired, and that, far from being injurious to fish-culture, it is, on the other hand, most conducive to the increase of either trout, salmon, or any other of the many and varied fish which it finds palatable to its taste. It seems almost ridiculous to contemplate the energy with which totally ignorant people will deny statements founded on fact, gained by personal experience on the part of naturalists and anglers; and even when proofs are as plain and plentiful as the proverbial pikestaff, still such obstinate-natured persons, not content with exhibiting their own ignorance, will cavil at the knowledge of others; condemn it as false and prejudiced, and totally unsupported. Be this as it may—and it no doubt is very fine in its way—we are not going to enter into any argument on the subject. We know what otters are

and what they do. There is an animal called the stoat, small in size but well known to game-preservers, which, no doubt, has been heard of by many readers of this journal. This animal will sometimes destroy in one day sufficient animals and birds to provide it with a substantial meal daily for a month. The otter does very much the same thing, never contenting itself with killing fish sufficient for its actual wants, but besides destroying in order to provide a meal three or four times more than it wants, it continues to catch and destroy enough to provide twenty meals more, not one day, but every day, without intermission. When its breakfast, or dinner, or whatever it may term its eating time, is over, the otter commences to amuse itself by catching and killing as many trout, or whatever fish it may be, in as wholesale a manner as possible, depositing a victim here, the jagged remains of another there; and so on till its bloodthirsty desires are satisfied, or till some alarming circumstance sends it at silent, headlong speed to the fastness of its domain. We have heard it advanced that the eel is a ruthless destroyer of salmon and trout ova. Whether this be the case or not, *vide* Mr. Keene. Further, that otters only eat eels, and that, as a matter of course, the result is an increase of trout, etc. Now, we have seen many rivers where trout and salmon abound, but we never saw otters in them; but we also are aware of many streams where the otter revels in its unmolested state. Curiously enough, there are little or no fish of the kind named in them; and, if we mistake not, eels are neither plentiful nor large, as a general rule, in streams where the trout and salmon spawn; and taking this into consideration, we fail to see the exact place where the otter's good deeds are most manifest by their good results. Anyhow, the otter is the vermin of the river, and no amount of argumentative palaverings will prove it otherwise. Probably, now that hunting the otter has become so popular, some of those who follow the foil will seek the increase of the animal they chase, and in doing so seek to curtail, and perhaps eventually extinguish, the angler's diversion. Some cross-grained people do not seem to participate in the pleasures of fishing, and, moreover, dislike the fisherman, even to the extent of seeking, whenever chance offers, to malign him and the craft he follows with so-much-to-be-admired perseverance.

Besides its human foes, the otter has other cause to fear when cold weather rules, and frost and snow forms an effectual barrier to its food. Then often it may die of hunger, but will, if such be within its reach, attack lambs, young pigs, poultry, and even rabbits, to obtain the food it so badly requires. On other occasions, its river haunts having become low through drought—or when the opposite occurs, and through heavy rainfall the otherwise placid stream develops almost into the torrent—it is unable to obtain the fish it requires, the otter has perforce to resort to animal food, such as above mentioned, sometimes even to that of a vegetable nature. Luckily, however, such disastrous circumstances but very seldom occur; and, although hard frost may inconvenience it to some extent, it is, on most occasions, able to weather any adverse times it may have to encounter.

ERICA.

(To be continued.)

ONE MILLION SOLD.

MESSRS. CHUBB AND SON, Lock and Safe Makers to the Queen and to the Bank of England, have just issued a new Illustrated Priced Catalogue. It is by far the largest and most complete in the trade and has been compiled by the firm. It consists of 28 pages; contains nearly 150 illustrations; the prices of 700 different articles; and no less than 1100 dimensions of Locks, Safes, &c. It is stated that nearly *One Million* of the Patent Detector Locks have been made and sold.

ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE LEA.

FREDERICK GROVES, of Rushmore Road, Upper Clapton and Henry Eaton, of High Hill Ferry, were charged on summonses with using a net for the purpose of taking fish in the river Lea, contrary to the Act.—Mr. George Corble, clerk to the Board of Conservators of the Lea River, prosecuted, and said that the proceedings were taken under their Act, which set out the size of net which might be used in the river, a small net being allowed for the taking of small fish for bait. The defendants, however, had been found with a net which would take the largest fish in the river, and they had captured, when found, over 13½ lb. of fish, their net being over forty yards in circumference.—Police-sergeant 4 N R, and a constable of the same division, then gave evidence, showing that on the 4th inst. the defendants and two other men were seen on the bank of the river working a net, and on the approach of the officers they ran off. Groves was, however, seen to hand the net to one of the men, and Eaton had a bag containing fish, which he handed to the other man.—Mr. Hannay fined the defendants 20s. and 2s. each, ordering the net to be destroyed, in accordance with the 14th section of the Act.

"THE CARMICHAEL PORTABLE BOOT TREE."

ANY one who has travelled much—and in these days of cheap excursions and tourists tickets, who has not?—must have often found the great need of a portable boot tree. For anglers especially, the difficulty of knowing what to do with their wet boots, minus the wooden trees, is at all times a problem, solved very often in many very amusing ways. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that we call the attention of our readers to a simple yet admirable invention, called the "Carmichael Portable Boot Tree." Before describing it, we may at once say that the invention is not intended to *disestablish* the wooden trees, but, rather, to take their place on occasions and at times when it is impossible or difficult to carry wooden ones about.

The "Carmichael Portable Boot Tree" consists of an india-rubber bladder, which, being placed in the boot is blown out—inflated—to the required extent, and then completely occupies the entire space within. For wet boots this is invaluable, as it prevents them shrinking; and the great consideration is that it packs away into a very small space, being thus easily carried and ready for use at a moment's notice. This "Portable Boot Tree" is made in two ways—one of indiarubber alone, the other of indiarubber spread on a linen foundation. The first is very elastic and capable of great expansion, by inflation. The second can only be inflated to the size to which it is made.

The soldier, the tourist, the hunting man, and the angler especially, will have cause to welcome this invention, as supplying a long-felt want.

In conclusion, let us add that the "Carmichael Portable Boot Tree" can be seen at, and procured from, the sole makers, Messrs. W. Sparkes, Hall and Co., 308, Regent Street, London, W.

RIVERS CONSERVANCY.

MR. C. N. CRESSWELL is to read a paper on this subject before the Society of Arts on Wednesday next, the 23rd inst. The paper will deal principally with the three important topics of Floods Prevention, Rivers Pollution, and the Supply of Water.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

TRENT FISHERY BOARD.

THE annual meeting of this board was held on Friday, the 21st ult., at the Midland Hotel, Derby, Earl Manvers in the chair. The annual report of the secretaries (Messrs. G. M. Hutton and T. Worthington) was read as follows:—In presenting to you our report for the past year, we have little that is novel to remark upon as regards the fishing season. Great floods have prevented the draftnet fishermen having their average amount of capture of salmon. The stand net men have, however, had a fair time of it, whilst the rod-and-line fishermen in the upper waters have had an unusually good year. The licenses issued for net and rod have been slightly in excess of previous years, giving a slight increase in revenue, but, on the other hand, the expenses of prevention for offences against the Salmon, Dynamite, and Freshwater Fisheries Acts, have been unusually heavy. Thirty persons have been prosecuted for various offences, and twenty-nine convicted, the thirtieth prosecution having failed on a technical point, that the river Mear, a tributary of the Trent, where the offence was committed, was not sufficiently proved to be a salmon river. The breeding salmon were on the spawning grounds earlier than usual in very large numbers, especially the male fish. The spawning was very quickly over, perhaps not more than a fortnight, and then the fish returned to deeper waters. This remark applies particularly to the Dove, but a greater number of fish than usual have passed Burton-on-Trent and gone up to the spawning grounds of the Blith and other tributaries of the Trent. Through the excessive freshes of water we believe salmon have ascended higher than we have ever known them to do. The question of pollution of rivers is still a very prominent one. We are glad, however, to be able to report that the sewage works at Nottingham are virtually completed, and the sewage taken five or six miles to a sewage farm of upwards of 600 acres. The high-level sewage of Nottingham is at work, and the low-level will shortly be. The whole work promises to be a success. We are informed that the corporation of Burton-on-Trent have obtained their Act of Parliament for dealing with their sewage, and will proceed with their works shortly; but we regret to say that nothing has yet been decided as to the disposal of the sewage at Derby. This sewage question is one mutually affecting the country generally in a sanitary point of view; for not only are fish poisoned in countless thousands, but the health of men and cattle is seriously affected by polluted streams. It is believed that if the Trent and its tributaries were relieved of the sewage now discharged into it, it would be one of the most prolific salmon rivers in England. We have not heard anything of salmon disease in the Trent, which has been prevalent in other rivers. In pursuance of the resolution passed at the last special meeting of the board, with respect to the issue of trout licenses, letters were sent to the various boards that have adopted the system, and we now produce the replies we have received, which show that the plans of different boards very considerably agree both as to the charge for license and the period of its use. We also wrote in pursuance of a similar resolution, to conservators who had for some time ceased to attend the board. Some we found were dead, some had left the neighbourhood, and others, including Mr. Nesfield, Sir Percival Haywood, and Mr. Minton Campbell, wished to resign. We also wrote to a number of gentlemen on the trout licence question. The replies have been almost unanimously in favour of it, there being only on dissentient, and two qualified answers. We have had submitted to us a copy of the Bill consolidating the Salmon, Dynamite, and Freshwater Fisheries Act, now before Parliament, brought in by Sir Joseph Bailey. The second reading is fixed for February 3rd. It will have our best attention. We cannot conclude our report without mentioning the lamented death of Mr. Frank Buckland, one of the Salmon Fishery Inspectors. His death is a great national loss, and the Trent Fishery Board have lost a true friend, ever ready to give his kind advice.—The report was adopted, and the election of new conservators was proceeded with, the following gentlemen being appointed:—Nottinghamshire—Earl Manvers, Messrs. G. Egerton, H. Eyre, Newton and F. Foljambe. Derbyshire—Messrs. J. Worthington, A. Holmes, J. Towle, A. Worthington, W. C. Curzon, W. Wood, and A. Bagot. Staffordshire—Messrs. A. Worthington, J. Worthington, W. Wood, A. Bagot, Captain Dawson, and the Rev. E. Daine. Leicestershire—Messrs. J. F. Fox, J. Worthington, W. C. Curzon and E. H. Pears. Lincolnshire—Mr. F. Anderson, Col. Hutton, and Mr. F. Foljambe. Mr. Holmes proposed that the Board adopt the provision given by the 7th section of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, with respect to the power to issue trout licenses, the charge for such licence not to exceed one shilling, and that the necessary notices be given in the usual way. Mr. Curzon seconded the proposal, which was unanimously adopted. In consequence of Mr. Worthington being obliged to discontinue doing the work of secretary to the board owing to illness, it was resolved to request Mr. Eddowes, secretary to the Derbyshire club, to become clerk to the board.—*Newark Herald*.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Tell me, where is fancy bred,
Or in the heart, or in the head?"

I imagine the best place to find fancy bread, would be in a baker's shop, but where to find fish just now, except at a fishmonger's, is more than I am able to inform the angling public. The Thames is still out of its bed, and "o'er the hills and far away";—which is certainly not one of the least ills that angling flesh is heir to. Fishing, except on the grass, and in snug eddies and lay-byes, is almost impracticable. In my own sleepy hollow of a "deserted village" the water has already inundated the ground floors of the cottages—men are being taken to and from their homes in punts, and if we have but some few days' more rain, I intend to ask a few choice spirits down to enjoy a little quiet fishing from the bedroom windows. Would you join us, Mr. Editor? At the late meeting of the Reading Angling Association a rule was adopted that a reward of £1 be paid to any person killing an otter between Goring and Shiplake on the Thames, or on the Loddon or Kennet, within ten miles of the main stream. On the morning following the passing of this resolution, Mr. May, of Sandford Mill, caught a female otter, which scaled 13 lb., and, after showing the same to the officers of the association, received the first reward. Many others have been seen between Caversham and Pangbourne by the bailiffs and others; so, now twenty shillings is placed upon the arrant poachers' heads, a *caput-al* deliverance will doubtless take place on behalf of the before-mentioned lady sovereign. Thursday evening.—River out of all fishing trim—highly flooded, and still rising.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Exe (Exeter).

Since my last, little can be said as to angling prospects. The rivers have been running exceedingly high, viz., the Culm, the Creedy and the Barle; consequently, the Exe has been excessively high, more so than it has been for years. The gales of the past week, with the heavy rains, snow and severe hailstorms, have been enough to keep the stream considerably above the usual level, without the addition of the above rivers. Upon several occasions it has risen over 14 and 16 inches in one hour, threatening many of the low-lying places with inundation. Fishing, of course, is quite out of the question, and likely to be. We have now reached the thirtieth hour of rain, with every appearance of thirty more. I have not heard of a single fish having been taken—but fish there are and plenty. Salmon are seen hourly, passing both up and down. The kelts and slats will not stop long with us this season; if these freshets continue, they will have no trouble in getting back to sea. Trout have been espied in goodly numbers and large in the pools close to the city. I was afraid we should have had to report many dead and injured fish going back, but have not seen any at present. The herrings are all gone from the estuary, and the fishermen have taken to their old work again, but during the past week have done nothing. Fish of all kinds in the market very scarce; the supply being chiefly got from Grimsby. I have just heard they are flooded at Tiverton, and it is blowing a gale, with heavy rain—so we know what to expect for the next day or so: no fishing, for certain.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Barle and Exe (Somerset).

Owing to the recent heavy rains, these rivers have been in a state of flood during the greater part of last week, but they are now fining down. A good deal of snow-water is coming from the hills, which, of course, is not favourable for fishing. Nevertheless, if we do not get much more rain, they will be in fair order in a few days. The weather at present seems very unsettled. During Thursday last a very heavy flood came down, and, of course, every boy that could get a stick, a hook and a worm went out fishing, and a great quantity of fish were caught, I am sorry to say, as the trout are not in very good condition, although much better than I expected to have seen them after such a severe winter. Since the opening day very little has been done with the fly, the largest basket taken being sixteen.—W.

Thames (Windsor).

Water still very high and thick; banks are submerged, and angling can only be carried on under great difficulties. Very few have attempted it lately in this neighbourhood, but at Bray I heard a gentleman last Sunday had a nice little bag taken on the grass ledgering with redworm, consisting of 13 fine roach, 9 perch, and a brace of tench going nearly 6 lb. At present there is very little chance of knowing the whereabouts of "the spotted beauties," but a week or two of fine weather with warm sunshine, I shall be able to record their locality and probable weight. Bank anglers must be getting impatient, as we have now barely a month left, and they will be fortunate if they get a week out of it. Noticing several attempts to get at them last Sunday, London anglers can save themselves trouble and expense if they like to write me a line and enclose post card; they would then know state of water, and I should be pleased to give the information, as I can imagine their feelings on arrival here.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The water is now in first-rate condition for angling. There is every prospect of good sport if weather continues fine. Messrs. W. and T. Hawkins, Young,

and Bayford have been out, and, although it was a flood, they succeeded in taking some roach and perch and a few jack. Mr. W. Hawkins out on Thursday afternoon, got a few roach. Anglers are reminded that subscriptions to these waters for the ensuing season are due in March next.—E. GODFREY.

Dove (Derbyshire).

This river has been swollen like a sea since my last notes appeared, and it is little better at the time of writing. What is to become of all the anglers if this state of things continues much longer it is quite beyond my limited means to prognosticate. Just when the season is closing, too! In another three weeks we shall have to lay aside the grayling and coarse fishing rods generally for three months. Jupiter Pluvius might, considering this circumstance, have been kind enough to limit his aqueous supplies, but he is at the best an unconcernable kind of person, and devotes as little consideration to the requirements of anglers as to people in general. Immense damage has been done in the valley of the Dove by the tremendous volume of superfluous liquid. Trees have been uprooted in all directions, and several bridges no longer remain where the builders deposited them. Fishing operations during the week have been dead as the Dodo, and beyond saying what I have as to the abundance of unnecessary water, I am like the needy knife-grinder—without a story to tell.—THE SPODGER.

Lee (Co. Cork).

Angling on the Lee opened on Tuesday under most favourable circumstances of weather and water. Very few spring salmon were landed; numerous slats or old fish took the fry, but all round there was great scarcity of springers. Speaking of the results of two days' fishing, prospects are anything but encouraging. The successful anglers were Sir Augustus Warner, 1; Lieutenant Young, 1; Ned Murphy, 2; Jerry Healy, 1 of 19 lb.; a gentleman fishing on Mr. Barters, 2. The river continues in good order to-day (Thursday), there was drizzling rain, but nothing sufficient to colour the water or interfere with angling.

Medway (Tunbridge).

The water is fining down and with a continuance of fine weather will be, by to-day (Saturday), in splendid condition for angling. During the week there have been some good catches of jack, roach, and chub, one of the latter scaling 2½ lb.—MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

These rivers, after the long flood, will be in fine condition by Saturday, the 19th. A fine show of roach have been taken on Thursday by a Mr. Paddock.—T. ELLIOTT.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The floods still continue; we have had no salmon fishing for the past week; the cots got a few by venturing out in the flood, but it was only because there was such an enormous run of spring fish that they got any, as the river was entirely too flooded for the usual ordinary fishing. The trout-fishing has wonderfully improved; the fish are in better condition than they have been for many years at this season, especially on the Lenawn, when Major Toppin got 18, yesterday; the Taw, where Master Fennell also got 18, yesterday; at Glenlu and other small streams, where from two to three dozen were got by occasional anglers; Mr. Helen got 38 on the Cladiagh; Mr. Wilkinson had a good basket at the Glasha, both with worm. The favourite flies are rat's-fur, and red hackle, silver and black hackle, and silver grouse and spider wrens.—DORA.

Trent (Newark).

The very heavy flood of last week began to slowly recede on Sunday and Monday, but unfortunately it rained very heavily the whole of Monday, which caused the river to again rise on Tuesday and Wednesday. To-day, Thursday, it is slowly going down; but as yet it is over the banks, and a lot of land is submerged, so that it will take a few days yet before it will be in anything like condition for worm-fishing; if the weather holds the same as it has been to-day, a start may be anticipated by the end of next week. The close time is drawing near, so that I hope the present weather may continue so that rosters may have a week or two in which to make up for previous disappointments. The cockspur worm will be found the best bait for the first few days when the water gets anything like.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The great flood we had on the Trent at the end of last week had only subsided about a couple of feet before rain again set in, and on Monday it continued to rain incessantly for ten hours without once ceasing, when, of course, the fishermen in this locality at once came to the conclusion that a greater flood than the last was sure to be the result; this, however, luckily did not happen, though the rain prevented the water from going down, as it would otherwise have done had the rain kept off. I am, however, pleased to state that we got on Tuesday a favourable change for the better, both in water and weather, which caused the angler to be on the look-out for a chance of doing a bit more fishing, and certainly, as the close season is so near at hand, they must not allow anything like a favourable chance to pass by. They should remember that the month of February is perhaps the best in all the year for roach-fishing with either paste or worms, but on the Trent the latter is generally found to be the most killing bait; the cockspur worm is doubtless the best for bottom fishing on our river, it takes all the fish that are in the habit of feeding during the winter months, such as roach, dace, perch, chub, and bream; and, although the water has been at a great height, several bream were taken out of the flood with the bait just mentioned, besides a few roach, but as soon as the water began to subside the fish went with it. The river to-day (Thursday) is going down rapidly, and the weather also is fine and warm, so that we may expect some fishing will be done by the time this letter is in print. During the flood a great number of salmon have come up the Trent, and have been seen jumping at the different weirs.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

A great deal of both snow and rain has fallen in Derbyshire since my last report, which has caused both rivers to have floods on them again, which brought the bleach-net party out with their nets. I hear they took a fair quantity of fish between Darley Bridge and Matlock Bath, viz.: trout, grayling, and a few coarse fish. The large flood of last week left a good many fish out in the fields and in the dykes, which have since been captured, since the flood has gone down, several trout and grayling being about a pound apiece. There has been a few bottom fishers out on various parts of the Derwent trying their skill with the little red worms (both cockspurs and brandlings), both yesterday and to-day (Thursday). They have succeeded in taking a few brace

each day, three and a half brace being the most any one caught. The weather seems more settled now, so no doubt I shall soon have to report some good captures off both the above rivers. The Wye will not be in order for fly-fishing before another week or ten days. The Derwent will take even longer than that to run down to its proper height for successful fly-fishing. There is nothing for the angler next week only bottom and pike fishing on the Derwent.—G. J. EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

The water is still extremely high, although it has not so much of that pea-soup appearance about it. Messrs. Capon and Corbyn (two gentlemen of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society) were at Thorpe the early part of this week, and were fortunate enough to take between two and three stone of roach, some of them weighing $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and upwards. A man named Brown took two pike this week at Earham, 6 lb. each; also a bream weighing $9\frac{1}{2}$ lb., a tench 3 lb., and some extraordinary roach of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. No doubt if some of our friends visited these small streams more frequently, they would st and a chance of getting some good fish, which must have lain undisturbed for years.—**ANGLER.**

Yore (Yorkshire).

Still the same dismal story to tell of heavy falls of snow and rain on alternate days followed up by excessive floods, and immense damage done to the low-lying lands. It is an old Yorkshire saying that "February fills dyke," but I rather fancy it has proved more than usually correct this year. I am living in hopes that every day will bring better weather, but I fear that it will now come too late to be of any service for grayling fishing. All anglers who have not already possessed themselves of one of our worthy editor's copies of Mr. Rolfe's picture of "Salmon, Trout and Perch," should certainly lose no time in doing so; it is a really beautiful work, and will prove an ornament in any club room or any angler's "sanctum." My copy arrived on Feb. 14th, and a very welcome "valentine" it proved; I only hope that the sale of them will be great enough to induce Mr. Marston to issue further specimens of piscatorial illustrations, but this one should be considered more than usually valuable, as it is not every angler who has a purse long enough to afford an original picture from the brush of that master of the art, Mr. H. L. Rolfe; but this is an actual fac-simile, even down to his signature.—**FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.**

TO ALL WHO HAVE COLLECTIONS OF STUFFED FISH.

WE beg to call the special attention of clubs and private individuals to the prizes (see below) which will be awarded at the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition for exhibits of stuffed fish.

Our Norwich friends are most anxious to see a good show of cases from the London clubs, and make the following most liberal offers:—

- (1) Chance of one of the valuable money prizes named below, as well as Government award.
- (2) Carriage of the cases (in a special van provided in London) to Norwich and back, *free*.
- (3) Care and insurance of the cases *free* during transit and time of exhibition.

As this forthcoming exhibition is the first of the kind which has ever been in any way supported or recognised by Government, we most sincerely trust that every angler will do all in his power to make it a grand success, and we feel certain that when it is seen what a vast field of industry is represented by the fishing interests, Government support will be more liberally accorded in future. Any one requiring information should write to the Hon. Sec., W. Oldham Chambers, Esq., Lowestoft.

NEW PRIZES AT THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

	Amount.	Donor.
49.—Collection of stuffed freshwater fish taken within the United Kingdom, to be competed for by angling clubs	£ 15	The National Fisheries Exhibition.
50.—Collection of stuffed freshwater fish, taken within the United Kingdom, to be competed for by private individuals	£ 15	
51.—Single specimen of stuffed freshwater fish, caught in the United Kingdom by the exhibitor	£ 5	Private prize.
52.—Method of preserving fish other than stuffing, with special reference as to colour	£ 10	The National Fisheries Exhibition.
53.—Dress for fishermen, including boots	£ 10	
		I O. H. Taylor, Esq.

In addition to the special Government medals, gold, silver, and bronze medals and diplomas of honour will be awarded in respect of the exhibits considered most meritorious by the Jurors in Classes 1 to 5, and diplomas of honour only in Class VI, of loan collections of the general classification.

ANGLING CLUB PRIZES.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

THE successful competitors of last year in the various angling clubs in London are now undergoing the pleasure of becoming possessed of their prizes at the numerous piscatorial banquets, or at some special meeting for that purpose, in different parts of our great metropolis. I had the honour of attending the annual gathering of the Friendly Anglers a little time since, when I was much impressed with the list of prizes that were offered by the members, and with three trifling exceptions not touching the funds of the society. I do not know whether there is another club in London that does the same thing, but as regards the Friendly Anglers, it is substantial evidence of the respectable position of its members; and what is more, the prizes are valuable ones, and the total amount is far in advance of many older societies. The sum last year that was competed for in various prizes amounted to £ 116 16s., of which £ 98 19s. was won. There is a capital fixture on the top of the prize list. "All prizes to be paid in before 30th of November, 1880, won or not," and I have not the least doubt all was duly paid into the hands of Mr. Pain, a very excellent treasurer, through the good offices of the energetic secretary, Mr. C. M. Le Good. There is also another capital rule "To take only three prizes;" and as a proof of the value of some of the prizes, Mr. Emanuel, the great trout angler, receives the handsome sum of £ 16 18s. for the three prizes which he has won. There are in the whole fifty-six prizes. In the first place there are no fewer than eight prizes for trout of the total value of £ 37 18s., all with the sportsmanlike condition of being taken either with the fly or on spinning tackle. There are two prizes of one guinea each for grayling taken in fly fishing. There are four prizes for jack, amounting to £ 8 18s. 6d. for largest specimens and gross weights. There are four prizes for perch, of the total value of £ 5 15s. 6d.—one for the largest specimen, and three for gross weights. There are no less than nine prizes for roach, of the total value of £ 13 5s. 6d.—one of £ 2 12s. 6d. for the greatest number of 1 lb. and over; one of £ 2 5s. for twelve of the largest, and one of £ 2 2s. for the largest caught anywhere; and another, which is the best, of three guineas for the largest taken from the Thames. There are four prizes for dace amounting to £ 5 5s. three being for large fish and one for gross weight. There are three prizes for chub, of the total value of £ 5 15s. 6d., of which £ 2 12s. 6d. is given for the largest anywhere; one guinea with the fly, and two guineas for gross weight. There is only one prize, of the value of one guinea, for the largest carp. There are two half-guinea prizes for tench—one for the largest specimen and one for gross weight. There are two prizes for bream—one of £ 1 11s. 6d. for the largest, and one of half-a-guinea for gross weight. There is a prize of half-a-guinea for a gross weight of gudgeon. There are four prizes for barbel, amounting to £ 11 0s. 6d.—one of £ 3 13s. 6d. for the largest, one of £ 1 11s. 6d. for the second largest, one of £ 2 12s. 6d. for Nottingham fishing, for fish of 3 lb. or over—the largest to win—and one of three guineas, for gross weight. The sum of £ 8 8s. is contributed towards prizes for a summer outing. There are two prizes for the gross weight of the year, the first receiving £ 2 12s. 6d., and the second one guinea. Two guineas is given for specified days. There is a consolation prize of one guinea for "most shows not taking a prize." There is a prize of half-a-guinea for a gross weight of sea fish. There are what is termed three general prizes—one of two guineas for most specimens with a fly; two guineas for gross weight, on Fridays and Sundays only; and there are three prizes of "best specimens, to be decided by committee," each prize being of the value of half-a-guinea. Out of the total number of prizes, 33 are for the largest fish, 18 for gross weights, and 15

miscellaneous ones. Altogether the list is a most satisfactory one, of which the club need justly be proud, and is worthy of example and imitation by other societies. In the report of the dinner, which appeared in a previous number of the FISHING GAZETTE, the names of the principal prizeholders and the amounts were given. I hope shortly to make another visit to the club-room to look over the Fish Museum, which, from the general appearance it presented on the evening of the banquet, was also of a satisfactory character. There is, as well, another satisfactory item—that for many years the Friendly Anglers have contributed two guineas to the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. It was stated with regret by the President, at the dinner, that the Thames fishing last year was unsatisfactory, but I have found out on inquiry since then that one, at least, of its principal Thames members has fished the upper portion last year, instead of the lower district, as formerly. I hope this year the result in both portions will be better.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

It is a very good arrangement in a large society like this, where its annual dinners are of a more public character, to make a special evening for the distribution of the prizes when the patriotic father of the society (Mr. F. G. Pearce) is afforded an opportunity of addressing his children, congratulating those who have been successful, and giving words of encouragement to those who have been less fortunate. The gathering on Monday evening last in the clubroom, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, was made additionally attractive by this annual celebration, and the successful competitors in receiving their prizes were warmly congratulated by all who were present on the occasion. The amount of prizes offered by the society last year was £71 14s., the sum of £14 being voted as club prizes for specimen fish, and £57 14s. as private prizes. Out of this amount, £62 13s. has been won, viz.: £6 in club prizes and £56 13s. in private prizes. The following are the successful competitors:—Mr. Foreman taking no fewer than six prizes, amounting to £15 4s. 6d., including a silver cup, value £5 5s., given by Mr. T. R. Sachs, the first prize in the Shentonian competition, and the second prize in the barbel competition. Mr. Hunt takes three private prizes, amounting to £6 6s., including the first prize in the roach competition, and the second prize in the Shentonian competition. Mr. Thomas Huggett secures one club prize and three private prizes, amounting to £6 5s., including the club prize for the largest pike, the second prize in the perch competition, and two other private prizes for the largest trout and pike from the Thames shown on Monday evening. Mr. Robert Barker lands two prizes, amounting to £5 15s. 6d., being the first prize in the chub competition, and a prize for the largest chub. Mr. Frost obtains the first prize of £4 4s. in the barbel competition. Mr. Winton gets the second prize of £3 13s. 6d. in the chub competition. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone carries off the first prize of £3 3s. in the perch competition. Mr. J. F. Lovelock obtains the second prize of £3 3s. in the roach competition. Mr. Beasley, a private prize of £2 2s., given by Mr. F. G. Pearce for the greatest weight of roach and dace from the Thames. Mr. James Pattison, two private prizes of £1 each. Mr. M. H. Blamey wins the club prize for chub, value £1, and a private prize of £1 1s. for the heaviest chub from the Thames. Mr. Faulkner entitles himself to the club prize of £1 for the heaviest roach—a handsome fish of 2 lb. 10 oz.—and a private prize of £1 1s. for the heaviest roach. Mr. W. B. Adlington gains a private prize of £1 11s. 6d. for the greatest weight of chub from the Thames. Mr. Robinson has two private prizes, amounting to £1 10s. 6d. Mr. Marsden, the club prize of £1 for the largest tench. Dr. Thomas, the club prize of £1 for the largest perch. Mr. Walker, the club prize of £1 for the largest

dace; and Mr. Arter, the sum of 10s. 6d. for the second largest pike from the Thames, shown on Monday evening. The heaviest fish weighed in during the year have been as follows:—Salmon, 19 lb.; Thames trout, 8 lb. 3 oz.; common trout, 4 lb. 5 oz.; pike, 21 lb.; perch, 2 lb. 10 oz.; barbel, 4 lb. 10 oz.; roach, 2 lb. 10 oz.; chub, 5 lb. 8 oz.; dace, 10 oz.; bream, 3 lb. 4 oz.; carp, 9 lb.; and tench, 3 lb. 10 oz. I have only to add in reference to this very excellent society that it is also a liberal supporter of Thames Preservation, by an annual subscription of £3 3s. to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and a number of its members are on the committee of that society, who are also individual contributors to it. B.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual general meeting of the members of this association was held at the Queen's Hotel, Reading, on Monday evening, and was attended by Mr. Charles P. Wheatstone (President of the "Stanley Anglers"), who was voted to the chair; Col. Heathcote, and Messrs. J. T. Brown, H. Creed, F. Hurley, Arthur Berry, L. Goodhind, A. H. Ayres, Jas. Bedding (Pangbourne), and Arthur C. Buffer (Hon. Secretary). Letters expressing regret at inability to attend were received from Mr. Richard Attenborough, Mr. J. H. Brooks (Henley), and several other gentlemen. Mr. Brooks wrote that the association was "not sufficiently appreciated by the public in very many ways," and that its object ought to be "better understood by both rich and poor."

Mr. Charles Stephens having been re-elected hon. treasurer, Mr. W. Ferguson was re-appointed auditor, and Mr. Henry Creed was chosen to succeed Mr. J. Simonds as his colleague.

The Committee were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. Chapman (deceased), the Rev. J. E. Vaux (resigned), and Mr. James Simonds (the new President); and Mr. Butler was asked to continue to act as Secretary.

On the proposed alterations of rules—as set out in the appended report,—some discussion took place. The suggestions of the committee were adopted, with the following amendments:—In Rule II., "one black ball in three," instead of "two black balls," to exclude; in Rule VI., to alter the days of meeting to "every Saturday," instead of "the first and third Friday in every month," and to add to the proposed addition to Rule VIII., "or on the Loddon or Kennet within ten miles of the Thames."

The following report from the committee, and the balance sheet for 1880, were read by the hon. secretary and unanimously approved—as amended—on the motion of Mr. Creed, seconded by Mr. Berry:—

REPORT—1881.

Your committee, in presenting their fourth report, are happy to be able to record a year of prosperity, the objects of the association having been well carried out, and the income fairly satisfactory.

The Trout Nursery at Caversham has been very greatly improved during the year, by the construction of an additional dam and the raising above flood and covering in of a considerable section of the stream, at a total cost of £26. The Nursery has been kept in good working order by George Knight, who is specially employed to clean and superintend it. Owing to the expenditure at Caversham, and the difficulty in getting fish, very little has been spent on trout this year; but as no more capital outlay will be required at the Nursery, it is hoped that a great number of large trout may be bought and placed in the river during 1881. Your committee have just purchased 80 or 90 stock trout of the famous Wycombe breed, a variety which has been found to succeed so well by the Marlow and Maidenhead Associations. The stock of young trout in the Nursery has been increased by 3000 *Fario* fry purchased from Uxbridge, 100 yearling Wycombe trout, and 6000 bull trout fry kindly presented by the late Mr. Frank Buckland. Altogether the association has placed in the river or in its rearing stews, about 59,000 young *salmonide*; and as a result a marked improvement was visible in the trout-fishing last season, and an extraordinary number of trout under 2 lb. were returned to the river.

Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of a large quantity of stock tench.

Some ditches in the district (permission having been obtained) have been dragged during flood time, and by permission of the Urban Sanitary Authority the fish were transferred to the river from the Public Bathing Place during the annual cleaning of that place. Over 400 chub (half of which exceeded 1 lb. in weight), 24 jack up to 2 lb. 40 or 50 perch up to ½ lb., 70 or 80 roach, about 70 large dace, and many thousand small fish—including a few trout—have thus been restored to the river during the year, at a trifling cost.

Angling has been much interfered with by the unusual number of floods; but sport must, on the whole, be considered satisfactory; and while there seems to be a marked decline in the stock of pike in the river—due, no doubt, to trailing and live-gorge fishing—every other kind of fish appears to be rapidly increasing. The event of the season was the capture at Reading in April last of a trout weighing 16 lb. 15 oz. This magnificent fish was purchased by Messrs. Ferguson and Sons, of Reading, and by them presented (through the committee of this association) to Her Majesty the Queen, who was graciously pleased to send the sum of £3 to Wicks, by whom the "monster"

was caught. The committee have presented a vote of thanks to Messrs. Ferguson for their promptitude in securing the fish, and their kindness in presenting it to the association. The late Mr. Buckland kindly made a very successful plaster cast of this noble trout; it is now being coloured and cased by Mr. E. W. Searle, and will shortly be on view in Reading.

Prosecutions.—Fortunately only two offences calling for prosecution are believed to have been committed in the district during the year. In the first, a person was fined 2s. and 8s. costs (or seven days' imprisonment) by the Henley County Magistrates for a breach of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878 (sec. 11), by taking two jack during the fence months; and in the second case the conviction was for breach of the same section of "Mundella's Act," by selling a fish out of season, and was heard by the Reading Borough Magistrates, who fined the offender 2s. 6d., and 8s. costs (or seven days' imprisonment). In each case Mr. Henry Creed, who prosecuted on behalf of the association, requested the bench to inflict only a nominal penalty—these being the first prosecutions under the Act—and the offenders were warned that on any future conviction a heavy sentence would be imposed.

Competitions.—Your committee recommend that the competitions for "specimen fish" (Rule IX.) be continued.

Some alterations have taken place in the list of bailiffs. Robert Mills having resigned, William Moss, of Caversham, has been appointed in his place; and George Knight has been added to the staff. The bailiffs, and the lock-keepers and ferry-men in the district (numbering twenty in all), were entertained in January last to the annual dinner, at a cost of £5 to the funds; the gathering was a great success, and afforded much gratification to the men.

The cash account for the year ended December 31, 1880, shows that the income (including a balance from last account of £25 7s. 6d., has been £117 10s., and the expenditure £72 18s. 2d., leaving a balance at the bankers of £44 11s. 4d. While the income is less than that of last year by £80 10s. 9d., the balance is larger owing to a reduced expenditure.

It is with the deepest regret that your committee record the decease of Mr. Frank Buckland (Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fisheries, and one of the Vice-Presidents of this Association), whose death is truly a world-wide loss. Mr. Buckland took a deep interest in the welfare of the Reading Association from its termination, and assisted it by frequent most valuable advice and by liberal donations of trout fry. Mr. Stephen Chapman—a zealous and most valuable member of the committee, has also died during the year; and his untimely death is much deplored by those with whom he acted for three years in promoting the welfare of the association. It is proposed that Mr. H. Ayres be appointed a member of the committee, to fill the vacancy thus created.

Your committee beg to suggest the following alterations in the rules of the association, as set out in the notice convening this meeting:

(a) To add to Rule II.—"Gentlemen wishing to join the association to be proposed by a member of the committee at one of the ordinary committee meetings, and to be balloted for—two black balls to exclude."

(b) To alter the days of meetings (Rule VI.) to the first and third Friday in every month at 8 p.m., which have been fixed by the committee for their ordinary meetings.

(c) To add to Rule VIII.—"That a reward of £1 be paid to any person who shall kill an otter, provided that the otter be produced to the hon. secretary, and proof given that it was killed within the district protected by the association."

Since the formation of the association the meetings have been held at the Queen's Hotel; but the committee propose that for the future the headquarters be at the Great Western Hotel, where a club-room will be at the service of the members of the association every meeting night; and hope that by having regular meetings of the members in a room of their own the interest taken in the association will be increased. The best thanks of the association are due to Mrs. Cocks, proprietress of the Queen's, for kindly providing a room for its meetings since its formation.

The committee announce with great regret the resignation (owing to private reasons) of the president, Mr. H. J. Simonds, and thank him for his valuable assistance to the association from its commencement.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Ayres, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. H. J. Simonds for the great assistance he had rendered to the association from its commencement, accompanied with the expression of sincere regret that he was no longer able to continue his valued services as President, and the hon. sec. was directed to enter the resolution on the minutes, and forward a copy to Mr. Simonds.

It was heartily agreed, on the proposition of Mr. Hurley, seconded by Col. Heathcote, that Mr. James Simonds should be requested to accept the office of President, and that gentleman has consented to serve.

Col. Heathcote proposed that a vote of thanks be given to the Hon. Sec. for his exertions in behalf of the association, and that he be requested to accept an honorarium of £15 as a slight recognition of the value of his services during the past two seasons.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Goodhind, and unanimously agreed to; and Mr. Butler acknowledged the compliment.

The Hon. Sec. was directed—on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Col. Heathcote—to convey to Mrs. Frank Buckland the sincere condolences of the association in her sad bereavement.

The business concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wheatstone for his kindness in taking the chair, and his efficient conduct of the business of the evening.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

A SPECIAL meeting of the West Central Association took place at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, on Friday last. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and passed, the secretary, Mr. Hoole, read a letter received from the Thames Angling Preservation Society, appealing to anglers for assistance in their present rather needy condition, arising from the extra expenses incurred in the enforcement of new bye-laws against snatching and night lines, also some very important convictions.

Mr. Brougham, of the T.A.P.S. said that since he had last attended a meeting of the W.C.A. a vast amount of good work had been done by the committee of the T.A.P.S. He was pleased to tell them that the views of the W.C.A. with regard to the sizes of fish to be taken, and been unanimously adopted by the T.A.P.S. in a memorial which they had prepared to be presented to the board of Thames Conservancy, in which some other very important alterations in the existing bye-laws had been proposed; he had obtained the signatures to be appended to this memorial, *en masse*, and had also had many interviews with the secretary of the Conservancy Board, and now he felt quite sanguine of success. During the month of March last, he had seen with profound regret the practice of snatching going on at Teddington, and felt that something should be done this season to prevent such occurrences. A portion of the weir might with advantage be left open to allow the fish to pass up. One advantage had been gained, the keepers having received strict injunctions from the Conservancy to stop all snatching. In alluding to the private rights on the Thames, he observed that the lower Thames was not subjected to these inconveniences, but the T.A.P.S. had this subject under their consideration. He had received a communication from the Clerk of the Common Council, in consequence of which a deputation will be formed, who will proceed to the Board of Common Council to state their views of the matter, when they will be ably supported by several influential and well-informed anglers.

Mr. Murphy proposed that the usual donation of twenty guineas be sent to the T.A.P.S.

Seconded by Mr. Adean.

Mr. Noble moved as an amendment that the matter be postponed until next meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Fowler.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. Brougham then briefly thanked them for their unanimous vote of funds for the aid of the T.A.P.S.

The election of three visiting officers then took place. Mr. Osman, No. 1; Mr. Thorley, No. 2; and Mr. Wilson, No. 3 districts.

Mr. Murphy proposed that the canal question should be postponed until next meeting night, and that that night should be considered as a special meeting night.

Seconded by Mr. Adean, and carried.

Mr. Bonvoisin then alluded to the great loss that had been sustained by the death of their estimable friend, Mr. John Foster, founder and late hon. sec. of the Knights of Knightsbridge Angling Society, who, in consequence of a very serious accident had to undergo a surgical operation from the effects of which he succumbed on the 14th inst. He was one of the first who advocated and carried out the establishment of an association, and without exception formed one of each of the several deputations to the various railways, whose great privileges we anglers now enjoy. Although an exceedingly frugal man, a succession of great troubles had so impoverished his means, that upon the knowledge of such coming to the ears of the W.C.A. a committee was formed for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions for the benefit of his widow and family, which will be thankfully received by Mr. T. Ghurney, E.C.A., and Mr. T. Hoole, W.C.A.

The roll being called, the following clubs were represented—Amicable Brothers, Anglers Pride, Bostonian, Battersea Friendly, Cadogan, City of London, Clapham Junction, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Hammer-smith United, Hampstead, Knights of Knightsbridge, King's Cross United, Larkhall, Norfolk, North Western, Odds and Evens, Prince of Wales, Royal George, Richmond Piscatorials, St. John, Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, South London, South Belgravia, United Brothers, United Marlborough Brothers, Waltonians, Westbourne Park Piscatorials, and Mr. Ghurney, E.C.A.—WAT. B. WEBSTER.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LATE MR. F. BUCKLAND.

I HAD but just finished reading a few excellent notes in *Macmillan* for this month from the very able pen of Spencer Walpole, Esq., from whom such home truths are told of his late friend and fellow-traveller (Mr. Buckland), when my *Land and Water* and *FISHING GAZETTE* arrived. Upon opening the latter, my sight at once fixed upon the article, entitled "The Angler's Missing Link," which is most certainly beautifully rendered. "Who, indeed, is to replace the link now missing?" might well resound through the medium of the *FISHING GAZETTE* to all parts of the globe. Many were the anecdotes told by him, and many of him will be told; and proud am I to be enabled to repeat (through close friendship), several, at some future time. I have read in the *FISHING GAZETTE* a note upon the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., who, it says, seldom smokes during the Parliamentary session, but, in the holidays or recess, when by loch or river, angling for salmon, the right hon. member indulges in the fragrant weed, preferring the best cigars. How fond our dear friend was of his cigar, any one who had once been in his company could testify. Early and late, in the bitterest cold, or under the heat of a tropical sun, the

fragrant weed was constantly his companion. I have accompanied him many times, when it has been blowing hard and freezing sharp, for many hours at a stretch up to our chests in the river, when moustache and beard have been crisply frozen, when a bite at a Spanish onion a cigar, and some old beer were our only warming apparatus. Again, did he, under a midsummer scorching sun, for over two hours point out to a select audience how the pass could be made by the side or round the Totness weir. Standing alone in the stream, smoking the whole of the time, seldom removing the same during the whole of the time he was speaking. Although I had known Mr. Buckland for several years, it was not until the 26th of February, 1870, that I had the honour of taking my first cigar with him. It was on the occasion of my having received an official letter from the "Salmon Fisheries" office, Westminster, to attend at the South Kensington Museum, to examine a parcel of sea-fish from Glasgow, packed in a new and ingenious manner in ice and sawdust. In this letter is a specimen of the kind-hearted manner he had of addressing his messages: "I shall be very glad if you will kindly do me the favour to come and examine them at my museum at your earliest convenience; to-morrow will do, say between 1 and 5 p.m." Being in London in February of last year on the very day of the month, ten years previously, I had smoked my first cigar presented by him; and now to call and see him seated in Doctor Hunter's chair, hard at work and very ill. By the side of whom was Mr. Ffennell, of *Land and Water* fame, arranging matters for the week's paper. During my stay everything of note and curious was shown me, not forgetting lots of heads and tails of salmon undergoing examination, having *Saprolegia ferax* attached; after which I was seated in the doctor's chair by Mr. Buckland, and for two hours enjoyed my last cigar. When about to leave, he pressed me to call again, but leaving for Devon the following morning, prevented my so doing. I hardly knew how to leave him; his good-natured hearty laugh was now but a smile, though still smoking. I wished him good day; I could not say good-bye, although I felt convinced that I should not see him again, and as the page boy showed me the way down, he remarked, "I am afraid you will not see Mr. Buckland much longer; the end is drawing near." Thus it was ten years to the day since my first and last cigar with a gentleman, who, as your correspondent "B." states, is the "Angler's Missing Link." There can be no doubt that few, very few men, would undertake to do what the late Mr. Buckland did; and it is to be apprehended that his untimely removal from labours so useful and universal will create the greatest difficulty to be experienced by the anglers, and the conclusion will be that his death will long be felt as "The Missing Link."—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exeter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. BISHOP.—The index to the volume for 1880 was published and sent out gratuitously with every copy of the paper some weeks ago—you can get it at the office. You can also get a cover there. Mr. Keene has promised to complete his Thames articles shortly, and we trust he will. Thanks for your suggestion; you must have a little bread with your jam; the jam is too expensive to use so freely as you would like and we should like, but we will do our best.

THE DACE AT TEDDINGTON.

SIR,—I am very much obliged to "Vortex" for giving me the opportunity to answer his remarks relative to the taking of dace at Teddington Weir. 'His informant is in error as to there being no river-keeper present at the time it was going on last year. In addition to the presence of our head keeper, a visit was paid by Mr. Thomas Spreckley and myself, with two members of the committee (I believe, Mr. Alfred Nuthall and Mr. P. Geen), when we decided no charge of absolute "snatching" could be substantiated. The dace were there in such numbers it only required an ordinary strike, as in common angling, to hook a fish, which was more frequently done foul than otherwise. With the exception of very few instances, which were at once stopped by the river-keeper, the would-be anglers had on their lines only one hook baited with worms. We however, decided to do what we have arranged to be done this season, "Vortex" has made a suggestion that "a river-keeper be told off for the special duty of preventing the nefarious practice," which, he says, and I hope truly, "will earn the gratitude of every true sportsman." I am very pleased to tell him that, in addition to strict orders being given to the lock-keeper (who is also a river-keeper), one of our own keepers will be constantly stationed at the weir during the heading-up of the dace, to prevent a recurrence of the disgraceful and unsportsmanlike scenes of last year. As regards the puntmen, I am sure "Vortex" will join with me in hoping they will be more alive to their own interests and the value of the fishery to be guilty of encouraging the taking of dace in such a condition. A true sportsman will be ashamed to be seen doing it at such a time.—I am, &c. W. H. BROUGHAM, 20, Moorgate St., Feb. 14.

(sec. T. A. P. S.)

THE MISSING LINK.

SIR,—Your correspondent B. is quite right in saying that the death of our lamented friend, Frank Buckland, has created a missing link. He might, indeed, have gone farther, and said a vast chasm. When, however, such an event occurs, it is our duty to do our best in every possible way to fill up the deficiency and repair the ranks so sadly broken.

Casting and painting of casts can be carried on just as well as ever. Mr. R. Edon will, I believe, do anything that is wanted in his spare time, and his work at the Buckland Museum, shows that he is no novice in the art. Of course his work will not be gratuitous: that must not be expected. His private address is 107, Arthur Street, Fulham Road, S.W.

As to identification of rare fishes, general information as to the management of water, &c., &c. (though I say this with the greatest diffidence), I shall always be pleased to do any thing I can to assist and advise those who may apply to me. Of course it is perfectly impossible to hope to do all for the public that Mr. Buckland did. We can only try to do our utmost; that is all.

In order to facilitate the early receipt of specimens, I may add that parcels should be sent to Bexley Station, S.E.R., carriage paid.—I am, &c., Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent. CHAS. C. CAPEL.

FISHING AT WINCHESTER.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to two letters in the FISHING GAZETTE of the 5th and 12th inst. The first, by Mr. Huggett, too late to call for any reply of mine to reach you in time for your last impression. I am glad that "Resident" has lost no time in informing you of Mr. Huggett's mistake with regard to the fishing. It is true I have lost a portion of the water, as stated by "Resident," and I should have refrained from stating more, but for the vindictive spirit in which he writes of me. After the superabundance of "soft zawder," for others in the same line as myself—but of that I need not say more—"Resident" states that your numerous readers of the angling world should read "hours" instead of days (or something to that effect) that an angler might fish in the whole of my waters. "Resident" must be very ignorant, or pretends to be to suit his own purposes, of the extent of the water I have; and I challenge him or any fly-fisher, be he a resident or not, to fish the whole properly in the "four days." Now what could be more misleading than to try to make anglers believe (strangers, I mean) that they can only get four hours of good fishing on my water. Mr. Huggett wrote what he did, thinking he was simply writing the truth, not knowing of the recent changes, as, if I remember rightly, he fished my water last year. Yet "Resident" must be fully aware this portion of the water being taken up by "his friends," no doubt for the purpose of letting by tickets, it will not be a bar (as it is in some cases) to anglers from any distance, being able to fish by paying for it; therefore the angling public would not be much put out, by reading Mr. Huggett's "unreliable rubbish," as "Resident" is pleased to term it; and the idea, too, of shutting up your valuable GAZETTE, because "three men" actually think as does "Resident."—I am, &c., J. HAMMOND, Fishing Tackle Maker, Winchester.

FISHING AT WINCHESTER.

SIR,—The tone of "Resident's" letter is so unnecessarily insolent and so unlike a true disciple of Walton, that I decline a reply. I will, however, reply to your editorial note. On many occasions I have seen requests from your readers and yourself for anglers to send reports of fishing stations. From time to time I have sent such reports, which have always been from my personal knowledge and not from hearsay. I have fished Hammond's waters for the last six years, including last season, and I believe in my report I kept strictly to the truth. There were one or two small printer's errors, but in the main the report was correct as forwarded. I much regret to hear that Hammond has lost some of his fishing, perhaps he has enemies in the camp.—I am, &c., 9, Cromwell Crescent, S.W., Feb. 14, 1881. T. HUGGETT.

FISHING QUARTERS IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert this in your GAZETTE, in order to correct an error in the printing of my piece about "Fishing Quarters in Derbyshire" in your last number? "Tilleford Bridge" should be "Filleford Bridge." By doing you will greatly oblige me BLUE DUN. 30 Feb. 12, 1881.

FISHING QUARTERS IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—In the number of the FISHING GAZETTE for Feb. 12th inst. your correspondent, "Blue Dun," in an article headed "Fishing Quarters at Derbyshire," makes the following statement:—"Above Bakewell come the Ashford and Millersdale Fisheries, the latter may be fished by paying 1s. 6d. for a day ticket." I am at a loss to understand where your correspondent, otherwise accurate, gets his authority for this statement; but, to prevent disappointment to any anglers acting on this information, I beg to state that the Wye, between the first tunnel below the Millersdale station of the Midland Railway and the point above that station where Woodale runs into Millersdale, is in the hands of a club, who strictly preserve that water, and of which club I beg to subscribe myself A MEMBER.

Manchester, Feb. 15, 1881.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

SIR,—In justice to myself, I hope you will allow me to speak once more in this matter; but Mr. Spence's presumption is so gross that I decline further controversy with an opponent too palpably beneath my contempt. For this decision I give the following grounds. Mr. Spence has again made a false quotation, and inserted the word parr where no such word appeared. Were this the only case of misstatement, in order to suit his arguments and protract discussion, it might be slightly palliated, as accidental; but when it forms part of a general tissue of misrepresentations, twice acknowledged by Mr. Spence himself, I think I cannot allow myself to be responsible for any further falsity in others by continuing to write letters unanswerable with truth and only to be met by misrepresentation. Mr. Spence says I wrote "Parr with almost white-coloured fins." Turning to my letter of January 1st, I find the words actually printed were, "I shrewdly suspect that the almost white-coloured fins, which Mr. Spence has caught at times were real parr." By a typographical error I was made to say Mr. Spence had caught "almost white-colored fins,"—a wonderful feat—instead of "trout with" these appendages. It is in my opponent's own letter of January 15, where the words "parr with" actually appear. The heading of my first letter, or rather article, in the controversy, was "Samlets," whilst that of my second was "The Parr," and I never confounded the two varieties. It is a gross subterfuge, or worse, to state or insinuate that "The Raven" is the only person who seems to have seen the creature called "parr." In the letter of January 29th, Mr. Spence writes, he has looked over his letters and "only found the word four times." I have inspected the emanations previous to that date, and I find the word on six occasions:—1st, on Nov. 13, third paragraph; 2nd, on Dec. 4th, first paragraph; 3rd, 4th and 5th, on Dec. 11th, paragraphs six, eleven and twelve; 6th, on Jan. 15, paragraph two. In paragraph five of the letter of Nov. 13, the word "parr" is used for what should have been, I may presume, the samlet; the latter word being the term to which Mr. Spence should have adhered in describing the young of the salmon, had he meant to be understood, according to the definition given in my

first article on "The Parr." On Dec. 13th, Mr. Spence thought it advisable to state that "by salmon he meant any migratory species of salmon." How is it that, when using the word "salmonids," he did not give a similar caution as to the sense in which it was employed? The only other matter which I deem it a point of honour to notice, is the charge relating to the words "a wholly untrue statement, for parr and parr-marked fish are found abundantly where migratory salmonids are absent." The young of all salmonids that have the lateral bands, and all the adult species which retain the marking, have long been known in many parts of the country as parr, at least by the ignorant. Mr. Spence appears to belong to this class, as he confounds samlets and parr with each other, and would, therefore, presumably, do the same in the case of adult trout with the lateral markings; but as I distinguish the species I was obliged to add after the word parr, "parr-marked fish," for I know streams where there are adult parr-marked trout—that is, parr as accepted by many—and no other salmonids.

I may call attention to the fact that although the salmon family is divided into migratory and non-migratory divisions, the true trout have by others been separated into a distinct genus, as, for instance, the common trout, *Trutta fluviatilis*. The succession of mistakes, therefore, alleged against me, is plainly a tissue of errors on the part of Mr. Spence, who only blunders more grossly the more he writes.

THE RAVEN.

[In fairness to our correspondents we have inserted their letters. It is evident they will have to agree to differ; and we trust they will meet on some trout stream—they are both good anglers and north-countrymen—and have a bottle of champagne over their bone of contention.—R. B. M.]

STATEMENT OF THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION TO THE CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER THAMES.

SIR,—You published, in your last issue, a copy of a statement which was prepared by a much respected member of the Thames Rights Defence Association, and laid by him before the committee of that body for their consideration; when it was unanimously decided not to send it. I fear your readers have inferred that it had been, or was about to be, sent to the Conservators.

It is well known that I am a member of the committee, and it is equally well known that for years I have maintained that we anglers had claims upon the Conservators in respect to the proper and efficient preservation of the fish; and, since I have had the honour to represent the West Central Association on the Thames Angling Preservation Society's Committee, I have been enabled, from time to time, to report that such and such appeals had been made to the Conservators on behalf of the Thames anglers; and in each and every instance the appeal had been granted—although, in some cases, entailing considerable outlay.

If further proof is needed that the Conservators are willing, so far as they may be able, to assist the anglers, it may be procured from either of the two very best authorities, viz., the President or Secretary of the T.A.P.S., who are constantly (in the interests of anglers) in communication with them.

The Thames Rights Defence Association have—as you are aware, Sir—very important and delicate interests to defend; and I should be very sorry that you or your readers should believe that one of our first acts was the sending of such a statement as would undoubtedly have the effect of offending a body of men who, if they should be unable to render us all the assistance we desire, will, I feel sure, if properly approached, give us much valuable information and assistance.—I am, &c.,

P. GEEN.

Hill View, Chertsey.

WILL HORSEHAIR MAKE EELS?

SIR,—Will you please to answer the following question: If horsehair is placed in certain positions in water will it produce living eels? An answer in next week's paper will oblige

GEORGE HOUGH.

9, Smith Street, Farnworth, near Bolton.

Feb. 4th, 1881.

[Yes; horsehair, if placed in a certain position will produce living eels. You must be very careful to get the hair from a mare's nest and don't disturb the mare. When you angle for these horsehair eels you must be very careful how you handle them, as they will kick like Old Harry. We always use oats for bait, and ground-bait with *chaff*.—ED.]

THE LATE FRANK BUCKLAND.

SIR,—Many of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, who were personally acquainted with the late Mr. Frank Buckland, as well as the public generally, will be glad to read the article contributed last week by your able correspondent "B." entitled "The Anglers' Missing Link," which is a justly merited tribute of praise to the great industry and perseverance displayed by the late Mr. Frank Buckland in his devotion to everything which tended to promote the welfare and advance the science of pisciculture and to benefit the sport of angling. Though his reputation to take high rank with the leading scientific and theoretical naturalist of the present day has been called into question by one of your contemporaries, there can be little doubt that he greatly surpassed many of the most eminent men in that branch of science by his practical and successful efforts for so many years to increase the fish supply of food for the people, both here and in the Colonies. By this means he achieved his greatest popularity, which was mainly based on the thoroughly demonstrative manner in which he placed his indefatigable labours before the public. It may be questionable whether there ever has been a naturalist who has more thoroughly and usefully devoted his time to this object, and probably but few have accomplished one-tenth part of the good that he has in this cause. Numerous learned and scientific books have been written about fish and fish culture, but little real practical good has resulted until Frank Buckland devoted his energies to this particular subject. He almost commenced the cultivation of our rivers at home and elsewhere, and he also strongly advocated the protection of our sea fisheries. The scientific knowledge which he possessed, and which he ever sought to improve, he endeavoured to turn to some practical use that the public might profit by his labours, and he appeared to be never weary—both by his writings and by means of the platform; also by the laborious collection of the Fish Museum at South Kensington—in demonstrating to all how greatly the supply of fish food might be profitably increased for the public benefit. It may truly be said of the late Frank Buckland, as respects pisciculture, that he has done more good by his individual exertions in this branch of science than any other naturalist of the past or present.

He was no charlatan. He was always engaged in some genuine hard work, and doing it with all the energy and enthusiasm of his character; and he had

the varied talents of writing, dissecting, making casts of fish or animals, and he was sometimes wading up to his waist, during bitterly cold weather, in some salmon river to collect spawn to send to the colonies. He laboured both as an experienced naturalist to make that science profitable to the public, and to bring it before them in the most amusing and instructive form, hence his well-earned popularity. He was a thoroughly devoted, painstaking, humble-minded student of nature, and he went to his work with an almost childlike enthusiasm, to unfold its secrets, always eager to turn the knowledge he had acquired to some public good. Of his genial, kind-hearted disposition all were impressed who knew him, and he was ever willing and patient to learn from and render assistance to all without distinction of class.

R. D. E.

INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS OF ANGLERS.

SIR,—I enclose a circular, a copy of trial and newspaper report of Defence Meeting of we anglers of the River Dee, or "The Mid-Dee Fishermen's Defence Association;" by this you will note that we are in the same swim that anglers are on certain portions of the Thames, and if you would give us a little notice in your influential and largely circulating medium you will have our best thanks. The late Mr. Frank Buckland, when in this neighbourhood on an official visit, was well pleased with the thorough-going and honest evidence of our professional fishermen, and told them that anything he could do for them he would most willingly. Therefore this leads me to make this appeal for your favourable consideration.—I am, &c.,

AN ANGLER.

Ruabon.

P.S.—I myself have been very fortunate, never having been interfered with, although I have been over this now debateable water for thirty-one years, still it may be my turn next.

[We have read the report of the case and it seems to us to be clearly another case of infringement of a public right by private individuals. We trust the association will yet defeat their powerful opponents.—ED.]

A COPY OF "THE RAIL AND THE ROD" WANTED.

SIR,—Can any of the readers of your valuable journal tell me where I can obtain "The Rail and the Rod,"—South Western Railway?—I am, &c.,

R. T. R.

[It was published at the *Field* office, Strand, but we think it is out of print now.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of the committee of the above association took place at the White Hart Hotel, on Friday last, Mr. J. Haddon, chair, Mr. Parsons, vice. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts the harmony of the evening was commenced by our worthy veteran angler, Mr. Harry Warr, who gave the "Gipsy's Tent."—Mr. Counsell proposed the Golden Carp Association, coupling with it the name of Mr. Parsons.—Mr. Parsons, in reply, thanked them for the kind manner in which they had drank his health, and was glad to say that the Golden Carp Angling Association was in a very flourishing condition. He was sorry that they had not been able to secure any water as yet, but there was every probability of getting some soon, the great difficulty was, that all the water near Bristol was overfished, and it would not suit all the members to have far to go; the committee had done all in their power to forward the matter, he was glad to say that they had a good surplus in hand, and hoped before the next meeting they would have obtained really good fishing water within easy distance.—Mr. Springbott, song.—Mr. Payne rose to propose the secretary, alluding to the work that the secretary had to do, said he was sure they could not get anyone more willing and able to do it than their worthy friend, Mr. Wride, who had always taken a great interest in the association, and he was sure no one had worked harder for the association than Mr. Wride.—Mr. Wride, in responding, thanked the members for the cordial way in which they had received his name, briefly alluded to the affairs of the association, and informed them that the balance for last year was £33 2s. 9d.—Mr. Pullen, song, "Chink, chink, chink."—Mr. Morgan proposed the Visitors, coupling it with the name of Professor Morris.—Professor Morris, in reply, thanked the company, and said that although he was a visitor at present, next year he hoped to be there as a member.—Mr. Wride, song; Mr. Wilson, song.—Mr. Parsons rose with great pleasure to propose the health of their worthy chairman, Mr. J. Haddon; he need not enlarge on Mr. Haddon's many good qualities, they were known to all, he had always taken a great interest in the association, and no one had been more energetic in securing prizes for the angling contests. He (Mr. Parsons), regretted the unavoidable absence of the president, but he did not think that the chair could have been more ably filled.—Mr. J. Haddon, in response, after thanking the company, said he had always endeavoured to forward the interests of the Association as much as possible—they had plenty of talent amongst them and he hoped the members would always work harmoniously together, and that soon the Golden Carp Association would be second to none.—Mr. Pullen, song.—Mr. Everett proposed the health of the vice-chair, Mr. Parsons. Mr. Parsons briefly responded.—Mr. Dolman, song.—The chairman proposed the health of the Host and Hostess.—Mr. W. Leigh responded, Professor Morris, song.—Mr. Payne proposed the health of the accompanist, Mr. Charley Morgan.—Mr. Charley Morgan, in response, thanked the company, and said it gave him great pleasure to accompany such talented vocalists, and regretted very much that a severe cold rendered him unable to give the "Sunday at Highbridge" song, as requested. After a few more songs given by various gentlemen, a very pleasant evening terminated.

THE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 9th instant Mr. Warsop had a very pretty show of roach and rudd, taken from private waters, weighing 11 lb. 6 oz., which were in splendid condition and much admired, and considering the unsettled state of the weather he is to be congratulated. They were taken in a little over two hours with bread paste.—W. SUTTON, sec.

February 12, 1880.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fine show here on Sunday last. Messrs. Hornfeck and Jones had some fine roach from West Drayton, some weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. each.—W. COSTER.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three special prizes were fished for on Sunday last, the 13th inst. Mr. H. Auburn secured the first with 4 lb. 10 oz. of chub; Mr. E. Morrow was second with 3 lb. of roach; Mr. G. Wood was third with 2 lb. 5 oz. of roach. Mr. G. Manning also weighed-in roach on this day. There were several others out, but owing to the state of the rivers their takes were very indifferent. Messrs. J. Hilliar, jun., and A. Salmon weighed in salmon on the 16th inst. Three special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday next, the 23rd inst. All fish weigh according to the rules of the society. No competitor to leave London before the morning of the competition, as usual. There have been several additions made to this society's collection of preserved fish. Messrs. J. Hilliar, sen., G. Wood, and A. C. Critchfield have specimens of roach, each weighing 2 lb. and upwards; Mr. Critchfield has also a very fine dace, which weighed 1 lb. when caught; and Mr. G. P. Rolt has his splendid carp finished. This specimen weighed 9 lb. 8 oz. when caught, and was taken at the Ferry-Boat Fishery, at Tottenham—which adds greatly to the novelty—the water being so near London. The whole of the above were preserved by Mr. J. Barrett, of 11, Diss Street, Hackney Road; and, like the many others he has done for the club and the different members, are beautiful, and do him great credit. Mr. A. E. Bedford will give a handsome looking-glass, value £2 2s., for the heaviest weight of any fish (according to rule of the society) taken on the two Sundays in March. Mr. G. Wood will give a prize, value 10s. 6d., for the second heaviest taken on the same days, and same conditions.

February 17.

PECKHAM BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this young and flourishing society took place on Wednesday in the club room, Prince Albert Tavern, East Surrey Grove, Peckham. The worthy host, Mr. Reed, provided a most excellent dinner, and also presided, the vice-chair being taken by Mr. Page. After the toast "The Queen and Royal Family," in proposing "Success to the Peckham Brothers' Angling Society," the Chairman referred to the manner in which the society was conducted, and the success it had attained in a very short period. Mr. Page responded with a very amusing speech. The secretary (Mr. W. Matthews) read his report, and gave a general review of the society from its formation about 14 months ago, when it commenced with only four members, stating that it now consisted of between 20 and 30, and financially was in a very prosperous position. Mrs. Reed (the worthy hostess) kindly presented the prizes, the winners being Messrs. Cox, Page, Matthews, Jones, Minard and Williams. Mr. Weber responded to the toasts "Our Absent Friends" and "The Visitors," and also presided at the piano. Some capital music and singing was afforded during the evening, which was brought to a close, with everybody being highly entertained in all respects.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit was paid to the Sir Hugh Myddelton, at their new quarters, the Empress of Russia (host, Wm. Crozier), St. John Street Road, Clerkenwell, on the 9th inst. Mr. Leo. Bonvoisin occupied the chair; Will Fowler, vice, on this particular evening. The rain came down unmercifully for hours, which I have no doubt deterred many from visiting the Society who had long distances to come. We give those gentlemen great credit who feared neither storm nor rain to render assistance to the members of an old club in a new club house, and we make every possible excuse for these who did not attend. The following gentlemen rendered some capital songs:—Mr. Stevens, St. John's; Mr. Fowler, Sir Hugh Myddelton; Mr. Thos. Allard; Mr. A. Allard, Sir Hugh Myddelton; Mr. Cundall, Alliance; Mr. W. Phillips, Great Northern; Mr. P. Duncan, Sir Hugh Myddelton; Mr. Evans, Mr. Wm. Park, Mr. Chas Watling, Odds and Evens; Mr. Neal, Eustonian; Mr. Dixie, Golden Barbel; Mr. Leo Bonoison, recitation, "Frenchmen and the Rats"; Mr. Thorley, St. John's; Mr. Amies, North-Western; Mr. Say, Amicable Brothers; Mr. H. Hunt, Brothers Well Met; and Mr. Steadman, Eustonian. The roll being called, twenty-one clubs responded. A vote of thanks was given to the chair and vice-chair for their services in so ably presiding, and a very pleasant evening terminated.—G. CLABON, sec.

Feb. 14.

TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

The monthly committee meeting of this club was held on Monday evening, at the Bull Hotel, when the Hon. H. Roper Curzon presided, and there was a good attendance. It was decided to hold the annual meeting of members on the 3rd March. The hon. secretary reported that a neighbouring riparian owner had kindly presented the society with a large consignment of stock carp, weighing 2 lb. and upwards, which had been placed in the Medway, at a position where the fishing is reserved for members only. A large pike, supposed to have been killed by otters, was exhibited in the room.

Feb. 15.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society will angle in the river Lea, above the Rye House Fishery, on Sunday, Feb. 27, in a pegged-down match, for thirteen prizes. Fishing to commence at 11 a.m., and finish at 5 p.m. All members to journey down by the 8.45 train. Mr. Squire saved us a blank last week by weighing-in roach and dace.—J. WORLEDGE.

Feb. 15.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members were pegged-down, at Watford, near the Halfway House, to fish for three prizes, only two of which were taken. Mr. Plumstead, sen., first; Mr. Castell, second. The takes were small.—CAS.

Feb. 14.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 13th inst., our members competed, at Watford, for the following fourteen prizes, viz.:—A silver-mounted set of carvers, value 30s.; four half-guineas, three half-sovereigns, a copper tea-kettle, a tea service, an electro-plated cruet, a toilet set, a meerscham pipe, and a handsome pair of lusters. And the following were the winners, in the order named, viz.:—Mr. Fortescue, Mr. Eagles, Mr. James (two prizes), Mr. Anderson (two prizes), Mr. Warman, Mr. Wainwright, Mr. Lester, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Claydon, Mr. Nunn, Mr. Finch, and Mr. Venour.—W. L.

Feb. 16.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

At the weekly meeting held on the 11th, at head quarters of the above society, the following members were present:—Messrs. Boalch, Bayley, Piolaine, H. Dale, J. S. Weatherhead, Sutcliffe, S. Winter, M. Renault, and Bansback. It was agreed that a competition should take place on the 14th for five prizes, the result of which was as follows:—M. Renault, 1st, with dace from Richmond; Mr. Green, jun., 2nd, roach and dace from Richmond and Mr. J. Collins, 3rd, dace. The remaining prizes will be added to those given for the competition, which will take place on March the 6th. Members are requested to attend practice for the concert, which will take place next month.—PIXIE.

Feb. 16.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 10th the members of the above competed for three prizes, viz., £2 2s., given by Mr. Cridland; a book and tackle, value of £1 1s., by Mr. Weekly; and £1 1s., given by Mr. Beckett. Mr. Boalch, Mr. Medway, and Mr. Beckett visited Shiplake in spite of the high wind and rain that prevailed. Mr. Beckett succeeded in getting a roach about 10 oz., which entitled him to the 1st prize. The other two prizes were transferred to the next competition, which will take place on March the 10th, on which occasion Mr. Peters gives £2 2s.; Mr. Medway, a roach rod, value £1 10s.; and Mr. Clarke, £1 1s. All members competing who have not won a prize during the season, and catching fish this day will be entitled to a prize before any other member.—PIXIE.

Feb. 16.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning. Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. J. Perry, Minster Parade, Reading.
Mr. S. Dale, 7, St. John Street, Nottingham.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1881.

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—V.

ABOUT two miles to the west of Walls, two small burns cross the public road, and fall into the sea at a place called Fontabrough Voe. The first, or more easterly, is slightly larger than its western neighbour and rises from two small tarns, from

which it pursues a sluggish winding course for some two miles. It is said to hold large sea-trout during floods, but neither in it nor its neighbour have we ever taken anything over a pound in weight. The western burn rises from a good-sized, but shallow loch called Loch of Song (though whence this musical name arises we know not), which we once fished, having been told that it had not been fished for seven years. Whether this information were true or not, the fish were certainly most unsophisticated, and had we not returned fully three quarters of our take our basket might have been quite as much as we could carry; but we were merciful, and the twenty-four trout we kept weighed 18 lb. The average size of the fish is about four to the pound we think, and there are no sea-trout, but we are informed that these latter sometimes take well in the voe. We cannot say whether matters have changed lately, but some years ago the road to the west of Walls used to be blocked at short intervals by walls carried right across it and composed of loose stones; to a pedestrian these were a matter of small moment, but the amount of blasphemy they would be likely to produce from an average driver, if by any chance one should find his way there, we shudder to think of.

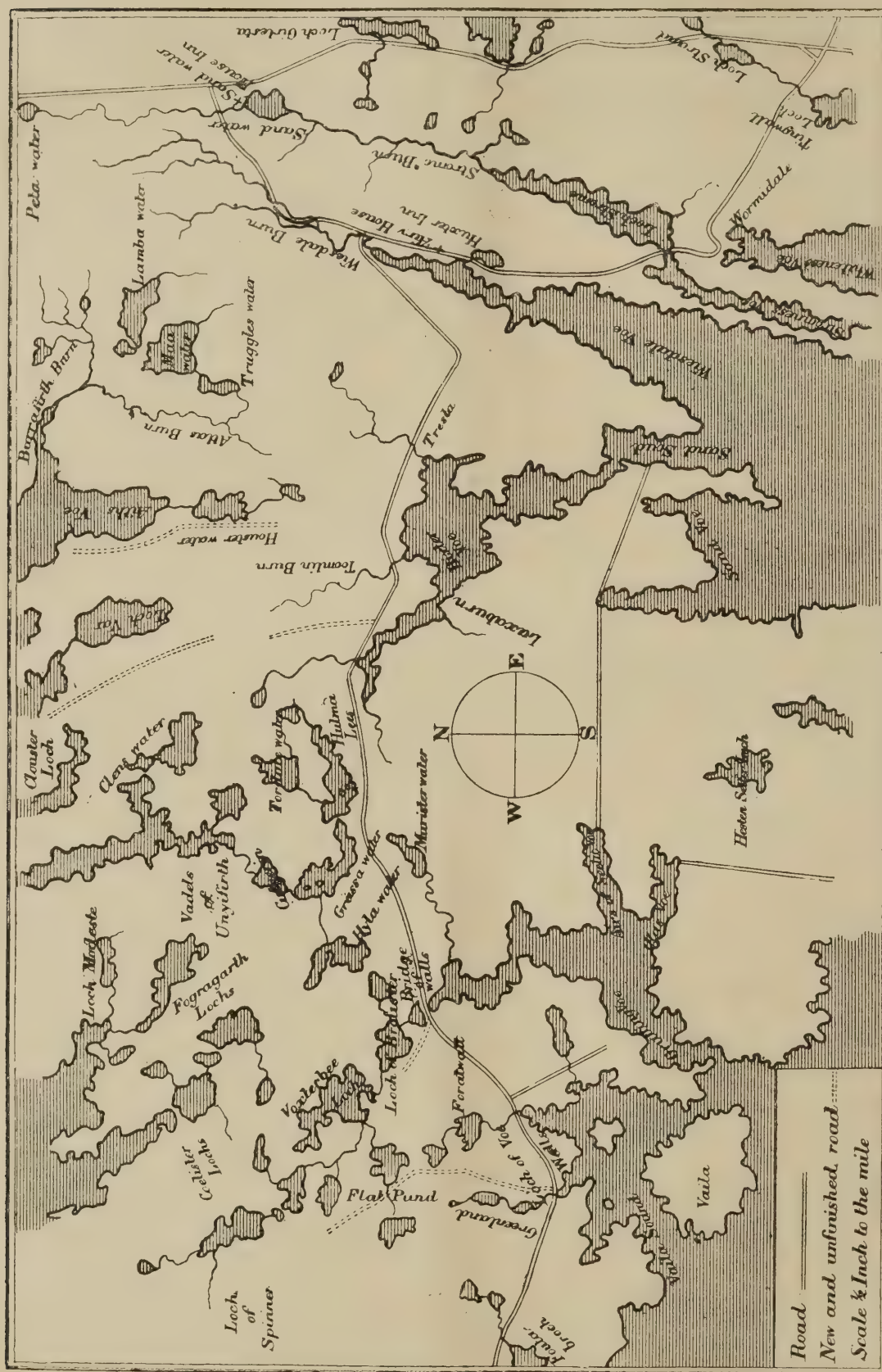
On the peninsula lying between Vaila Sound and the Grutting Voe, lies a good-looking loch which we only mention that we may warn the angler against it. We do not think it contains any fish whatever for we have often tried it and shot round it at times, for there are always snipe and generally a duck or two at its lower end, yet we never saw a rise in it, nor have we been more successful with worm.

A friend some years ago informed us that there was good sea-trout fishing to be had at the top of Olas Voe, one of the eastern branches of the Grutting Voe. The parish, Sandsting, in which this Voe lies is a kind of terra incognita to the anglers who generally come to Walls, and if it were not so inaccessible would no doubt repay exploration by any one who could make up his mind to do so. Most people, however, will prefer the bird in the hand which the parts nearer Walls offer.

We shall now return to Flatpund Loch, which, the reader will remember, we constituted a sort of starting point from which to reach the more northern lochs. Of these the first in point of distance is Coelistes (pronounced Killister) which lies about two and a half miles, and nearly due north from Flatpund, and is only to be reached by crossing a very boggy and hilly country. Had we been asked five or six years ago which was the best sea-trout water near Walls, we would in all probability have named this loch; but "Ichabod," the glory has departed, and now we much doubt if there be any fish except common trout of a very inferior quality to be had here. Nor is this due to the usual and far too common reason for the decadence of the Shetland fisheries, too much netting, but to a barrier of sand which has been gradually thrown up across the outlet, and through which the short burn by which at one time the loch used to discharge is content to filter in a mean-spirited way. When we went there first, high tides used to all but enter the loch, but now, of course, all is changed. There used sometimes to be good sea-trout fishing in the Voe here, but, of course, this has also fallen off in proportion as the loch fishing has done so.

There is quite a chain of smaller lochs connected with Coelister, but these are in no way worthy of remark.

Over the hills to the east of Coelister, and at a distance from that loch of about one and a half miles, lie the Fogragarth chain of lochs, three in number. Of these the lowest, Fogragarth Loch proper, is the largest, being nearly two miles long and of considerable width in places. This is one of the few lochs in Shetland where we have seen the true bull-trout (*S. Eriox*), which is, how-



(This Map has been engraved specially for the FISHING GAZETTE, and is drawn from the personal observations and researches of "Scotus."
It is the only Map of the district in existence.—Ed.)

ever pretty common in the burns. Though this fish and the common sea-trout enter all the three lochs of this chain, they rise very badly and are best taken with worm, which they do much affect, *e.g.*, one day we with two friends, one of whom is probably the most successful angler that visits Walls, fished there all day. M. caught one with fly, 3 lb., the writer also, one 3½ lb., while the third member of the party did not score at all. About half an hour before the time fixed for returning home, it occurred to the writer to try worm, and in that short time he took four good fish from two to three pounds, from the very same piece of water we had previously fished over with fly without result. Sea-trout also enter the upper two lochs, of which the first is small and shallow, containing small loch trout; whereas the remaining one is larger and deep with loch-trout of good size and in great numbers.

The voe into which this chain discharges is, to our mind, especially well suited for sea-trout fishing, being almost landlocked and abounding with tangle-covered rocks rising abruptly out of deep water, the very haunts that *salmo trutta* loves.

Into the farther corner of this Voe a small ditch-like stream oozes; this comes from Loch Modeste (we are told this is the correct spelling), a very pretty little water about three quarters of a mile long, and looking very like a model of Loch Earn, in Perthshire, on the scale of 1:10. It contains superior golden-coloured loch-trout of good size and quality, and it is said that sea-trout work their way up to it by the small stream previously mentioned.

Table of distances from Walls Village:—

Walls to Fontabrough, 2 miles; to Loch of Song, 2½ miles.

Walls to Coelister, 4½ miles; to Fogragarth, 5 miles.

Walls to Blas Voe, 5 to 6 miles; to Modeste, 6 miles.

(See map.)

This completes the tale of waters in the western peninsula of Shetland with which we are personally acquainted. We have been careful to give our own experience, and where we have quoted others we have stated the fact; hence we can certify the information given to be correct. At the same time it is proper to mention that these papers were first sketched out some years ago, and though we have carefully revised them by the light of later experience, it is possible that though perfectly correct in all respects they may induce too sanguine hopes in some minds. The sea-trout fishing has not improved lately, but is still good; the burn and loch trout angling is as good as ever. We have said nothing of the sea-fishing for haddock, ling, &c., for the simple reason that we know nothing of it personally, but there is no doubt that it is very good at all times, so those who care to try it will probably enjoy themselves. Some friends of ours, three in number, were exceptionally lucky during a visit to Shetland. They were driving to Lerwick from Walls, when, as they came to Vesdale Voe, they were lucky enough to share in a whale-hunt. A small shoal had entered the bay, but not being the ordinary herring whale, but creatures of a much more resolute nature, refused to be driven ashore. My friends and the driver, Mr. Smith, of Greenland Farm, joined in the chase, and their boat was lucky enough to be "the death of three whales," the largest of which gave them fully half-an-hour's run, or rather tow. One of the party, who described the scene to us, said it was the greatest excitement he ever had in his life, and his description of an amazonian four-man crew who had got a rope round the tail of one monster of the deep, and was having a tug-of-war contest with it, was something to remember. Just as the crew had succeeded in towing their prize aboard, the rope slipped or broke, and the only male member of the crew jumped overboard and embraced their capture, or as much of it as he could, after the fashion of Mr. Briggs, succeeding in hampering its motions till help came. Such hunts are, however, the exception, and not the rule. In Shetland, the ordinary

object of pursuit is the ca-ling or bottle-nosed whale, of which almost every year one or more droves, sometimes numbering three or four hundred individuals, are driven ashore by the simple process of scaring them.

HAMPTON DEEP.

THE Deep at Hampton has always been remarkable for possessing good fish, and if an average could be made with any other similar portion of the Father Thames, it would come off more than conqueror in the capture of jack. From my own experience of something like twenty years, I am convinced more jack have been caught out of it than any other deep in the Thames; and, besides jack, I have had reports of exceedingly fine perch, and some large specimens of bream. Hampton Deep is one of the preserves as arranged by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and approved by the Lord Mayor of London, who, at that time, was, by virtue of his office, "Conservator of the River Thames." The preserve extends from the west end of Garrick's Lawn (including the tumbling bay) to the lower end pile below Moulsey Lock, a total distance of 1514 yards. What is meant by a preserve in the present day, is this, that it can only be used by anglers—eel baskets, grig weels, and such-like devices for catching fish, are entirely prohibited, and where eel-lines were allowed, they could not be permitted in these preserves. For several years a monster pike was known to tenant this famous deep, and many an angler's patience has been taxed in waiting for him; he has, at times, favoured some of the piscators in getting hold of their bait, and then either smashing the tackle or releasing himself in some way or other, he has left his opponent in the greatest dismay and got away. I remember one of our well-known Thames anglers trying for this monster, and who really did get him on, but one of those common mistakes was made of holding his line too tight before the fish had fairly gorged the bait, and so broke away. The fisherman who accompanied him, was fearfully savage at the unfortunate escape of the monster, but as it has since turned out, the same fisherman has piloted a more fortunate captor, who succeeded in the capture of the fish. It is now about three years since the event took place, and as may be imagined, occasioned no ordinary excitement. When the monster was safely secured, it was taken first of all to the Island Hotel, the grounds of which are close to the deep, and was there weighed by Mr. T. G. Tagg, the worthy proprietor, and made 28 lb. It was afterwards shown at the Castle Hotel, kept by an excellent piscator, Mr. R. Gutteridge, and from thence it found its way into the skilful hands of Mr. John Cooper, of Radnor Street, to be carefully preserved. In due course it was completed, and afterwards exhibited at the Island Hotel, and then at the Castle Hotel, as a specimen fish, creditable alike to the successful captor and to the taxidermist's skill in setting it up. This fish may be regarded as the largest pike taken out of the Thames. The same fisherman, some years previously, piloted an angler to the capture of the second best fish, one of 25 lb. There is, perhaps, no other fisherman living on the Thames, that has landed two such fish for his patrons. But Hampton Deep is not noted alone for having possessed a champion Thames fish; it is remarkable for the quantity of jack that has been taken out of it. As a rule, the anglers never go away dissatisfied—they generally find ample sport—and the fishermen of Hampton and Moulsey are always ready to supply numberless instances of remarkable takes, which will in many cases bear verification. It has the particular and special appearance of jack water, and those who have never fished there before, would be impressed at first sight with it. In addition to the island on which a capital hostelry has been erected there is another small island; but the water running between the

Middlesex shore and the two islands, is what is known as the Hampton Deep, and I have not unfrequently seen as many as six and eight punts at work at the same time without interfering with each other. The Moulsey fishermen are amongst those mainly employed by anglers, as it is about equal distance between Moulsey Lock and Hampton Ferry; but there are plenty of punts and fishermen at the latter place. It was at the point of this deep about two years ago, some 20 brace of carp, presented by Mr. Henry Farnell, of Thorpe Hall, near Colchester, were turned into the Thames, so that altogether, Hampton Deep has no ordinary attraction to the anglers, and I would strongly recommend, if there is another chance this year, a trial of it by those who have never fished it before. Without depreciating the character of others, there are few fishing stations on the Thames possessing a better class of fishermen than East Moulsey—the names of W. Milbourne, T. Davis, T. Wheeler, John Smith, T. Watford, C. Davis, Rogerson, and Griffin being specially familiar to anglers who have fished this neighbourhood. Of the Inns there are at East Moulsey—the Castle and the Carnarvon Castle; at Hampton Court—the well-known house of the Mitre, and on the island in the very centre of the deep, is the Island Hotel. The Hampton Court Station on the South-Western Railway is close to the river. The only difficulty there may be at the present time will be to get bait, as already the dace are going up to their spawning grounds, and few are to be had. Still, the Moulsey fishermen, if they have sufficient notice, will do their best to get them, and, as a rule, are mostly prepared with a supply during the season. It is to the jack and perch anglers the Hampton Deep at this particular time possesses special attractions, and my observations as to the fishing there are not grounded upon any particular occasion, but from the experience of years, as I consider it unjust either to praise or condemn any portion of the Thames by a single, and, it may be, an exceptional visit. I might here remark that about two years ago Mr. J. C. Chubb, fishing with old Tom Davis, a little distance above the deep, near to the waterworks, caught in the year, on two separate occasions, a pike of 22 lb. and one of 17 lb., and both in the same swim. Since writing the above I have been shown by a friend a very capital short stiff rod for trolling, made by Messrs. Alfred and Son, of Moorgate Street. It is for use in waters surrounded by bushes, where a long rod could not be used on account of the overhanging boughs, but where a short rod of this character, only 8 feet in length, is really most useful: and being made strong, with large rings, is best for the angler who is compelled to seek his fish among the beds of weeds surrounding water of the above character. My friend was successful in landing five good pike, weighing from 5 to 12 lb. each, with his rod, which he could not have done if using one of the ordinary length.

B.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 75.)

OUR papers upon sea-fishing would scarcely be satisfactory did they not include some remarks upon the various baits used in general to lure the prey, added to which some knowledge of the nature and habits of these baits may assist to render the amateur fisherman less dependent for a supply upon others.

The lug-worm, named scientifically *arenicola piscatorum*, is a great favourite with all salt-water fish which feed on a sandy bottom. They are by no means an agreeable-looking creature either to look upon or to handle. They are not unlike a caterpillar with an elongated tail. They will not bear much rough usage, and if they are severed or bruised in digging them out of the sand—their natural habitat—they are rendered useless, being full of blood, and a soft substance resembling eggs, of the size of

small mustard seed, which escapes at any wound, leaving nothing but the empty skin which has no attraction for the fish. Moreover, if this blood and matter should come in contact with the more perfect worms it will poison the whole, so that every care should be taken to keep any mangled portions out of the receptacle the bait is carried in. The lug-worm will not keep fresh more than a day or two at most; it shrivels up and turns putrid; for this reason it cannot be used too soon after it has been extracted from the sand. It is found in many parts of the coast, in estuaries and harbours, and between rocks. Those hillocks so observable on the surface of the sand after the tide has retired are the sure indications of their presence. If you dig down and around these you will find these worms which vary in thickness from the thickness of a cedar pen to the circumference of an inch, and in length are from four to six or seven inches in length.

The rag-worm, mud-worm, or rock-worm (*nercis*). There are of this worm two varieties, one of about three inches in length, the other often of six inches. The former is found in mud-banks, the latter under stones, partly embedded in sand, cracks of rocks, and most hiding places on the shore periodically covered by the sea. In many favourable localities girls and boys obtain their living by digging the rag-worms out of the greasy black mud with their hands, and preserving them in water-tight boxes, supplying them with fresh sea-water once or twice a day, and removing every particle of filth and all bruised worms. These worms are of a pure pink or salmon colour, of a flat form, have a number of very short legs along their sides, giving them a serrated or saw-like appearance, and are almost always in motion. Sea fish of all kinds, as well as the fresh-water eel, evince a great partiality for them. On some parts of the coast they are sold in small measures not larger than a wine glass at one penny a measure, and three or four of these are generally sufficient for a day's fishing for whiting-pollack. They should be kept in a wooden box with a cover, and in the shade, for the influence of the sun turns them sickly. They are well deserving all the care that can be bestowed upon them, as they are a very superior and attractive bait. The larger ones may be kept in almost dry sand, or amongst leaves of the sea lettuce, which is obtained in harbours or sheltered coves, in the summer and autumn. Wilcocks says, "Put them in a box with this weed, as between the leaves of a book, and they will live several days. If you have any broken pieces place them in a box by themselves and use them first, or, as before observed, they will poison the healthier ones."

The white sand-worm (*nercis vesicolor*). This worm must be looked for principally in bays and harbours, and although it frequents much the same soil—oozy sand—as does the lug-worm they are never found together. Most kinds of fish are fond of them, but they are irresistible to the atherine or sand-smelt. Only a portion, and not the whole, is enough as bait for the latter fish. They use the same, or very similar, worm on the Welsh coast for whiting fishing. It is found from two to eight inches in length—the latter size exceptional—and will keep alive in sea water very frequently changed for a week or ten days. The old salts think little of it, but we have had rare sport with the white worm amongst sea-bream, pollock, wrasse, atherine, &c.

It is a common notion that the inland earth-worm is useless as a bait in salt water; no more erroneous notion can exist. It may be true that the rag-worm surpasses it, but the rag-worm is not procurable on many districts of the Welsh coast, and the earth-worm is almost everywhere obtainable, and that in abundance particularly on grass lands and flower beds on a dewy or v. evening with a lantern and a velvet tread. They should be treated as for fresh-water fishing; put into a tub with a little ear dead leaves, and plenty of moss, taking care to pick out occasionally the dead or diseased ones, and bringing the whole

them up from the bottom to the surface that they may work through the moss and thus cleanse themselves.

The sea tape-worm locally called the barm is a far larger worm than any of the preceding and flatter in shape. It is a tempting bait for whiting, pout, bream, and other fish. The same care should be taken with those in separating the broken portions as with the lug and rag worms.

The sand-eel and launce (*ammodytes lobinus*, and *ammodytes lancea*) are very plentiful on most of the sandy shores, where they bury themselves during each receding tide. In Picardy, &c., where the fishermen's wives and daughters gather the baits for the men, an iron rake is used to take them in the loose sand, or a small iron hook like a sickle or reap hook, with a very blunt but jagged edge that it may hold the sand-eel and launce without injury. It is interesting to watch the dexterity displayed by the women in their captures of these silvery elongated little fish. Wilcocks, whose intimacy with the Channel Islands has been of long standing tells us that during moonlight nights many "Launcing parties" as they are called, are made for a visit to the sands at low spring tides in summer and autumn, and sometimes quite a saturnalia is held. In the island of Jersey from the abundance of the sand-eel, one of the beaches has received the name of "Grève au Langon," that is Sand-eel Beach. They are greedily devoured by all sorts of fish.

Couch gives us a description of two launces (or, with him, sand-eel), and adds a lively account of the enemies they have to contend with. They swim in companies of a few scores or hundreds, and in the quiet days of summer are seen at a small depth in the water as they are pursuing their lively course in bays or harbours, where, however, their fate is usually an unfortunate one. Unable to protect themselves, they are an attractive prey to the hungry rovers of the sea, who here and there make a plunge into the midst of them, to the momentary terror of the little host. They are scattered for a time, but they gather closely together again, only, however, to be broken in upon by another and another plunge, until at last they find their safety in diving into the soft sand of the bottom, beneath which the pointed process at the extremity of the under jaw enables them to bury themselves, and in which they lie concealed without injury to themselves, even when the tide has ebbed and left their hiding place uncovered by the water. But it is not only that this fish is able to find its way to shelter in such a remarkable situation, they are able also to move about in it with ease and some degree of quickness; for the better accomplishment of which there appears to be at the root of the tail a special organisation, of which the blood vessels are visible, and something corresponding to which exists in all fishes which possess the power of penetrating into the sand or of covering themselves with it. It is in this retreat, concealed and sheltered with the sand of the shore, that this smaller launce sheds its roe; and this it does as it holds a tortuous course, the grains being scattered as it passes on; and in the west of the kingdom at least this process is accomplished at about the shortest days of the year. It often happens, however, that their hiding place is broken in upon by worse enemies than the prowling natives of the deep, and people who value them as a delicacy for the table, resort to their retreat with hooks or rakes and thus draw them up to light. But we are told by those who have been accustomed to this practice, that if the launce be touched with the hook on the posterior part of the body, it will move away through the sand with such celerity as scarcely to be again overtaken so that it requires some skill to succeed in what might appear so easy an employment as raking these fishes out of the concealment of the sand. The larger launce will make a meal whenever it has the chance, of its lesser brethren. It is a belief among the fishermen that when mackerel are discovered to be in pursuit of the

larger or wide-mouthed launce, a less successful fishery is expected; but when these lesser fishes are the object of their rapacity, the fishery shows itself much more profitable. At times these creatures collect on the surface in larger shoals, when if discovered by the porpoises who dive under them the better to devour them, they become so bewildered as apparently to lose all powers of escape either from the porpoises below or the gulls above, the former munching them by mouthfuls, the latter dipping down and picking up the little silvery creatures with amazing rapidity. Although such occasions are rare, when they do occur the fishermen scull up to the shoal and with a small meshed landing net, like a pool shrimp net dip the net, full to the ring, thus getting a large supply with little trouble.

(To be continued.)

A NEW "SOLE-SKIN" PHANTOM MINNOW.

IN the spring of 1879 we noticed an artificial minnow which was called by Mr. R. B. Lee, of the *Kendal Mercury*, a "quill minnow," and it was invented, he informed us, by a Mr. Robert Garnett. We, therefore, christened it the "Garnett Quill Minnow." Up to that time its sale had been merely local, but after our notice appeared it increased wonderfully, and some thousands were sold before the end of 1879, since then the sale has increased, and we notice that this "quill minnow" is now made by several tackle makers and sold by all.

We mention this because we are very glad to have been the means of introducing such a capital bait to anglers all over the country. We now have a real improvement in the make of the celebrated phantom minnow to bring before them, which has been patented by Messrs. Little and Co., of 15, Fetter Lane. The improvement consists in substituting for the ordinary glazed silk skin, a piece of real sole-skin. This is very nicely shaped and coloured, and as it is one of the toughest things we know, and yet soft, transparent and pliant in the water, we think that Messrs. Little have hit on a good thing. The ordinary silk-skin soon rots and tears, in fact we have known a jack's teeth to tear the whole silk off. These sole-skin bodies with the natural scales on them look very natural in the water, and we venture to predict that Messrs. Little will have a very large demand for them, especially as we understand they have wisely determined to make no increase in the price over the ordinary silk phantoms.

EPITAPH ON AN ANGLER.

A FRIEND sends us the following epitaph on an angler; it is brief and to the point:—

"HOOKED IT."

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Silence is only commendable
In a neat's tongue dried, and a maid not vendible."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Mine is not a neat tongue, or usually very dry, nor am I a maid, so silence would not (acting up to the above quotation of the immortal William) be commendable on my part, although I must confess I have little of interest to impart. The river, I am glad to report, has rapidly gone out of flood, and is really now for the first time for many a week, in tip-top roach, perch, jack, chub and all-round winter trim. At Bray, Maidenhead and Cookham some good catches of perch and chub have been had, also ditto at Marlow, by a canny "Scott"; and by Mr. O. Wright, the latter good and unostentatious angler getting one perch of 3 lb. odd amid a shoal of minor beauties. At Reading lately more than 100 Wycombe trout have been turned into the river at the expense of the local angling association; the fish weighed from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and the situations being chosen by the bailiffs, it is hoped the spotted leopards will take to their new home kindly, be fruitful and replenish the water, and not take to any flight, but that of a good angler.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River dropping down to a lovely mignonette tint. Now or never is the time for the scales to drop from the eyes of a Thames angler—at any rate for this season—the end of which is so unfortunately near.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water getting in good order for all-round fishing. Sinking fast. If the wind will only get in a warmer quarter there will be some good fishing by Sunday.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is getting in fine condition for roach and perch fishing. I have seen some nice roach, from a dozen and a-half up to three dozen, and up to 1 lb. per fish, and some good perch weighing 1 lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Should the weather keep dry, and the water continue to fall as it has done these last few days, there will be good all-round fishing at the beginning of the week. At present the water is so cold the fish will not show on the shores.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Monkey Island).

There has been very little fishing lately. A punt out on Sunday had a few very good roach and chub and half-a-dozen perch. Perch are now getting very forward. Some bank anglers have had good sport on the grass ledgering. They took some very fine roach and barbel. The barbel seem to have benefitted by the floods; they are as fat as pigs. There has also been some fine trout taken ledgering with tail of lob. The jack seem to be on the increase in our neighbourhood. Last year these were several of these fish taken during the floods from 2 lb. to 4 lb. each. Providing we have no more snow or rain, chub and roach fishing ought to be good by the beginning of next week; jack also might also be had in corners and round the boughs with a paternoster and nice little bright bleak or dace.—R. HAMMOND.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now in very fair fishing condition, though we had a lot of snow on Sunday night last, and some more of it all Wednesday afternoon, but it has not affected the river yet. H. Whales, Job Brain, E. Brown, and J. Bushnell have been out twice this week. The roach have not fed very freely, but there are six and seven dozen of dace to be had a day for those who like dace-fishing, and they run a good size. Some of the dace are very rough now, and gentlemen should throw them in again, as they are not fit to eat.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Teddington).

The water is getting quite clear and running down fast, and in good order for fishing. The wind is north-east. There have been some good takes of roach, the largest being $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., by Mr. Edwards.—J. BALDWIN.

Thames (Twickenham).

I am pleased to say the water has gone down considerably in the last two days, and is a good colour for angling. We have made a commencement this day; one punt had seven dozen good-sized fish. N.B.—Intending visitors will greatly oblige by sending post-card by Saturday morning's post, if convenient.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (WindSOR).

Since my last, water has run off nicely, being $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet lower. Consequently angling can now be carried on from the banks, though they are left terribly greasy. As regards its condition a few days only is required for it to be in the prime order, allowing we have no more rain or snow. A consignment of the latter reached here yesterday, but will affect the water very little, and the few days left of the season ought to result in some good bags of perch, jack, and chub. The latter are in splendid trim this time of year, and will show some sport. The best bait is doubtless pith or spinal cord of the bullock, which should be got quite fresh, and boiled five minutes, using boiled brains, sheep or bullocks, as ground bait, in small quantities, thrown just above the bait,

according to stream. If unable to procure good greaves use the whitest pieces for hook, and rest for ground bait, or whitish cheese worked into a paste, and a piece about the size of a hazel nut for hook, chewing small quantities, and throwing occasionally in the swim. If some goods swims are tried excellent sport will be had with either of the above baits, but pith and brains for preference.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Barle and Exe (Somerset).

These rivers could not be in better order for fishing; but, owing to the bitter north-east winds we are having, of course, angling is at a standstill. Should the wind veer round to a milder quarter, and the weather become warmer, good fishing may be looked for. The fish are getting in much better condition since the late floods. Sport during the past week has been almost nil. A few trout have been caught, but very few.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

On Saturday and Monday there were plenty of rodsters out on this river, which had run down into moderately good fishing condition. Chub and roach were fairly on the feed in the slacks and lay-byes, and I hear of several gentlemen getting nice takes of grayling. One, indeed, below Rochester on Friday, caught $5\frac{1}{2}$ brace with the winter duns. On the Dove's tributary, the Henmore, $2\frac{1}{2}$ brace of trout fell victims, but the fish on this stretch of water at least, if on no other, appear somewhat weakly. By the way, some ova of the Wandle trout were some time since placed in the Dove, and the fry are now said to be making good progress. Since Tuesday there has been nobody out, snow lying nearly a foot thick on the ground. We are sure to have a big rise, if not more floods when the thaw sets in.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

In my last I informed you that we had reached the thirtieth hour of rain, which did not actually cease for twenty-four hours after, consequently you may guess the state of the river during the remainder of the week. So that we had nothing but gloomy forebodings as to whether we should get any fishing during the week; but all seemed to vanish as the river got lower. But a raw, cold east, by south wind settled upon us, and still continues, and the ground so beautifully soft, it is only those of the most determined that will attempt it. Several were seen returning midday yesterday, looking as though they had been following hounds on foot through washy clay, their creels apparently much lighter than in starting. I have only heard of two or three trout having been taken, but as yet have not seen any. I have not wet a line myself yet, but have been with those that have—success none, the principal topic being what flies to use, and which will be the best when the season will permit. Quantities of roach have been in the market during the week, they had all been netted; also a few founders. Other kinds of fish very scarce, the estuary men doing nothing. Brixham fish very scarce, the market being principally supplied from the North Sea. Several salmon on sale, but they are from London, and fetch from four to five shillings per lb. During the past week the numbers seen in the Exe have fallen off, but should we get a milder change they will get up into the more shallow parts of the river, when, if willing, they will meet with a real and artificial minnow reception. I shall have something to say in my next about a "Peacock" bait, something about 12 inches long, said to be most killing, which I have no doubt it is, if "frightening" will kill fish (that is doubtful). At any rate I hear it is to be tried at Slapton Ley. Slight frost, but dark, and every appearance of snow.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The water is of a pale-green tint, but very transparent, showing the presence of snow. The prospects for the next few days are not encouraging, with a rising barometer and a keen N.E. wind. Should the wind veer round to the S.W., and some rain fall, then some good sport would be had. Indifferent sport has been obtained in fly-fishing for trout, the flies killing best being blue upright, blue silver twist, and half-stone.—W. MUDFORD.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

On Saturday, the 19th inst. Mr. Collyer, one of the members of the Edmon-ton and Tottenham Fishing Club, had a fine take of tench, one weighing eight pounds, one six pounds and a half, and one, one pound and a half, three in all, weighing sixteen pounds. Mr. Mossey, one of the members of the same club, had a fine tench on Sunday, weighing seven pounds, less a half ounce. These fish were shown at the club, and those who saw them expressed pleasure in the success of the two above named members, who have at all times laboured hard for the benefit of the club, and being in possession of the two prizes which stands for patience and perseverance, which should be the anglers' motto. In reading the club reports I see that several go for prizes; I feel sure that if a visit was given to these waters they would return light-hearted and no doubt prize-winners, as the waters are in fine condition.—SAMUEL SEWELL.

Lee (Co. Cork).

The Lee has been in good fishable order during the week, but a cold easterly wind has interfered materially with sport; however, there has been a few good days, and everything so far promises well for angling prospects when the weather moderates a little. Sir Augustus Warren has taken eight springers since the season opened; Mr. Pratt, five; General Bud, two; Dan Riordan, a professional angler, five; John Manning, four; T. Connell, one; Geo. Haynes, one; J. Lambkin, one; Mr. Gumbleton, two. Weather continues cold but fine.

Ouse and Ivel (Blunham).

Very little fishing has been done this week. Should we have no more rain it will be in excellent fishing condition by Saturday.—T. E.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The river has cleared considerably for the past week, and we heard yesterday of the first fresh run salmon being killed by Mr. William Bagnall, weighing about 12 lb., and from this week out we expect to hear of a good number of the rod fishers being the successful captors of many good spring fish. The cot-men did very well for the past week, killing 21 salmon, the largest weighing 32 lb., 4 more turned the scale at 28 lb., and the rest averaged 20 lb. each. This week they are killing more fish than last. The trout fishing is still improving. Major Topplin had a good day on Saturday with Martin Power on the Lenawn, killing 4 doz. and 2 trout. Mr. Middleton got some very good trout on the Arrow, with fly and Devon bail. The Suir is now getting in good order for trout as it is very clear and falling rapidly every day. The trout are in better condition than could be expected at this season. Captain Dixon and

Mr. Park, on the 18th, and three days' fishing on the Finisk, getting about eight or nine dozen trout. The best flies for present fishing are gold spider-wren, rats' fur, hare's ear, silver black hackle, &c.—DORA.

Trent (Alrewas).

As the season came in with floods and thick water, so it seems determined to die out. Accounts from every quarter are of the most despairing character, and at present, like the past few weeks, angling is a complete dead letter, as far as the rivers are concerned. Everything, the latter end of last week, was looking favourable for an early recommencement of hostilities among the finny tribe, but a heavy snowstorm in the Midlands, on Tuesday, quickly upset all calculation. The rivers to-day are running bankfull and much discoloured from the melted snow; the only chance of any fishing is in the lakes and sheets of water inland. Two friends of mine had a day at Earlswood, on Monday, and brought home a few nice jack packed in moss, to give the bag a more important appearance. The fish, I learn, were in first-class condition and were taken with Gregory's artificial clipper. A friend of mine, residing at Newark, writes me this morning six inches of snow has fallen in his locality; another flood imminent, and concludes, "All hopes of fishing in the rivers before June 16, at an end." Let us hope not.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Nottingham).

The anglers on Saturday, Feb. 19, got a fair start, with everything in their favour. Though the wind at the time was blowing rather cold, the water was in good condition, there being plenty of colour in it. When this is the case, the fish will be found to bite freely at worms, although the temperature be low. Two anglers made their way to the Weston length, and, though they did not commence before eleven o'clock and left off at three, they succeeded in capturing a splendid basket of roach, several of them going a pound each, and one, a perfect beauty, weighing 1 lb. 5 oz. Several other rosters got the roach well on the feed at Burton-on-Trent. The sample was also very good, all of which were taken with worms, and for once some of our local fishermen had fair sport among the roach and dace. Monday, however, was a great day, though some of the anglers refused to venture out on account of the wind blowing from the east, which they do not believe in for roach-fishing—quite a mistake, to my thinking, and I will give a reason. All practical fishermen know perfectly well that there are certain spots on the Trent that it would be impossible to properly fish with a float unless the wind was coming from the east. An instance I will give that came off on Monday. Two anglers went up to Weston—one a professional, the other a friend. Now, the former said the wind is exactly the thing for our top shop; we must go. The result was a good basket of fish; and I will add that, had the wind been blowing from any other quarter, they could not have fished the swim a little bit. A Derby angler also visited the same water, and succeeded in killing the best sample of roach that has been seen this winter. Then followed another heavy fall of snow, which completely put a stop to rod-fishing for the time. Half of the snow went away quickly, but a frosty night or two put a check on it getting into the river, and at the time of writing the water is nearly at winter height and getting quite clear, so that if there is no change takes place in the weather the water will be right for chub and pike fishing in a day or two.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

No sooner are the angling fraternity expecting to have some good sport amongst the finny tribe, than down comes a deluge of either snow or rain, which quite knocks fishing on the head again. On Monday night, we had a very heavy fall of snow, which has quite put a stop to angling for a few days. The weather is too keen for the fisherman to be out at the water side, although both rivers are getting into good condition for all kinds of fishing. During the time the last flood was out there were two pike killed down in the meadows close to Cromford, that had been washed out of the Derwent and left in the fields, they weighed 6 lb. each. No doubt we have very many pike in the Derwent now; in fact, I believe, we have great numbers, but they are very difficult to be caught, owing their having so much feed in the Derwent. I have heard several gentlemen say that they would as soon eat a pike out of the Derwent as either trout or grayling, for their food is chiefly trout and grayling. I see there are several mistakes in "Blue Dun's" remarks respecting the "Fishing Quarters in Derbyshire," which might lead anglers astray. In the first place, he says that "anglers staying at the Peacock Hotel, Rowsley, have the choice of fishing in two rivers." Now, this is not the case, as Mrs. Cooper can only give fishing tickets for the Wye, from Filleford Bridge to Bakewell Bridge; and Filleford Bridge is a good distance for the angler to walk before he can commence his fishing. The Derwent belongs to the Darley Fishing Club, and Mrs. Cooper cannot give tickets for this fishing. So that, if the angler does not belong to the Darley Club, or has some landowner's ticket given to him, he cannot fish the Derwent. And another great drawback to anglers who desire to fish the Derwent, Chatsworth Fishery, they cannot procure a fishing ticket at Rowsley. They have to go to Edensor, to the Chatsworth Hotel, before they can procure a fishing ticket, which is a very long way for the angler to go before he can commence his fishing. The price is 2s. 6d. per day for your fishing ticket. I consider the Chatsworth Fishery the best fishing we have in Derbyshire; in fact, I can always kill more fish off this water than either the Wye or any other club's water on the Derwent. The Wye gets sadly too much over fished, every season becoming worse and worse, and the fish scarcer. No doubt the disease has had a lot to do with the scarcity of fish in the Wye. I have seen, I should say hundreds of times, between Filleford Bridge and Bakewell Bridge, from twelve to twenty rods on the Wye, thrashing the water in all shapes and forms. The fish in the Wye know what an artificial fly is as well as the maker himself. About the middle of June or July I recommend anglers who wish to come down to Derbyshire on purpose to try the Wye, to go direct to Bakewell, and by staying at the Rutland Arms Hotel for three days your fishing will be free on the Wye. By going to Bakewell you are close to your fishing, and the accommodation is first class and the charges very reasonable. Mr. Wm. Greaves is the landlord of the hotel. The Peacock Hotel, at Rowsley, is a good place for anglers to stay at, but it is too far off your fishing quarters, unless you belong to the Darley Club. "Blue Dun" also states that the Ashford canal, Miller's Dale fisheries; the latter place can be fished by day tickets; by paying 1s. 6d. per day, for your fishing ticket. This statement is quite right, for I know every inch of both the Wye, Derwent, and Dove; and this fishery he alludes to is strictly preserved by a fishing club, and leave is very hard to be got. To fish this water, in fact, any of the water between Bakewell and Miller's Dale. I quite agree with "Blue Dun's" remarks respecting the number of flies, &c., in last week's FISHING GAZETTE. If the generality of anglers would only use hackle flies with the proper hackles and the proper bodies, then their sport would be much better. I see hundreds—I might say thousands—of flies every season, both hackle and

winged flies; these look like killing when they are dry; when they become wet the colour is quite different. I am sorry to say we have very few good judges of colour fly makers in Derbyshire now; in fact, I really do not know one.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

The water is still high although much brighter, and there is every prospect of a good angling season. Mr. Geo. Webb and Mr. W. G. Capon, were out again this week, the former securing a fine basket of bream on the Thorpe Broad, and the latter a nice take of roach at the same place. Mr. Capon, who is an authority, assures me that the river, from Norwich downwards, as far as Coldham, teems with fish, and should we be favoured with southerly winds shortly, some extraordinary catches will be reported. Messrs. Palmer Brothers, having had leave from R. Colles, Esq., of Norwich, tried his private waters this week for pike, but only two or three small ones were landed, as the water is still unusually high. Three gentlemen from Norwich went to Scoulton Mere (famous for its black-headed gulls) this week, and succeeded in taking twenty-eight pike, the largest weighing 25 lb.; fortunately for them the day was exceptionally fine, which added no doubt greatly to their success. Roach and bream are now well on the feed, and plenty may be taken with red worm. It is greatly to be hoped that all members of Clubs, as well as other anglers, will return undersized fish to the river again this season, as there is more gratification in showing half-a-dozen good fish than forty undersized ones.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

I had arranged to have a day among the grayling on Wednesday last, as the river had got into better condition than it had been for weeks, but a heavy fall of snow on Monday night once more spoiled sport. A thaw followed, as usual, and a correspondent in Wensleydale sends me word that snow lies very thick upon the hills higher up the valley; so that before the snow water can get out of the river, all hopes of grayling fishing will have vanished, at all events until August or September comes round once more.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

FISHING QUARTERS.—ALUN.

THE river Alun, Alyn, or Allen—as it is variously spelt—has its rise in Denbighshire in a mountain called Cynin-y-brain. It becomes fishable at the village of Llandegla, a couple of miles from its source, where capital sport is to be obtained, but the trout run small—about five or six to the pound. The river here, for about three miles, is now, I regret to add, most strictly preserved, and leave is exceedingly difficult to obtain. Then comes a stretch of open water, from Llanarmon to Rhydymwyn, a distance of about eight miles. This portion of the river affords very good fishing—the fish going about four to the pound. Netting is said to be carried on here to some extent, though without apparently diminishing the stock of fish. Here, on one occasion, I killed, in a quarter of an hour, eleven fish, averaging three or four to the pound, without moving from one spot; trout must therefore be plentiful. Now comes a stretch of water which I cannot recommend; the river being much polluted by the lead mines in the neighbourhood of Rhydymwyn. At Mold the river is again polluted from the manufactures carried on along its banks. Trout however, singularly enough (for the water is quite red from the abominations discharged into it) are here in plenty and of a larger size—the average being about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Fly-fishing is out of the question in this part of the river, but worm-fishing is practised pretty successfully. At Hartsheath, five miles below Mold, the river becomes clear again; and from here down to Holt where it enters the Dee—a distance of about a dozen miles—good sport is to be had when the water is in the proper condition. The fishing is, I believe, for the whole of this distance perfectly free—at least I have never been interfered with, nor have I heard of any one who has. The fish in this fine stretch of water often attain a considerable size. I have known one to be taken of seven pounds! Such a fish as this is, however, one in a thousand—the average being from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; the largest I have myself taken was a fish of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The river is very little fished by scientific anglers; but in the wasp-grub season, numbers of good fish are captured by the miners of the neighbourhood. The Alun is a comparatively sluggish river, and takes a good while to clear after a flood. During a very wet season—such as that of '79—it is in a state of almost perpetual flood; fly-fishing is then at a discount, and wasp-grub is almost the only bait the fish can be induced to take. This latter bait, indeed, appears to be a favourite one at all times and under all conditions of the water. It is during a hot, dry season, when angling on most other rivers is at a stand-still, that the Alun is in its prime condition for fly and minnow, and a skilful angler can then get excellent sport. The natural or artificial minnow at sunset—just for that short hour-and-a-half or two hours which intervene between sunset and dark—is then a most deadly bait among the larger fish. The angler in fishing the Alun should always use strong tackle as the river everywhere affords unusually good cover for the fish; and the largest trout are always found in places which afford the best strongholds. Chester and Wrexham are convenient localities for the head-quarters of the angler—the latter preferably. From Wrexham the Great Western will land him at Gresford, close to the river-side, in a few minutes, or if he prefer walking the distance is only a couple of miles. Dace are to be found in the Alyn below Rossett, and these will often afford the angler amusement when the trout are "off the feed." The Connah's Quay Railway will take the angler to Caergrill Station in ten minutes, which will land him on the river about two miles below Hartsheath—the highest point I would recommend him to fish, unless he be a bottom-fisher. To fish the higher waters—from Llanarmon to Rhydymwyn—the angler should take the London and North-Western Railway to the last named station, or hire a trap from Wrexham to Llanarmon; the distance will be about twelve miles. The Cedidog is a tributary of the Alun, which it joins at Cefn-y-bedd, three miles from Wrexham. There are some good trout in this stream. The best portion of the Cedidog is private, but the genuine angler will not be interfered with. Wrexham is within a reasonable distance of the Dee and Ceiriog. There is at present, however, a dispute as to the right of the public to the Mid Dee Fishery, pending which it would be as well for the angler to avoid this portion of the Dee. I will conclude by adding that the trout of the Alun *die game*; and for gastronomic purposes are inferior to none, which is saying a good deal.—E. GILES.

OTTERS IN THE THAMES.—On Monday, in last week, an otter, which weighed 13 lb., was trapped by Mr. May, of Sandford Mills, Reading, and was brought into the town alive. It was only on the previous evening that the local angling association offered a reward of £1 to any person killing an otter between Goring and Shiplake, or on the London or Kennet, within 10 miles of the main river, and Mr. May was the first to receive the reward.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCA'S Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessor in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

AN APPEAL FOR THE POOR THAMES FISHERMEN.

THERE have been few winters more hard and trying to the poor fishermen of the Thames than the present one, and I am referring to those who have no other employment than attending upon the gentleman anglers on our metropolitan river. For weeks and weeks they have had nothing to do and no means of earning money to purchase the common necessities of life; their homes have been denuded of every comfort, and warmth and food have been of the most niggardly and sparing character therein. It has been no fault of theirs; first the snow, then the frost, and successive periods of floods, have stripped them of every chance of employment. I could mention the names of men who are nearly on the point of the greatest want, who scarcely know one day after another where their daily food will come from—who have been hoping against hope that a change will come; and then as the prospects began to brighten, the stormy wind and tempestuous weather set in afresh, as though the elements were determined to rage and swell against them—there is no exaggeration in the descriptions, there is no drawing on imagination. The river-keepers will tell any one who will take the trouble to inquire. There are many homes in the greatest distress and many a honest fisherman destitute of common and necessary comforts. As I visit some of the fishing stations, the river-keepers assure me of the wants of poor fishermen; they point out to me some who are better situated than others—who have means of picking up a moderate living in other ways than fishing—but they add there are those, and men they can always reckon upon for help and assistance in the protection of the fishery, who are absolutely in want. I saw one of these the other day who came to one whose hand and heart is always ready to relieve suffering and distress; the poor fellow had done nothing for weeks and had been racked down in bodily health. His tale was a pitiable one, and ended if he did not pay his rent on the following Saturday, he would be turned out of house and home. He was relieved of this prospect at least, and when asked if he could do with a slice of beef, his reply eagerly accepted the chance with a declaration that for days he had never tasted flesh meat. I am speaking of a man who is one of the oldest of our Thames fishermen and who has spent more time in looking after the interests of the fishery than any other professional on the portion of the “City waters,” and certainly none more deserving of relief at the present time. This case is not an isolated one, for I could speak of another who is in the same state of suffering and want, and others too. I do not want, however, to paint the struggles of life in too high a colour. I want more to appeal to those whose circumstances will enable them to render some help—as a sovereign here and there bestowed would gladden many a miserable home. I do not want to mention names which are known to me, of suffering fishermen; the true hand of charity neither requires ostentation or display, for charity so exercised is to my mind the best of all. I will gladly be the almoner of any bounty and furnish particulars, if desired, of its bestowment. I know of, at least, three cases at the present time that are in extreme want, and if there is a desire to keep men honest—for poverty frequently tempts men to act against their feelings—let the rich and affluent amongst our Thames anglers meet as far as they can, the wants of these poor men. I should like to go to them in their homes; but without the means of relieving them there, my visit would do no good, as I know I should find relief was required of the most urgent character. The angling season will soon be over, the chances of employment are very poor, prospects dark, and the wretched weather adds to the discomforts of home. If anything can be done, it should be done at once; and even when a little employment comes there are old scores to be rubbed off, and the struggling bread-winner is heavily weighted with pecuniary liabilities that he has to remove. We,

who are living in the common comforts of home life, too unfrequently forget the poor outside—the poor who are made poor by the extremities of weather and the impossibility from such a cause of earning their daily bread. There are many, I am sure, when satisfactory cases are made out, would be ready to assist, and it is to these I would venture to make an appeal on behalf of the poor Thames fishermen. I have not spoken to our good friend, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, of 13, Cannon Street, on the subject, but I am certain if any amounts were entrusted to him, he and I would gladly visit the homes and dispense what is necessary to relieve the pressing wants of those who are most in need of it.

B.

A PERCH PARADISE.

ONE of the day-dreams of my youth was to be allowed to go perch-fishing in Lord Craven's stretch of the Kennet Canal, at Eubarne, above the “First Bridge,” the boundary westward of the Newbury Angling Club's water. I thought that, with any number of live silver-bellied minnows, ditto of well-scoured red worms from the local tan-yard heaps, fat gentles to vary the *menu*, and black-headed caddis by way of dessert, I should have been one of the most favoured and happiest of boys for one day at least! Gentle reader, you can have no possible idea of what this Perch Paradise was like. I have often walked up the towpath on sunny summer days, and seen the serried ranks of these handsome fellows, basking in the water conscious of safety under the ægis of my Lord's river-watchers, all looking as stolid as Turks and as numerous almost as “joey” mackerel is an estuary. 'Twas this that so whetted my piscatorial appetite and inspired my day-dream. I have thought since—how one does think of things in after years?—that if I had but sent in a humble petition to the then accomplished Dowager Countess of Craven who lived at Hampstead (Marshall) Park, that her ladyship might, perhaps, have kindly granted the desire of my heart, a day's perch-fishing in the said “Paradise,” unless setting up a precedent was objected to. In the lengthened days of May and June you might see the turtle doves flitting about the hawthorn trees, white all over with masses of “may,” or the restless lapwing over in the moor; or the lark up aloft singing his hymn of praise, while the little brown “wife”-bird was patiently performing the duties of incubation.

My day-dream was never realised. But some of the perch possibly getting tired of doing the “severely grand” in the Paradise above-bridge had either slipped out by the side door (the hatch) into the side brook, or had crossed the Rubicon by way of the lock, and got into the freer, but more dangerous Newbury waters. So there was some compensation—life is mostly made up of compensations—in the fact that if you could not angle in the Perch Paradise, you might catch perch that had come from the blest abode. The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon allowed the Highclere Park waters to be netted last autumn for certain fish to be turned into the Kennet at Newbury, by way of experiment. And who knows, but that in the course of a few years, Lord Craven might not graciously permit the members of the local Angling Association to fish from the Canal Towpath only that passes through his lordship's property? Other landlords might likewise extend the privilege eastwards, perhaps, Mr. Burn Blyth, J.P., at Woolhampton; Mr. Higford Burr, J.P., at Aldermaston; Mr. Richard Benyon, J.P., of Englefield House, and perhaps, Mr. Blagrove, of Calcot Park. If so, there would be over twenty miles of the Canal Towpath Fishery to Reading, the trout fishery in part of the Lambarne, near Newbury, and the trout “tails” besides. “Preservation” is the order of the day. We preserve our small birds and our wild fowl and sea birds, &c.; we shall gradually preserve all our canals and rivers. It

cannot be done without co-operation, nor without money. Whatever is good for anything, is worth paying for; so it is with angling. When anglers, local and metropolitan know that there is a fair prospect of sport, they will be willing to buy tickets. There is another thing, the preservation of "coarse" and other fish will, in the words of Mr. Mundella, M.P., increase the supply of wholesome, and an agreeably varying food for those who capture the fish fairly with rod and line. Some people might look upon an incursion of anglers from London as detrimental to the quiet and good order of any locality. Let any such consider that in these days, especially, there are certain influences at work affecting society, that might receive a wholesome healing, and elicit or create a hearty appreciation for any graceful concessions on the part of noblemen and country gentlemen for the especial benefit of the industrious toilers and wealth-producing residents in town, in enhancing the opportunities for angling in waters where sport was pretty sure to be got. Town and country ought never to be divorced. Each will be all the better for joining hands. And in this Kennet Valley of ours and round about the good old town of Newbury, the lover of liberty must find a newer and stronger impulse when he reflects upon the battles fought upon yonder uplands and common, and also at historic Shaw, and at Donnington Castle.

Where GEOFFREY CHAUCER lived, and lov'd to roam,
And wrote quaint poetry amidst his sylvan home,
Then monks and friars of Orders white and gray,
Made most things pleasant, after their own way.
And in that desp'rate struggle 'twixt Royalty and Right
The brave Commander BOYS held the Castle day and night;
But the Rightful Cause prevail'd, as Right should ever do,
'Twas thus we won our liberties and mean to keep 'em too!

Royalist and Roundhead, with the City of London Train Bands, fought bravely here, when many noble deeds of daring and of heroic sacrifice were done on both sides that possibly found no enshrinement in the chronicles of the time. But English freedom and English liberties were all, the better and safer; and we have now rational liberty and more freedom! So be it ours—anglers, and all of whatever "colour" or creed—to guard, and protect, and defend if need be those rights and liberties, and our native land, from whatever quarter the dastard attempt might come. F.

NOTES FROM WESTMORELAND.

WE have now, it is to be hoped, seen the end of winter for this season at least. Without suffering from the severe hurricanes and snow storms experienced in other counties, the winter here has been more severe than usual. The frost did not last long, but then it was very severe. A great portion of Windermere was covered with ice strong enough to afford skating for hundreds of persons, who of course took every advantage of it. The other lakes, too, were more or less frozen over, and most of them bearable. The fish will not have had a good time of it, and so far no one can tell what kind of a fishing season we shall have in 1881, but we are all in hopes of a successful and a satisfactory one. I have not hitherto noticed disease amongst either trout or salmon, nor have I heard of more than half-a-dozen affected fish having been seen by others. Otters are plentiful in the Kent, and I take this as a sign that there are plenty of trout and salmon astir. I am sorry to say that the good intentions of the Board of Conservators for the Kent, Bela, Leven and Duddon Fishery District, have received a rather severe shock. It was thought there would be no difficulty in the way, and there would be nothing to prevent the Board, or some of its members, leasing the fisheries on Windermere, with the object of stopping the netting which goes on all the season. Of course the nets would be used once or twice, in order that their right would not be lost,

but the fisheries would have been strictly kept for rod and other legal modes of fishing other than by nets. However, it turns out, at the last moment almost, that there are at least two of the fisheries which could not be obtained, so the Board must of necessity hold over their good work until some other time. The nets off Windermere for a few years, and strict watching during the spawning times, would, I am sure, in a very short time, more than double the value of the fisheries. The trout in Windermere are quite equal to the best trout from even Loch Leven; they reach up to 6 lb. weight and even more. The char, as a dainty fish, is not to be surpassed; and there's water in Windermere which, properly cultivated, should yield a store of both trout and char almost invaluable, to say nothing of perch and pike. But proprietors evidently do not see the damage they do to their own property by allowing nets to be used, and of a mesh so small as to kill the babyest of fishes. But people are becoming a little more enlightened as to the value of pieces of water suitable for fish culture. We shall see great changes in a few years. Within the jurisdiction of the Kent, &c., Board, which includes a great portion of the Lake district, fishing, both for trout and salmon opens on Wednesday, March 2. There will be a few trout caught as soon as the season comes in, should the weather prove mild, but we have no clean salmon until towards the end of summer and in the autumn. From Windermere no doubt a great number of both trout and char will be taken with the nets during the first week. The Conservators have this year reduced the price of the salmon rod license (which includes trout) to ten shillings (last year they were fifteen shillings) for the whole district. Week and day licenses are issued at a reduced rate. Our local fishing tackle dealers just now are very busy, and Messrs. Hutchinson and Sons showed me the other day a lot of the best gut I ever saw, the lengths were so long and smooth and round and fine. Mr. Atkinson, the manufacturer of the quill minnow, has this year made a great improvement in this popular artificial bait. The colouring is better and almost transparent, and the gills by which the spinning is done are likewise improved, and so fixed and shaped that the bait will spin well in still water and when dragged down stream. Mr. Atkinson has likewise a lot of gut of especial quality. The weather is still very cold here, and the water does not look at all "fishy."

SPRINT.

ANOTHER ROYAL VISIT TO NORWICH.

THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE Mayor read a letter from E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., stating that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had definitely decided to open the National Fisheries' Exhibition at Norwich on Easter Monday. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales would, Mr. Birkbeck was happy to say, accompany the Prince. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold had also signified their intention of being present at the opening of the Exhibition, if their engagements would permit. Mr. Birkbeck felt sure that Norwich would give their Royal Highnesses a hearty and loyal reception on this occasion. (Applause.) The Mayor suggested that the Sheriff, the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. Gurney Buxton, Colonel Bignold, Mr. Birkbeck, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Field, be appointed a committee to co-operate with him in carrying out the necessary arrangements, a suggestion which was formally moved by Mr. Hill, and unanimously agreed to.

TO OUR ADVERTISING FRIENDS.

WE have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our advertising friends to the fact that the Committee of the National Fisheries Exhibition, at Norwich, will issue an official

catalogue and guide to the Exhibition, and that in this catalogue they will insert a limited number of suitable advertisements. It is hardly necessary for us to point out that this catalogue will be one of the best possible vehicles for conveying a permanent advertisement into the homes of thousands of anglers in all parts of the empire. The page is large and the price extremely moderate; and as example is better than precept, we will only add that we have at once secured a page for our own advertisement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. F.—Not received. We do not wish to re-open the question.

GENTLEMEN POACHERS.

SIR,—On the 19th inst., at 4 p.m., I was angling in the Wensum, at Thorpe, when, to my astonishment, a boat with three occupants came directly opposite me and deliberately fished with a cast net. Will you or some reader kindly inform me if this was legal? I may state on my own part their fishing was not fair, as they threw the net into my swim, taking some fine perch. Query: Were they again returned to the water, as they were very careful I should not witness the act? I should also like to know if netting has recently become a gentleman's privilege?—I am, &c.,
Norwich. FAIRPLAY.

TROUT FLIES.

SIR,—After a special experience of 25 years' fly-fishing, I fully endorse your comments on Mr. Pennell's and "Blue Dun's" theories respecting the desirability of having a good stock of various kinds of flies. In my shilling book on Trout-Fishing, just published, I have 130 different flies, and it was with me, at the time of writing, a moot question as to whether the list could not be further extended.—I am, &c.,
Caistor, Lincolnshire. THOMAS FORD.

THE RAIL AND THE ROD.

SIR,—If your correspondent "R. T. R.," in your paper of 19th inst., will forward 2s. in postage stamps to G. W. H., Rumsam Cottage, Barnstaple, he can have a copy of the work he requires, viz., "The Rail and the Rod," South-Western Railway.—I am, &c.,
G. W. H.

THE RAIL AND ROD.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform "R. T. R." that I have the book he seeks, "The Rail and the Rod," by Greville F., which I shall be pleased to let him have.—I am, &c.,
P. F. DAVIS.

FISHING QUARTERS IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—In answer to the letter of your correspondent signing himself "A Member," I admit that I was in error when I said that the water at Millersdale might be fished by paying 1s. 6d. for a day ticket; I forgot, when writing the piece, that the Wye there was preserved by a club. I believe, however, however, that tickets for part of the stream can be obtained at the Angler's Rest, an inn close by the river side.—I am, &c.,
February 19, 1881. BLUE DUN.

"FOSTER" FUND.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of one sovereign towards the above fund from our old friend, Mr. P. Geen, accompanied by the enclosed letter. As usual, he is one of the foremost to assist distress. I sincerely hope that the thousands of anglers who are now enjoying the fruits of the Association's labours will also give a trifle towards the widow and children of one of our most assiduous workers of the past.

I have forwarded a circular and subscription list to every society in London, and also to tackle dealers, &c. Some will arrive rather late in consequence of my being compelled, through indisposition, to lay down my pen and take to my bed instead.

The list will remain open until the 29th March, instead of the 9th, as announced.

I shall be glad to send, upon application, a subscription list to any one applying for same.—I am, &c.,
T. HOOLE.

DEAR HOOLE,—I was much pained to hear of our friend Foster's death. He was one of the few humble and steadfast workers on behalf of his brother anglers, of whom it may be truly said that an unkind word was never spoken by him or against him. I am pleased that the Committee should think this a special case, calling for something more than a grant from the "Benevolent Soc." There are many who will feel the truest of all pleasures in assisting the widow and family of such a man.

You may rely on my doing something amongst my friends. Kindly put me down for one sovereign, for which I enclose P.O.O.—Yours truly,
Hill View, Addlestone, Surrey, February 21, 1881. P. GEEN.

MR. GEEN AND THE THAMES RIGHTS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Mr. Geen in his letter to you deprecates the Thames Conservancy being told the truth. Mr. Geen's position with regard to the Thames Conservancy appears to be like that of the apologists of Charles the First, as described by Macaulay. The "Martyr King" had broken the laws he had sworn to defend; he had treacherously committed the worst of crimes; yet, his

apologists answered, he was kind and gentle to his children. In the same way the Thames Conservancy has allowed the public rights on the Upper Thames to be claimed without asking the nature of the claims upon the river this body was formed to "conserve"; and it is known that some members of that body are the very persons who have made these claims, substantiating them, too, by an illegal and ignoble misuse of another power they possess—that of county justices. Yet, forsooth, when the Thames Rights' Defence Committee set forth the plain facts in unvarnished language, Mr. Geen says: "I agree with every word you say; but pray don't say it. It is true Thames Conservators are endeavouring to rob the angling public of the Upper Thames, and the Thames Conservancy does not put out a finger to do its duty to the public; but they have given us privileges on the Lower Thames, so pray don't tell them the truth. True it is that Conservators, without a shadow of right, have summoned brother piscators before brother 'justices' (God save the mark!), but the Conservancy must not be offended, but 'properly approached,' for the Conservancy has answered the appeals of the T. A. P. S."

Really, sir, I feel the deepest respect for Mr. Geen in regard to his talents and piscatorial attachments, but his illogical conclusions as to the action to be taken must be repudiated. He is a clog to real action, and his sympathy for the Thames Conservancy for its action in regard to the bit of water below Staines, will go far to assist the robbery from the growing body of anglers of the far more important waters of the Upper Thames. It is time that Mr. Geen looked the whole matter fairly in the face; and if he cannot subscribe to the necessary action of the Thames Rights' Defence Association, he should, at least, leave them free from his clogging sympathies for a body which has permitted the difficulties to arise.—I am, &c.,
135, Loughborough Road, S.W., Feb. 23, 1881. JOHN WHILE.

"IDENTIFICATION OF RARE FISHES."

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the above, by a letter in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, from Charles C. Capel, wherein he states that he shall always be pleased to do anything to assist and advise those who may please to apply to him as to the identification of rare fishes, general information, &c. But, as he justly remarks, it is perfectly impossible to hope to do all for the public that Mr. Buckland did. We can only try to do our utmost, that is all. This letter is to the purport in every form and goodfellowship; and as your correspondent is so very many miles from here (Exeter), I have no doubt that if I offer to do the same for this part of the country, viz., Devon, Cornwall, &c., he will consider that his letter will yet be the means, of those who have studied under our late lamented friend Mr. F. Buckland, being able to diffuse that knowledge he so laboriously sought for, and so heartily tendered to them. During the past few years, out of the sixteen of our friendship, I have been able to submit to his notice the following rare and curious fish, many of which are to be seen in this Museum, South Kensington, and the Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter:—

Dusky perch—*Serranus gigas*.
Blue shark—*Squalus glaucus*.
Eagle ray—*Myliobatus aquilla*.
Redband fish—*Cepola rubescens*.
Probeagle shark—*Squalus cornubicus*.
Monk fish—*Squalus squatina*.
Spinous shark—*Squalus spinosus*.
Stone bass—*Polyprion cernium*.
Sapharine gurnard—*Trigla lyra*.
Silvery hairtails—*Trichiurus lepturus*.
Large sturgeon—*Acipenser sturio*.
Dorey, 11 lb.—*Zeus faber*.
Boar fish—*Zeus asper*.
Yellow goby—*Gobius auratus*.
Yellow skulpin—*Callionymus lyra*.

Dusky skulpin—*Callionymus dracunculus*.
Angler fish—*Lophius piscatorius*.
Ballan wrasse—*Labrus tinca*.
Three-bearded rockling—*Motella vulgaris*.
Anchovies—*Culpea encrasicolus*.
Five-bearded rockling—*Motella mustelo*.
Bloch's topnot—*Rhombus punctatus*.
Sand sole—*Solex pegusa*.
Scaldfish—*Rhombus arnogglossus*.
Twaite shad—*Clupea abasa*.
Great pipefish—*Syngnathus acus*.
Butterfish—*Blennius gunnellus*.

And the following rare crustaceæ:—Two broad-tailed lobsters, one squat lobster, an "Angled crab," "Hairy porcelain crab," "Minute crab," "Montague's crab," "Velvet fiddler crab," and "Spider crabs," with numerous others.

Thus showing that many rare specimens have been taken round our immediate coast, and doubtless many rare specimens are lost for want of persons willing to diagnose them near where they are taken. Therefore, if not intruding too much upon your valuable space, I beg to say that I will do my utmost; and, as your correspondent, C. C. Capel states, in order to facilitate the early receipt of specimens, all parcels should be sent, carriage paid, to
14, Portland Street, Exeter.

FRANK GOSDEN.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. F. Harding and Squire had a nice show of roach from the River Lea, on Wednesday last. Sunday, Feb. 20th, Messrs. A. Medcalf and Say weighed in one jack each. Messrs. Moir and F. Plumstead had some very fine roach from the river Lea. Total weight, 11 lb.—J. WORLEDGE.
Feb. 22nd, 1881.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above club proceeded to Hampton on Sunday last, for the purpose of competing for a prize presented by Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., and for two others given by Messrs. Willoughby and R. A. Banfield, but it unfortunately turned out to be an impossibility, the water covering the banks. It was therefore decided to adjourn the competition until the last Sunday of the season. There will, however, be two prizes for competition on Sunday next, the donors being Messrs. Ash and Knox.—C. NEWMAN, hon. sec.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club were busy on Sunday last, Mr. Milsted weighing 8 lb. of dace, from Twickenham, Mr. A. Ansty 5 lb. 1 oz., from same place, Mr. W. Excell jack, from Wraybury. We shall receive a visit from the angling clubs No. 3 district on Tuesday next, March 1, and shall be glad to see our brother anglers show up in force. Our annual supper takes place on Tuesday, March 15, at the club-house, Mr. Pettett's, Queen's Hotel, Queen's Road, Battersea Park.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

I beg to inform you there was a good show of roach and perch at the Bermondsey Brothers Angling Club on Sunday last, considering the flooded state of the waters, mostly from Pangbourne, Mr. Alfred Frost showing about 8 lb. of roach and perch; one perch weighing 3 lb.—W. ALLEN, sec.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 20th inst., Mr. Collier weighing-in 5 lb. 5 oz. roach, Mr. Hart also weighed-in roach. Two of our members Mr. Harris, and Mr. Jennings have arranged a friendly match to take place at Windsor, 1st Sunday in March, £5 a side, roach only to weigh.—H. TAYLOR.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Monday last two of our members were out near Keynsham, viz., Mr. Withers and Mr. Clements. The former caught some very nice roach and a nice carp (the carp being hooked foul). He was fishing an eddy when he saw his float go bobbing up and down, and concluded he had got foul, and commenced winding and pulling, when all of a sudden there came a rush, and away went his line down stream about 40 yards, and after playing the fish about five minutes, succeeded in getting it into the net and landing it. To his surprise it was a carp of about 4 lb. weight (being hooked in the back fin). Mr. Clement caught a very nice pike, weighing about 9½ lb. We are glad to say that our friend, Mr. Chas. Morgan, has recovered from his severe cold, and has promised to give us "The Sunday at Highbridge" on Monday next.—L. WRIDE, hon. sec.

THE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return visit to the above Society took place on Thursday last, the 17th inst, the chair was ably taken by Mr. Dixie (Golden Barbel), supported by Mr. Adeare (Westbourne Park), in the vice-chair. The following gentlemen contributed some capital songs, viz., Messrs. Dixie, Adeane, Star, Dawes, A. Warsop, Gadswood, Chambers, H. Porter, Dobell, Wilson, Staurt, Sutton, Prosser, &c. On the roll being called at 11 o'clock the following societies were represented:—Bostonians, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Hammer-smith United, Hampstead, Marylebone, Norfolk, North Western, Prince of Wales, Waltonians, and Westbourne Park; also Alliance and Cavendish not in district. Mr. Bonvoison, on behalf of the visiting societies, proposed success to the "Cambridge Friendly," which was responded to by Mr. Osmon. Altogether a very enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion about 12 o'clock. During the evening Messrs. Warsop and Carwell brought up a very nice take of roach and rudd, which were much admired.—W. SUTTON, sec.

Feb. 21, 1881.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members visited Amberly on the 20th, only one of them being successful. Mr. Chambers, jun., weighing-in bream and roach, Mr. Castell also weighing some roach from the Roding.—CAS.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The usual monthly meeting was held at the club-house, Great Eastern Wine Vaults, on Tuesday, February 22nd, W. G. Capon in the chair, and Bailee Fowler occupying the vice. There was a good attendance of members, and it was resolved that an angling match take place early in the spring, for which several prizes are already offered. After the ordinary business was disposed of the remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality. Messrs. G. Webb, W. G. Capon, G. Corbyn, and Fowler adding greatly to the harmony. Bailee Fowler having given a recitation from Mark Twain, Mr. Corbyn sang with great taste "The Anchor's Weighed," and the meeting then terminated, having had a most successful gathering. Mr. E. Roberts was elected a member and several others were proposed.—ANGLER.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The water having fined down the latter end of last week many of our members were out. Among those who stopped near home and fared best were:—Mr. J. Collyer, with 3 fine jack, weighing 8 lb., 7 lb. and 3 lb.; Mr. R. Money, 1 jack, 7 lb.; Mr. G. Stevens, roach and dace; and Young Dug, 1 jack, 2½ lb. On Wednesday, Mr. B. Lowin had 4 jack weighing about 10 lb., and Mr. A. Robinson, 2 jack, weighing 6 lb. We fish on Sunday next, Feb. 27th, for two special prizes, given by Messrs. Biscoe, of Fetter Lane, and Burrows, of Edmonton. As this will be the last Sunday for jack-fishing this season no doubt a large number of members will be out, and should the weather be at all favourable a good show may be expected.—D. G. M., sec.

GOLDEN TENCH ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday evening last there was the following show at the above club, it being one of the handsomest for some time:—Messrs. Byden, Flowers, and Webb, the two latter fishing the Lea, Mr. Byden and Mr. Higley fishing the Grand Junction Canal, the take was as follows:—Mr. Byden, 2 jack, 8 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Flower, roach, 5 lb.; Mr. Webb, roach, 20 lb., 1 jack, 2 lb. 5 oz.—his roach numbered 31 fish. Messrs. Higley, Brown, Sanston, and Gordon came home blank, not for the want of trying, but the wind was dead against fishing the Lea.—T. S. WEBB.

Feb. 22, 1880.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 17th inst. our hon. sec., Mr. Penney, succeeded in landing a pike weighing 9 lb. 7 oz., from some private water near London. Messrs. Aldridge and Walters also had a good show of roach and perch from the Colne. Messrs. Edon and Penney were again among the jack on the 20th, taking three nice fish. We shall be glad to see a larger attendance of members on Thursday evenings. I beg to thank Mr. Brougham for his very satisfactory letter anent the dace at Teddington.—VORTEX.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

I am very sorry to see such a lot of rain, as I think it will spoil the fishing for this season, not one of the members has been out, as it is no good fishing while this weather lasts. The Ten Guinea Challenge Cup, given as a prize subscribed to by numerous members of the above society, looks like being taken by Mr. G. Penn, as he has the heaviest weight as yet, and I think he stands a very good chance of winning it for this year. The annual dinner is arranged to take place in March at Moufflet's Hotel, when I have no doubt there will be a very large muster. I hear that several gentlemen, who were proposed as members, were elected last Wednesday, but not

without one or two black balls being put into the ballot-box, the reason for which I cannot conceive, but, however, they were elected amid great applause, two of which have already given a prize of one guinea. Next Wednesday is the monthly musical evening of the society, when I believe there will be some first-class talent present, and I have no doubt a very pleasant evening will be spent, each member has the privilege to introduce one friend. This society seems to be weekly increasing in numbers; in fact, I heard it whispered that our most worthy host intends enlarging the club room. We have another addition to the cases of stuffed fish, which is a splendid barbel of over 6 lb. in weight, preserved by Mr. G. Watkins, of Clapham, and it really is a fine fish. There is also a fine chub, which is being preserved, and will, no doubt, look very handsome in the case by the side of the other numerous collection of fish.—H. W.

Feb. 22.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday a few of our people tried their luck, and succeeded in getting a very pretty show. Mr. Humphreys, 9 lb. 1 oz. roach, 6½ oz. roach; Mr. Scott, 1 lb. 7 oz. jack, 14½ oz. roach; Mr. Hurwood, 1 lb. 5 oz. (one fish) roach; and Petrie and Wightman, dace. To-day our old friend Peter Banfield tried his luck at Dagenham, and brought in a beautiful jack scaling 5 lb. 8 oz. I might as well repeat to you that our return district visit takes place on Tuesday next, the 22nd inst.—WM. BROWN, hon. sec.

Feb. 17, 1881.

We had a very pretty show of fish on Sunday evening, particulars as under:—Mr. Scott, 7 lb. jack (one scaling 5 lb. 9 oz.), 10 oz. roach, 8 oz.; Mr. Humphreys, 1 lb. 2 oz. jack; Mr. Hopton, 15 oz. roach; Mr. Mead, 14 oz. roach; Mr. Hurwood, 13 oz. roach, 8 oz. perch and gudgeon; Mr. Watts, roach, dace and gudgeon. Mr. Castle, one of our members, presents a silver cup to our society to be contested for on the last Sunday of this season, for heaviest weight of roach—no private waters. Our return local visit at our clubhouse on Tuesday night was a complete success, the house was literally crowded, twenty-two clubs answering to calls. Our chairman, Mr. Pipe, presided, faced by Mr. E. Barr: pianist, Mr. S. Gordon. The harmony was well sustained by the following:—Messrs. Hopling and Williams, Hearts of Oak; Mr. Beaumont, Woolwich Brothers; Mr. Phillips, Great Northern Brothers; Messrs. Newman and Sutton, Jolly Piscatorials; Mr. Wilton, Alliance; Mr. Jennings, Bostonians; Messrs. Hart and Kitmar, St. Pancras Working Men's, were highly applauded in their duets of "Larboard Watch" and "All's Well." Everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of all, and the last song, "The Flying Dutchman," sung by Mr. Letch, met with a most enthusiastic reception. The next visit goes to the Sir Hugh Myddleton.—W. BROWN, hon sec.

Feb. 23.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Messrs. Hillier and Bonvoison were fortunate in having a show of roach on the 20th. The members fish on the 27th at the Rye House for a series of prizes. Prizes for the half-year ending March 14th, 1881:—Jack prizes.—Mr. Warner, heaviest, Welsh Harp, season ticket; Mr. Plumpton, heaviest, Welsh Harp, S. 7 lb., shade of fruit; Mr. Plumpton, jun., heaviest, Welsh Harp, S. 6 lb., value 10s. 6d.; Mr. Thorne, heaviest, Welsh Harp, 6 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Harding, heaviest, Welsh Harp, 5 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. Roxbee, heaviest, spinning, Welsh Harp bank, 4 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Shackel, heaviest, Welsh Harp, 6 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Packman, jun., heaviest spinning, 3 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Clark, heaviest, 5 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. Wynn, heaviest, Welsh Harp, 7 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Smart, heaviest, S. 5 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Cox, heaviest weight, S. Welsh Harp, 10s. 6d.; Mr. L. Roxbee, heaviest weight, Welsh Harp Bank, 6 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Hatch, heaviest, Elstree, 5 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Lawrence, heaviest, Thames, 3 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Tidy, heaviest weight, Elstree, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Aldis, heaviest, Welsh Harp, 7 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Newman, heaviest weight, Elstree, 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest, 8 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest weight 30 lb., £1 1s. Roach:—Club Prize, heaviest weight 30 lb., £1 1s.; Club Prize, heaviest weight 1 lb. 8 oz., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Holmes, heaviest, Thames, 1 lb. 4 oz., £1 1s.; Mr. J. H. Stead, heaviest weight 15 lb., punt rod; Mr. Creed, heaviest weight 6 lb., L. and N. W. R., S., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Harding, heaviest weight, Bank, S. 15 lb., easy chair; Messrs. Hillman and Harriot, heaviest weight 20 lb., picture; Mr. Marshall, heaviest weight, bank, 10 lb., S., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Mayman, heaviest weight, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Abrahams, heaviest, 1 lb 8 oz., bank, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Reynolds, heaviest weight, bank, 10 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Bonvoison, heaviest weight, bank, S., 15 lb., 10s. 6d. All Fish:—Club Prize, 40 lb., £1 1s.; Mr. Kelsey, heaviest weight, pair of fishing boots; Mr. C. Pearce, heaviest weight, Elstree, £1 1s.; Mr. Gooch, heaviest weight, December 12th and December 19th, piece of beef; Mr. Revill, heaviest weight, Welsh Harp, roach rod; Mr. Austenbury, heaviest weight 20 lb., cup; Mr. W. J. Wetenhall, heaviest weight, £1 1s.; Mr. Gooch, heaviest weight, £1 10s.; Mr. Morth, heaviest weight, 10 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Forman, heaviest weight 10 lb., S., 10s. 6d. Perch:—Club, heaviest weight 15 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club, heaviest weight 2 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Lancaster, jun., heaviest weight, Lea, 6 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Lancaster, sen., heaviest weight, Lea, 6 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Mayman, heaviest weight, 10s. 6d. Dace:—Club Prize, heaviest weight 10 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest weight 8 oz., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Sambell, heaviest weight, bank, 3 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Vincent, heaviest weight 4 lb., picture. Bream:—Club Prize, heaviest weight 20 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest weight 4 lb., 10s. 6d. Chub:—Club Prize heaviest 3 lb., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Hillier, heaviest weight 5 lb., value 10s. 6d.; Mr. Gainsford, heaviest weight 10 lb., 10s. 6d. Barbel:—Club Prize, heaviest weight 15 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest weight 4 lb., 10s. 6d. Club Prize, heaviest carp 3 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest trout 1 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest rudd 1 lb., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest grayling 8 oz., 10s. 6d.; Club Prize, heaviest tench 3 lb., 10s. 6d. Excursion to Rye House, February 27, 1881:—Mr. Ames, 1st prize, book; Mr. Brown, 2nd prize, book; Mr. Clark, 3rd prize, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Packman, 4th prize, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Wynn, 5th prize, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Bell, 6th prize, 10s. 6d. Excursion to Pangbourne, March 13, 1881:—Mr. Halse, 1st prize, fancy table; Mr. George, 2nd prize, box of cigars; Mr. Underwood, 3rd prize, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Turner, 4th prize, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Pawley, 5th prize, 10s. 6d.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 20th inst. Messrs. Holden, Palmer, Chart and Trotter had roach and dace from the Thames. A match has been made for Messrs. Trotter and Guyman to row Messrs. Jones and Palmer during the fence months, which will no doubt act as an incentive in keeping the members together during that monotonous period.—F. MILLARD, sec.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

Mr. T. Hughes ventured out this week alone. In spite of floods or snow, on Wednesday he succeeded in capturing eight jack, three weighing about 3 lb. each, four about 5 lb. each, and one 17 lb. These fish I saw at the headquarters of the society on Thursday night. Information had been received that night that he had that day succeeded in catching eight fish weighing 70 lb., and that they would be at the society's house on Friday night. Now is the time to pay a visit to the "Royals," and see some large jack that will make you open your eyes, all ye jack-fishers that have not seen a fish since Christmas. Come next Saturday or Sunday night, and see them and—PIXIE.

Feb. 24, 1881.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Shows of fish with us, have of late been so very moderate, that I have not troubled to send you any report. Messrs. North, Parrott, Webb, and other members constantly persevering only to meet with disappointment. However, its a long lane, &c., and Mr. E. North has at last broken the spell of bad luck. This gentleman showing up on the 20th inst. with 8 lb. 13½ oz. roach taken from the river Lea, and a very pretty lot of fish they were, the four largest scaling 3 lb. 1 oz. Should the weather prove at all favourable before close time I hope to send you further good accounts of this, and other members of the above society.—T. GRETTON, secretary.

Feb. 22nd, 1880.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

To-day (Thursday), Feb. 24th, Mr. Pugh visited Twickenham and succeeded in getting 13 lb. of dace and roach, 11 lb. 13½ oz. being weighable in this society. This being a business night, it was proposed by Mr. Beckett, "That, at the next competition (March 10th), all members fish where and how they like." A general meeting will be called on March 17th for the purpose of electing officers for the next season, and all rules to be revised. The revising committee are as follows:—Messrs. Medway, Boalch, Duck, Whitby, Haywood, Beckett, and Pugh. The result of their labours will be placed before the members at the aforesaid general meeting.—PIXIE.

Feb. 24, 1881.

WALTONIANS.

On the 16th, Mr. Rushbrook had roach from Pangbourne. On the 20th the following gentlemen weighed in fish:—Messrs. Roland, Brand, and Good, jun.—A. J. MARRIOTT, reporter.

Feb. 22nd, 1880.

THE WALTON AND COTTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE annual dinner of the above old-established club was held at the society's rooms, the Crown and Woolpack, St. John's-street Road, on Wednesday evening the 16th inst., when a large gathering of members and friends assembled to take part in the pleasures of the meeting, and to witness the distribution of the prizes. The dinner, as usual, was of the most *recherché* character, and gave general satisfaction. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts the Chairman, in proposing continued success to the "Walton and Cotton Angling Association" referred to the manner in which the society was conducted and the success it had attained through the indefatigable exertions of its secretary, Mr. H. Harding, who had managed to keep the full complement of its members so steadily together.

The Secretary, in returning thanks, read his report and presented a very favourable financial one, prepared by the auditors of the association.

The distribution of the prizes for the season ending 31st December, 1880, was then proceeded with, Mr. John Jones taking the treasurer's prize of £1 is. for the gross weight of three largest fish (weight 30 lb. 8 oz.), and also an association prize of £1 is. for a pike of 10 lb. and upwards, Mr. Jones's take for the season was made up as follows, viz., jack, 192 lb.; roach, 1 lb. 10 oz.; barbel, 7 lb. 4 oz.; chub, 34 lb. 7 oz.; trout, 2 lb. 12½ oz.; bream, 5 lb. 11 oz.; perch, 3 lb. 4 oz.; dace, 2 lb. 1 oz.; grayling, 8½ oz.; total, 249 lb. 10 oz.

Mr. Starkey took our association prize of £1 is. for a trout over 2 lb. taken with fly, ditto for a chub of 4 lb. and upwards. Mr. Starkey's takes for the season were as follows, viz., jack, 281 lb. 11½ oz.; roach, 2 lb. 2½ oz.; barbel, 3 lb. 14 oz.; chub, 7 lb. 5 oz.; trout, 9 lb. 2½ oz.;

bream, 41 lb. 2 oz.; perch, 1 lb. 14½ oz.; dace, 15 oz.; eels, 10 lb. 5 oz.; total, 358 lb. 8 oz.

The members prizes as enumerated were nearly all taken, viz.:—Members' Prizes: (1) Given by Mr. Jones, half-guinea for the largest carp over 5 lb. (2) Mr. Potter, one guinea for the largest number of fish over 4 lb. each, of any species. From any water. (3) Mr. Potter, half-guinea for the total weight of barbel. (4) Mr. Potter, half-guinea for the total weight of jack. (5) Mr. Potter, half-guinea for the total weight of chub. (6) Mr. Potter, umbrella for the total weight of fish. (7) Mr. Grimmo, one guinea for the largest trout. (8) Mr. Crowley, one guinea for greatest weight of jack taken, and shown first Wednesday in November. (9) Mr. Goodfellow, tankard for fourth heaviest weight. (10) Mr. John Bull, a present for the greatest weight of tench. (11) Mr. Collingridge, jewellery to the value of one guinea for third heaviest weight. (12) Mr. W. F. Bull, a present for a tench 2 lb. and over. (13) Mr. Simpson, half-guinea for the largest weight of roach to the member who has not taken more than two prizes from the presentation list. (14) Mr. Bruton, half-guinea for the largest tench. (15) Mr. Bruton, half-guinea for the largest perch (not taking society's prize). (16) Mr. Starkey, half-guinea for the total weight of roach. (17) Mr. Starkey, half-guinea for the total weight of perch. (18) Mr. Starkey, half-guinea for the total weight of dace. (19) Mr. Starkey, half-guinea for the total weight of jack. (20) Mr. Hawkins, half-guinea for the second largest roach. (21) Mr. Rogers, half-guinea for the largest dace. (22) Mr. Rogers, jack winch for the largest jack. (23) Mr. J. Pratt, half-guinea for the largest roach taken in June from the Lea free water. Not to be taken by any member who has taken four prizes. (24) Mr. Crowley, jun., half-guinea for a chub 5 lb. and over. (25) Mr. E. Bradsell, half-guinea for the greatest number of shows during the season. (26) Mr. Stocker, half-guinea for the second largest jack. (27) Mr. Stocker, half-guinea for the second largest barbel. (28) Mr. W. J. Thomas, half-guinea for the greatest weight of any fish on 13th September. (29) Mr. G. F. Thomas, half-guinea for second largest take of roach. (30) Mr. Tacchi, a prize for the best average weight, not less than eight shows, a framed engraving, value not less than one guinea. (31) Mr. S. Renaut, one guinea for the greatest weight 1st Wednesday in September. (32) Mr. Morgan, half-guinea for the second heaviest weight of bream taken in one day. (33) Mr. Pawley, half-guinea for the total weight of eels. (34) Mr. Pawley, half-guinea for the greatest weight of roach over 1 lb. (35) Mr. Caplin, half-guinea for the greatest weight of bream in one day. (36) Mr. Barnes, a present for the greatest weight of jack any three days in the season. (37) Mr. Javens, half-guinea for trout over 4 lb.; failing, grayling to take this prize. (38) Mr. Gravatt, half-guinea for the second largest trout. (39) Mr. Josephs, sen., half-guinea for the greatest weight of dace. (40) Mr. J. F. Ake man gives a guinea for the largest roach. Day out, September 22nd, Wednesday. (41) Mr. E. Bradsell gives a prize value of two guineas for the greatest weight of any kind. (42) Mr. Harding, a present, value one guinea, for the second greatest weight of any kind of fish. (43) Mr. Anderson, one guinea for largest take of roach. (44) Mr. Callard, one guinea for the largest jack. Not less than six members to compete on this date. The total weight of fish weighed-in during the season amounted to 1800 lb., being nearly 200 lb. in excess of the previous year. The business of the evening having been disposed of, some excellent singing followed, bringing to a termination a most enjoyable gathering of old and young members of "Walton and Cotton" Anglers.—A. H. CLARIS, Reporter.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derby hire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal books. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]



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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1881.

AN ANGLER'S STORY.

A YEAR or two ago (the exact date does not make an iota of difference to what I am about to tell you) I had occasion to make a somewhat long journey by rail. It was during coldest spring weather in a backward season, when the thrushes should

have been singing their "love songs on the tree-tops," and the hedges, as a matter of right, ought to have been breaking out into bloom; the lark, too, one could see, in imagination only, rising and twittering his earnest carol, guileless of harm, while the bird-catcher in the field adjoining was doing his best to catch that "aerial songster," as the poets call him. I was comfortably seated in a cosy corner of a first-class carriage, and amid a cloud of smoke, was meditating upon things in general—piscatorial ones more particularly; for be it known my journey was taking place upon a day when I should have fished one of the best portions of a magnificent trout stream, where all fish caught under 4 oz. in weight are to be returned alive to the stream, and where the general average is about five fish to 2 lb., and often enough 20 lb. of such trout are caught with fly in one day. And such an opportunity as I had missed does not occur once in a life-time, I was going to write, but, at any rate, with truth, I may say once in a season. My meditations are somewhat abruptly closed by the shrill whistle of the engine, a slackening of our pace, and an ultimate stoppage at a principal station on the main line from town to the north. "You have ten minutes here, sir," said the guard, as he opened the carriage door; and, being somewhat athirst, I alighted and made acquaintance with the whisky cold in the refreshment room. On returning to my carriage, I found one seat occupied by a rather odd-looking individual. He wore a large grey coloured "billy-cock" hat, slouched down over his ears; he was a little man, with dark mild eyes; his dress was somewhat negligé, but his countenance wore a benevolent expression, although the "billy cock" did its best to give it a ferocious aspect. I do not know how it was, but from some reason or other, I felt drawn to that man, and soon the usual civilities passed between us. These were followed by a mutual smoke and then we entered into more earnest conversation. My newly acquainted friend was an angler. He had fished all the rivers and lakes in the United Kingdom, he had trolled for whitefish on Lake Michigan, he had speared salmon on the Deveron, bobbed for masheer on the Indian streams, and cast his flies for sea-trout and char on the lakes at the foot of Mount Hecla. At least, so he told me. He talked like a fisherman, too, and there was no doubt he was a complete master of the angle. In age he appeared to be somewhere between fifty and seventy years. He looked the former but might be the latter; for, as a rule, I find that anglers "wear well." I had just concluded a short story of a good capture of heavy trout, made the year previous on one of our lakes, when my companion said it reminded him of a very large trout he was once interested in. The tale shall be told in his own words, as nearly as I can recollect them.

"It is something like forty or fifty years since," said my companion, "that I was staying in the Lake District with some friends. Wordsworth and Professor Wilson were in the heyday of their fame then, and the lakes of Westmoreland were looked upon as being situate in a spot so healthy and invigorating that a poetic genius was there inspired which could not be inhaled elsewhere. A breath of the Lake air, it was thought, would make a poet of anyone almost; and I, being young and foolish, and in love, was in a most poetic mood. It was with a view to improve my Muse that I went into the district. I hovered about Rydal Mount, I climbed the hills and rowed upon the lakes. I once actually touched the great Lake poet, and wished him a "good morning"; I trespassed upon the private grounds of Ellvay (where the Professor dwelt), and went so far as to purchase a local paper, which at that time was edited by a man then only beginning to make his mark in the world of letters, De Quincey, the opium eater. But the genial and poetic surroundings affected me not. The mountains were steep enough, and the roads were

sufficiently rough to require considerable exertion to overcome them; and in nine cases out of ten, when I returned to my lodgings after spending the day in the open air, instead of being in a mood to concoct verse, I was in a state of incipient somnolence. And so matters went on for a while, until I found that something more than mountain air and the vicinity of poets was required to make a rhymester of me. Could I even have composed anything to equal the following, a result of Wordsworth, I should have been satisfied:

“My brother Jack was nine in May,
And I was eight on New Year's Day;
So in Kate Wilson's shop
Papa (He's my papa and Jack's)
Bought me last week a doll of wax
And brother Jack a top.”

Any rhythm I ever had in me had departed, so the next best thing, and the one nearest akin to poetry, I took to—fishing. I had angled a bit on several prior occasions, and was, amongst those who knew me, considered rather an adept at throwing a fly. I had a rod with me and flies and landing-net and pannier and other paraphernalia an angler always possesses. There was plenty of fishing in Windermere and in the tarns at the top of the mountains and in other lakes, Grasmere, Rydal, &c. I followed my sport for several days with a commendable amount of success. In returning home one afternoon I met with an old man, who, after examining my trout and inquiring where I had fished, recommended me to try Low Water as being a capital place for big fish. Indeed, he said it held larger trout than any other lake or tarn in the Lake district. On making inquiry of the fellow as to the spot's whereabouts, I found it was on the other side of the lake, near Coniston, and close to the Old Man. “What old man?” said I. “Oh, t' mountain. It's a great big hill right over there,” pointing in a direction rather to the south-west of where we were standing. He moreover said there was a “girt troot”* in Low Water that nobody could catch. This settled me; and after having tea, had me rowed across the lake, and walked on to Coniston the same evening, in order that I might make my ascent to Low Water, which, by the way, lies unusually high, early next morning. I stayed all night at the Black Bull, Coniston, and of course made inquiry as to my destination and its trout. The information conveyed by the man the same day appeared quite true, and I was promised a capture of such fish as had not hitherto fallen to my lot, besides a chance of hooking “the monster of the water.” Natives to whom I talked gave some alarming tales of its size. One said it was as big as “that clock-case,” pointing to a huge old-fashioned clock, which could not be less than six feet in height and of proportionate width. Another said it was as “lang as yon table,” and the object to which he drew attention extended nearly the full length of the kitchen before the roaring fire at which we sat. The landlady put in her word, and said she had heard her husband talk of this fish often enough, and it was so big that it always broke away with any tackle by which it was hooked. Indeed, a clerk at the copper mines had once put on his rod a strong pike line, and baiting with a trout about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight, had hooked the monster; which after playing some time took right across the tarn, running off all his line, and pulling the angler into the water up to his middle. The tackle still refused to break, and as the fish continued to rush the rod was reluctantly parted with, and the big trout went on his way. Two days after the rod and line were found at the further end of the tarn, and, strangely enough, the hooks were still intact, but the bait was gone. After treating the company to a gallon of ale, and making arrangements to be called and have breakfast early, I went to bed. To sleep—to dream that the big

trout was hooked the very first throw, and that, on landing him, I found him to be nothing but a minnow—a big one, though, which weighed just $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ! Considering all things, I did not rest so very uncomfortably after all; and by four o'clock was down and making a furious attack upon some bacon collops and eggs. The inner man fortified, and a sufficiency of provisions to last during the day being obtained and handed over to the care of the village shoemaker, who was to be my guide, we set off past the Old Haw in high spirits. It would take me an hour to tell you of all the beauties we saw in our mountain walk, and the tales and legends of the neighbourhood with which my guide enlivened what could never have been a tedious journey. Every hill and hollow seemed to have some marvellous story attached to it. Fairies played in one, and the the ghost of a murderer haunted the other. At length the tarn is in sight. We looked down upon it from the summit of a rock, which appeared impossible of descent. However, my guide soon found a rough road, by which we got down to the water's edge; and when there we rested and refreshed. In about half an hour I had got up my rod and commenced fishing. I tried all places, likely and unlikely, but without seeing a fish, and was about giving up in disgust when there was a great splash at my top fly. The fish, however, failed to hook himself, but did not fail to put the village shoemaker into a state of great excitement; be it said, I had risen the “girt troot.” The fish I did rise was one of about three-fourths of a pound in weight. Well, I fished that tarn for five mortal hours without so much as seeing another fish, naturally I became tired and disgusted, for the day was dull and there was that beautiful ripple upon the water, so much loved by the angler. The hopes of getting the big fish led me on; but now the sun had sunken behind the hills, and it was time to be “homeward bound.” I had just taken down my rod and was having a farewell look upon the waters of Low Water, when a shepherd hove in sight. The appearance of a human being in such an out-of-the-way place is quite sufficient for the shepherd to make towards him, in order to learn “how the world wags,” and how affairs progress down in the valley—such was the case in this instance. Inquiring as to our success, I, in return, asked him about the “girt troot.” “Aye,” said he, “there *was* a ‘girt troot’ here, but I fund it deeade close to 't bank, last back end. I gat it out wi' mi stick; it was aboon thirty pund weight, an' was covered all oor wi' girt lang yares like a Scotty bullock.”* “You may depend upon it,” said my friend, “I was at Coniston, and away from it as soon as possible.” At the Black Bull, I was laughed at for my wild-goose chase, and, from what I afterwards heard of Low Water and its trout, came to the conclusion that the tale of the monster was one of the legends of the vale. “Change here for Kendal, Windermere, and the Lakes,” cried the guard and echoed the porters; and alighting, and wishing my ancient friend a hearty good-bye, I left him to continue his journey alone.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

NO doubt it would not do for us all to think alike; and on hardly any subject does there exist greater diversity of opinion than upon that of artificial flies. I am therefore troubling you with this letter, in order that I may say that I do not quite agree with “Blue Dun” in the views which he has expressed in a recent issue of this paper on the above subject, and also to state my reasons for doing so. I always endeavour, when commencing a day's fly-fishing, to ascertain as soon as I possibly can,

* *Anglais.* Yes, there was a large trout, but I found it dead close to the bank, last autumn. I got it out with my stick; it was more than thirty pounds weight and was covered all over with long hairs, like those on a Highland bullock

* *Anglais*, big trout.

firstly, what natural flies are upon the water, and, secondly, to which of them the fish appear to be giving the preference. To save time, I may in the first instance mount a cast of flies that I think are likely to be on the water, but soon change them if I find that I have not hit upon the correct one. I am quite of the same opinion as the editor—viz., that you can hardly have too great a variety of flies in your book, especially different sizes and shades of the various duns and their respective spinners; and any angler of many years' experience will tell you that these must be true to nature, or else they will be of very little avail. It is quite true that in some cases you may get quite a different dressing of a fly from various makers; but "Blue Dun" should bear in mind that some flies, although called by the same name, vary according to locality. As, for instance, in talking about the March brown, it is always advisable to ascertain whether the fly known in Yorkshire as the "little early brown" is meant, or the larger fly known as the "dun drake," both being sometimes called the "March brown." As regards the "blue dun," however, I have never seen it vary very much in the dressing, excepting, of course, darker or lighter shades of wings and legs, in order to match the flies on the water, which vary as the weather becomes colder or warmer; but that fly dressed with "white hackles" on an entirely "brown body" would certainly be a novelty to me, and would not be calculated to enhance my good opinion of the maker thereof. It is rather a troublesome fly to make properly, especially in the ribbing of the body, so that some fly-dressers—viz., those who go in for cheapness—are apt to "scamp" this part of the business; but that trout (even during the early spring months, when they are supposed to be less critical than they are later on in the season) can fully appreciate the correct dressing of this fly, I think the following incident will amply suffice to prove:—Three years ago this coming April, I was fly-fishing on the Yore, in company with a local sportsman; the fish were rising freely at the blue dun, and by dinner-time I had basketed a dozen good trout, almost all on this fly, whilst my companion, although a first-rate fisherman, had only four. On examining his cast I found that his blue duns were not ribbed with yellow silk like mine were, but the bodies were thickly dubbed with fur from a hare's ear, through which the silk hardly showed at all. I then felt certain that this was the cause of his want of success, and on putting two flies of my pattern on his cast, he soon commenced to take fish; and when we finished at night he was not far behind me in point of numbers.

Any one who has been fortunate enough to peruse Mr. Aldam's splendid work on artificial flies cannot fail to have been struck with the remarkable story which he relates in his foot-note explanatory of the "Taily Tail." In it he states that one day, when fishing on the Derbyshire Derwent, he and a friend had remarkable success with this little fly, which is the female of the black gnat. They had previously tried the male fly and several others that were on the water, and had almost exhausted their stock of patience, as well as the contents of their fly-books, when Mr. Aldam caught a trout, which he cut open, to see what the fish really were taking. He found a mass of these flies in its stomach, and immediately put two upon his cast. The result was instantaneous, and, after basketing several fish that he had thrown over previously with no visible effect, he came out of the water and rigged up a cast of them for his friend. The result was that they both of them killed a splendid dish of fish, whilst other five members of the club only killed two or three amongst them. I could recount endless incidents to the same effect that have come under my own personal notice and that of my friends. In fact, as each season passes, I become more firmly convinced of the necessity of having a full working supply of imitations of all the principal insects that from time to time appear on the water during each

month of the season. Some anglers go to the length of dressing their own flies by the river-side, but I cannot say that I agree with that practice; for, in the first place, it involves carrying about with you a large quantity of materials, which, even on the calmest of days, are not very easy to manipulate on the banks of a stream and, in the second place, very probably by the time that you have got your imitation completed the rise is just completed also; whereas a fly is taken from your book in a moment, that is, if you keep it in proper order. I consider that on such well-fished rivers as the Wye and Derwent in Derbyshire, or the Yore and Wharfe in Yorkshire, it would be simply ridiculous to attempt to kill a good dish of fish by adhering to Mr. Pennel's theory. It might possibly answer on some preserved waters, seldom disturbed, but even then I should be sceptical on the point. Besides, I consider that it takes away half the pleasure of fly-fishing to limit yourself to three or four patterns; for, to my mind, the chief enjoyment of this kind of fishing is to match your flies with those upon the water, and then, by casting them lightly as thistle-down, deceive the fish with an imitation of the very fly that they are feeding upon. It is an endless study, and one in the pursuit of which even the most veteran angler learns something fresh almost every day. I could enlarge upon it *ad infinitum*, but have already written more than I had at first intended, and with an apology to you for occupying so much of your valuable space.

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

[We agree *entirely* with Mr. Walbran, and have, months ago, said—as he says—that Pennel's system robs fly-fishing of half its charm. Why, what would become of the ever-to-be-remembered chats with a brother angler over the fly to use, or which has been taking, if we could not pull out our fly-book with its fair array of favourite flies and compare them with our friends'? Every fly has a history of its own, and that little bit of rusty metal, faded feather and frayed gut, instantly brings to one's mind some charming English landscape, in which it played a part. No, we advise our fly-fishing readers not to stint the variety in their fly-books; and to open the first trout, or grayling they catch, and then put on the nearest fly they have to the specimens the fish has been feeding on.—ED.]

SHETLAND AS AN ANGLING RESORT.—VI.

AS to the angler's outfit for Shetland that will, of course, depend much on individual taste. We ourselves generally take two stout, stiff rods, the one about thirteen feet in length, the other about ten, and we think anglers generally will find these quite sufficient. We once tried a seventeen feet rod, but whether it was that we cast too far out and past the ordinary lies of the fish, or that we did not cast so often, and therefore covered less water, we had far less success than when using a shorter weapon. As to hollow butts they are usually too weak to bear the rough usage they get in Shetland, as it is often necessary to fish dead in the teeth of the wind (and it knows how to blow in these northern regions). We have a lively recollection of one day in Coelister, eight years ago, when we took the leeward side of the loch, whilst a friend took the other. We had to fish with a light nine-foot rod against a fresh breeze, and after about two hours or so of fishing, first the hollow butt of the rod gave way, and then our reel, which we had tied to the lower end of the remainder, went to pieces. In this condition we persevered, and at the end of the day our basket held nine fish of twenty-four pounds weight; our companion had seven which, being larger, weighed almost exactly the same. We also lost several fish after the breakdown of our tackle. Therefore, we say, don't bring a hollow-butted rod to Shetland if you have another likely to serve the same purposes; if you do get it broken, you won't get it mended in Shetland.

As to flies, there is no need of a pocketbook full of applied entomology; the Shetland loch or burn trout will generally seize anything in the least resembling an insect; nor does he boggle at a biggish hook; though we confess to thinking No. 7 or 8 Limericks sufficient to land anything one is likely to come across here. The sea-trout are just as little particular, and the question really seems to resolve itself into what color or colors are likeliest to attract attention. Generally speaking, a red or orange body is best, but at times a green or black body does as well, and all flies should be ribbed with silver tinsel; usually, too, a pale yellow or white tag is of advantage. Having already mentioned several flies, we need scarcely go over the ground again, so shall only mention that certainly quite two-thirds of the sea-trout we have taken here were caught with a claret-hackle having a warm orange wool body and lemon wool tag. We invented this fly some eight or nine years ago, and have always found it doing its fair share of work in peaty lochs. Next to it comes the red-bodied teal-wing with either black or red hackle, and a good third is the same fly with a green body. Our other great favourites are the woodcock wing with red body and hackle, and then the good old red hackle, with red or purple body. With a couple of dozen or so of these dressed on good medium gut, neither too fine nor too coarse, you may feel pretty safe of sport all over Shetland. You will be none the worse of sixty yards of line on your reel, as, though the fish generally hug the shore when hooked, one does now and then bolt for the centre of the loch.

There is another district of Shetland with which we are pretty well acquainted, but in which we have never been lucky enough to get accommodation; this we may call the Vidlin district, as, if accommodation can be had anywhere, it will be there. There is also a large mansion house at Lunna, which is often to let during the summer, and some friends of ours stayed there and had good sport. We shall only refer to its capabilities briefly. Where the road to Vidlin leaves the main northern road, about eighteen miles from Lerwick, it skirts a capital trouting loch, known as the Loch of Voe. A little further on a smaller loch is seen on the right hand, from which a stream issues. This loch is called Savewater, and the burn the Laxburn. After a course of some three and a-half miles, this stream is joined by another quite as large, which comes from a large loch on the left hand of the road (from which, however, it is not quite visible), and after a farther course of about half-a-mile, falls into a small pool into which the tide flows. Sea-trout and good loch-trout are found in both lochs, and also take freely in the burn. At Vidlin itself there is also a loch into which we are told that sea-trout enter freely at times, and there are many small lochs round about containing common trout. The "peerie steamer," *Earl of Zetland*, calls at Vidlin, so, if lodgings can be had, it is an easy place to get at.

We are told that splendid fishing may be had in Northmaven, and once started for Hillswick, but luckily heard at Brae, near the famous Mavis Grind, that there was no chance of getting put up; so took boat for Unyifirth incontinent. Now, however, we believe accommodation of a first-class description is to be had both at Ollahery and Hillswick, and from what we have heard from others, believe a person going there would enjoy good sport.

To conclude, we give a synopsis of probable expenses, which we believe may prove useful, calculated for three weeks, dating from Leith. Fare to Lerwick and back £2, food on board £1, hotel (one night) 10s., say; mail-gig to Walls and back 16s.—with luggage, say £1; lodgings, sixteen days at 5s., £4; incidental expenses £1; total £9 10s. Lodgings at Wiesdale run about 3s. to 4s. per diem; therefore, by staying there you may save more than £2, as you have only half the mail-gig fare to pay. This we consider a fair estimate of the probable cost of the trip.

It may be done for a little less, or it may be made much more expensive; but we do not believe that equally good fishing can be got anywhere for a similar expenditure, and we heartily recommend it to all those to whom time is less of an object than expense. More particularly do we recommend it to those recovering from tedious illness, and standing in need of a bracing climate. To such Shetland offers all the advantages of a prolonged sea voyage, without many of its inconveniences. There is also a curious old-world feeling about the islands, which, enhanced by the infrequent mail service and the homely habits of the people, gives rise to a feeling of repose very grateful to the hard-worked Southron.

SCOTUS.

THE END.

BOROUGH HEAD.

THIS portion of the Thames is well-known to most jack and perch anglers as remarkable for the capture of those fish, more especially towards the close of each fishing season. It is situated between Chertsey and Laleham, and, in addition to the one particular portion of it, is all good fishing-ground for jack and perch as far down as Chertsey Weir, which is one of the finest weirs on the Thames. But I want to refer more especially to what is called Borough Head, and, although I cannot speak of it particularly, as regards the captures of such large jack as those in Hampton Deep, it has always afforded good sport for numbers, and of a fair average size. There is a piece of back water running out from it into which, after a flood, large quantities of jack and perch have been left; and, until the last few years, it has not been netted for the recovery of the stray fish, because it has become so choked up with weeds that it has not been found possible to do it. I remember doing this on one occasion, when we got out a splendid lot of jack and some grand specimens of perch, besides a magnificent example of a 6 lb. tench, which ought to have been preserved, as I have never seen one nearly so handsome as this one, and of so golden a yellow. This was the first time of the netting of back waters, and one of the anglers at that time reported it to the Thames Conservators, who, instead of offering any remonstrance, regarded it a necessary and praiseworthy operation. I do not know of any much better place than Borough Head and its neighbourhood to fish for jack and perch just after the water has nicely run down after a flood. On one occasion, and it is now some years ago, I well remember Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge spending a couple of hours one Saturday morning in fishing for perch at the Borough Head, and in that short time he caught 110 fine perch, many of them weighing 1 lb. each. He was attended by his old and experienced fisherman, the veteran William Galloway, who, I am glad to find, is now still hale and hearty. I have fished this particular swim myself for perch with Frank Harris, of Laleham, as the fisherman; and it was astonishing the quantity of perch I got on one occasion; but having a novice with me as a companion, the result was not so good as it might have been, still I was perfectly satisfied, and that is the feeling all anglers should possess, though I do not pretend to set myself up as an expert. I could mention the names of anglers who in their day and generation made the Borough Head their favourite resort for jack, and I have seen their takes and witnessed their achievements with a great deal of pleasure. Although I have not fished it of late years, I have no doubt it still retains its old prestige, and there are still anglers who regard the place as well worth a visit. I have very little time for angling now, but if I wanted a day's jack and perch fishing, I should be inclined to select the Borough Head. It can be approached either by way of Staines or Chertsey, and at both of these places there are capital hosteleries for good and comfortable accommodation. At the former place there is the Rail-

way Hotel, and also the Pack Horse; and at Chertsey which' perhaps, is the nearest point, the Chertsey Bridge Hotel has some good recommendations. The worthy host, Mr. G. H. Thurston, is an angler, and a member of one of the principal London angling clubs; and although absent in the day time through a business engagement in London in the sale of Scally's Bonded Irish Whiskey (which I would recommend my brother anglers to taste from samples which I have no doubt he has at Chertsey) his absence is well made up by the attention of Mrs. Thurston to those who patronise the hostelry. And there is this other recommendation to anglers visiting Borough Head in this direction, that the monster jack which was put in close to the Hotel from Kew Gardens is still at large. At the time it was turned in it was an 18 lb. fish, but it must have got much heavier by this time, as its particular weakness for eating young ducks has been largely developed, Mrs. Thurston having had serious cause to complain of the disappearance of two broods of young ducks on the water, which are put down to the well-known proclivities of the jack in Kew Gardens, of which this one is evidently a remarkable type. I saw a letter from James Haslett, of the Woburn Arms, Addlestone, the other day, and he is one of the Chertsey fishermen, recommending one of his customers to come down, with the additional inducement, "The big jack is still at Chertsey." A good day at Borough Head, and the capture of a 20 lb. jack at Chertsey, would indeed be regarded as a great piscatorial achievement, and it may be possible even to accomplish such a result. I do not say it is probable, but, at the same time, it is not quite unlikely. I can imagine my friend, Mr. G. H. Thurston, on his return from London on such a day, would be delighted as any one to welcome the worthy angler after such an attainment and, for the sake of the future safety of her young ducks, his good wife would, without doubt, be well pleased. B.

PISCICULTURAL EMULATION.

A WATER-LOCKED land, such as England, should ever be watchful of its aqueous resources. Such a truism hardly needs to be repeated in these columns, were it not that apathy upon so important a subject has reigned until quite recently. Not but that the earlier pages of our history do not furnish ample evidence of the perception on all sides of the importance of conserving and improving the fisheries of the island. On the contrary, the Roman Catholic domination greatly fostered fish-culture; and previous to the Reformation great attention was paid to the rearing and fattening of fresh-water fishes, and to the laws regulating the ocean fishes of our shores. From those times, to within a decade or two, the importance of such an industry seemed to lapse from the minds of social economists, and until men like Buckland and Francis roused public attention to the matter, and until the American fish-culturists began to realise their magnificent resources, English authorities were content to remain in tranquillity.

The last few years have seen a great change, however—thanks primarily to the late Frank Buckland—and it is instructive to notice how emulation has arisen amongst all classes interested in our fisheries. The Museum of Fish Culture, at South Kensington, has unquestionably had a great hand in this change, especially when under the direct control of its gifted founder; and the secrets of artificial incubation, and, consequently, of the inner natural history of fishes, are no longer hidden and recondite, but plain, and well recognised by a rapidly-growing crowd of fish-culturists and angler naturalists. From such knowledge, of course, emulation and subsequent improvement of methods and implements infallibly emerge, and then we find that piscatorial gatherings vie with each other for priority in results, and that exhibitions of

piscine interest are prominently to the fore—witness the National Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in April at Norwich.

The Berlin International Fisheries' Exhibition, at which many of our prominent fish-culturists (including the late Mr. Buckland) and tackle-makers were well represented, probably did a great deal to bring forth into fruit the seed of the interest sown, many years ago, by the two French fishermen and our own fish-lovers. The extra prizes at Norwich alone will amount to near upon a thousand pounds, and will include awards for essays on "Fish-culture as a source of national wealth," the diseases of fish, as well as models of salmon passes, of breeding houses, boats, *et hoc genus*. Furthermore the Home Office has lent its aid, and it is announced in the FISHING GAZETTE that their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales have definitely decided to open the exhibition. Under such favourable auspices, the affair cannot but be a success, especially as it is a fact that almost every prominent tackle manufacturer has entered an exhibit.

The bearing which such practical competition has upon the fisheries of this country is obvious to the most obtuse. An impetus is given to an industry which is of the most vital importance to a thickly populated and water-locked country. The laborious investigations and excellent suggestions to this and former Government inspectors of fisheries, have a real chance of showing their efficiency—possibly indirectly, but nevertheless really. Another consideration also forces itself upon us in the rapidly growing love of inland fishing in anglers. Not a week passes in either of our large cities but an angling fraternity is established. In London alone, the number is so large that the railway companies find it expedient to extend concessions to the members of most of them. Sheffield and Manchester are almost as enthusiastic in this respect as the metropolis, and in the kingdom it may be safely computed that there are at least 60,000 persons who make angling their chief recreation. In light of this, fish-culture must of necessity be stimulated, and the emulation to which we have referred is a healthy sign of the progress of the times. An Englishman's love of sport is proverbial, and it would be a regrettable day when its decadence could be demonstrated. Angling is one of the most harmless and fascinating of all recreations. To utilitarians, such an item—as a nation's ocean and river fisheries—is an item of speculative import; and it is therefore with gladness we notice the emulation which seems growing in connection with such matters.

A NEW WORK ON TROUT-FISHING.

MR. THOMAS FORD, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, sends us a copy of his recently-published work, "Trout-fishing." It is most carefully written, and the price is only one shilling. The descriptions of 130 flies which it contains are most valuable, and in addition it has some sensible remarks on the various methods of fishing for trout and the best tackle and rods to use. It is thoroughly worth a shilling; in fact, we can only find fault with the statement that fly-fishing is "gentle exercise." Our experience is that it is the most delightful but hardest of work; at any rate, we have found wading seven or eight miles against the current of a roaring trout-stream strewn with slippery boulders, and throwing the fly eight or ten times a minute, is anything but "gentle exercise."

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

FISHING GAZETTE Office, Friday, noon.

WE fear the continued downpour of the last twelve hours will again put the rivers out of order, and the "meteorological" officials promise nothing more encouraging than "rain or snow." It is a blessing they are not always quite right in their prognostications or the angler's life would not be worth living.

MID-THAMES.

"Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Little has been attempted and little done in the fishing line during the past week, although the condition of the Thames is everything that could be desired for winter angling. The stream is still very rapid in consequence of the weir tackle being open, but there are thousands of quiet nooks and corners, besides boughy haunts, where logger-headed chub can be beguiled therefrom with the succulent nerve matter from the backbone of the bovine species, or with the most tempting and killing of bait, in my estimation, the wriggly tail of a bright, flat, well scoured loebworm. These haunts are also frequented by perch, roach and even jack, all of which scaly beauties are only too glad to get away from "a flood which leads to"—well to destruction. At Boveney and Bray some excellent chub and perch have been had, and also at Monkey Island the details of which the ever-green Bob Plummer will doubtless supply the readers of the GAZETTE with. At Bourne End, Mr. Brooksbank has been to the fore with chub and roach, and several local anglers have done fairly in these always good waters. From Marlow I glean that Mr. Stockbridge has had a jack of 6 lb., and Dr. Carpenter, with Tom White, fishing under Quarry Wood, a beautifully-conditioned jack scaling 12½ lb. A gentleman, with Young Shaw, on Tuesday took two jack of decent proportions, other anglers have also done well in these waters, and if fishermen will but come down and brave that *déte noir*, the east wind, good bags are sure to accrue. At Temple, the brothers Coster have been amid the perch, on one occasion, getting some 11 doz. of these fresh-water soles. At Hurley and Medmenham some bank anglers have been well on the roach and chub, one of the latter scaly beauties being weighed by the obliging hostess of the Black Boy, an 1 going 4 lb. From Henley, once more my obliging correspondent sends me a pennyworth as follows:—Mr. Towsey, fishing near Marsh Lock, two jack, one going 7 lb. and his brother 4 lb., besides a good basket of decent perch; Mr. Johnson, with young Parrott, some good perch; best 2 lb.; C. Hamilton, one jack 7 lb., and six brace of perch; Mr. Phillips, with Haavey, 20 lb. of chub and perch; Mr. Witham, two jack, 6 lb. and 3 lb. respectively. Otters have been very busy of late in the neighbourhood of Henley and Shiplake, the remains of several good fish having been found, notably that of a carp going 8½ lb.—a fish which, when whole, must have scaled 11 lb. at least. From Reading, Maple Durham, and Pangbourne I hear that perch and chub are being had in galore.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River in splendid trim. Big bags must be made by those who know how to go to work if they will not fear to attempt.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Going).

Water in good order for jack and perch. Saturday two jack going 8 lb., and some good roach; Monday, 4 jack; Tuesday a gentleman from 48, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale, London, 3 jack, going 12½ lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Twickenham).

The river is now in good order for fishing. I have had some nice takes of roach and dace during the week. Mr. Beard took 9 dozen good-sized this day (Thursday), with a very bad easterly wind.

N.B.—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of £2 from Capt. Moss of Hanwell, and 15s. from Mr. R. Vart and friends, the Ship, Lime Street, City, for Tom Brand.—ALFRED PIERCE.

Thames (Windsor).

Water in prime order, has fallen considerably since my last, and is now an excellent colour. A good many bank anglers have been braving the cold winds of the last week, but with the exception of a few, nothing much has been done. Mr. Lumsden, of Etonwick, last Sunday had a nice jack of 8 lb., 2 dozen of roach and perch, and nine gudgeon. Mr. Parsons, of Windsor, had a nice dish of roach, going about 8 oz. to largest, 1 lb. 3 oz., and Mr. Stewart, in the lock cut, took a nice little dish of perch. Perch, jack, chub, and roach are to be had now from under the boughs and old pollard stumps. Some thumping great chub ought to be got in the quiet bends and eddies. Jack and perch are on the *qui vive*, only waiting for a fat dace or plump minnow.—R. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Avon (Christchurch).

I am glad to say this river is now in good order for fishing. A brace of fine pike were taken yesterday in Mr. Newlyn's water. The salmon fishing has opened well. At the mouth of the river, known as the "run," a fine male salmon was taken last week of 38 lb.; on Saturday last two female fish, of 21 and 20 lb., in perfect condition; and yesterday a pair, of 24 and 25 lb. each.—T. J. M.

Devon (Ilfracombe).

There have been fair catches of grey mullet, small bass, whiting pout, plaice, dabs, &c., caught this week with rod and hand lines from the piers. We find mussel or thornback's liver the best bait for those fish. Richard Rice and party shot a small drag net or seine in the outer pier on Tuesday last, at low water time, and enclosed a fine lot of mullet and bass, but in hauling the net

on to the beach it burst in the boat, and instead of landing three or four cart-loads, they had to be content with scrambling up about four cwt., all the others made their escape seawards.—HENRY COSMER.

Dove (Derbyshire).

This river has been in grand condition all the week, running at nice height and in rare colour. Snow, however, has been nearly a foot thick on the ground, and since Saturday there have only been a few rodsters out. Some nice jack have fallen to the attractions of the Devon and a few barbel are reported to have come to hand from the lower waters. The Trent Fishery Board are about to impose a trout license of one shilling per rod. It is certainly not a big sum to pay, and I don't think anybody will be mean enough to object to it. I can hear of but few grayling having been captured since my last. Surely the weather will improve before the close time sets in, just to give us one more chance of making up for about the longest and dreariest winter ever known on the Dove.—THE SPODGER.

Dulverton (Somerset).

The rivers are very low and clear, too bright for good angling. The weather now is bitterly cold, wind almost due east, and until it changes and we get a little rain, with milder weather, fishing will be almost at a standstill. Very little sport has been had during the past week. A few trout have been taken, but not many, with the blue upright, February red and silver twist. The last two or three nights we have had 12 degrees of frost.—W.

Exe (Exeter).

During the past week the weather has been magnificent, suitable for all kinds of out-door sport. The easterly wind certainly was rather searching, but soon forgotten in the bright sunshine, by those who to the trout stream swiftly hie, and there shake out the trembling mimic fly; such was done by a few during the latter part of the week, but with very poor success. The river was getting down in splendid order, and many were the appointments for this week, but alas, we are once more in the depth of winter again, which recalls the words, "The hackles light as random snow"; and random snow we have had, commencing on Sunday morning and lasting until dark, when between two and three inches had fallen, and with a severe frost during the night, has not increased fresh vigour to the jaded mind. The sun is certainly gaining power, but out in the open fields the frost has not given in the least, and there is every appearance of a very sharp night and probably more snow. A few trout have come to bank, but not of any size, and report states that there were never seen so many spring salmon in the river so early before, so that both anglers and netmen may look forward for a good season. Very few kelts have been seen going back. No doubt that when the river came down in such a raging torrent, overflowing the banks and submerging the meadows, an immense number were hurriedly carried down to sea. The estuary men are again at work, for the herrings have unexpectedly returned, and their catches have reached 10,000 to 12,000 a night, which have made from 27s. to 30s. per thousand. Other fish scarce, and likely to be until we get into more settled weather, and then, with health, and rod and liberty in ample store, we will haunt and fish the trout streams. Say, who could wish for more?—FRANK GOSDEN.

Lee (Co. Cork).

Nothing of consequence has been done on the Lee during the past week, and there appears to have been as little on the Blackwater. The easterly winds "Boycotted" anglers on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and on Sunday a slight fall of snow was followed by a severe frost, which set in with all the rigours of winter, and lasted over Monday and Tuesday. On Sunday—the only day I can enjoy with freedom—I went out with a few friends, and though the weather presented a cold and cheerless aspect, we had a fair share of sport. Two fine springers fell to our rods, one being a regular beauty of 12 lb., caught on a lemon-grey. Several other fish were hooked and lost. One of the party met no less than five fish, and failed to land any. On the same day a springer was landed at Carrigwhid, near Macrom, and since then I have heard but of one fish being taken—a fine springer of 14 lb., killed on Tuesday by a farmer residing near the bank of the river. The cold weather has been against piscatorial exercise of every kind. Few trout anglers have been out. Those who faced the cold were ill rewarded. As I write, however, the weather has undergone a favourable change. The grey frost of Tuesday night was succeeded yesterday by a complete break. Last night a heavy storm prevailed, with torrents of rain. To-day the Lee is swollen, and the snow-water as well as the "slats" will be cleared out, and the river be prepared for more successful operations than have hitherto characterised the angling on the Lee.—ANGLER.

Medway (Tunbridge).

The weather has fined down beautifully, and is just what anglers are pleased to see for winter fishing, but the wind during the week has been bitterly cold, and very few anglers have been out. Jack will be on the feed as soon as the wind changes from the east, and a dace will be a killing bait. Roach, bream and chub will readily take a brantlin. This week one angler got a brace of jack below the town, one scaling eight and the other five pounds. Roach have been plentiful and of large size, one weighing 1½ lb. Last week Foster, the water bailiff, trapped a dog-otter in the fishery, which weighed 12 lb. and measured 42 inches from the top of nose to the end of tail.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Shepperton and Weybridge.

Since the floods have gone the water is in good condition for angling. Very good for another week for jack, perch and roach fishing. I have myself been out with a gentleman the last two days, for the first time since the flood, and caught three jack and half-a-dozen nice perch, the largest jack weighing 9 lb., and one of 4 lb. and one of 3 lb. H. Kerr, of Weybridge, caught one jack of 8 lb.—W. ROGERSON.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The weather still continues very cold, with occasional showers of snow. Last week was the best with the cot-fishers—the two Clonmel Clears killed thirty-seven salmon. The rod-fishing is quietly progressing. Mr. Thompson, at Kilmore, killed two spring fish; Mr. Dolton, one, at Athassel; Tom Russel, a small one of 7½ lb., at Molough; and Mr. Quinlan, two, at Suirmont, weighing 13 lb. and 14 lb. respectively. Mr. Cook was the first that killed a fish on the upper waters at Newcastle this season. Mr. Hutchings, at Barnard, hooked a fine spring fish, but did not succeed in gaffing it. The trout are not rising freely to the fly on the Suir yet, owing, likely, to the intense cold of the weather and so few natural flies as yet to be seen on the water. Mr. Middleton, on the quay at Clonmel, killed some fine trout with the minnow, with which fishing he is always most successful. The gold wren is the favourite fly at present, the fish are probably taking it for the March-brown, which is the only fly to be seen on the water now—it does not usually make its appearance till

the middle of this month. If the weather gets a bit soft, we expect to be able to tell of good sport for next week.—DORA.

Thet (Norfolk).

The angling society held a meeting of its committee a few days since, and it was decided to have their first angling competition between the 1st and 14th of March, both days inclusive. All the fish are to be caught between the Town Bridge and Santon Downham Bridge, and weighed on the day caught. The prizes to be awarded are for the largest pike, 1st, 21s.; 2nd, 10s.; and the largest perch, 10s. 6d. It is expected that some very fine fish will be caught.—ANGLER.

Trent.

In this locality I have not heard of a single angler visiting the river the past week. Writing to-day our keeper remarks that both the Trent and Tame are rapidly going down, but the water in the Tame still very much discoloured from the melted snow which fell in this district last Saturday. Trent in fair order but not quite right; if there is no more snow it will be in something like order by Saturday. Wind very cold; anything but like fishing weather.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

We regret to say we hear from the wife of the "Trent Otter" that he is much too unwell to send a report this week. We are sure all our readers wish him a speedy recovery.

Trent (Nottingham).

The water in the early part of the week came down much discoloured, which was caused doubtless by the snow melting so quickly both in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. The river, however, only rose a few inches, but the water for several hours was too thick for the fish to see a bait; a change, however, took place for the better between Monday night and Tuesday morning, which was soon noted by a couple of our noted rodders, who at once started to a favourite length of water in the neighbourhood of Burtonjoice, and after selecting suitable swims soon found the roach and chub ready to feed on worms. Of the latter fish seven were caught, averaging over 3 lb. each, and two of them weighed some ounces over 4 lb. each. The sample of roach also was good, most of them going nearly a pound each, and altogether the catch was 40 lb. in about four hours. On Wednesday several nice bream and some capital roach and dace were taken with the same bait—a cockspur worm—and although there must have been snow in the waters, the anglers who were out on Tuesday and Wednesday say the fish bit well. The water to-day (Thursday) is in capital order for bottom fishing, though the wind has been blowing cold from the east, which is sure to take the fish off the feed, or nearly so. The backwaters are in good condition for pike fishing, and several nice jack have been taken with live bait. If the snow will but keep off there will be a chance of some good sport for some days to come.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

I have not heard of a single angler turning out on either of the above rivers. Since my last report, owing to the great quantity of snow that has fell, and the severity of the weather. The snow seems to be going a little to-day (Thursday), but it bitter cold, with hard prospects of angling.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

Some good takes of roach, dace, perch, &c., are again reported this week, Mr. Walker Capon, of White Lion Street, being again to the fore. He exhibited a splendid lot of fish at the E. A. P. S. club-house, on Tuesday, including some remarkably fine dace, the entire catch being taken at Postwick Grove, and in not more than three feet of water. It was quite a sight the other morning at Thorpe, for I counted no less than a dozen boats on the small broad, and with no wind and the sun shining brilliantly, one could almost persuade oneself it was May instead of February. The pike match of the Norwich Angling Club was a decided success, a full report of which will be found elsewhere. I am sorry to have to complain of one or two incidents connected with our river this week. First, a correspondent, who signs himself "Fairplay" in your last week's issue, complains of some "gentlemen" netting in the Wensum, at Thorpe; one could scarcely have believed that such an act would have been perpetrated by the most daring of poachers, so near Norwich, let alone by those so-called "gentlemen," and although not doubting the veracity of "Fairplay's" statement, I determined to find out if any one had had the audacity to do such a thing, when strangely enough, I fell in with two anglers who witnessed the whole affair; and, what was still more contemptible in these misnamed "gentlemen," after inquiring of "Fairplay" as to his success, actually cast their net completely into his swim, thus, not only capturing some very fine perch, but entirely spoiling his sport. "Fairplay's" temper was one to be envied on this occasion, as after simply remonstrating with these "daylight marauders," he drew his moving poles, and rowed away, leaving these "gentlemen" to enjoy their quiet little game. Surely when we have a "Yare Preservation Society," which provides water-bailiffs and all necessities for the protection of our rivers, such diabolical acts as these are simply disgraceful, both to the so-called "protection society" and also to those gentlemen who lend themselves to such mean actions. Inquiring of my informants if these gentlemen were known to them, they told me they were, and came from a large establishment close to the spot where they were carrying on their nefarious pastime. I think our thanks are due to "Fairplay" for bringing this matter before the public, but they would have been more especially so had he demanded from them their names and addresses, which even he, as a private individual, could have done. Presuming this kind of thing to be allowed, I think the best thing for our anglers to do is to arm themselves with the "Belgian devil," so as to be prepared against other similar attacks. My next complaint is perhaps a deal more serious than the first, and that is the pollution of our river from the sewerage during the last week. I, in conjunction with two friends, visited the pumping station of the sewerage works at Trowse, on Wednesday last, for the purpose of having some dace fishing, when, judge of our surprise on finding the stream one mass of a white thick substance, and being carried with the tide towards the main rivers. Whether this is as it should be, I am unable to say, but on communicating with Mr. John Hart, of the Thorpe Gardens, he informed me the river had, during the past few days, been almost unbearable. He says: "Huge masses of filth come floating down with the tide, and after getting completely saturated and too weighty to continue their journey, they sink to the bottom, and then as soon as the weather sets in hot, it rises to the surface again, the results of which, in summer time, may be easily imagined." Upon inquiring why this matter should be let into the river, Mr. Hart says that the "Corporation Farm, which was hired for the purpose of receiving this sewerage, has been so completely saturated with it for the last fifteen years, that the land now refuses to accept any more, and will really not absorb it. He informed me he had placed the matter in the hands of some gentlemen residents in Thorpe, who had promised him to lay it before the proper authorities. Surely this is another grievance the Y. P. S. ought to look to.—ANGLER.

OTTERS AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.—III.

IN connection with the large otter traps, before using them some means is necessary whereby to secure them to the ground and prevent them being borne away by any otter caught. To each trap a chain is attached, of sufficient strength to preclude its being broken, and having at one end a round ring, and provided in its length with one or more swivels. These chains may be in length according to the fancy of the person employing the traps, some preferring a long one about 13 feet, others a short one of two. In the case of the former the vermin—of its own accord endeavouring to reach the water when captured—drags the trap by its leg into the stream and is drowned, the chain restraining it from going right off, and contributing considerably to the weight. In the second instance, the chain simply serves to attach the trap to the stake by which it is secured to the ground. Stakes may be made of any sort of wood, we prefer and recommend ash, being tougher and holding better, while more conveniently shaped-out than other woods. They should be 2 feet long, as sometimes the ground is very soft and yielding, offering scarcely any hold at all. The stakes should be split out of a straight piece of ash, "smaked" down sufficiently to receive the ring, which must be easy to drive on up to within 3 inches from the top, when it must be gently tapped home, as rough hammering is very liable to crack the iron, an undesirable occurrence.

It will probably be in softish ground that these large gins are employed; at the most often passed landing place of the otter. Having determined upon a site, lay the trap down with the catch side away from the water, and having—if a short chain—extended this to its full length; if a long one, to 2 feet of its extent; drive in the stake as tightly as it will go, and ascertain that there is no doubt whatever as to its being perfectly secure. For a trap with a short chain, having driven the stake, next form a hollow which will neatly contain the gin when set deep enough to allow the plate to be a shade beneath the level of the surface. Then carefully set the trap, giving all forethought as to fingers and such, like. Having set, place the trap in position, and having put a small stick over one jaw and under to support the plate, commence covering at the chain and so down till the jaws are reached. To cover these, some usually employ a sieve and sift the earth or sand over; but if dispensed with, sufficient earth to cover must be heaped upon and be outside, and be evenly and gently smoothed over, the jaws, plate, &c., until everything is concealed, the plate meanwhile being prevented from falling by the small stick held beneath it. When the setting is complete, a large bunch of gorse, broom, or branch of a tree must be obtained, and having been well wetted in the adjacent water, it must be shaken over the trap, chain and any footprints left by the person on the ground until all trace of same and scent is completely dispersed; for we must observe that any signs of a suspicious nature would be very much lessen any chance of a capture, hence the above precautions.

The employment of large-sized rabbit-gins for catching otters is both necessary and advisable under the remaining conditions where these river vermin may be trapped for, when it is impracticable to use the larger ones. The largest size of rabbit traps made measure 5 inches in the jaw, and are therefore handy enough, while still offering, when set, a large space in which the otter can put its foot. The best traps of this sort are obtainable of either of the makers we named, and if they be chosen with a view to the strength of the spring, engines quite capable of retaining the hard leg of the otter can be easily obtained. These gins require stakes fitting to them, of a similar nature as to the others, only not so long, 15 to 18 inches being quite sufficient. When the necessary number of gins are prepared, one may proceed to set them, choosing the middle of the day as

decidedly the most suitable time to undertake the operation, as it will then allow any scent left to work off before the otters stir abroad.

In order to be at all successful, careful observations of the banks of the stream or pond must be made, to ascertain, as certain as possible, if not the only spots where the otters land, at least those where they more frequently do so. They have always one or several such places to which they swim with captured fish, or when simply leaving the water. There are sure to be spots of the kind indicated in our former article, and are distinguishable by the presence of the "seal" left by the otter's foot, a print quite different to that of any other animal, more especially on soft or sandy shelving banks are these pad-marks most prominent. Having determined as to these, the traps may be set either in the water or on the land; we prefer the latter position. If the former, set three or four of the gins, take them well down, and place them in the water, in such place that the varmint, when landing, perforce, in order to effect this end, puts a foot on one or more of the traps, and, being caught, it will probably get into difficulties with the others near. Care must be observed when killing thus, not to put the trap too far into the water, or too deep, otherwise anything would probably swim over them; otherwise they are often enough effectual, and it is not at all an unadvisable plan to provide all likely places of this nature with one or two gins set in the manner indicated. If the "killing" of the traps is to be made on the ground near the water's edge, they must be placed according to what one may consider to be the most likely way to produce good results, the setting similar to the larger ones already mentioned, and the sprinkling of water to disseminate any scent or evidences suspicious.

But the most "likely" places are to be found under the following circumstances:—Every otter, or sometimes pair of otters, has a spot to which it resorts at least once a day, at which to deposit its excrement; this place is sometimes in the open and sometimes, but less often, adjacent to any places which might by their appearance denote to the presence of the animal lair. In order to discover this place, one must look about for deep holes in the river to which the fish, when pursued, are likely to swim to for probable safety, and having discovered a seeming one, further search must be made on the bank for evidence of the otter's visit, which may be apparent by two or three yards from the edge of the water of a small spot where the grass is uncommonly luxuriant, and which, on being parted, displays the animal's dropping, easily distinguished by a copious portion of fish bones. One must now, if possible, determine on the direction of the vermin's track from the water, occasionally very plain, at other times quite indiscernible. In the latter case a beginning may be made of forming one by working the foot backward and forward on the grass. Then, where the real or made track reaches the bank, carefully set one trap so that any otter trying to reach the bank may be taken, while several more must be placed round the knoll of grass, staking them to the earth and covering all carefully up, finally sprinkling water over the traps set and the track made.

Whenever a fish can be obtained, if caught by an otter is immaterial, it can be employed to advantage by being placed in a nicely conspicuous situation and enough gins "killed" about a foot or so from it to catch any otters lured by the smell. More particularly when put close to the water-edge is this movement most enticing, and a great number of the fish marauders can in time be taken. It is very often usual to substitute for the short chains, a long thin, or a wire-threaded cord, so that instead of trusting to the trap to hold any captive till one comes, it may reach the water, and swimming out drown itself.

We do not see that there is much further to be said regarding

otters and also how to catch them; if the latter portion has not been sufficiently clear to the uninitiated, we shall be only too pleased to give them all the information one can. Of course, some considerable insight into the habits of the otters is necessary, although what we give is the result of observation. A recommendation to prove this true should be acted on, and it will be found a valuable aid to those who desire to put a limit upon the depredations of *lutra*, by catching some and warning the others off through the discomfiture of their companions.

ERICA.

A FOREST TROUT STREAM.

HOW often when conning the pages of the FISHING GAZETTE have we indulged in a quiet smile at the enthusiasm displayed by some angler when writing up the incidents of a fishing trip: the lovely trout stream flowing through open meadows, or preserved park lands; of their daintily handling a favourite cast of flies; their freedom from care because there are no trees or shrubs to hang to when retrieving their casts; of the expressions of pleasure when they had killed a dozen trout.

To such gentlemen, I would like to introduce some of the hard work growing out of the fishing of an American Forest Trout Stream.

Can you imagine a stream, coming rushing, boiling, surging out of a dense forest, the brush and undergrowth forming the river banks, so interlaced that it is difficult to tell where the banks end and the water begins; it is a common expression with us, "The brush is as thick as the hair on a dog's back," and you must fight your way through it inch by inch. Hence we fish from boats, for it is impossible to wade this stream—the bottom is too treacherous.

We intended camping on the banks of this stream. So, on the eve of July 17th two friends stood on the deck of one of our fine lake steamers, with our camping material and fishing tackle around us; we saw everything stowed away, and secured our state room, then gave ourselves a vigorous fanning. It had been a fiercely hot day, the thermometer had touched 98° in the shade, we had seen limp and inanimate forms borne into the drug stores sun-stricken; we were glad to get away from the scorching city. As we steamed out into Lake Michigan, we hailed with delight the prospects of a cool, breezy ride, of nearly 400 miles.

The second day at noon found us camped beside our trout stream in a small clearing of the forest. After getting our camp arranged we decided to take a survey of the stream; so after dinner started up stream alone in a small boat. Before proceeding I must describe these boats as they form so important a part in our camp life. They are not punts, though flat-bottomed boats; they are about 12 ft. long, flare-sided, about 3 ft. beam amidships, running to a sharp stem and stern. They will row easily with oars, but for paddling they are perfection; they are very easily thrown off balance, and one unskilled in handling them will probably find himself dumped into the water, sans ceremony. Yet we have seen Indians handling them with nothing but an old blanket for a sail, and a paddle to steer with, and bring them through a boiling sea that made us hold our breath fearing they were all drowned, yet when they beached them close to where we stood, two squaws and some pickaninies bundled out of the boat without being damp, and not a quart of water in the boat.

In our boat we took a paddle and a good boat-hook to pole up stream, but we had underrated the strength of the current and misjudged our own strength. In the rapids we pushed and tugged, gaining only inch by inch, then only by getting out of the force of a six-mile current and pushing along the bank, but by hard work and sticking at it did we push through these rapids. Soon we found the river broadens out into a small lake, from

which rises some wild ducks and a big blue heron. We paddle across this forest gem, for this lake lies in an unbroken forest of grand old hemlocks, away even from the sound of the woodman's axe, pushing up into the quieter reaches of the river.

Here and there we came upon a swifter piece of water, or a series of ripples, at the foot of which lay a deep hole. Looking down we see many trout dart out of its depths as we silently paddle our boat over it; but we push on intent on reaching the upper portion of the river that now begins to narrow, and increases in strength. We are obliged to put forth all our muscle, and use our tact to keeping the boat heading up stream; once let it swing and get the advantage of us, and it will tip us into this icy cold water.

Almost every boat's length we see trout darting from the sunken logs and snags that lay along and across the river bottom; but we cannot fish; we have all we can do to hold our footing. We push on until the shadows begin to fall upon us in this quiet valley. Hidden under the lofty hill-tops, and the towering trees around us, there is not room for our boat to turn, so we hang on to a submerged log and take a breathing spell, charmed by all the beauties around us.

Everything on such a stream calls forth the admiration of one whose soul can enjoy all things beautiful. The hills clad to their tops with the primeval forest, every turn shows some new beauty in them. We let loose our hook, and quietly drift along down stream, happy and contented; our boat requires no effort on our part except an occasional swirl of the paddle to guide its course.

One can give themselves up to their sweetest musings while they float along; and as the sun sinks, the gloaming creeps into the dells and dingles, the shade of the monster trees add new charms to the varying landscape, toning down everything rugged and broken. The Boyne is just such a stream; to the lover of Nature it is ever charming; to the lover of the gentle art it commends itself by the numbers of speckled trout that can be taken from its cold waters.

While we have been thus drifting, the trout are continually breaking water as the evening flies flit over its surface, yet we cannot cast a fly, though well provided with a fly-book and a handsome eight-ounce Orvis greenheart rod. We cannot use them and handle the boat. Another thing, these trout are shy fellows.

The best way to take them is to use a bait and sinker, either worms, squirrel meat, or the ventral fin of a trout, cutting out a small piece of the belly and placing it on a hook, so that the fins spread out. We drop this bait alongside the first log we see on the bottom of the river, from which has washed away the sand, leaving holes that the trout hide in. Swish! something struck us; our little rod bends and the line sings, but we don't give an inch, if we do he is off for some sunken log; he knows them all; every piece of brush, every gnarled knotty stick of timber, every hole, better than you do. Try to bring him near you, and your line is fast while your boat is drifting down stream. Swish! and your leader comes back to you minus hook and bait, but handle him firmly, but gently, and as he weakens slip your landing net under him, and a beautiful marked trout of a pound weight lies in your creel.

Try this same plan lower down stream alongside any sunken log, and, by my faith, you will find as game fellows as you want to handle, and plenty of them too. Sometimes grayling can be caught in this stream, but they have become a rare fish; somehow it has come to be accepted as a fact that trout and grayling cannot live in the same stream, because the former are so aggressive.

Amongst the party we camped with were two men of large size and heavy weight, over six feet in height. One of them, a keen

sportsman and fisherman, but had never caught a trout. When we came into camp and showed our splendid basket of trout, they wanted to fish right away, and as there was yet some daylight, they took our boat. We cautioned them to handle it carefully, or it would damp them.

They paddled up to the foot of the rapids, about fifty yards above camp, while we watched them. The current was very swift and swung the boat, in spite of Bill's efforts to steady it. Captain cautiously rose to his feet, and dropped his baited hook down alongside a big log on the bottom of the river. There was a rush, a quick strike, a yell, as the boat canted, "I've got him," from captain.

"Steady there, Bill!"

"Golly, captain, don't lose him; I'll get the landing net."

Bill, in his hurry, tripped and stumbled over an old can in the bottom of the boat.

"Hold on, Bill, don't tip me over!"

The boat was too cranky for such gyrations as these. Bill, in his anxiety to reach the fish, threw the excited captain off his balance—in an instant he was up to his arm-pits sitting in the water, while Bill, convulsed with laughter, was doing some lofty acrobatic work in the vain endeavour to steady the boat; but, in his floundering, he lost his foot-hold, over he went up to his neck in water, in a hole a little below where the captain fell in.

In less time than it takes you to read this incident, captain was on his feet and reeling in his fish; taking him by the gills he climbed the bank just as Bill came splurging across the river. The rest of the party who were in camp ran when the captain took his tumble. When we got to them we found the two admiring their first grayling; while Bill exclaimed, "Say, captain, honest now, ain't it worth while getting a ducking to capture such prime fellows as these. After fishing for muddy cat-fish and suckers, sure enough this is first blood for the Hoosiers, for they have caught the first grayling in this party."

Such are some of the every-day experiences in fishing a fores trout stream.

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Chicago, U.S.A., Jan. 1st., 1881

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

MESSRS. KEWELL AND SONS' NEW LIST OF FISHING TACKLE. It is more than 20 years since we first bought and used tackle made by Messrs. Kewell and Sons, of 197, St. John Street Road, London, E.C., and we can speak from long personal experience of the excellence and very moderate cost of their goods. Their new list contains some useful information in addition to its business contents, and we think every angler ought to have it. Mr. C. Kewell is himself a first-class angler, and, of course, that enables him not only to supply the proper thing, but to advise a beginner in any branch of angling as to what will suit him best. The eel-fishing season is coming on and we hope our readers will remember the capital arrangement of eel hooks, for use with lobworms, which was originally made for Mr. W. J. Carter, which Messrs. Kewell now sell large numbers of.

JACOB'S LADDER. By Barbara Wordsworth. London: Wyman and Sons.

It is rarely that a book of short stories is successful, but we sincerely hope this volume will be. It is a most charming little work and fully deserves the high praise which was bestowed on it by the *Academy* last week. The music, poems, and stories are all much above the average, and if any of our readers want a pleasant, pure book as a present for a daughter, we can recommend this.

IMPROVED "GARNET" QUILL MINNOWS.

MR. WILLIAM ATKINSON, of 8, All Hallows Lane, Kendal, writes to us:—"Seeing you have a notice of the 'Garnet' Quill Minnow in your last, I have great pleasure in sending you some samples of my improved quill, which I hope will meet with your approbation."

The specimens sent are very nicely made, and we like the colouring better than in the old ones. We need say nothing more in praise of this deadly bait, except that it should be used on a fine stained trace, and with three swivels, and spun down stream.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

IDENTIFICATION OF RARE FISH.

SIR,—As an old co-worker of our late lamented friend, Mr. Frank Buckland, I should be pleased to do anything to assist any of your readers in my district in identifying any rare fish and reporting upon them to your paper.

I have already a nucleus of a fish museum, and hope some day to be able to present it to the public should one be started in Plymouth. Among my collection I have a cast of a mackerel, the largest on record, which weighed, when caught, nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The specimens should be carefully packed, if possible in ice, and forwarded by the quickest route, carriage paid, to—Yours truly, 195, Union Street, Plymouth. WILLIAM HEARDER, F.L.S., F.S.A.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—Among the "club reports" in your issue of February 12th, there appears one purporting to come from our society, and signed W. H. Dabchick. Again, in last Saturday's GAZETTE, under the same heading, signed "H. W.," merely the previous initials transposed, and the "Dabchick" flown. These reports (so called) do not represent the doings of the society, and are nothing more than bad examples of "ink slinging," and as such likely to mislead members and friends at a distance.

The first notice—that of February 12th—can be passed over as an abortive attempt at jocularity; but the second—that of last Saturday—contains a statement that must not go uncontradicted, as it casts a slur upon those gentlemen who were elected that evening, viz., Wednesday last.

There were three gentlemen up for election that night, viz., Messrs. A. Piolaine, J. Kearns and W. H. Green, as honorary members, and, I am happy to say, that instead of there being any black balls, those gentlemen were elected unanimously.

The committee have endeavoured to find out the source of these reports, and their enquiries show that they have not emanated from any member of the club; therefore I have the authority of the "executive" in asking you not to receive and print any account of our doings at our "club house," except those sent by myself, the authorised reporter of the society. Trusting you will kindly insert this *in extenso*, I am, &c., VERITAS.

Larkhall Angling Society, Feb. 28th, 1881.

"GENTLEMEN POACHERS."

SIR,—Under this heading, "Fair Play," in your paper of the 26th, complains of "three occupants of a boat" using a cast net in the River Wensum; but he does not say they were gentlemen (notwithstanding the above title), neither does he state his case with sufficient particulars to enable any one to tell him whether the fishing was legal or not.

How much more practical it would have been if, instead of troubling you on the subject, "Fair Play," had enrolled himself a member of the Yare (Wensum) Preservation Society, and, by his subscription, assist in preventing illegal practices on the river. He would then be entitled to a copy of the bye-laws, and thus be enabled to answer the question himself.—I am,

EDWARD FIELD, Hon. Sec., under Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries' Act.

Ipswich, Feb. 28, 1881.

P.S.—Can you believe it, Mr. Editor? Neither of those gentlemen who last year wrote so strongly about subscribing, has sent us one penny.

TROUT FLIES.

SIR,—Like yourself, I am an old fisherman—having commenced nearly forty years ago. With regard to the number of flies to be used—while, on the one hand, I cannot agree with Mr. Pennell, that three artificial flies, or non-descripts, are sufficient for all purposes; on the other hand, I believe that very many anglers carry more flies in their books than there is any occasion for. Certainly green, brown and yellow are not sufficient for me, as I generally take my best fish with a white moth towards evening. I think that the happy mean is the right thing in this respect, as in many others. I generally carry about thirty kinds of flies in my book, but scarcely ever use more than a dozen, and get as good sport as men who use a much larger assortment. My favourites are:—"Red spinner" (two sizes), "March brown," "red palmer," "blue dun," "coachman," "May fly," "black gnat," "white moth," "oak," "sedge," "Coch a Bondhu," and one or two others. And the best general fly for all times and seasons I have found to be

RED PALMER.

ANGLING CLUBS NEAR LIVERPOOL OR BIRKENHEAD.

SIR,—Will some of your Liverpool or Birkenhead readers kindly furnish me with the names and addresses of any clubs in the above places, and much oblige—Yours, &c., BIRKENHEAD.

[Thanks for the suggestion.—ED.]

GOOD COARSE FISHING WANTED,

SIR,—As an old subscriber I venture to trouble you. I am advertising for some really good coarse fishing (with residence attached, if possible), and thought perhaps you would be willing to assist me by putting a little query to your subscribers in some corner of your paper, as probably some of them may have what I want. I am not particular as to rent, so long as I can expect really good sport.—I am, &c., JAMES PURDEY.

314 $\frac{1}{2}$, Oxford Street, London, 1st March, 1881.

CURIOUS FISHES.

SIR,—I beg your pardon, and shall swerve for once a degree from my old rut—that of brevity. On Friday last, happening to drop in, at the intimation of young Tomkins, at Mrs. French's, of 109, King Street, I was pleased to see some fish that are of unfrequent occurrence, at least on *terra firma*. Two lump fish (*Cyclopterus Lumpus*), one of which, a good specimen, covered the tape at $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, lay on the slab. This thick ugly fish fell but half an inch of the standard size. It swims edgeways. Its dingy-coloured back and sides are rough, and covered with several rows of bony knobs. By means of the "sucking apparatus on its belly it can fix itself to various substances. Goldsmith says, "If flung into a pail of water it will stick so close to the bottom that on taking the fish by the tail, one may lift up pail and all, though it holds several gallons of water." Its flesh is flabby and insipid, though, as an old book asserts, "It is white, and tastes like salmon, and if pains were taken in the dressing might be made a delicacy." Greenlanders and seals—whose habits and tastes are much akin—alike esteem this fish a delicacy; the former making a grand dish of the roe—rather than they than me.

Mrs. French showed me also a specimen of the wolf-fish (*Anarichas Lupus*), sometimes termed sea-wolf, but by 95 per cent. of our seafaring friends the *cat-fish*. From a side view of its head, and the canine-looking teeth, it has a decidedly Old Tom look. It is one of the few fishes provided with fore teeth and grinders, and "these are so strong," relates the book above-mentioned, "that if it seize on an anchor it will leave the marks of them on it." What provocation the anchor gives to merit such revenge I am not informed. Then woe to the legs of such unlucky bather as Master Lupus may seek to nibble. Inhabiting the Northern Ocean it attains to about fifteen feet in length, but British-caught specimens seldom exceed seven feet. The above fish measured thirty-six inches, with teeth half-an-inch out of its jaw. Mrs. French had one just five feet long a day or so previously. From its shape I judge it swims slowly and with undulating motion. Greenlanders—those epicures—enjoy its flesh (so they would soaked leather), and it certainly does look eatable, although from the small of the head of one I boiled to get its jaws I could not stomach it. Feeding, as it does, on shellfish, it finds those much easier to masticate than welded anchor.—I am, &c. ARTHUR PATERSON.

Great Yarmouth.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in announcing the receipt of one guinea from the Royal George A.S.; also 6s. 6d. from the members of the Kenningtonian A.S.—I am, &c., J. HOOLE, hon. sec.

March 2, 1881.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match will take place at Ware on Sunday, March 6th, for Mr. Ball's prize and three club prizes. A. SHAKEL.

Feb. 28.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A great many of the members tried their luck last Sunday, but only three succeeded in getting fish. Mr. Say, one jack, from Pulborough, 3 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. A. Plumstead, 2 lb. roach, and Mr. T. Larkman, 2 lb. 9 oz., from the river Lea. Mr. A. Plumstead won Mr. Patrick's prize for the first heaviest weight of roach during the month; Mr. Larkman winning Mr. Berry's prize for the second heaviest.—J. WORLEDGE.

Feb. 28.

AMICABLE WALTONIANS.

The takes of fish at this society have not been very large of late. On the 20th Mr. Jacks had a jack weighing 5 lb.; Messrs. Embleton and Rix, roach from the Lea. On the 27th ult. the members fished for a timepiece, Mr. Embleton proved the winner, with roach from the Lea. The next general return visit takes place at this society on Tuesday, March 8.—C. IRWIN.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of this society were out on Monday last for the purpose of competing for two prizes given by Messrs. Ash and Knox. The following are the names and weights: Mr. Newman, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. dace and roach from Twickenham; Mr. Willoughby, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach and dace from Kempton Park; Mr. Hawkins, 4 lb. roach from Kempton Park; Mr. R. Banfield, 2 lb. 15 oz. roach from Woking; Mr. R. A. Banfield, 2 lb. 3 oz. dace from Richmond. On Sunday next two more prizes will be fished for, the donors being Messrs. R. Banfield and myself.—NEWMAN, hon. sec.

THE BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers fished for three prizes at Rye House on Sunday last, but only the first was won, the winner being Mr. Court with a 2 lb. jack.—W. ALLEN, sec.

March 2.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Bostonians were well to the fore on Sunday last, Messrs. Jennings and Goodge having a good take of roach and perch from the Thames; Mr. Hurt a nice lot of handsome perch from King's Langley.—H. TAYLOR.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

Several of the members were out on Sunday last and met with the following success:—Mr. E. Withers, fishing at Shepperton, took three nice barbel, weighing 6 lb. 4½ oz.; roach and dace, 4 lb. 5½ oz. Mr. Maslin, from Datchet, roach, dace, and chub—a very nice take. Other members weigh-in, but their takes were small. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business. Members wishing to compete for the remaining prizes must apply to the secretary at once, or not later than Thursday, March 10.—E. WILSON, sec.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

The return visit of the above will take place on Monday, March 7th, when they will be pleased to see a good representation of other clubs attend. Several members have been out, and have met with a little sport. Mr. Patching bringing home from Blunham 13 lb. roach, A. Clark jack. Messrs. W. Sargent, B. Sargent, H. Baker, and W. Hyde, had a nice show of roach and jack from King's Langley. A peg-down match will take place at King's Langley on Sunday.—A. CLARK, sec.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit (No. 1, W. C. A. list), will take place at the club house, Monday, March 7th, the club house being the Duke of Cornwall, Lis-more Circus, Haverstock Hill, which is easily reached by N. L. trains to Gospel Oak, Midland trains to Haverstock Hill, King's Cross trains, or 'busses from the West-end, any of these conveyances bringing visitors within two minutes' walk of the club-house. The Cornwall anglers will be proud to see representatives of any society not on the list mentioned, and can promise them an enjoyable evening. Amongst their members, Mr. Patching, during the past week having 15 lb. of splendid roach and chub. Messrs. Galloway and Clark (sec.), a capital take of jack, making together 54 lb., which, considering the state of the water, is very creditable.

Feb. 28, 1881.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members of the above society was out on Sunday last, but did not get any fish, Mr. Hornfeck alone saving us a blank with some very nice roach and dace from West Drayton.—WM. COSTER.

GOLDEN TENCH ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday evening last, again the old complaint was heard, it is all rough wind and snow, enough to blind you, and the water travelling like a racehorse. Our members all out but came home all blank, till the arrival of Mr. Webb. With his perseverance and luck, he had 3 nice jack from the old shop, St. Margarets, the weight 14 lb. 11 oz., the largest fish 6 lb. 9 oz.—T. S. WEBB.

Feb. 28, 1881.

LARKHALL ANGLERS.

There was another musical evening in connection with this society in the club room, the Larkhall, Larkhall Lane, Clapham, on Wednesday evening last, and the room, which is a good-sized one, was filled to an overflow. Since the introduction of Mr. G. F. Spencer to the presidential chair he has, by great energy and perseverance, raised the society to a much larger position, and almost every meeting night new members are enrolled. If the club goes on, as it does now, increasing in numbers and attendance, the worthy host, Mr. Morris, who is its capital treasurer, will find it necessary to extend the accommodation, and this was evidently the feeling on Wednesday evening last, when the members and visitors had to be packed as closely together as possible. It was very little after eight o'clock when Mr. G. F. Spencer took possession of the chair, with Mr. W. Tucker, the hard-working secretary, on his right, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, who had been specially invited, on his left. The minutes, which were carefully kept, being read over and confirmed, the records of the week's weighing-in of fish was given, but owing to the unfavourable weather they only consisted of a few dace and roach out of the tidal waters. Mr. Tucker then gave notice of the annual dinner, which is to take place at Moufflet's Hotel, Newgate Street, on Tuesday, March 22, and there can be no doubt the muster on this occasion will be one of the largest the society has had, as so many of the members are desirous of evidencing their high appreciation of Mr. Spencer's valuable services. Several new members were proposed for election, and then after the distribution of a highly perfumed and nicely got up musical programme, the Chairman declared the termination of business, and proceeded to commence with the harmony to which the remainder of the evening was to be specially devoted. The commencement was made by a selection on the pianoforte by Mr. Hallé, of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, which was most brilliantly executed by the talented artist, and then Mr. G. F. Spencer, as "Director of the Musical Arrangements," with a host of talent to select from, proceeded in rapid succession with the vocal part of the entertainment, which it would be difficult to detail in order to give due justice to all who took a position in it. There was something to please and amuse everybody—both comic and sentimental. In the former Mr. T. Sylvester, in a burlesque scena, greatly distinguished himself and afforded intense amusement. Mr. Fred Howe, with the banjo accompaniment, was deservedly encored in a parody on "Won't you buy my pretty flowers?" whilst Mr. A. Glover took the room by storm in his splendid rendering of "The Lighthouse Light," which was loudly redemanded, the star vocalist substituting another song. Mr. W. Spencer admirably recited "Christmas Day in the Workhouse," his powers of elocution being exceedingly good. Mr. W. Gordon Lawrie, in a humorous song of "Schneider how you vas," was warmly encored. In simply mentioning the names of the other vocalists it is not intended as any disparagement, as all did their parts so well, and all were entitled to great praise. These were Messrs. F. Crontel, A. L. Burgess, J. Edmondson, A. Kennedy, R. Edmondson, C. Broadlake, G. Moore, E. M. Mallett, P. Fitzgerald, Hal Hamilton, Launcelot Green, Creak, C. Broadlake, J. Lovett, &c., &c. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. W. H. Brougham for his attendance on that occasion, which was briefly acknowledged, so as not to interfere with the harmony; and on leaving the room his departure was the signal for musical honours, which were most heartily given. Up to the closing hour there was no cessation in the musical element, all were kept by the Chairman's scientific ruling in perfect humour, and if there

was a regret at all, it was that the evening had so quickly gone, and the joyous proceedings had come to a termination. Several of those present signified their intention of supporting the popular chairman, Mr. G. F. Spencer, at the annual dinner, and there can be no possible doubt that Mr. B. Boyce, the worthy proprietor of Moufflet's Hotel, who is a member of the club, and who was present on this occasion, will do his part in making the banquet of an important and appropriate character. Mr. Tucker announced that Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. P. Geen, and others had promised to be present. The last "charge of the glasses" was a bumper to Mr. G. F. Spencer, and an unmistakable vote of thanks for his valuable duties as president.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a nice little show of fish on Sunday evening, the following members weighing in:—Mr. Humphreys, 5 lb. perch, one weighing 1½ lb., and 12 oz. roach; Mr. Hurgood, 5 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Scott, 13 oz.; Mr. Mead, 11 oz. roach; Mr. Wills, dace, and Mr. Petrie roach and dace. To-day Mr. P. Banfield weighed-in a pretty jack 2 lb. 7 oz. On the last Sunday of the season we have a series of six prizes to be fished for—first, a silver cup, and the other five are money prizes. Only roach, and no private waters.—WM. BROWN, hon. sec.

March 2.

NORWICH ANGLING CLUB.

A piking match by the members of this club was held on Ranworth Broad (by the kind permission of Gurney Buxton, Esq.) on Wednesday, the 23rd inst. Fourteen members entered their names, and on the morning of the match twelve put in an appearance at Mr. C. J. Green's, London Street, whence the party were conveyed by bus (supplied by the Norwich Omnibus Company) to Ranworth Maltsters. The match commenced shortly after ten. The weather was dull, but fine, and for some time no fish seemed on the move, but later on some good fish were taken, principally by live bait. The prizes were won by the following gentlemen:—1st, Mr. R. Moll (hon. secretary), 24½ lb.; 2nd, Mr. W. Provart, 18½ lb.; 3rd, Mr. C. J. Greene, 11½ lb.; 4th, Mr. Hosken, 11 lb. Most of the other gentlemen had fish, and, altogether, considering the late bad weather, the outing was a success.

THE NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The general meeting of the above society took place on Tuesday evening, March 1, at the club house, the Walnut Tree Shades. Mr. Harvey read a very interesting paper upon "Sport in America." Other important matters were discussed, and a very pleasant evening was passed. I will send you a detailed account next week.—ANGLER.

March 2, 1881.

THE PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On the 27th several members of the above ventured out to try and coax the finny tribe out of their natural element. Mr. Minard succeeded in getting some roach from his favourite resort, and thus saved the society from a blank. On March the 6th and the following Sunday a consolation competition will take place for the benefit of those members who have not taken a prize during the season. This society is open to receive a few more members to make up its full number, which is limited to 40. It has already over 30 names on the books, and bids fair to have its complement by the beginning of the next season.

March 2.

PIXIE.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a good muster of members at the club on Monday evening, Mr. Sach in the chair. Dr. Brunton put in an appearance later in the evening. Being the last day according to the club rules for weighing-in perch and pike, there was a very fair show. Mr. J. Ross Faulkner weighed-in 2 perch, 1 lb. 6 oz. and 1 lb. 1 oz. each, also 4 roach, weighing 2 lb.; Mr. Huggett, 2 chub, 2 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Knetchli, 5 pike, weighing 27 lb. 7 oz., the largest fish, 12 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Jardine, 5 pike, weighing 33 lb. 3 oz., the largest fish, 10 lb. 5 oz.—MEMBER.

March 2, 1881.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society at the Station Hotel, on Wednesday evening last, was made very attractive by the introduction of the musical element, which brought together, in spite of the most unfavourable weather, a goodly attendance of members and visitors, the latter having been invited by Mr. F. C. Clench, who now usually presides over the weekly gatherings. Since the introduction of Mr. F. C. Clench, a member of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, Mr. Davis, of the London Piscatorial Society, who has now taken up his residence at Richmond, and several others, the Richmond Piscatorial Society is being made to occupy a most useful and active position, and the weekly meetings are much more largely attended. The chair was occupied on Wednesday last by Mr. F. C. Clench, who was supported by Messrs. W. H. Brougham, (T.A.P.S.) Mr. H. G. Penney, and other members of the Ham-mersmith United Angling Club, Cook (Mortlake), T. Abbott, Davis, Mattress, Dickenson, Rowe, Gaynor, J. Munro, Little, Trinder, Johnson, Houghton, B. Scrutton, Guido, J. H. Gaunt, (hon. sec.), &c., &c. An example was shown to other angling clubs by Mr. F. C. Clench taking the chair precisely at eight o'clock, the time fixed for the commencement of the weekly meetings, as a want of punctuality in this respect is always detrimental to a good and regular attendance. After a few practical observations from the chairman, and the confirmation of the previous minutes, the harmony at once commenced, and was kept up throughout the evening with lively interest. Mr. Guido greatly distinguishing himself in the rendering of a selection of old English ballads, which ended with a verse from the "Death of Nelson." Mr. Guido is gifted with a rich musical voice, which he uses to great advantage, and accompanies his singing on the guitar, which he plays in a masterly style. Mr. H. G. Penney also sang with good taste, and altogether the musical proceedings were most effective. In the course of the evening Mr. F. C. Clench, in a complimentary speech, proposed "Success to the Thames Angling Society," coupling with it the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, who had given them the pleasure of his company on that occasion. Mr. W. H. Brougham, in his response, thanked those present most heartily for their warm reception, and assured them it was the object of his society to do everything that could be done to preserve the fishery for the benefit of all classes of Thames anglers. In conclusion, he wished the Richmond Piscatorial Society every success, and he was sure with so excellent a chairman as Mr. Clench, it would rise to great prosperity. There are

few angling clubs that possess a club room so exquisitely furnished, and where there is so much comfort as the one at the Station Hotel; and in addition to this, the proprietor, Mr. J. Munro, who is also a member of the society, is unremitting in his attention to all. The "creature comforts" are of the best kind, and all orders are attended to in the most satisfactory manner.

THE ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

All those jack fishers who missed visiting this society on the 27th, I must say, lost sight of one of the finest and largest shows of jack taken by one man with rod and line this season, considering the conditions the different rivers have been in since the middle of January. Among those gentlemen who availed themselves of the opportunity I recognised several well-known anglers, including Mr. G. Lee, Mr. F. Dale, Mr. W. Brown, R. Cain, Mr. Boalch, Mr. Beckett, and that never-to-be-forgotten gentleman, Mr. William Randal, and many others, all of whom, on entering the club-room, uttered a half-whistle sort of sound, and adjectives both high, soft, and low were heard in praise of the fish set out in four trays on the table, containing as follows:—Two trays with three fish each, weighing from 9 to 10 lb. each fish, and two trays, four in each, weighing from 3 to 6 lb. each, the gross weight reaching nearly 90 lb. This added to 50 lb. that was exhibited on Thursday evening, the 23rd, made a total of 140 lb. to the credit of Mr. T. Hughes for the week ending Feb. 26, 1881. On March the 6th the members will compete for three valuable prizes, conditions being "Go where, and fish how, you like, according to club rules." Gentlemen taking an interest in angling, and admiring piscatorial triumphs, should pay a visit to this society, which is still held at the Albion, Rodney-road, Walworth, on Thursday and Sunday evenings, and I am quite sure Mr. T. Hughes, or, in event of his absence, Mr. King, will be happy to show them the trophies that decorate the walls of the club-room, which consist of some very handsome jack, weighing from 17 to 20 lb., and a large collection of roach, perch, dace, bream, trout, grayling; also that which is not found in every club collection, a pike perch and a crocodile. In addition to all these, now and then may be heard and seen a "fairy tale" and a
March 2. "PIXIE."

ST. JOHN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th, our show of fish was small in number and size, Mr. Hunt being the only member to show fish; being jack and perch from St. Margaret's. Members will please take notice that a special general meeting will take place on Friday, March 4th, to settle about the prizes not yet won. I beg to state that we take a complimentary visit on Monday, March 7th, to give our new host, Mr. Gill, of the Three Compasses, Cow Cross Street, a bumper. We have two rooms to put you in, so don't be afraid to come in numbers. The club house is within 30 yards of Farringdon Street station.—F. THORLING.
March 1.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 3rd Dr. Carpenter, president of this society, exhibited some nice jack and perch, the largest among the former weighing between 10 and 11 lb., and the latter nearly 2 lb. The rules revising committee sat on Tuesday evening for nearly three hours, and succeeded in getting through the best part of their work, which will be placed before the members for their approval at the at the general meeting (to which all members are summoned to attend) to be held on March 17.—PIXIE.
March 3.

THE TRENT (WESTMORELAND) ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual statement of accounts of this association was issued at the commencement of the week. This year it is more interesting than usual to peruse from the fact that it shows in a measure how anglers have received the arrangement made by the conservators enforcing a license for trout. The past season was the first in which trout became subject to the bye laws giving them protection similar to that accorded to salmon. It was thought at the time the trout licence was enforced that it would have considerable effect upon the funds of the local angling association, and such has proved to be the case, although the falling off in the number of members in the Kent society may be ascribed in part to the unusually bad season. There were many occasional anglers who never threw a line during the whole year, and they, perhaps, only obtaining their association ticket the day before they intended to fish, never took one at all. The members and adults' subscriptions during the past year was about 120 against something like 180 in the previous one. This is a great falling away indeed, and may be taken into consideration by societies similar to that which looks after the Kent when trout licenses for their districts are talked about. Then, again, a number of subscribers who, prior to the advent of the trout licence paid more than the minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. have reduced their payment to that sum. The "professionals" have mostly done this. From the above it will be seen that the Kent Angling Association cannot be in the most flourishing condition. The subscriptions amounted in 1880, to only £23 5s., including 97 subscribers of 2s. 6d. each, 12 of 5s. each, the remainder varying from 21s. each downwards. The Association, however, acts in conjunction with the Fishing Conservators, who appoint a watcher or watchers jointly, the Board contributing £40 thereto. The annual meeting of the association was held on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance of members, but the business transacted was only of local interest. Angling should have commenced on Wednesday, but, unfortunately, we have had a return of the winter, and all around is white. Indeed, on the lake, mountains, and on the hills where the Kent and our streams here have to rise, the snow must lie to the depth of a foot or more, even where it has not drifted. Some very heavy falls of snow took place on Saturday and Sunday. By-the-bye, in your note last week on the quill minnow you say it was invented by Robert Garnett. It was invented by James Garnett, an elder brother—now, unfortunately, deceased—of the man you mention. An otter was trapped not far from Kendal one day last week.—SPRINT.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

The undermentioned members of the above society have had the following catches: From Norwich, on Feb. 18, Mr. Casey, 34½ lb. roach; from Alresford,

Feb. 25th, 3 jack, 25 lb., 1 carp, 5 lb. From Alresford, Feb. 25th, Mr. Howell, 2 carp, 10 lb.—G. A. sec. *pro tem*.
Feb. 26, 1881.

WALTONIANS.

Many of our members were out with one exception. The lakes were very muddling. Mr. Phillips, one of our most successful members at all times, had a magnificent show from Henley of 18 lb. 13 oz., including a fine perch of 2 lb. 1½ oz. Mr. Malcolm came next with 2 lb. 5½ oz. roach, Mr. Parkman, our worthy secretary, next, with 1 lb. 6 oz. ditto; Messrs. Roland, Rushbrook and Good also weighed in fish.—A. J. MARRIOT.

Feb. 27th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On Friday, the 25th, Mr. Boalch visited Richmond, and succeeded in getting some nice dace, which, on being placed in the scales in the evening, were all alive and a-kicking, and required some hard knocks to keep them quiet. It was proposed the same evening that a competition take place on March the 4th for five prizes, one of which is a very handsome walnut writing-desk, nicely filled up, given by Mr. W. Brown. Condition of competition: Go where, and fish how, you like, all fish to weigh according to club rules.—PIXIE.

March 2.

Since writing my last report for this society I have discovered that I have made a mistake in the date of the next competition. It should be March the 6th, and not March the 4th as previously stated. By correcting this you will greatly oblige.—PIXIE.

March 3.

REBECCA AND HER DAUGHTERS.—At a large meeting of magistrates and others interested in the amendment of the salmon fishery laws and the prevention of poaching and rioting, held at Rhayader on Tuesday night, resolutions were carried to the effect that stop-nets should be increased in mesh, that no spearing should be allowed except under certain restrictions, and that samlets should be taken by rod and line. It was also resolved to call the attention of the Government to the pollution of rivers by mines, and a deputation was appointed to wait on the Home Secretary with the view of bringing the resolutions to the notice of the authorities.

TROUT FOR THE THAMES.—Last Tuesday the stock of trout in the Thames was increased by 100 fine fish of the celebrated Wycombe breed, varying in weight from ¼ lb. to 2½ lb., at the expense of the Reading and District Angling Association. The finding of good quarters for the fish was a matter of considerable difficulty—owing to the floods—to Col. Heathcote and the hon. sec. (Mr. A. C. Butler), by whom they were "turned in," but eventually suitable homes were found for all.

SEAKALE, grown in the open air, was cut in the gardens of Tresco Abbey, Islands of Scilly, on Monday.—*Cornishman*.

THE potato-crop (out-of-doors) of the Scilly Islands is reported by the *Cornishman* to be again damaged by frost.

THE brocoli crop of West Cornwall, according to the *Cornishman*, has been further damaged by frost within the last few days.

THE planting of the early potato is being generally carried on in the neighbourhood of Penzance; while the sheltered spots on Mousehole Cliff, the *Cornishman* says, show the potatoes peeping out of the ground.

SIR JOHN ST. AUBYN, Bart., the senior M.P. for West Cornwall, has had an interview with a deputation of Mount's Bay fishermen, who (says the *Cornishman*) express their approval of the new regulations for fishing-boats' lights.

THE Mount's Bay fishing-boats, not being very successful at Plymouth, are returning home, and are in search of mackerel at the very mouth of the Channel. The *Cornishman* reports light catches—only 600 or 700 fish between 20 boats—at 52s. to 57s. per hundred, and nets damaged by passing vessels.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Bandal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, *Fetter Lane, London, E.C.* and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the following, amongst other Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces:—

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1881.

OTTERS AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.—II.

(By an oversight, Paper No. III. appeared last week instead of this one, No. II.—Ed.)

THERE is no animal probably more diverse as far as its haunts are concerned than the otter, some apparently being inclined towards an extent of river so different in character to

that chosen by others, that to find several individuals living in complacent ease under circumstances so essentially contrary in their natural features, appears almost to be an exceptional case than the rule. Some of these vermin of the water find still running shallows, and gently falling stickles, more to their taste than dark eddying pools and rushing rapids, which may be more conducive to the pleasure of life of others of their kind; and although the generally extensive course of streams to which one or certain otters confine themselves, may exemplify many, to some extent, oppositely natured features of a trout or salmon stream, after careful observations it will be apparent enough that where one rather undefined boundary is situate, that there is difference, whether in the rate of the current, in the depth of the water, or the ruggedness of its course, be the inequalities at the sides or on the bottom of the stream. At any rate, each otter has a recognised limit to the distance it goes in search of its food and pleasure; and although sometime this distance is very great, still it has a limit which is duly observed by the animal, and which under ordinary circumstances it never goes beyond, and devotes its by no means welcome attention to the fish which frequent the particular extent of water which it haunts. Any one who has been present at a meet of any of the well known packs of otter-hounds, now so largely patronised, and who has taken part in the proceedings up to the death of the otter, must have been surprised at the great length of river passed and repassed by the animal, between the place where it evidently enters the water for the first time, and the particular spot where the fresh trail is first hit off, the interval of foil fallowed between these points being the extent of the otter's movements in search of its morning meal, and the exercise of those gambols with which it proceeded and supplemented.

Although this animal displays a considerable amount of sagacious instinct in the choice of site for its burrow, it does not form a lair of any great strategical value, being chiefly adapted to secure a quick and easy, but well concealed retreat into that element to which it mostly trusts when danger menaces. The lair is sometimes burrowed out, sometimes formed by enlarging or adapting to its own ideas of what is suitable any natural hollows which may exist in the pond or river banks, more especially, in the latter case, where any crevices among rocks, or similar places, are apparently of good repute in the otter mind as congenial dwellings. Where the otter burrows, it always forms the entrance to its lair beneath the surface of the water, works upwards in an indirect line, towards the top of the ground; forming sometimes several chambers of successively increasing height, so that it may lie dry—a necessity of first importance. Thus, during times when the water is high in the river, the otter will often be lying just beneath the surface of the ground on the banks of the stream; while, when the contrary is the state of the river, it may be in a hole many feet below. When the otter burrows, which we are inclined to fancy is less often the rule than to adapt a hollow to its use, it does so with apparent dislike, and at the expenditure of considerable trouble. The site chosen is generally a high bank, consisting of soft, sandy earth, or sometimes wholly sand, deposit of the river at some time or other, in which it can work with comparative ease, and form the uncertain-shaped burrow it may desire—sometimes only two or three tunnels, having one or more points of egress into the stream, culminating in an irregular-shaped apartment; at others a considerable extent of gyrate tunnelling, lead to each successive lodge, as they are sometimes termed, which we have just mentioned. Any amount of vegetation, whether reeds, rushes, or any other kind growing out of the water, adjacent, or in close contiguity to, a suitable bank, will probably influence the otter in its choice of a site; while a sharp bend in the direction of the stream will not be without its effects

when an unobserved flight might become advisable or a necessity. Although the otter mostly chooses such a situation as we have named, when it burrows cut its lair, it does not always resort to similarly-featured spots, but will occasionally make holes in any of the places we shall presently mention, as mostly likely to provide the animal with a sufficiently large hollow to be easy of adoption as its lair.

Very often at the roots of large, and sometimes old stunted trees, crevices exist, held in high estimation by the otter, wherein to make its abode, more particularly if the said tree is quite at the very edge of the river's bank or even having some of its roots growing out of the water itself. Again in the dark interstices of some roughly constructed drain, which has become choked up through the accumulation of earth, stones, &c., in its more distant parts. These subterranean gutters are particularly patronised by otters, affording them sometimes not only dry and convenient dwelling places, but also spots where they can when menaced stand at bay for some time, although eventually making good their escape, in an undignified and precipitate manner by some place of safe egress partaking of a "back stair" nature. Most salmon rivers and trout streams have large rocks and boulders along their banks, or at least close adjacent to the same; these rocks, in their natural formation and position, produce many crevices, passages and corners which may be and very often are adopted by the otter and although some of the interstitial holes; offer but poor protection or comfort to any one of these animals which may claim it for an alcove, we have seen others of paramount excellence both as regards defence from danger or as a plain place of abode. Such places as we have endeavoured to describe, and any others of similar nature, may at any time be chosen by the otter, but it is chiefly to weirs that they resort, when such arrangements exist in streams where these anglers' enemies are abundant. There can be no more suitable or favourite place wherein an otter may complacently choose its dwelling, than an old weir, a structure very different to many of the more modern ones of their kind, built up regularly of large blocks of hewed stone fastened together in some way either by mortise or iron rivets. Most of the now tumble-down affairs, no longer used for the purpose to which they owe their origin, consist of large and small unevenly shaped stones and rocks, heaped together in a sort of systematic confusion, abounding in passages and hollows; ready-made otter lairs of the most approved kind, as the water varmints testify by the readiness with which they adopt and cling to them. Such erstwhile obstructions to the water's course, and now mere sieves through which it strains, offer means by which any otters secreted in the fastnesses they contain, can with but little trouble elude any enemies of the human or animal kind, and hence they are invariably very favourable places wherein the otters can form their actual nests in which to bring forth and rear their young, and although those of the animals which may have burrows situate in the banks of the stream for the most part honour such with their domestic arrangements, it is not a very exceptional occurrence for a pair to relinquish their ordinary alcove for the greater safety, one formed with an old broken-down weir offers.

The nest is always placed in as dry and cosy a chamber as can be found, and offering at the same time room enough for the increased number of animals which it must contain. The couch formed is made of a selection of dry fern, grass, and dead rushes, moss, dry flags, and any such similar substances as may be obtainable at a distance sufficiently near to be convenient. The young, curious and pretty enough little creatures, are brought forth generally some time between the middle of March and the middle of June. This is the most usual time, but the otter is very capricious in this regard, and, although the period mentioned sees most young brought forth, newly-born otters have been found at some

time or other during every month out of the twelve. It is, however, not the case of more than one litter being produced during the year, as, as far as we know, there is no undoubted recorded occurrence of a second batch being born to one pair. They number from two to five, very rarely, indeed, more, three or four being the most often number brought forth. Their growth is rapid, and in a very short time they follow their mother at sight of danger into the water, and very soon may be observed being instructed in the preliminaries of their existence, and, no doubt the various devices by which they may secure the dainty fish upon which they will exist and prosper, to the annoyance and disgust, probably, of the enthusiastic and ill-used angler, whose preserved waters they frequent. When left in a perfectly unmolested state, otters are by no means slow of increase; and, with the continual additions of batches of young to their numbers, become more aggressive and bolder in their attacks of the finny population of the waters they frequent, and would, in course of time, clear the stream, frightening away those of the fish which they did not catch to situations less dangerous, and affording more peace of mind and body.

The otter makes its regular meal early in the morning, and for this purpose quits its lair about sunrise, and either commencing its hunt at once, it works up stream, returns at its leisure, or goes down the river, and, whilst satisfying its not at all poor appetite, gradually returns to its dwelling, as it pursues its prey in the orthodox manner. Before actually commencing its chase, the otter, more often than not, indulges in a gratuitous performance for the benefit of any unobserved observer, which it probably considers the usual manner of taking a bath. These preliminary proceedings consist for the most part of dashing about and rolling in the water in one continuous gambol, both otters of a pair generally taking part in them, until it is considered necessary to limit their duration, and they accordingly make tracks in one or the other direction, returning again as the morning gives place to day, and its attendant unsafe features, until, after remaining ensconced in their comparatively secure abode, sleeping away the day, they again, at evening time, issue from their lairs and commit almost as extensive depredations as in the early portion of the day, remaining sometimes without their dwelling until far into the night, sometimes only for a few hours.

Upon the subject of otter-hunting, we shall not enlarge, for, as it stands, we anglers must, on the whole, regard it with distrust; for, although the sole aim of keeping a pack of the hounds specially associated with this sport, we must remember that its votaries desire the increase of the varmints we dislike in order that better runs and better sport may be forthcoming. And although there is no reason why fish preservers should not partake of the joys and excitements of an otter hunt, still they cannot have an excess of the cake and eat it too, hence we cannot but regard, with disfavour, otter hounds kept to hunt well-stocked rivers. But, by all means, let our preserved waters have their otters killed by the hounds, and leave those which frequent good waters to the tender mercies of the owners of them and their river keepers.

It may be as well to remark, before we proceed to the "How to catch them" portion of our subject, that there is considerable difference between knowing how to do a thing and carrying the knowledge into practical effect. Catching otters is not an exception in this wise, and is, on the contrary, one of the most difficult animals to get the better of which there are. An inexperienced person might spend every hour of the day devising means of intrinsic acuteness whereby to lure the otter into his delightfully cunningly set snares, wiles, or traps, and still produce no better result than disgust with one's self at the animal's wariness. To catch an otter in a trap is fraught with difficulty enough; to take it uninjured is almost impossible, except by some remarkably for-

tuitous incident ; but remembering that prevention is better than cure, we mention one or two modes of procedure by which a length of water may be secured from the encroachments of any otters attempting to trespass upon what is not their usual beat. The arrangement we shall name is most suitable only for fairly small streams of not strong a current, and although it can, if desired, be adopted on larger waters, the expense would scarcely represent the effect realised. The first consideration is a suitable position where the banks and bottom of the river present a good even surface, and at this chosen point a sort of fence of wire netting must be stretched across the mesh, of course, sufficiently large to freely admit the passage of anything but an otter. The netting should touch the bottom, and reach some eighteen inches or so above the highest level to which floods may bring the surface of the water. Care must be taken that the two banks are touched. Upon the banks running right down to join the wire boundary, a hedge, otter-proof on each side, must be provided if it do not already exist—the most inexpensive one can be formed of wattled hurdles—it must run from thirty to forty yards out on each side the river. About two feet from the river-bank a gap, say two feet wide, must be left or formed in the hedge, as the case may be, and a common pitfall—consisting of a large hole with a swinging cover—constructed in each gap, so that an otter, finding his entrance into the preserve cut off in the water, seeks the bank, and while endeavouring to pass through the gap, falls into the pit provided for its discomfiture. This arrangement we have indicated is but a fair manner of dealing with the destructively-inclined animals, and, taking all its characteristics into consideration, we prefer to trust to traps of a handier nature, and, as far as we are concerned, decidedly more efficacious. There are two kinds of traps which may be employed with effect, but under different circumstances—the common steel gin, and those of larger size, but of the same kind, with such additions as have recommended themselves for adoption at various times. We purpose mentioning these first. Everybody knows, or at least, everybody who reads this ought to know, what a common rabbit-gin is like, and, such being the case, we shall not stay to enlighten the ignorant. We are acquainted with two otter traps—the one made by W. Shane, of Birmingham, termed the “Ringwood Otter Trap,” is on the same principle as the rabbit gin, only that the jaws range from 6 inches to 10 inches in length, and at alternate intervals are provided with sharp spikes instead of the usual teeth which, when the trap springs, meet in a certainly cruel manner through the varmint’s leg. The spring of the trap is not strong in comparison with its extra size, being only sufficient to effect the closing of the jaws with sufficient force. Instead of the usual short chain, a long one is provided, and the instinct of the otter when caught leading it to seek deep water, the weight of the encumbrance on its leg prevents it rising, and it quickly drowns. These formidably-constructed affairs cost from 10s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. Another trap manufacturer, H. Lane, of Wednesfield, makes a special trap for otters, too ; his partaking more of the nature of an enlarged rabbit-gin, in which strength and handiness are well combined with general excellence of construction ; its working being as “tickle” as any one can desire. Either of these wiles are exceedingly effective for the purpose intended, and if any extra-sized gins be required, we are able to recommend them ; for, although there are large-sized ordinary rabbit-gins, they are too small, and, what is worse, will not hold sufficiently well to be employed under the circumstances now to be named.

Every otter has its own peculiar spots for landing, whether with prey to be consumed or without, for any other purpose which may necessitate it visiting dry land. These spots are generally at some portion of the bank where it slopes easily down to the water, and is devoid of covering in the shape of grass ; being either of damp, muddy soil, or soft sand. If any such places are to be

observed, they should be carefully scrutinised whenever an opportunity occurs ; and, if they be frequented by otters, passing from the water to the bank, or *vice versa*, footprints of the animal will be discernible, and can be easily distinguished by the impression left by the sole of the animal’s foot, which partakes of the shape of a little ball, and is termed its seal. The ground being well trodden down, and showing abundant evidence of this being the result of continued passing and re-passing by otters will prove the excellence of the spot whereon to set one of the large gins, instructions as to which we shall defer till our next and concluding paper.

THE GENERATION OF EELS.

ONE of the most profound ichthyological problems has been that of the generation of eels. It has occupied the attention of scientific men in all ages, and we have much pleasure in giving our readers the very latest on the subject, taken from a recent paper by Dr. Quistorp, read before the Society for the Protection of Animals, at Greifswald, Prussia.

Although the eel has been known to man and has served him as food for thousands of years, it has preserved the secret of its reproduction intact until within quite recent days. Only 40 years ago was it said by Martens in his work on Italy, that of all animals by which we are surrounded, the eel alone has not yet divulged the mystery of its procreation to the most persevering and painstaking of investigators. Aristotle busied himself with the problem and advanced the marvellous solution, one little in keeping with his accustomed perspicacity, that eels were generated from the intestines of the world, for in this light he seems to have regarded earthworms (*Lumbricus terrestris*, L.). Later on, eels were thought to owe their origin to other fishes, and of these the viviparous blenny or eelpout (*Troarces viviparus*, L.) may be fittingly mentioned here. To this day, even in Sardinia, is the parentage of eels ascribed to a large black water-beetle (*Dysticus Roesellii*). As eels are frequently found infested by internal parasites, chiefly a species of threadworm (*Ascaris liabiata*), it is not surprising that these should have been mistaken for young eels, or that eels generally should have been classed among viviparous animals. It was only towards the end of last century that an Italian savant, Professor Mondini, holding the chair of Anatomy, at Bologna University, first succeeded in finding the sexual organs of the female eel. Soon afterwards the identical discovery was made in Germany by Otto Friederich Müller, but quite independently of Mondini, whose researches, although concluded in 1777, were not published until three years later, during which interval Müller’s quest also was successful. Although this important step was gained, yet no one, in spite of uninterrupted endeavours and dissections of vast numbers of eels, could discover anything approaching the nature of male sexual organs. And chiefly for this reason, because only the largest and best developed eels were selected for examination, whereas these, as we know now, are invariably females. In consequence of this inability to discover any male sexual organs, a great many physiologists pronounced the eel to be a true hermaphrodite. However, when Dr. Darwin, instructed in this matter by Dr. Günther, the celebrated ichthyologist of the British Museum had made known that so far as he was aware, the males of fishes were never larger than the females, it occurred to Dr. Syrska (at that time Director of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Trieste, now Director and Curator of the Lemberg Zoological Museum), to experiment upon smaller instead of the largest specimens, and very soon he was able to announce the long sought-for discovery of the male eel’s sexual organs. In the Adriatic the male is never longer than 19 inches, whereas all eels of greater dimensions than this are without exception female. The position of the sexual organs in the male is identic with that occupied by the ovaries

in the female, namely alongside of, and attached by one edge to, the air-bladder. Whilst the ovaries are ruffle-like and crinkly, the male organs, besides being much less easily discernible than those of the female are smooth and ribbon-like in form with slightly ragged edges; they are also more transparent, of a lighter colour and enveloped in a covering of fat. An excretory duct leading from the reproductive organs of the male has also been observed, and in the female this is wanting. In the case of the latter it has been noticed that when the ova separate themselves from the ovaries, they drop freely into the abdominal cavity, from whence, according to observations made by Herr Radke, of Königsberg, Prussia, they escape through two orifices situated close to the anus. All that is now wanted, is the discovery of the actual presence of spermatozoa in the seminal fluid of the male freshwater eel, but inasmuch as these minute organisms have already been shown to exist in the reproductive organs of the male conger-eel, by Dr. Hermes, of Berlin, it is not unreasonable to assume their presence in *Anguilla Vulgaris* also. From this it will be seen that eels also are divided into milters and spawners, and like all other fishes are developed from ova. In a like manner they have a fixed time of spawning, which in their case is in winter. Their spawning beds are to be found in the sea and not in the brackish water of estuaries or lagoons. The procedure is as follows: the females deposit their ova on mud-banks far away from the coast, where these are duly fertilised by the males in the manner common to other fishes. From these impregnated ova the young eels are produced, and in five or six weeks' time attain a length of from one-quarter to five-sixteenths of an inch. During spring millions upon millions of these tiny creatures make their way up stream, and aided by the tenacious slime with which they are provided creep over and surmount every obstacle in their course. From this time until they are some five or six years old eels remain in fresh or brackish water, for, as the result of investigations carried on at Commachio, on the Italian shores of the Adriatic, where eel-fisheries abound, it appears that eels are incapable of reproduction before that age. When this stage is reached the eel hastens to the sea during the later autumn months; and it is only in real salt water, and not, as hitherto supposed, in brackish water, that full sexual development of both male and female can take place. Only on one single occasion has a gravid female with ripe ova been captured by Radke in brackish water. Having spawned, the eels die off, totally exhausted by the recent rapid development and functional employment of their reproductive apparatus; at least, they are never caught when reascending rivers just after spawning. This statement, it should be noted, is not yet conclusively proved; there are many professional eel-catchers who doubt it in part, or deny it altogether. Eels eat no food whatever on their way down to the sea, and in this respect also, they take after other fishes. In addition to the spawning eels, there are, however, others, in whose intestines food may at all times be found; and these are always in condition and fat, as they never stir out of fresh or brackish water. All these are barren females, whose ovaries, if examined, will be found in a degenerated condition, with transparent and almost or entirely yolkless ova.

Subjoined are some of the external marks by which the sexes may be distinguished:—

Firstly, as to size: the male never exceeds 19 inches, whereas the female is frequently above 3 feet, and thicker than a man's arm. Secondly, as to shape of head: in the female a marked greater breadth of snout, as compared with the narrow, and either elongated or short and sharp-pointed snout of the male. Thirdly, as to colour: the female is usually green on the back, with a yellow or yellowish belly; the back of the male is of the very deepest green or intensest black, the sides of great metallic lustre—at times even entirely bronze-coloured—and the belly mostly

always white. Fourthly, a conspicuous difference in the dorsal fins: those of females are much deeper and broader, as compared with those belonging to males of equal dimensions. And, lastly, a distinguishing mark—upon which, however, absolute dependence cannot be placed: this is the proportionately greater diameter of the eye of the male; generally speaking, when eels are found with conspicuously small eyes they are females, although numerous exceptions not unfrequently occur.

THE FISH OF THE TRENT, AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

PLAIN PAPERS FOR PLAIN ANGLERS.*—No. 9.

BY THE TRENT OTTER.

THE CHUB (*continued*).

BEFORE I proceed to treat of the various ways of taking chub it will perhaps be well to look at him a little more closely. The roach has a book, so has the pike, and why not the chub? But I feel my inability to treat the chub as he ought to be treated in a book of his own. But what pleasant recollections I seem to see in my mind's eye at the very mention of the word "Chub," ay! as vividly as though they only happened yesterday, for some of the pleasantest hours of my life have been spent by the river-side in my search for chub. In spite of what has been written or said against the chub, in spite of his faults, I love him. Still, even when the cruel net is put round the weed-beds in the scouring time, and he is dragged to bank; or when the night-line has done its work, and he is hauled out without a chance of showing his fighting power, even then I love him; though my love is mingled with pity for his ignominious fate, for he is a foeman worthy of a sportsman's steel, although writers speak with contempt of him, and call him all sorts of names, some of which are libels on him and his character. If I aspire to greatness in any matter, or perhaps, to put it more correctly, I ought to say, if I have a weakness, that weakness is "Chub fishing," for I have been told that it really is a weakness, and one or two have gone further and called me a "fool," after I have had an adventure something like this. I am standing by the river, rod in hand; the twilight of the summer day has deepened into that semi-darkness that is so peculiar to our country districts, where the air is free from smoke; strangely quiet seems nature in her peaceful repose, a strange quiet that is only broken by the harsh grating croak of that peculiar bird the corn-crake, or the splash of a rising chub. Away in the distance I can see, though dimly, the pointed tip of a village church spire, trees, bushes and hedges seem to merge together, strangely indistinct, while the river flowing past seems, on the opposite side, to be dark and mysterious. Feeling carefully down my line and cast (for I am fishing with but one "fly," and it is a large white moth with golden rings round its body) to "see" that the moth is all right, I sweep it out into the river, and wait, for I cannot see it: Ha! a brave tug; and the next moment a chub is gallantly fighting against odds for life and liberty, but no go; in another minute or so he is safe in the bag to join some three or four more of his comrades in distress that have been taken by the same means. But, hark! What is that? The village church-clock is striking, clear and distinct, through the stillness of the night. Sound the strokes—eleven. Time to give over, thinks I; so packing up, I trudge homeward, for I am a few miles from home, and when I arrive there, I am called by the before-mentioned classic name. "What a fool you are to stay while this time of night, just for two or three brace of those things" (chub). But I can forgive them, for they don't know of the

sweet intercourse I have had with nature in her midsummer night's beauty; none but sportsmen can enjoy these things as they ought to be enjoyed, and I am weak enough to say that fishing on a summer's evening with the moth for chub is a sport for me, at least, of the highest order.

But hold, I am making a most sweeping digression, and must pull up, for I was going to look at a few names the chub is known by and take his part generally. Izaak Walton called him "Cheven," "Chevin," and "Chevender," and by some of these names he is still known in certain districts; and Father Izaak also says, "Oh, it is a great loggerheaded chub;" and some modern writers, in speaking of him, call him "loggerhead;" but one modern writer had actually the cheek to call him "chuckle-headed." The Scotch call him "Skelly;" the Welsh "Penci;" and the Swedes "Kubb," which latter means "a lump of wood." Now, if we look at these names, we can see that most of them are alluding to the head of the chub (which is, by the way, called in some districts "the large-headed dace"), but why he should be called big-headed, &c., &c., I really cannot imagine, for I have had a splendid specimen of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. weight, and laid him broadside on the grass, and really his head does not look at all out of proportion to this body; shoulders, broad and vast; belly, deep and rounding off; back, a trifle hollow, and ending in a fairly broad spread of tail; but no, look at him from that standpoint, and his head is not out of proportion. If you stare him in the face, perhaps he does look a little full-faced, and he has rather a large mouth, but he really does not deserve the names of "loggerhead," "chuckle-head," &c., &c., that are so often applied to him. Why anglers who angle for pleasure delight to sit on the chub and call him names, I cannot imagine. These people ought to be the last in the world to call him, for there is not another coarse fish that is such a pleasure to capture, nor that can be taken by such a variety of ways, and then for a few minutes he fights well, so they need not grumble on that score. True, he is not worth salt when you come to cook him; for he is woolly watery, and disagreeable, and has such a plentitude of small bones that to eat him would almost be to risk being choked; but I have nothing to with cooking him, my business is to catch him, and I maintain that he is a handsome fish; and, as a sporting fish in all weather, he has not his equal among the so-called coarse fish.

Since writing the previous article about weight of a chub, I have had authentic information about a chub that I should suppose to be the biggest one ever taken out of the Trent with rod and line. It appears that a Newark angler, named Frank Sims, was some years ago fishing for chub below Newark at what is called the foot of the lawn at Wenthorp, when he was lucky enough to take and safely land a monster that weighed eight pounds. I believed this fish suffered the indignity of being either baked, boiled or stewed, when it ought to have been made beautiful for ever, and not only it, but Frank himself, ought to have been put in a glass case. These facts are well known among certain anglers at Newark. Any one doubting the statement that would take the trouble to write to David Slater, fishing-tackle maker, would have the statement verified. It would be a glorious chub. Should not I like to handle such an one. Why, I should think my mission on earth was fulfilled, and I should have nothing else worth living for.

(To be continued.)

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

I AM glad that my theory on artificial flies has called forth such a courteous argument from the other side of the question as that of Mr. Walbran's, and I hope I may be allowed to say a few words in reference to it.

In the first place, though it may rob fly-fishing of some of its

charm, but very little, I think, it certainly saves an immense amount of time and trouble if the angler only uses about four varieties of flies for his pursuit. It is often very difficult to tell what flies are out on the water, especially in the days of early spring, when one seldom sees any at all. Mr. Walbran remarks in his article, "To my mind, the chief enjoyment of this kind of fishing (fly-fishing) is to match your flies with those upon the water, and then, by casting them lightly as thistledown, deceive the fish with an imitation of the very fly that they are feeding upon." All this sounds very well in theory, but I think Mr. Walbran must admit that artificial flies are very imperfect imitations of natural ones, and that trout can hardly be supposed to take all the various imitations of the same fly, dressed in so many different ways, for the original one. As I said in my former letter, I do not see the good of having so many flies only differing from each other in minor respects, some having a little more colour than others, as the colour fades in the water, and they thereby lose their distinction; though Mr. Walbran cites an incident showing the trout's nicety of distinction very clearly. The following is an incident showing the contrary:—One day last summer, I was fly-fishing on the Derbyshire Wye in Rowsley Meadows, in company with a friend from Liverpool. During the day we each of us used different flies, myself having blue and yellow dun on my cast, and my friend employing a red palmer and black gnat to lure the trout, and had had indifferent success, only catching two brace each. In the evening my friend changed one of his flies and employed a white moth in exchange for the black gnat; I used the same I had during the day. When we left off we had each taken four more brace, after an hour's fishing, during which time the fish scarcely rose at all, and those that did, came very short. I could see that they were rising at some little fly, of a kind unknown to me, but I determined to try whether the fish would not rise at my blue and yellow duns as well as at the fly on the water. It is no take to boast of, but I think it shows pretty well that trout may be caught by any neatly-dressed fly, provided it is a standard one.

Of course, there is no harm in an angler using flies for every hour in the day, if it so pleases him, but this practice is attended with great trouble. It is a great nuisance to have to untie your flies three or four times a day, and to put fresh ones on; this of itself is a good reason for using the same. There is no doubt, on the other hand, that many veteran anglers prefer a good variety, and maintain that trout can better be enticed by changing their lure several times a day; but these gentlemen credit the trout with a nicety of distinction which it is very doubtful they possess; though on some streams, of course, they are far shyer and better educated than on others, and require their taste to be tickled with a neat "imitation," before they can triumphantly be lifted out of their native element by that most useful invention, the landing-net, and from thence be transferred to the angler's basket, thereafter to be eaten with great relish where a hard day's work to effect their capture has been undertaken by the piscator. Although opening the stomach of the first fish you catch is doubtless a good idea for the disciples of the many varieties system, I think few anglers would do so; it would be a dirty job, and the flies inside the trout would not be very easily recognised, being greatly disfigured. However, I have never tried that way, and so do not speak from experience. In conclusion, let me again state, that I think trout can never distinguish between so many flies as Mr. Walbran would have anglers use; that there is no difference between many of them, though dressed slightly different in the water, as the colour dies out; that using only four varieties saves much time and trouble in changing flies; and that fish may be caught by any standard-fly provided it be neatly tied and well made.

BLUE DUN.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

“Now 'tis the winter of our discontent.”

—SHAKESPEARE.

The flood is again upon us, and angling in the river is a game not worth the candle, although within the last few days some decent hauls of chub, perch and roach have been had. Thames anglers must wait until the “glorious summer” before they will be enabled to exercise their favourite vocation, in the meantime, Othello-like, I shall have lost my vocation, but shall not fail to “open,” like a good hound, if I hear or see a chance among the spotted beauties during April and May, amid the lovely and well-stocked waters between Staines and Goring. Why go further and possibly fare worse? I have some dozens of reports of catches of roach and chub during the past week, but the record is hardly worth print.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water thick and high, will do for roach-fishing with worms. Prospects: A few fine days will soon get the water in order again, but not before the close season for jack. By Sunday, if it keeps fine, water will be a lot better. Water sinking. On Sunday we took some good roach, two roach going near on 3 lb. —JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The heavy rain that fell at the end of last week put the river quite out of order, but anglers have been nothing daunted, as there has been plenty of work during the week. Some of them, when told it was no use, were determined to have a try; one of these getting six bream. We have two very good trout here this season—I should think they are between 9 lb. and 10 lb. each. There is nothing feeding much, bream being easiest to catch; roach and dace have gone off this week. The sport of the week is as follows:—Job Brain, four days, 40 lb. of bream and dace; C. Brown, two days, 14 lb. of dace; E. Brown, one day, 3 lb. of dace; H. Wheeler, two days, 13 lb. of dace; H. Howard, one day, 7 lb. of dace; J. Bushnell, five days, 43 lb. of bream and dace. The river will improve every day to the close now.—J. BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

The water is fining down very nicely, considering the large quantity of water that is coming down from up the country, and should the rain keep off we may expect to have a day or two's sport before we close. I have had two punts out this afternoon, and each did much better than I expected. The weather is quite like a summer's day. N.B.—A Postcard in advance, mentioning the number coming, will always ensure a punt in readiness. Error.—In last week's report it should read R. Vart not V. Vart, James Brand not Tom Brand, A. Perrin not Pierson.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

My report last week that everything was in the pink of condition, was upset almost before it appeared in print, and now we have it as bad as it is possible to see a river as regards colour, and almost the same as regards height; as for trout signs, one might as well look for their playing about on Hampstead Heath, as in this sea of soup. One, certainly was seen, Sunday last, but quite by compulsion, as doubtless he was as far from the surface as it would be possible for a fish to get. That seductive bait, a good lobworm, could not be refused, and picking it up, was soon admired by a group of bank anglers before being returned by its captor, Paice of Etonwick, who, with a patron, got 3 nice chub, about 9 lb. The trout was a very handsome one of about 4½ lb., and was returned in that part well known to bank anglers, the “Whirly Hole,” at Boveney Bridge. Before this water James Gray was showing his patrons sport, having had some 4 or 5 dozen perch, besides 7 jack during the week, and whilst up river, I boarded his punt to see a nice jack, that Mr. Parsons, of Windsor, had just landed on a fine gut roach hook (B's), baited with worm; it was a beautifully marked and good conditioned fish of 6¾ lb. Who shall say jack do not feed at times ravenously on worms, as when landed they left this fish in quantity as they would from an old chub. He must have lain there and gorged on them, as Gray had previously given it a good baiting. I also saw a nice lot of roach and perch, one of the latter going nearly 1½ lb. That barbel are late this season is proved by Mr. Linford taking a nice specimen over 5 lb., on Tuesday, with worm on the grass; and to-day, Mr. Way, of Windsor, fishing with James Gray, took 5 barbel, but small. Should rain keep off, bank anglers will be able to have a final turn at them, and with worms in quiet places, stand a chance of a miscellaneous bag.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

At the present moment there is a flood coming down these rivers owing to the rain which has fallen on Exmoor during the last few days. The barometer is rising, and there is every prospect of fair weather, with which, when the water fines down, good sport may be expected. Some few baskets of trout have been taken during the past week with blue upright, silver twist, February red, and March brown. These flies, as well as any kind of fishing tackle, can be had at the post-office, and of Mr. A. N. Arbery, of the best description.—G. WILLIAMS.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

If there is no more rain the water will be in first-class condition by Saturday. There is every prospect of some good jack and roach fishing with the worm; wind, S.W. Mr. W. T. Hawkins and Browning were out on Sunday, and the

former took one roach, the water being at high flood at the time. Mr. Drake is out to-day, but he is not in yet, so cannot give the result. Jack fishing comes to an end on the 15th March here, but we do not close for roach till the end of May, as they do not spawn so early as in the Thames; perch and dace fishing is closed on the 15th.—E. GODFREY.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The frost has broken up at last, but now we are flooded, the river being over its limits with snow water from the surrounding hills. The bottom-fishers, though the season is now all but over, have not been doing much since I last wrote, the water having been too much discoloured. The trout-fishers, however, have been enjoying nice sport, some with the tail-end of the good old fatherly lob, and others with the cockspur. The “speckled ones” would not take the fly, and so the devotees went in for bottom-fishing. One gentleman in the famous “Dale” got six beauties; another, near Birdsgrove, five, and a third, near Clownholme, four. Others have had similar sport. The weather is still very unsettled, and “wild March” is keeping up its character to a nicety, the winds being simply terrific.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

Fishing during the past week has been *nil* (except in the tributaries, where a good many trout have been caught with the worm), the river being in flood. If no more rain, in the course of two or three days it will be in excellent condition, and some good sport is looked forward to. Wind, west; barometer, rising.—WM. MUDFORD.

Exe (Exeter).

We are still in the same dilemma. Rain and nothing but rain. “Water, water everywhere,” and yet we cannot fish; and seeing that next Saturday will be the 12th, we may say adieu until June, as far as rough fishing is concerned. With regard to trout-fishing, I will keep you posted up. Prospects are looking better, but up to the present little or nothing has been done. The river is in a turbulent state, and all kinds of colours. Salmon are very plentiful, and some good hauls have been had—size exceedingly good, from 12 lb. to 20 lb. weight. The regular net fishermen have not commenced yet. The angling club that I advised you of in my previous notes will soon be enrolled, and hope to be in a position to forward you all the &c., &c., shortly, when brain and hand will in concert find fresh vigour for the (fly) angler's mind.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Medway (Tunbridge).

Owing to the heavy rains the water is very thick, and the anglers will, we are afraid, be obliged to finish up the season in a very unsatisfactory manner. As the close season commences on Tuesday next, there will we fear be no more sport worth mentioning. There has been nothing done during the week of any importance. Pike and other fish are running up the streams for spawning which will be late in our water on account of the cold weather.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

We have had such a heavy flood that during last week the cot-men could not fish at all, but the river is lower since Monday, when they killed six salmon, and six also on Tuesday. Price of fish 2s. 4d. per lb. Between Monday and Wednesday Captain Palliser, at Rochestown, had very good sport last week, landing five splendid spring fish, the largest weighing 30 lb., which was a beautiful short fish. Mr. Edwards, at Kilcommon demesne, got two spring fish weighing 20 lb. and 12 lb. respectively. John Breston, at New Castle, landed one also of 22 lb., and some others were equally successful whose names we have not ascertained. The water is not at present fit for salmon fishing, but if we have no rain in the meantime it will be fit to fish after a few days. The trout fishing is pretty fair, and far beyond what it was this time last year. Mr. Hughes, we heard, had a great day on the Suir, killing 9 doz. trout. The Devon bait is still a favourite one to fish with, and proves most killing, particularly in clear water, with a good strong breeze. The favourite trout fly at present is orange grouse. Most of the heavy trout are gorging themselves with salmon roe. The glass is steadily rising those three days, and wind easterly.—DORA.

Trent (Alrewas).

I had scarcely posted my last week's report, when the Midlands was visited by another of the heavy falls of snow we have had this year. This was followed by a copious downpour of rain, which quickly brought on another great flood. Angling has, like the many past weeks, been a complete dead-letter. The water is now rapidly running off the meadows, but there are still miles of water which should be land. Angling before the 15th seems out of the question. Of the many bad seasons we have had of late years, the present one, I think, is by far the worst. There has been no trout-fishing in this locality of any import since November. The members of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association have been successful in obtaining an extension of the close time till May 15, for their private fishery at Alrewas and Croxhall, from the Trent Conservators; consequently, I shall have the pleasure of sending you my usual report, while the public fisheries are closed. The weather at present is positively warm and has a more settled appearance; how long it will last, the “deponent” knoweth not.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Nottingham).

The Trent has been in a flooded state all the week, and there has not been a chance of doing any rod fishing. Up to the time of writing (Thursday night), the surrounding meadows are all under water. The weather, however, to-day is more settled, and the river going down rapidly; so that, weather permitting, the anglers will get a chance of some sport before the 15th, which commences the close season. For my part, I never could understand a close season for angling, because it is impossible to catch the fish unless they are in condition to bite; but the netters catch them whether they are in condition or not, and a great quantity of different fish have been brought into Nottingham during the recent high water. I say—stop the netters and leave the anglers alone.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had continual floods on both the above rivers since my last report. From the heavy rain that has fallen daily, to-day (Thursday), both rivers are running down nicely. The Derwent will be all right for bottom-fishing by Monday. The Wye will not be in condition for fly-fishing for a week or ten days at the earliest. The cleach net party have taken a good deal of fish below Darley Bridge during the late floods. Bottom-fishing prospects good for next week with worms for baits.—G. J. EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

Anglers are now taking advantage of every fine day, and some very decent catches are reported. I should like just to suggest that members of our local societies should exhibit their catches at their respective club houses, and so follow the example of our friends in the metropolis and elsewhere. The catch being duly reported in a book kept for that purpose would serve as a guide in deciding argument or any question that might arise in future. I am also very pleased to find that most anglers are acting upon a previous suggestion of mine, and that was to return all undersized fish to the river again. This is as it should be, and I trust that all will co-operate in following this out. Mr. W. Chittleburgh, of the Champion Angling Club, exhibited a very fine pike in his club room, weighing upwards of 15 lb., and when opened was found to contain two very fine eels. Mr. Hinsby, of E.A.P.S., also showed a catch of roach and bream, said to be the best take this season as to size and weight. Messrs. Palmers, of the same club, also showed a fine take of pike from a small stream in the vicinity of Norwich, scaling about 35 lb. (six fish in all), the largest weighing 9 lb. Mr. Corbyn, of the Norwich Piscatorial Society, also produced a very fair basket, and among them a species of a hybrid resembling a roach and bream, flat. This curious specimen is now in the hands of Mr. Gunn, naturalist, of St. Giles Street, Norwich, for the purpose of preservation, and will be exhibited at the forthcoming exhibition. Mr. Pearce, and friend, of Norwich, while fishing in the waters of G. H. Wilson, Esq., of Redgrave Hall, succeeded in landing two fine jack, weighing respectively 11 and 13 lb. At a meeting of the General Committee of the General Fisheries Exhibition on Saturday it was resolved to extend the annexe in course of erection 40 feet in consequence of the increasing number of the demands for space. The attention of boat builders might be called to the prize of £10, offered by the Yare Preservation Society for the best model of a fishing boat for Norfolk inland waters, which has additional importance from the fact that the successful competitor will not only carry off the prize, but probably obtain the order for the new boats of the recently formed Yare Fishing Boat Club. In conclusion I am sorry to have to report that no improvement has yet taken place as to the polluted state of our river.—**ANGLER.**

Yore (Yorkshire).

I was too much disgusted last week to write any report at all, for at the time that I should have sent it snow was falling fast, and at night there was a thicker cover upon the ground than there had been since Christmas. Next day came the usual thaw, accompanied by torrents of rain, the result being tremendous floods down both the Yore and Wharfe. Where the damage will end is difficult to prognosticate, for as I write the wind is blowing a regular tornado, driving the rain before it in sheets. The only consolation that anglers derive from the long-continued rain being that the river will be thoroughly cleared from snow water, and then, with a week or two of fine weather, trout fishing should commence in real earnest; in anticipation of which I purpose in my next week's report to give your readers a few patterns for flies that I know, from personal experience, to be killers on both the Yore and Wharfe.—**FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.**

SHOULD OTTERS BE KILLED?

A WRITER in a contemporary denounces the late act of otter-slaughter on the Thames and the pound reward given by the Reading Angling Association, as "a more disgraceful act than he had seldom heard of." Mr. Francis Francis thinks that when a pike gets hold of a fairish-sized fish, it takes him some time to consume, during which the pike kills nothing. But how many, and what weight, of fish will a full-grown otter kill, if he eats only the "tit-bit" out of the neck? Besides, why not denounce otter-hunting—a most ancient sport? I believe the Reading Angling Association are quite justified in what they did. We don't keep hawks nor weasels, &c., in game preserves; a farmer would not tolerate a fox, except in a hunting country, and where he is paid for poultry killed by Master Reynard. The love of angling is increasing every day; fish must be protected alike from poachers and their natural enemy, the otter. A naturalist in the North of England might regret otter-killing in the South. I say, save the kingfishers; protect the breeding-ponds from all birds of prey, not forgetting the herons in Coley Park; but death to the otter!

SPOTS.

ANGLING NEWS.—An angling correspondent reports a splendid take of pike on Wednesday in last week, by Mr. L. Goodhind and Mr. F. Hurley (members of the Reading Association), consisting of eleven fish ranging in weight from 14½ lb. to 5 lb. each, and weighing in the aggregate 66 lb. Roach and tench are in capital order, but other fish, particularly perch, are getting very heavy in spawn. The prospects of the approaching trout season on this part of the Thames are particularly good.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedeian spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedeian fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[**ADVT.**]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[**ADVT.**]

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING AND SPORTING EXHIBITION.

AN International Exhibition of Hunting and Sporting Apparatus will be held at Cleves (Rhenish Prussia), from June to October next, under the auspices of Prince Hohenlohe-Langenbourg, the Burgomaster of Cleves, and other distinguished personages. The classification includes fire-arms and other weapons, and ammunition as used from the earliest to the present time; dresses and accoutrements for hunters and anglers, fishing tackle, hunting carriages, stabling, horns, hides, skins, and articles manufactured therefrom; stuffed animals, birds, &c. Prize medals and diplomas will be awarded. Cleves is a well-known watering-place, 18 hours journey from London. The direct route is *via* Harwich and Rotterdam, and the Great Eastern Railway Company purpose making special arrangements in regard to the passenger and goods traffic in connection with the exhibition. An influential London Committee of Patronage is in course of formation. Forms of application for space, and all particulars may be obtained of Mr. Edmund Johnson, Commissaire Délégué, International Exhibition Offices, 1, Castle Street, Holborn.

FRESHWATER FISH.

ANGLERS are reminded under the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878, section 11, the close season for fishing commences on the fifteenth day of March, and consequently Monday next is the last day of the general angling season. The sale of freshwater fish is also prohibited after the fourteenth day of March, and if any person during the close season buys, sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession for sale, any freshwater fish, "he is liable to a fine of forty shillings for the first offence, and five pounds on a second or any subsequent conviction." Any person can lay information where fish are exposed for sale, and the police are under instructions to take action in all cases. Although the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk are not included in the Freshwater Fishery Act as regards angling, the selling of fish from those counties comes under the Act.

FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the council of this association was held on the 28th February last, at 13, Upper Belgrave Street. His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, the president of the association, in the chair. It was attended by Lord Abinger, the vice-president; Mr. Spencer Walpole, Mr. A. D. Berrington, Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund, Mr. John Lloyd, jun.; Dr. Peter Hood, and Mr. Higford Burr.

Resolutions were unanimously passed expressive of the council's sorrow at the great loss they and the association had sustained by the deaths of Martin Tucker Smith, Esq., one of the founders of the association, and Frank Trevelyan Buckland, Esq.; and the council's grateful sense of the valuable services and active aid each of those lamented colleagues had rendered in advancing the objects and promoting the welfare of the association. A further resolution being at the same time passed that letters be addressed to Mrs. Martin Tucker Smith and Mrs. Buckland, expressing the council's deep sympathy with them under their bereavement. The council then proceeded to consider two Bills that are before Parliament viz., the Rivers Conservancy Bill and the River Floods Prevention Bill, when they stated it as their opinion that it would be very desirable to get, if possible, the words "without the previous consent of the Local Government Board," or some other suitable and effective words, inserted in both Bills in the clauses 14 and 16 respectively, which give power to the Boards proposed

to be created to enforce the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, so as to secure a more summary and expeditious mode of prosecuting offenders against that Act than is provided by the Act itself. After some discussion, Mr. Willis-Bund undertook to consider the matter and to frame an amendment such as might appear to him effective for the purpose.

The council then passed to the consideration of the Bill before the House of Commons "to consolidate and amend the Salmon and Freshwater Fishery laws of England and Wales," and in the discussion thereon which ensued, and in the course of which the council declared their approval generally of the Bill, Mr. Willis-Bund informed the meeting that there was strong reason to believe that attempts were about to be made to obtain the legalisation of the spear in the taking of salmon, and also to make the capture of samlets legal, both at present being illegal; that his Conservancy Board (the Severn), being very hostile to such legalisation, as a retrograde and most injurious step in fishery legislation, had just passed resolutions strongly condemnatory of the proposed changes, and pledging the Board to oppose them in every possible way. After some consideration of the matter the council came to the conclusion equally with the Severn Board that the legalising of the spear and of the capture of samlets ought to be strongly opposed.

The secretary reported the result of the large and influential deputation with which, since the last meeting of the council, the association had gone up to the president of the Local Government Board to urge on the Government the amendment of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, together with the recent answer on 8th February last in Parliament of the president to Mr. Birbeck, namely: "That he could hold out no hope that the Government would introduce this session a Bill to amend the Act."

Mr. Martin Ridley Smith and Professor Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S., Her Majesty's newly-appointed Inspector of Fisheries, were unanimously elected members of the council; the first in the room of his late father—Mr. Martin Tucker Smith—and the latter in the room of the late Mr. Frank Buckland. Thanks having been given to the Duke of Northumberland for presiding, the business of the meeting then closed.

WOOL SOCKS FOR WADING.

MR. J. W. TACON, Hosier, of 277, High Holborn, London sends us a pair of his extra-stout wool socks for use over the indiarubber fishing stockings when wading. They appear to us to be excellently suited to the purpose, and as they are considerably cheaper than those usually sold to anglers, we doubt not many of our readers will take note of Mr. Tacon's address.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

"OUR TRAWL."

UNDER this heading it is in future proposed to give the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE early and regular notice of the newest publications bearing on Ichthyology, Pisciculture, Angling, Fisheries, Fishery Legislation and other allied subjects, with a hope that the Full Title-List, which will be issued from time to time, will commend itself to them as a time-saving and useful addition to these columns and, as such, meet with their welcome and approval. To prevent possible misconception, it is perhaps well to hint that the projected List is by no means intended to supersede the usual Book Notices and Reviews; on the contrary, these will, as heretofore continue to occupy their accustomed position. Suffice, then, to declare that "OUR TRAWL" is solely designed to sweep the vast sea of modern literature in all the better known languages and with discriminating ardour to enmesh the most worthy piscatorial productions; to bring its catch to market at regular intervals, and to display, price, and when needful, label each captured specimen with the briefest of explanatory notes.

BUCKLAND, FRANK.—Natural History of British Fishes. New and enlarged edition. S.P.C.K., 1881. Post 8vo. pp. 432. 5s.

DAY, FRANCIS, F.L.S., F.Z.S.—The Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland; being a Natural History of such as are known to inhabit the Seas and fresh Waters of the British Isles, including Remarks on their economic Uses and various Modes of Capture. With an introduction upon fishes generally. Williams and Norgate, 1880. Part I. 64 p., 27 plates. Imp. 8vo. 12s.

[To be completed in 9 parts of about 25 plates, each part 12s.]

GUNTHER, ALBERT, C. L. G.—An Introduction to the Study of Fishes. Edinburgh. A. and C. Black. 1880. Demy 8vo., 720 p. ill. 24s.

REPORT on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of H.M.S. "Challenger," during the years 1873-76, under the Command of Capt. George S. Nares, R.N., F.R.S., and Capt. Frank Turle Thomson, R.N. Prepared under the Superintendence of Sir C. Wyville Thomson, Knt., F.R.S., &c.—Zoology—Vol. I.: Part 1—Report on the Brachiopoda, 2s. 6d.; Part 2—Report on the Pennatulida, 4s.; Part 3—Report on the Ostracoda, 15s.; Part 4—Report on the Bones of Cetacea, 2s.; Part 5—The Development of the Green Turtle, 4s. 6d.; Part 6—Report on the Shore Fishes, 10s.; Vol. Complete, £1 17s. 6d. Published by H.M.'s Stationery Office, 1880.

SIGSBEE, C. D.—Lieut.-Commander, U.S.N. Deep-sea Sounding and Dredging. Washington. 1880. With Heliotype and other illustrations. 4to. £3 13s. 6d.

STEVENS, CHARLES W.—Flyfishing in Maine lakes; or, Camp-life in the Wilderness. Boston, U.S.A. A. Williams and Co. 24mo. 1 dol.

ARZANO, A. D.—Les Habitants de la Mer et la Flore marine. Limoges: F. F. Ardant, frères; 1881. 144 p. ill. 8vo.

FREDOL, A. Le Monde de la Mer. Third Edition. Paris: Hachette and Co. 1880. 632 p. ill. 8vo. 30 fr.

GAUDON, C. Mémoire sur la pêche fluviale du poisson remontant de la mer et du poisson d'eau douce, au point de vue de la destruction des espèces et de la dépopulation des rivières. Le Blanc. 1881. 16 p. 8vo.

Reprinted from *L'Echo du Blanc*.

LA BLANCHERE, H. DE.—La Pêche en eau douce, contenant tous les principes de la pêche à la ligne, la réglementation du droit de pêche, etc. Paris: Delarue, 1881. 208 p. ill. 18mo. 2 fr.

MOREAU, E.—Histoire naturelle des poissons de la France. In 3 vols. Paris: G. Masson, 1881. Vol. 1—3. 7 + 480; 576; 701 p. 220 ill. 8vo. 60 fr.

ROLAND, E.—Faune populaire de la France. Tome III.: Les Reptiles, les Poissons, les Mollusques, les Crustacés et les Insectes (noms vulgaires, dictons, proverbes, légendes, contes et superstitions). Paris: Maisonneuve and Co., 1881. 15 + 365 p. 8vo. 10 fr.

This interesting production, the first of the kind ever published in France, is the result of much diligent research in philological, mythological, and legendary lore.

VAILLANT, L.—Les Poissons, Crustacés et Mollusques à l'Exposition Universelle de 1878 à Paris. Paris: Imp. Nationale, 1880. 33 p. 8vo.

Report of the International Jury by M. Leon Vaillant, Professor of Ichthyology at the Natural History Museum, Paris.

NEBESKI, O.—Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Amphipoden der Adria. Wien: Hölder, 1881. 8vo. 7m. 20 pf.

NEUBAUER.—Zusammenstellungen d. in Deutschland geltenden Rechts betr. verschiedene Rechtsmaterien [Expropriation, Forstrecht, Jagdrecht, Fischereirecht, Deich u. Sielrecht, Nâherrecht, Gesinderecht] unter Benutzg. amt. Materialien. Berlin: v. Decker's Verlag, 1881. 4to. 4m. 40 pf.

POHL, O.—Das Ichthys, Monument von Autun. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1881. 4to. lith. pl. 2m.

STEINDACHNER, FR.—Ichthyologische Beiträge [ix]. Wien. Gerold's Sohn, 1881. 29 pp. 6 plates. 8vo. 2m.

Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Austrian Imperial Academy of Sciences.

STAAT van de groote of zoutharing-visscherij in het jaar, 1880. Naar officiële bescheiden. (Bijblad bij No. 1163 der Vlaardingsche Courant) Vlaardingen. J. F. C. Brückwilder. Folio. fl. 0.50.

A table compiled from official sources, showing the total catch of every Dutch fishing boat employed in the herring fisheries during 1880.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. ALLMAN (463, Oxford Street).—You can get Mr. T. Ford's book by writing direct to him at Caistor, Lincolnshire; and Mr. T. W. Aldham's book by writing direct to him at Winchester.

FISHING IN THE UNITED STATES.

Will G. H., who sent a query respecting the above, please send us his address again?—[ED. F. G.]

WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF PERCH.

SIR,—Passing through Leather Lane, Holborn, last night, March 8, I saw exposed for sale some hundreds of perch, about 3 bushels, numbers of them under size. They may have come from the Thames ditches, as the fish in last Sunday's floods were making up; but no matter where they came from, I think it clearly shows the Mundella Act should be altered at once and made at least six months against the nets. No wonder anglers and punt men grumble as the Act is entirely against them; and the fish are taken out just before the close, a nice finish to so bad a season.—I am, &c., F. M.

ANGLING CLUB NEAR CROYDON.

SIR,—Could any of your readers recommend me a good angling club near Croydon for good jack, perch and roach fishing? If so should be extremely obliged.—I am, &c., ESOS.

FISHING IN THE RODING.

SIR,—Will some reader of the FISHING GAZETTE kindly inform me if there is any trout fishing in the River Roding, say between Woodford and Abridge, Essex; and if not, whether any one would be allowed to angle for coarse fish in the close season, provided they have leave from a farm tenant whose land adjoins the river?—I am, &c., MERLIN.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—I am extremely sorry to think I should have given any offence in publishing those two reports referred to in last week's GAZETTE, but I hereby apologise, and I hope you will take it as such. As for casting a slur on those gentlemen who were elected on Wednesday, I can assure you I had no intention of doing such a mean thing as that. I merely spoke about the black-balling; not that I knew anything about it myself, but heard so from several gentlemen whose names I do not wish to publish. I think it was stated that the Dabchick had flown, but you see he has again settled down in his nest.—I am, &c., W. H. DABCHICK.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—In reply to the wish expressed by "Birkenhead" in your last week's issue, I beg to enclose one of our circular cards, and shall be glad if you will kindly publish as much of it as you think fit in this week's edition of the FISHING GAZETTE.

I sent you a copy of our rules some short time ago.—I am, &c.,
Liverpool, March 7th, 1881. R. WOOLFAH, Hon. Sec.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Patrons: Right Hon. Earl of Lathom, Right Hon. Lord Sandon, M.P., Earl of Dalhousie, Sir R. A. Cross, M.P., Colonel J. Ireland Blackburne, M.P., E. Whiteley, Esq., M.P., W. Rathbone, Esq., M.P., T. Weld Blundell, Esq., J. W. Crompton, Esq. President: T. Davis, Esq. Vice-President: W. Woolfall, Esq. Treasurer: Mr. W. Jones. Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. Woolfall.

The Liverpool Angling Association has been established for the purpose of promoting fair and legitimate angling amongst the disciples of the "gentle art," and of acquiring, by renting or otherwise, sheets of water within a reasonable distance of the city, in which the members shall have the right of enjoying their favourite pastime. The entrance fee is fixed at 1s. 6d., and the subscription 3d. per week, which can, of course, be paid quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly in advance, at the member's option. Without doubt, it is the plain duty of every angler to join this Association without delay, and thus strengthen the hands of the executive, and enable them to compete for the renting of suitable water, the giving of good prizes, &c., &c.; and it is to be hoped that the great bulk of the followers of Isaak Walton will at once become members of the association.

The various railway companies were communicated with on the subject of reduced fares, and the London and North-Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire Great Western, and Midland have granted to members, on the production of their membership cards, the privilege of travelling, when on fishing bent, to various good fishing stations on their lines at about a fare and a quarter for the double journey, covering three days. A printed card of the stations and fares will be given to each member on payment of the cost price.

No fish to be weighed for prizes of less than the following weights:—Pike, 4 lb.; jack, 1 lb.; perch, 3 oz.; trout, 4 oz.; grayling, 4 oz.; barbel, 1 lb.; bream, 6 oz.; chub, 8 oz.; carp and tench, 4 oz.; roach, including rud, 2 oz.; and dace, including graining, 2 oz. Gudgeon, poise, or bleak not to be restricted to weight. Eels not to be classed as fish, and not to be weighed-in to any member.

The association hold their meetings weekly, at half-past eight each Thursday evening, at the Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road, Liverpool, and the members will have much pleasure in welcoming every angler at these meetings, at which also any further information will be given, items of fishing discussed, excursions arranged, and matters of personal interest to the craft generally ventilated.

STOCKING A POND.

SIR,—Would any subscriber kindly tell me—Firstly, whether trout would be likely to thrive in a pond 370 feet by 130 feet, depth from 30 to 5 feet;

secondly, what other kinds of fish would be likely to flourish, and where same may be bought in small quantities; and thirdly, a few hints as to the time when they should be put in the pond. Three years ago the pond was full of tench, but of late the fish have diminished owing, I fancy, to a few pike that must have been left in on the clearing out of the pond for the purpose of destroying American weed, which grows rapidly.—I am, &c., EAST SUSSEX.

[Put trout in if a stream runs in and out, if not put roach, perch, carp, &c. Now would be a good time, better than in the hot weather, as the fish will not stand removal so well then.—ED.]

YARE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

President: G. F. Buxton, Esq.; Vice-President: E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.

DEAR SIR,—The annual meeting of the above will be held at the Bell Hotel, on Tuesday evening, March 15th, at 8.30 o'clock. Your attendance will oblige.—Yours respectfully, C. J. GREEN, hon. sec.
London Street, Norwich.

BUSINESS.

"To adopt the accounts for the past year."
"Election of officers for the ensuing twelve months; appoint day and place for the annual dinner, and other important business."
"To consider the future grant of £10 to the Bure Society."

"THE FISHERMAN'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me, through your GAZETTE, if there is such a paper as the *Fisherman's Magazine and Review*, and, if so, where it is published? By doing so they will greatly oblige
March 9, BLUE DUN.
[The above magazine expired some years ago.—ED.]

A LIVERPOOL CLUB.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Birkenhead" may find the Liverpool Angling Association to his taste.

Any communications addressed to the Secretary, Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road, Liverpool, will be courteously responded to.—I am, &c.
Oakfield Villa, Grant Road, Knotty Ash, Liverpool. JAS. WILKINSON.

HOW TO PRESERVE DEAD MINNOWS.

SIR,—Can you or any of your subscribers to the FISHING GAZETTE inform me how to preserve dead minnows for a month or more, so they will be tough and bright to use for trout spinning? L. FISHER.
Flemington, New Jersey, U.S.A.

[In the north of England they adopt this plan. Take a stone jar and put the minnows into it with dry moss, sprinkle salt and shake them up loosely; they keep a long time and are tough and bright, though, as the salt shrinks them, a larger size should be salted than would be necessary if used fresh.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

[Mr. Hoole asks us to insert the following notice to Delegates.—ED.]

SIR,—Will you please instruct your delegates to attend our meeting on the 18th inst. I shall have important information to give them in reference to extra railway concessions gained by the Association. If you want tickets of admission please apply to me. Send me corrections for new list of clubs at once, please.—I am, &c., J. HOOLE, hon. sec.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The successful competition of Sunday last for prizes given by Messrs. Newman and R. A. Banfield were Messrs. Banfield and Greener. It is arranged to compete for prizes given by Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., and two other gentlemen on Sunday next; but I am afraid we shall not be able to fish unless the water is in a better condition.—C. NEWMAN, hon. sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

One member only has weighed-in fish—Mr. Castellon the 27th, roach from the Lea and Stort, and on the 6th roach from Watford. We fish on Sunday next for six prizes.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

The members fish for the remaining prizes on 13th (Sunday), hoping all members will show up in strong force, as it being the last of the season, requesting all members to attend on Thursday next, for important business to do.—E. WILSON.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society competed on the 6th inst. in a pegged-down match at King's Langley for eight valuable prizes. The competition was highly successful, every member getting fish. The following gentlemen were the winners in the order named:—Messrs. H. Anderson, J. Bunn, J. Claydon, W. Richardson, W. Lester, W. Warman, T. Midson and F. James. Messrs. Eagles and Fortescue, who did not fish in the match, brought up some fine roach from the Lea, the first-named having 9 lb. and Mr. Fortescue 5 lb.—W. L.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out in force on Sunday, but our show was poor—most of the jack fishermen having to content themselves with a run up and down the bank to keep their blood in circulation. Mr. B. Lowin took first honours (a

handsome case of stuffed birds, presented by Mr. Biscoe, of Fetter Lane) with a brace of small jack. Mr. G. Stevens was only one behind with a few fine roach from the Lea, and took Mr. Rider Burrows' telescope. Mr. W. Selwood took a 2 lb. jack legering with a worm. I hope to give you a more glowing account of our doings on the 13th, when we fish for a sweepstake before laying by our tackle for a long three months.—D. G. MUNRO, sec.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we fished for seven prizes, at Tagg's Island, but, owing to the high state of the water, only five were won. Mr. Hornfeck taking first prize; Mr. Coster, second; Mr. Meek, third; Mr. Lawrence, fourth; Mr. Stedman, five. The other two prizes will be fished for on Sunday next.—W. COSTER.

March 9.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On Sunday last, the 6th, Mr. J. Green and "Midshipmite Lumley" received a moist reception from "Father Thames," under the following circumstances. Mr. Green and "The Midshipmite" were fishing in the neighbourhood of Maidenhead, Mr. Green on the bank and "The Mite" in a boat. By some means or other the boat got into the stream, the current of which was too strong for him, and he was soon carried towards the weir. Finding he had no control over the boat, he lost his presence of mind and jumped in the river, where, but for the timely assistance of Mr. T. Green, he would have made food for those that he wished to make food of. In the meantime the boat drifted on, and fortunately the wind caught it and drove it into some bushes, from whence it was rescued by Mr. Green, who placed in it the now limp "Midshipmite," and pulled to the first house he could get to, where, with the kind assistance of the worthy host, they took possession of a bed until their clothes were dry enough to put on. At the time of writing neither "The Gallant Commodore" nor "The Midshipmite" seem any the worse for their moist reception. The under-mentioned gentlemen exhibited fish in the clubroom the same evening:—Mr. H. Harrison, 12 lb. 14 oz. roach and perch; Mr. E. Harrison, roach; Mr. T. Bigsby, roach; Mr. J. Green, roach and dace; Mr. Lumley, roach; Mr. J. Stanton, barbel; Mr. Hornfeck, barbel; Mr. C. Wood, roach; and Mr. T. Lee, roach. The gross weight going over 40 lb. The above gentlemen visited the following places:—Pangbourne, Marlow, Taplow, Maidenhead, Henley, Walton, and Harefield. On Sunday next a grand contest will take place for some useful prizes.—PIXIE.

March 9, 1881.

GOLDEN TENCH ANGLING CLUB.

Owing to the state of the rivers the show at our club on Sunday was very small. The river Lea was out in full force. Miles of land were under water, but Mr. Higby had one jack from the Grand Junction Canal weighing 3 lb. Mr. Brown had some nice roach from the same place. Mr. Webb, fishing with two friends at St. Margaret's, took six roach, weighing 2 lb. 14 oz.—T. S. WEBB.

March 8, 1881.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

We had a very fine show of fish on Sunday last. From the Thames; Mr. F. Watling, 4 lb. 7 oz. roach; Mr. Young, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 2 lb. 2 oz. Mr. Theobald 5 lb. 14 oz., including two fine perch, one weighing 1 lb. 7½ oz. From the Grand Junction Canal: Mr. Phillips, 2 lb. 10 oz. roach; Mr. J. Smith, 1 lb. 11 oz. roach; Mr. J. Fitch, one jack, 2 lb.; Mr. Parkin, 1 lb. 4 oz. roach, total 22 lb. 4 oz. The members will do their utmost on Tuesday next to obtain a good show of fish for the last day of weighing. A large number of prizes will be fished for.—J. FITCH, sec.

March 8.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows of fish have not been very large lately, but still the members are deserving of the same amount of praise for their perseverance. Several of them were out on Sunday last, 6th inst., and only three had takes of any note, they were Messrs. G. Manning, E. Morrow, and B. Crook. Messrs. A. C. Critchfield and J. W. Morgan had a grand show of pike this day (Wednesday), the total weighed over 1 cwt., the largest weighed 15 lb. Mr. A. Salmon had roach; Mr. T. Dennison, senr., had perch. There are two more prizes to be added to the two announced for Sunday next, 13th inst. The list of prizes will be as follows:—A chimney glass, value £2 2s., given by Mr. A. E. Bedford; "An Angler's Companion," value £1 1s., given by Mr. C. Hambridge; ros. 6d., given by Mr. G. Wood; ros. 6d., given by Mr. A. Salmon. Conditions—All fish weighed in accordance with the rules of the society; members to choose their own fishing water; no competitor to leave Lond on before 5 a.m. on the morning of the competition. A resolution has been passed, that as there will be very little business during the fence months, the members beguile the dull time away with harmony, to which they can invite their friends.

March 9.

LARK HALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the society is fixed for Tuesday, March 22nd. Tickets will be sent to the members shortly, and as a very large number is expected, it is earnestly requested that those members who wish to bring friends, make early application for tickets, either by letter or personally, to Mr. W. Tucker, the hon. sec., at the club house. The shows of fish lately have been very poor, the only one worth reporting being that of Mr. G. Watkins, on Sunday last, viz., 11 lb. 9 oz. roach, and 4 lb. 3 oz. perch.—VERITAS.

March 8.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, taking it altogether, we could not complain of the appearance on our trays. Mr. Scott, 3 lb. 8 oz. roach; Mr. Mead, 1 lb. 12 oz. roach; Mr. Humphreys, 1 lb. 10 oz. roach; Mr. Pipe, 1 lb. 6 oz. roach; Mr. Hurwood, 1 lb. 1 oz. roach and gudgeon; Messrs. Petrie and Wrighton, dace. Mr. E. Barr wishes to thank brother anglers for the grand reception he met to his call on Monday night.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

March 9.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Mr. Hillier, of this society, succeeded on the 6th inst. in showing some splendid bream and roach, one of the former going 5 lb. 8 oz.—Messrs. Bonvoison and Marshall having roach from the canal, and Mr. Fred Forman jack from Elstree.

THE NORWICH ANGLING CLUB.

The general meeting of the above club was held at the club-house on Monday evening last, when Mr. Gunn, the celebrated naturalist, read a very interesting and instructive paper on "The Freshwater Fish of England." There was a good attendance of members.—ANGLER.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a good attendance of members at the weekly meeting on Wednesday evening last, in the Club Room, Station Hotel, Richmond. In the absence of Mr. F. C. Clench, who had not returned from Scotland, the chair was worthily occupied by Mr. Owen Davis. Mr. J. H. Gaunt, the energetic honorary secretary, read letters from Sir Henry W. Peek, Bart., M.P., and Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., both accepting the office of vice-president, and the latter enclosing a cheque for one guinea to be given as a prize at the discretion of the members. This is another good movement in the increasing popularity of the society, which bids fair to become a large suburban club. Mr. W. H. Brougham was then called upon by the chairman to offer some remarks on the Thames, and who referred principally to the safe passage this season of the dace. Not relying on local assistance, two of the wholly-paid keepers of the T.A.P.S., in union with the police, had been watching the river night and day. There was a large body of dace at Twickenham, where, owing to the cold weather, they doubtless remained, and it was desirable they should be protected from the net, but they had with the milder weather headed up, and the anxiety for their safety had subsided. He reminded the members of Monday next being the closing day of the angling session, and referred especially to the prohibition of the sale of freshwater fish during the fence period, which was in reality the best part of the Freshwater Fishing Act of 1878. In concluding, Mr. Brougham hoped the time had now come when the Richmond Piscatorials were in a position to subscribe to the T.A.P.S., as both had been working together, and assured those present that any suggestions from their society, with its position on the Thames, would have great weight with his committee. Mr. Little at once proposed that the Richmond Piscatorial Society subscribe one guinea annually to the T.A.P.S., and said he should be happy to do the same himself. Mr. J. Munro seconded the proposition, and it was unanimously carried. The remainder of the evening was occupied in arranging for a show of fish specimens from the society, at the exhibition in Richmond, in April, and concluded with hearty votes of thanks to Mr. W. H. Brougham for his attendance, and to Mr. Owen Davis for his admirable conduct in the chair. It is evident from Mr. Munro's personal attention to the comforts of the Richmond Piscatorials he has made them his chief study, and the anglers ought to support him.—B.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

On Thursday, the 3rd inst., Mr. T. Hughes had another turn among the jack, and succeeded in taking three very handsome fish, weighing 53 lb. (one 22 lb., and 17 lb. and one 14 lb.) On Saturday he was again in "luck's way," getting this time four jack—the heaviest going 17 lb. The prize competition which took place on Sunday, the 6th, came off in favour of Mr. F. Dale and Mr. H. Smithers, with roach and dace from the Thames; other waters refusing to contribute on this occasion, although earnestly solicited by various members of the society.—PIXIE.

March 8.

ST. JOHN'S.

We had a complimentary visit paid to this society on Monday evening, March 7. Fourteen clubs were represented, most of them by large numbers of their members, so we had a first-class house full. Some first-class songs were sung by the following gentlemen:—Therling, Stevens, Fowler; Mr. Rayment of the Star, gave us two readings, "The Accursed One," and a selection from "Richard the Third;" Mr. Bell, "The Chase;" Messrs. Vanigan, Leach Brown, Hall, Turner, of the Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Batten, Lea, Lewis, Casey, J. Roberts, and Gersutch. We had some first-rate talent in the room, but had not time for all to sing, so at 12.30 we separated, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.—F. F.

March 10.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The handsome oil-painting—subject, freshwater fish (by Wolfe), the property of an old angler and club member—is now on view at the above house, and will be drawn for on the art-union principle. Tickets, 1s. each, to be had of the secretaries of angling clubs and fishing-houses. As a wind-up for the season, the members of the above society intend fishing a match for a series of club prizes at Shiplake on Sunday morning, 13th inst. The result will appear in next week's *Gazette*.—J. CABORN, sec.

March 7.

SOCIAL BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

Taken at Pangbourne on the 6th of March on bank, by Mr. H. Freeman, 8 lb. 5 oz. roach.—J. R. PAVEY.

March 7, 1881.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition which took place on Thursday the 10th, is as follows:—First, Mr. Beckett, perch and roach, 8 lb. 8 oz., £2 2s., given by Mr. Peters; second, Mr. Pugh, perch and roach, 6 lb. 5 oz., rod given by Mr. Weekly; third, Mr. Bansback, chub and perch, 6 lb. 2 oz., £1 1s. given by Mr. Clarke; fourth, Mr. Murray, roach and dace, 4 lb. 8 oz., waterproof coat given by Mr. Turner; fifth, Mr. Hayward, dace, book of tackle given by Mr. Medway; sixth, Mr. Duck, bream, roach and dace, £1 1s. given by Mr. Beckett; seventh, Mr. Boalch, dace and roach, leggings, given by Mr. Linstead. Some of the chub and perch weighed nearly 2 lb. each, and the gross weight of all fish about 50 lb., all taken from the bank. Mr. Pugh exhibited three jack that he caught at Henley on Wednesday. The attention of those members who were

not present this evening is called to the following notice:—"In consequence of the inability of several members to attend, the general meeting called for on the 17th, is postponed until the 24th.—PIXIE.

March 10.

THE STANLEY ANGLERS.

I have very much pleasure in sending you the report of fish caught by our members this week, and hope to be able to give you another before the end of the fishing season, as I hear that several members are going to have another try before that time. Our president, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, has had 4 lb. roach, and 1 lb. 8 oz. perch; Mr. J. Duncan has had a beautiful take of roach weighing 24 lb. 5 oz., and one dace, weighing 9½ oz. Four of the roach weighed over 1 lb., the largest weighed 1 lb. 6½ oz., the remainder were all good sized fish. Mr. Gow has also had a very good take, having been successful in capturing 7 lb. 4 oz., jack, 6 lb. 14½ oz. perch, 4 lb. 13½ oz. roach, 4 lb. 4½ oz. of chub. Some of the roach and perch were very good specimens. Mr. G. Walker, fishing in private water, through the kindness of our president, captured 2 lb. 2½ oz. jack, 5 lb. 8½ oz. perch, and 2 lb. 12 oz. of roach; the perch and roach were all good specimens, the largest perch weighed 2 lb. 8 oz., and was a handsome fish. He is having it preserved. Mr. W. R. Humby had 3 lb. 6½ oz. roach and 7½ oz. of perch; Mr. Rose 3 lb. 1½ oz. roach, and 9 oz. of perch, and Mr. D. M. Humby had a nice show of roach and perch. The last three gentlemen are honorary members, and I hope their example will be followed by several others. Apologising for the length of this report.—C. LAWLER, hon. sec.

March 10.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 6th inst. Messrs. Gretton and North had another attempt to obtain a show of fish, but with the water the colour of clay, running like a mill race, and in places entirely submerging the towpath, it is little to be wondered at that the result was anything but satisfactory. Mr. Ed. North having 14¾ oz. roach, and yours obediently 1 lb. 13¾ oz. roach.—THOS. GRETTON.

March 8.

TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

On Wednesday last the members of the above club, by the kindness of Mr. Lewin White, dragged a pond at Ightham, in the estate of Edward Cazalet, Esq., for the purpose of securing stock carp for the Medway fishery. The pond proved most prolific, for although 1041 fine stock fish were taken out, plenty were left in the pond to stock it again. The fish were afterwards put in the preserve waters of the Club.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

March 10.

TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB AND FISH PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The sixth annual meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening, March 3rd, at the Bull Hotel, Tunbridge, when Mr. T. Elliott, of Tunbridge Wells, presided, and there were also present—Messrs. E. Greenwood, R. A. Dallas, Beeching, W. J. Parker, F. Rawley, J. Snelling, E. Plowright, T. Seabrook, C. Williams, A. J. Snelling, W. Stander, C. Payne, G. Payne, F. Chalklin, F. W. Hancock, J. Buley, Q. Austin, J. Eller, W. Flood, W. A. Kirby, T. M. Dove, E. Hollomby (hon. sec.), &c. The annual report stated that the operations of the society had been very successful, as netting was almost, if not entirely, done away in the district. We preserved the Medway and its tributary streams from Ensfield Bridge on Lord D'Liste and Dudley's Estate, near Penshurst to Ensfield Bridge, near East Peckham, some six miles. This combined with the precautionary measures taken during the spawning season had led to a great improvement in the fish and river, both in regard to the size and quantity of fish. Besides this, owing to the kindness of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, various ponds had been dragged by the committee, and the result has been that 1000 tench and 30 brace of good carp have been placed in the river, thus improving the fishery and the resources of the river. The committee appealed to other gentlemen in the neighbourhood to allow them to drag any streams or ponds they may have to obtain store fish for the river. They regretted that owing to the rain and consequent floods, the fishing had not been so good as the committee could have wished for; but, notwithstanding this, some good catches of jack, perch, bream, roach, chub, tench, and carp had been made. They believed that if the weather next season prove at all successful, sport will be everything that can be desired. The accounts showed a deficiency of between £7 to £8, but this the secretary explained was due, in a great measure, to the fact that extra expense had to be incurred for the purchase of otter traps, &c., which would not occur again. The Chairman, in a long and interesting speech, moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which was carried. The following officers were then elected:—W. Gorham, Esq., president; A. T. Beeching, Esq., treasurer; Mr. E. Plowright, auditor; Mr. E. Hollomby, hon. sec.; the Hon. Henry Roper Curzon; Messrs. R. A. Dallas, Beeching, J. Buley, T. M. Dove, M. A. H. Edwards, T. Elliott, J. Le Fleming, G. Gray, E. Greenwood, F. W. Hancock, C. Payne, G. Punnett, J. Snelling, R. Ware, W. A. Kirby and F. Chalklin. James Foster, the water bailiff to the society, was re-elected. Some discussion took place with reference to the formation of a weighing-in club in connection with the society. It was eventually unanimously resolved to ask the committee to take the matter up and report before the season opens in June.—MEDWAY WATER RAT.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday last, Mr. Phillips again to the fore, with over 15 lb. On Sunday last the same gentleman's take was over 11 lb. Mr. Packman also weighed in roach.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

March 7, 1881.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The competition which took place on Sunday, the 6th inst., among the members of the above society was an exciting one, some twenty members being allowed to go where they liked. The Lea, the Colne and the Thames were visited, and courted most patiently with hopes of being induced to supply fish sufficient to win the various prizes. "Father Thames," who secured the greatest number of suitors was, on this occasion, like ladies sometimes are—very hard to please, but after a deal of coaxing this way and that way, Messrs. Delahaye, Weatherhead, Beale, Renault, Bedford, Cain, Boalch and Brown

succeeded in wheedling out of the "mud-sick gentleman" some roach, dace, perch and bream. Mr. Bayley had some perch from the Lea. All the fish were exhibited in the club-room during the evening, and at 10.45 the prize-winners were named, among whom were Mr. S. J. Weatherhead, the winner of Mr. Brown's writing-desk. On the 11th a competition will take place for a series of prizes, the first being £3 3s. given by Mr. James Collins, the second £2 2s., given by Mr. J. Frith.—PIXIE.

March 9.

A FISHERIES EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH.

WE are glad to see that the interest in fish and fishing is increasing so wonderfully in this country, and here is what our Scotch friends think on the subject:—"Why should we not have a Fisheries Exhibition in Edinburgh in the course of next winter or spring? Not long since there was a brilliant and successful Fisheries Exhibition in Berlin; and in April next there is to be one at Norwich. We understand that, in that city, during the last few weeks, the applications for space by intending exhibitors have been so numerous that the committee have been compelled to change the site for the exhibition from St. Andrew's Hall to the Drill Hall, a large and commodious building, and that the city corporation have granted the committee leave to erect a large temporary structure as an addition in Chapel Field Gardens. The Norwich Exhibition is to be held, the advertisements inform us, under Royal patronage and State recognition; and special prizes are to be given for apparatus connected with, and illustrative of, pisciculture; and for essays on the subject; for models of fishing-boats used in trawling and drifting; for models of fish-curing establishments and improved fishermen's dwellings; for specimens of stuffed fish; collections of tackle used in sea-fishing and for fishing in inland waters, &c. Then there are also to be prizes for essays on the cultivation of oysters, mussels, and other shell fish; on the salmon disease; on the parasitic and other diseases of fish not belonging to the salmon species; on fishing legislation; and on a variety of cognate subjects. In addition to all this, the Government has promised to award gold, silver, and bronze medals, and diplomas of honour, to the successful exhibitors.

It is impossible to doubt that exhibitions of this kind must tend to foster and develop the fisheries, by stimulating thought and enterprise, and by concentrating in one spot, open to public inspection, all the improvements of modern science which have any bearing on one of our chief national industries. Therefore, why should we not, following the example of Berlin and Norwich, hold a Fishery Exhibition next year in Edinburgh, in order to illustrate and encourage the fisheries of Scotland? They are more valuable than those of England, and vastly more so than those of the German Empire; and, owing to the great extent of the Scottish seaboard, and the number and importance of the neighbouring islands, whose shores are washed by seas teeming with fish, they are susceptible of a much greater expansion. With, perhaps, the single exception of the Norwegian herring fishery, the herring fishery of Scotland is the most important fishing industry in Europe, its total value being not much under £3,000,000 a year. The average annual value of the herring brought into the stations on the coast of Aberdeenshire alone is equal to the whole land rental of the county. In this case, aquiculture is at least as valuable as agriculture. In 1876, the number of boats fishing at the Aberdeenshire stations was 2,098, manned by 12,000 men and boys. The value of the property involved in their safety amounted to £630,000; and they afforded employment to 10,500 persons on shore. Surely this great herring fishery is an industry worth encouraging; and it might be immensely expanded by improved harbour accommodation on the east and north coasts, by an extension of telegraphic communication in the Outer Hebrides and the Orkney Islands, and by having the sounds in the last-named islands better buoyed and beacons than they are at present. Then, besides the herring fishery, there is the extensive and valuable fishery for cod and ling most successfully prosecuted in the Orkney and Shetland Islands; for haddocks, whittings, flounders, &c.; for mussels, oysters, crabs, and lobsters; all of which might be greatly increased and improved. Last, though not least, come our salmon fisheries; worth about £300,000 a year; but which might be immensely increased in value under a wiser system of legislation and better management.

There is, in short, ample scope and much need for a Fisheries Exhibition in Edinburgh to illustrate and to encourage our fisheries, and to prove to the general public how important they are to our national wealth and well-being. The recently-formed Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association, which already numbers upwards of 100 life members, might most naturally and appropriately take up the matter, and by this time next year everything might be arranged. No city in Great Britain could have a more central or spacious place for such an exhibition than the Waverley Market presents. It would afford ample room for a crowd of exhibitors and great facilities for the sight-seeing public."—*Scotsman*.

ANOTHER otter (the fourth this winter) was trapped in the Titchfield Club water last Wednesday by Mr. H. P. Delme's keeper. It was a fine old dog, weighing 21½ lb. Having read the article, in your last week's number, on "Otters, and How to Catch Them," I will tell you of a plan communicated to me by a keeper, who caught three in a very short time, after having tried for some months unsuccessfully. He found that otters frequented a pool above which were some hatches that would pen the water back for a short time. Having ascertained their landing-places, he shut down the hatches, and set his traps between high and low water mark, and then turned on the water, with the above result. His idea was that the otters detected his footsteps and scent as keenly as he did theirs; but, by letting on the water, his traces were covered.—RED PALMER.

CHUB.

THERE is no better bait in cold weather for big chub, in the Kennet than the middling-sized lob-worm, well scoured. Mr. Bailey, the noted Nottingham angler, recommends, I believe, a small portion only of a lob for fishing; but a hungry chub will greedily bite at a lob-worm not quite of the largest size. Bread and good fat cheese (mixed) is an excellent lure in summer, and so are the smaller sort of chafer that in some seasons abound about haymaking time. In fact, no deadlier bait exists—not even the fattest May fly. The best of all gentles are those from tallow-chandlers' fat tubs; but ordinary tallow-chandling has been almost superseded by oil and lamps. The caddis bait abounds in the Kennet, and especially in the smaller watercourses in the valley.

OLD ANGLER.

THE SALMON FISHING SEASON.

ALTHOUGH most people are unaware of it, the larger proportion of the salmon consumed in England are captured in the rivers of Ireland. Selecting a couple of years at random, it appears from the figures furnished by the official inspectors of the Irish fisheries that in 1878 44,637½ boxes of salmon, each containing 150 lb., were exported to various towns in England; while in the preceding year the number of boxes was 47,934, the money value of which would not be far under £450,000. No official statistics of the Scottish salmon supplies are collected; but the value of fish taken from Scotch waters cannot be estimated at a larger sum than £300,000—the value of the salmon taken in English waters being little more than a third of that amount; and it is not possible by any manipulation of figures to bring up the annual value of the British salmon fisheries to £1,000,000. As regards the Scottish salmon fisheries, which are all private property, the rentals of the various rivers are well known; and, since the yield of fish, to pay wages and other expenses, requires to be about three times the amount of the rent, it is at once apparent that the value of the salmon taken in the Tay and Tweed must be nearly £100,000 a year, leaving the remainder of the sum total to be made up by the numerous salmon streams of less magnitude which abound in Scotland. With prices high, it does not require a very large number of fish to make up the total sum indicated. A fine specimen of Tay salmon, weighing some 30 lb., is of more value in the London season than a "prime" Southdown sheep. During the present month the wholesale price of salmon at Billingsgate has not been less than 2s. 6d. per lb.; while in the retail fish-shops it has been selling at from 4s. to 7s. 6d., and in some years it has been even dearer. As the rivers come into season, and larger quantities are supplied, prices may fall a little; but it is only on rare occasions that good salmon can be obtained at a less price than one shilling a pound weight, and there is little chance that it will ever be cheaper. The late Mr. Buckland was at one time fond of predicting that we should yet have salmon at under sixpence a pound; for although we should double the supply during the present year, the existing scale of prices would scarcely be affected, so great has become the demand for the fish.

So far as the supplies obtained during this season can at present be estimated, salmon fishing has not had a favourable beginning—in consequence, no doubt, of the severity of the weather. At the opening of the Tay fisheries, on the 5th of February, very few fish

were taken even on the most productive "shots;" on some of them not even one salmon was obtained; and the short supply still continues. On many of the English rivers salmon fishing will not begin till next month, while on some of them the commencement of salmon fishing is timed to begin so late as the 1st of May. In Scotland the salmon close time is over, as a general rule, in all the salmon streams by the end of this month; but on one or two of them rod-fishing has been legal since the 12th. On one of the Irish streams the angler has been at work since the first day of the year; and from the 1st of February the majority of Irish streams have been open to rod-fishers. A few of the Irish rivers, however, do not open till March, and there is one on which it is not legal to cast a fly till the first day of June; but that river only closes about the usual time, the commencement of the close season for nets being fixed for the 15th of September, and for rods on the 31st of October. Net-fishing in Irish waters, however, ceases pretty generally by the end of August; the rods on some rivers being allowed in certain instances to continue to the 1st of November. The Tweed is open for rod-fishing till the 1st of December; at all events it is timed to close on the 30th of November. Thus, with the Bundrows in Ireland opening on the 1st of January, we are within one month of having British salmon all the year round, the interval being in the meantime filled up with supplies of Canadian, Norwegian, and Rhenish fish. That we could have fine salmon all the year round from our own waters has often been shown. On the occasion of capturing salmon on the Tay and its tributaries for the supply of the Stormontfield Salmon Nursery with ova, a considerable percentage of fine clean fish are always taken; and some years ago, while Mr. Buckland was on a salmon-spawn mission on certain tributaries of the Firth of Forth to obtain eggs for New Zealand, he assisted in capturing a large number of clean fish which were undoubtedly fit for food. Mr. Buckland, indeed, was of opinion that as a rule salmon did not spawn every year, and that in consequence there was always a large number of fine healthy fish to be obtained during all seasons.

That the annual close time which has been fixed for our salmon rivers has, roundly speaking, proved of advantage to the fisheries scarcely admits of doubt; but the time has arrived, perhaps, when some modifications of hard-and-fast lines might be devised. The "run" of the fish is undoubtedly largely dependent upon what may be called "weather influences"; and it would only be justice to those interested in the fisheries to extend, in some instances at least, the open season by from ten to twenty days: the number of days of the close season need not be diminished in consequence, since the date of the next opening could be delayed by the same period. No harm would ensue to the fisheries so regulated; because all salmon are taken alive, and an unhealthy or gravid fish could be at once restored to the water. It is estimated—and on some of our salmon streams it is quite possible to form an estimate—that a very large amount of salmon ova was deposited in November and December last; and if the spawning-beds have not been greatly disturbed by the ice and floods of the winter-time, there should in the course of the next three months be a plentiful show of salmon fry. It will be two or three years, however, before these can be counted on as eatable fish. In the meantime, it may be hoped, for the present season, since "a bad beginning has often a good ending," that the salmon supply will be an average one, both as to numbers and the weight of individual fish.

—*St. James's Gazette.*

CLEVES HUNTING AND SPORTING EXHIBITION, 1881.—The Commission of this exhibition are petitioning the Emperor to award gold State medals for the exhibitors. Silver and bronze medals will be granted by the Prussian Minister of Agriculture, Domains, and Forests. Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, the Prince of Waldeck, and the Hereditary Prince of Schamburg-Lippe will be amongst the exhibitors. The opening of the exhibition is now fixed for June 12.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1881.

EARLY FLY-FISHING FOR ROACH AND DACE.

"Of a' the airts the win' can blaw,
I dearly like the west."—BURNS.

THE long looked-for weather change, from continued cold to genial mildness, which set in a few days ago, must have been welcomed by all anglers, more especially by those who seek the

fish called "coarse." Unfortunately with the change, and westerly winds, came floods. In some parts of the country these were caused by melting snow, as well as rainfall. In our neighbourhood rain fell to such an extent as almost to extinguish the hopes of many an enthusiast who wished to have one day at least before the operation of the Mundella Act put a stop to his sport for three months and a day.

There has been a good deal of grumbling going on regarding this Act.

It is a good thing that with the fine weather the various rivers have run down and fined. How rapidly they do so, I was witness of. On Tuesday last I happened to be in Hertford; there the Lea was running bankful and very thick; at Hatfield, it was full but only cloudy. Two days after, on Thursday, at both these places it was quite clear, but still in partial flood, and on Saturday (12th) it was well run down and bright. This condition tempted me to try a beginning and ending—in one, before the Act operated—of fly-fishing for dace and roach. I chose a favourite mill stream on the upper Lea. Though the morning was hazy, it looked as if it would, like Friday, burst into brilliant sunshine, as the sun dispelled the mist, and, with such sunshine, I thought no doubt there would be a fair amount of flies on the water. I was, however, disappointed. By one o'clock I reached the river, and found that the wind had chopped round to the east—the sky so thickly lined with heavy dark clouds that no sun could pierce them, and scarcely a trace of insect life in the air, by field, tree or water. The air was genial, but no fish were rising. The day, disappointing to a fly-fisher, appeared to me to be an excellent one for those who were bottom-fishing elsewhere. There was consolation to a true lover of sport in that.

I found my stream dull as a ditch, the mill was silent and no water flowing through. At the tail where it met the main stream I made a try. Using a single horsehair cast with small red palmer and black silver-ribbed ditto, at my first cast I hooked a fair-sized roach, then a dace—immediately thereafter, to my disgust, there was a general "skedaddle" of roach, dace and minnows from my chosen spot, a jack had arrived and hunted all the fish away. It was no use to fish on then, so I took to the angler's consolation, filled my pipe, lit it and quietly smoked till such time as I thought the fish would work back to their former quarters. By the time my pipe was done, I saw a rise; then I went at them again, caught a few—then all was dead—I could not tempt more. Leaving this place I went down stream and tried the quick gravelly shallow part of the river from which I have taken many a score. Not a fin was rising, although now little black gnats were out in fair quantity. At a quarter past four, I returned to my former place, and by a quarter to five I had taken 17 dace and a brace of roach—good fair-sized fish. The roach were in fine condition, but the majority of the dace were as rough as a file. Some of these had at this early date, already spawned, and others were full of roe. I observed also, during the day, that some dace were scouring themselves on a shallow. If my observations are correct, the condition of the dace is far advanced for the season. This view, if in accordance with modern anglers, is correct, but in turning over my library of angling books, I find that all the writers of this century put the spawning time of dace from April to May, or "early summer." On going back, however, to works within the last century, I find a unanimous opinion that this fish spawns in February and March. So say Taylor, Williamson, Best, Brookes, 1774; the *Gentleman Angler*, Bowker, 1792; Saunders, 1724. Have the seasons and the condition of fish changed, or are our modern authors not sufficiently observant; or, do the spawning times vary in different rivers? The authorities I quote, were all conversant with the rivers in the London district. Turning from the river to its surroundings—these are nearly bleak as winter. Not

a new blade of grass or spring flower is visible; tree-buds are just beginning to show that life does exist; but aloft the lark tunes its mid-air notes, while the thrush, blackbird, and cock-robin vie with one another in their evensong, each of them perched on extreme tree-tops, and as they pour forth their joyous melody one hears the old Horatian line—

“Solvitur acris Hyems gratâ vice Veris et Favoni.”

JOHN BRUNTON, M.D.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 101.)

FRESH-WATER eels, provided they be small enough, are capital baits for whiting-pollack, bass, and mackerel. We used to get a few hundreds for our purpose from the fishermen at Strand-on-the-Green, near Kew, who caught them by sinking bundles of osier rods in the ditches running in or out of the Thames, into which they got and were shaken out in quantities. They are likewise to be found under flat stones when the tide recedes, and in brooks, where they may be speared with a common steel dinner fork, with stone-loach and millers' thumbs.

The lampern and the lamprey are a favourite bait for whiting-pollack; turbot are very fond of them; but they are not so long-lived as the common eel. The limpet is an irresistible bait with sea-bream, and for whiting-pout it is a tolerable substitute in the absence of anything better. If the soft part is severed from the rest and exposed in the sun, it will acquire a toughness which it did not possess when quite fresh.

Mussels are a very general bait. They may be obtained at most sea stations for a trifle, and kept alive by hanging them overboard in a basket or in a net. Dabs, a delicious fish, may be caught with them, as well as whiting or haddock, &c. To open them without mutilation, take the mussel in your left hand with the byssus, or weed, towards you; cut this off and introduce the knife, not too pointed, as a lever to force the shells apart; detach the flesh that adheres to the upper shell, which remove, and then cut well under the body and the whole will be cleanly freed from the lower shell. It is a good bait for all ground fish, and other kinds occasionally take it. To bait with a mussel, spread it open in your hand, when the tongue will be observed, through which pass the hook, then closing it double, turn it over and pass the hook through the round grisly part by which it attaches itself to the shell. The whelk is well known. It is used in cod-fishing. There exists but little difficulty in procuring them, either from the fishermen, or by collecting them in pools left by the tide amongst the rocks. They may be used either boiled or raw. The periwinkle may be mentioned here as a bait for many fish; but as the tail is the tit-bit of attraction, this gone, the likelihood of success is greatly diminished. The cuttle-fish, or sepia, is a bait for bass, cod, conger, &c. Its flesh partakes of a consistence between jelly and leather, very tough, and of a beautiful pearly whiteness, which Wilcocks considers its chief commendation as a lure for bass-fishing off the beach, when the lead must be cast with all one's strength to get it as far out to sea beyond the breakers as is possible. To clean these fish, pull off the head, split the body sideways, remove the skin, back bone and sepia bag, and wash them in water. Do this as soon as they are dead, and if they are kept in a cool place they will last a day or two. We are told by several writers that a description of sausage was made from them by the Greeks and Romans; they are eaten at the present day in some parts of the kingdom, and on the Continent.

The squid is much more plentiful than the cuttle-fish. It is in some localities called the pen-and-ink fish, the ink being contained in a bag in its inside, and the bone being somewhat like a

quill pen. It is preferred to cuttle-fish for conger, cod, bass, &c., as it is not so hard but quite as tough. They are easily taken by lowering a line, within a short distance of the bottom, to which is attached any description of fish; if there they will at once seize upon it, then they can be drawn steadily to the surface. But upon this subject we are cautioned not to be too precipitate in securing it, but to be provided with a stick about six feet in length with four hooks lashed back to back on the end; hook the fish near the tail if possible, and with the same stroke drag it under the water, by which means you will escape the shower of ink which they almost always vomit forth at such times. The barbs of the four hooks should be filed off, or there will otherwise be a difficulty in withdrawing them from the squid. Such hooks are made expressly for catching squid for the Newfoundland cod fishery. There are two other sorts of squid; the sepiola, or little squid, and the flying squid, which often in its leaps from the water falls on the deck of the vessel. The sucker or poulpe—this is the *octopus vulgaris*, and it is a redeeming feature in the history of this hideous monster, that it, when dead, serves the useful purpose of bait. Indeed in British Columbia and Jersey, they are roasted and eaten by the inhabitants. They prey upon crabs and lobsters, and those who are curious as to this part of their animal economy may at feeding time at the Brighton Aquarium see how they contrive to embrace a huge crab with their demon arms lined with suckers, and make but short work with it. In Guernsey the fishermen have no mercy on it, and to disable it turn its cap inside out and carry it on a stick after capture.

The common green crab (*carcinus marnus*) is an excellent bait for flounders, fresh-water eels, bass, sea-bream, &c. They are best when about to cast their shell, in which state they are met with almost the whole of the year. They are caught in any quantity in hoop nets baited with a piece of meat, or any garbage.

Whatever doubt there may be of the possibility of meeting with a conger of one hundred pounds' weight while deep line fishing, there exists little that although halibut are not very abundant in the Channel, an occasional monster of from 100 lb. to 300 lb. is occasionally met with, while deep line fishing. We may be, therefore, excused if we say a few words of this flat alderman of the seas. Wilcocks calls this *pleuronectes hippoglossus*, a “gigantic flounder,” and tells us that, on the banks of Newfoundland it is considered a very unwelcome visitor, being often cut adrift by the fishermen when it does not escape by its own strength. Other writers inform us it is common on the N.-W. American coast, and is there taken with squid, or sunken bait, on a strong line floated with inflated bladders, after which it is speared. In the London market it often fetches 10d. to 1s. per pound. The largest halibut on record, as taken on our own coast, mentioned by Pennant, weighed three hundred pounds; and the heaviest seen by Couch was more than one hundred and twenty four pounds; but he mentions one as caught near the Isle of Man in April, 1828, measuring seven feet and six inches, and in weight three hundred and twenty pounds. Olsson refers to an example of little less than twenty feet in length. According to Bloch, these fishes may be said to associate together; and we learn from other sources that this assembling of holibuts (by the by, Couch spells it thus), is on a bank of sand in shallow water, where they lie basking in the sun; and, when discovered, they are assailed with the spear with which the fishermen endeavour to pierce and fix them to the ground; but in doing this much skill, strength and patience are necessary to prevent the boat from being swamped or capsized by the powerful struggles of the fish, which are known to be very violent, and as such are recognised by British fishermen when the halibut has chanced to swallow their hook. By them this fish is represented as being very wild, and its powerful efforts

to break loose are characterised by violent and sudden jerks in various directions. When, therefore, it is transfixed with the spear, the fishermen of the North proceed to raise it very slowly; and, when brought within their reach, a club is called into requisition, by which, as soon as possible, it is deprived of life. It may be observed that the farther north we go the larger and more abundant are the halibut; whilst the turbot, which is rare in Orkney, increases in number towards the south.

As food, the halibut is much inferior in goodness to the turbot and brill (by the bye, we ought in its place to have mentioned that the brill is preferred by many connoisseurs in fish to the turbot, particularly the large ones, which are usually very coarse, with but little flavour. The best esteemed are between ten and forty pounds weight. On account of their great size they are usually sold in slices by the pound weight. The head and fins are considered the best parts.

Halibut are caught either with the hand-line, or spiller, in the same manner as the turbot; and, being an extremely voracious fish, afford good diversion from its strength and power in the water, and will take almost any description of bait. As a proof of this, Pennant mentions two instances that occurred in one year of their swallowing the lead at the end of the line with which the seamen were sounding the bottom from on board ship: one off Flamborough Head, and the other going into Tynemouth Harbour. The latter was taken: the first disengaged itself. Couch terms the halibut the "Ladyfluke."

The whiffe (*Rhombus magastoma* of Yarrell, and the Carter of Crouch), who likewise farther names it Mary Sole, or Queen's Sole (?), bears some resemblance to the halibut, and may be termed a common fish along the south coast of Britain. In Cornwall it is not unfrequently taken with a line, as well as in the trawl. It is little valued, on account of its meagre appearance; the quantity of flesh which clothes its skeleton being in less abundance than is common with any other of the British flat-fishes. The body is, indeed, so thin as to authorise the name of lanthorn fish, by which it is sometimes called. They are likewise met with on the Welsh coast, and are occasionally caught off Weymouth. Its usual length is from about eighteen to twenty-one inches. They take the same baits as the plaice, and are rapacious feeders.

(To be continued.)

THE RIVER YORE.

A SHORT time ago I gave you an account of the Swale, with the description of a most enjoyable holiday thereby. I now send you a corresponding article on the larger and more important twin-sister, the Yore. Like the Swale, this splendid stream has its source in the Pennines. It rises on the south side of Shunnerfell, and flows mainly in an easterly and parallel direction to the Swale, with which it ultimately unites below Ripon. Here both streams, contrary to the usual geographical rule, lose their names, and henceforward form the Yorkshire Ouse. I venture to think that herein is involved a measure of injustice to one of the finest piscatorial streams in the land. Practically the Yore extends from the Pennines to the sea, and most of the other Yorkshire streams with the Trent, Ancholme, &c., are its tributaries. Viewed in this light, its river basin carries more water to the sea than any other in England. The Yore flows through ground rendered historically memorable by the families of Neville and Scrope. On its banks the great King-maker wandered, and the beautiful Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. Bolton Castle is the venerable pile that claims the honour, or rather dishonour, of this confinement. Mary had escaped for a few hours from her enemies, to be recaptured at a place called from this circumstance the Queen's Gap. In the time of the Plantagenets a great

portion of the dale was covered with wood, and tradition says it was one of the favourite hunting-grounds of King John. A few relics of feudal times yet remain. At Bainbridge, one of its most ancient villages, a curious custom of blowing the forest horn in the winter evenings still exists. The installation of horn-blower forms a red-letter day in the history of the place, and he who is favoured with its possession is regarded for the time being as a sort of village mayor. Doubtless, when the surrounding moors are covered with snow, and the weary wayfarer is benighted and lost, when the frozen grains driven by the cold east wind strike the exposed face of the drooping traveller, the peal of the distant horn comes winding up from the valley sweeter to him than a thousand concerts, for its echoes lead him to the cheerful firesides of a warm-hearted people. This river is sometimes called the Ure, or Yure, but Yore is the local and favourite, and, as I think, the most poetical name. It runs through the beautiful and verdant vale of Wensley, world-renowned for its excellent bacon, cheese and butter. With the exception of a few fields in the lower parts of the valley, all is rich pasturage, and the Wensleydale farmers can hold their own in this department of agriculture against any in this land. They are a fine, stalwart, hospitable race of men, and are justly proud of their charming and secluded valley. I shall never forget the impression made upon my mind when first its glories burst upon my view. I was journeying over from Swaledale on an angling excursion, and having reached the summit of the heather-clad hills, its spreading fields and meandering stream were glittering in the ruddy light of the rising sun. Every dew-drop on the purple heather, every hum of the flitting insects, every breath of the passing breeze, seemed to speak of life, and involuntarily my lips uttered:—

Wensleydale! I dearly love thee!
All things in thee seem to smile,
Semblance of the land above thee,
Fairest vale of Britain's isle!

Near to Aysgarth are the prettiest of the Yorkshire waterfalls, called respectively the High, Middle and Low Force. The meed of superiority is generally given to the Low Force; but in my judgment the picturesque beauties of the High Force should carry away the palm. We have here a union of nature and art which is lacking in the Low Force. An elegant bridge of one arch spans the river, and the lofty Yore Mills add to the beauty of the scene.

Such a place as this sends a thrill through the frame of the poet, and causes the artist to fondly treasure the remembrance of its beauties for his easel; for whether we behold the sparkling of the limpid waters, leaping over the terrace of water-worn rocks and broken into a hundred rills by fantastic ledges and abutments, or gaze upon the glassy pool below, with the mantling foliage of the precipitous left and the smooth emerald slope of the right, spangled with wild flowers, we dream not of Elysian sweets, for we are among them. Many and interesting are the pic-nics which take place from time to time amid these delightful scenes, and I might revel in the glories which past reminiscences suggest, and forget the object for which I took the pen in hand. During my excursion of last summer, I had the pleasure of inspecting some large and excellent photographs of these localities by Mr. Raine, of Richmond. They not merely do justice to the beautiful surroundings, but reflect the highest credit upon the artist's skill.

The Yore flows through a wider valley than the Swale, and consequently has a larger basin and bed. Its course is marked by a succession of rapids and deeps, the latter of which are sometimes of considerable length, while the bottom consists of an alternation of rock and sand. The river contains grayling as well as trout, in about equal proportions. The fish are more numerous and larger than those of the Swale, but, owing to the abundance of substantial

food in the water, are somewhat cautious, in their acceptance of invitations. It may be that, like the natives, they are somewhat more refined and particular in their tastes and fashion than their cousins of the Swale. Fish of 2 lb. or 3 lb. are often caught, and some have weighed as much as 5 lb. or 6 lb. Mr. Skidmore, of Askrigg, had one last season of 3 lb. some odd ounces. There is a well-authenticated account of one being caught near the site of the Yore Bridge Grammar School, which weighed about 14 lb.—alas! this monster was caught in a net—which the captors thought at first was an otter. The river in its upper course is clear and remarkably free from incumbrances. An angling association was established at Hawes in 1863, which, to its credit be it said, remains in operation up to the present time. The terms to residents are 5s. the season; to non-residents, 1s. per day, or 10s. the season. There was formerly a similar association at Askrigg, but I am sorry to say the public spirit of this town, so far as fishing is concerned, is at a discount, and netting is not uncommon. A ticket at Hawes entitles the holder to fish for a course of about twelve miles, and in a locality, in my estimation, far superior to either the Dove or Derwent. Some of the happiest days of my life have been spent in this delightful vale, and though oftentimes fishing under adverse circumstances, I have never gone home empty-handed. An Askrigg veteran, who, though bearing the burthen of well-nigh fourscore years, was hale and vigorous, generally accompanied me. He was one of those so passionately fond of the gentle art, who would fish from early morn to evening shade without tasting food. He has thrown his last line; but the memory of his name is yet green in the dale. He well knew the habits of the fish, and could tell almost to a minute when they would begin to rise. Most anglers know that in some localities if the fish are not on the feed, it is lost labour to attempt their capture. This remark applies forcibly to the Yore. In the early part of the season they will not rise till mid-day, later on they rise at eleven o'clock, later still at ten, and so on until they only feed early and late. There are, however, a few exceptional days. Perhaps an account of one of them may not be uninteresting.

I had made inquiry of my friend, "What time will they rise?" "Not before ten o'clock," said he. But I could let him have no rest. To the water-side I would go soon after six o'clock, commencing in good earnest the business of the day. But though trying the best flies, and fishing with all the skill that I could command, it was evidently not yet breakfast time with the spotted beauties. We were fishing up the stream, my friend taking the right, I the left. How many times during that eventful morning would I have sacrificed a few hours of life to see the darlings rise. Slowly passed the creeping time. The distant church clock pealed seven—eight—nine, still no indication of life in the pools. So at last we sat down, he to his pipe, and I to my wallet, ever and anon casting our longing eyes up and down the stream for the first appearance of the fish. Presently, just before us, came a splash, and the arching eddies almost reached our feet. Pipe and provisions vanished as if by magic, and our rods were retaken with the greatest alacrity. We walked to the foot of the next rapids, which could not well be fished from the other side. My companion suggested that I should fish the same, and he would look on. My first throw secured a rise, and a beautiful trout of 1 lb. was soon turning somersaults on the greensward. I looked at my watch and found it three minutes past ten. The next few minutes were eminently golden, for I hooked and landed, without moving from the place, seven fine fish. Presently there came a stronger run, and a sort of pull and counter-pull, which at first I could not well understand, but which ultimately explained itself when I landed two trout at once, weighing respectively $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. I was fishing with single hair. My companion, seeing this, could stay no longer, but

moved on in the hope of doing likewise; but the event of the morning had yet to come. He could not have gone more than 200 yards before I hooked one of the finest fish the Yore contained. He showed the noblest play, but, try as I would, I could not get a sight of my game; he resolutely stuck to the opposite side of the river. By his predilection for the ground, and the manner in which he conducted himself, I judged at once that it was a large grayling. After playing him for ten minutes, my friend, who had come back to see the fun, observed that it must weigh at least 1 lb.; but, as he noticed the way in which the battle proceeded, the size rose rapidly to 2 lb., 3 lb., 4 lb., &c. Presently, the fish managed to get beneath some willows, which not merely fringed the edge of the water on the other side, but dipped beneath the surface. Of course, I wrote it down for lost; but no—by patience and care I managed to get him once more into the open stream, where he became sulky, choosing a place and sticking to it until it pleased his highness to move on—to re-enact the dodge elsewhere. Had there been any salmon so far up the stream, I should by this time have thought that I had hooked one. At last I grew quite tired of the fight, and thought I would put on a tighter strain; but it was useless, he would only move when and where he liked. Then a lazy demon whispered in my ear, "Make him come." Fool that I was, I listened to the tempter, and put on a strain that would have broken almost any fly-gut; yet my well-trying hair nobly stood the test. I never saw such a piece before, and never shall, I fear, again. Only a few days before this occurrence, it had lifted a flat-iron 5 lb. in weight, by putting it underneath the handle; and I verily believe it would have lifted more, but I feared breaking it. "Pull harder," suggested the demon. Despite the offer of my friend to wade and land it for me, despite my knowledge that the hook will often tear away from the mouth of the grayling, I still tugged on, the fish fixing himself resolutely at the bottom. Common sense—for the time, I had lost it—might have told me that something must give way, and it did; after a battle of half-an-hour the hook left the mouth of the fish—I say mouth, for I cannot think it was foully hooked, or something else would have yielded. My cast of flies was uninjured. Oh! what would I have done to have had him once more at the end of my line! If any fellow ever deserved the cat-o'-nine-tails, it was myself; and, you may depend upon it, Tom always gets a blowing-up from himself when he thinks of it. The old saw, "There's many a —," &c., is no consolation under such circumstances. When the prize was gone I would have walked in the water up to my chin to have secured it, or almost have parted with a finger to see it jumping on the greensward. What this fish weighed, I cannot say, as I never saw my master throughout the whole contest, neither could I get within four yards of him. But a fish was caught—and, with shame be it said, in a net—a few days after, not far from the place, which weighed $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb., which I shall always think was my old acquaintance. Notwithstanding the gloom caused by the above adventure, the day was marked in red ink in my fishing diary; for on winding up I found that I had thirteen grayling, nearly uniform in size, and weighing 7 lb., and about the same number of fine trout, one of the latter weighing 17 oz., and two of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. Of course, my friends will judge that the circumstance detailed above occurred before my noviciate as a trout-fisher was fairly finished, but the lesson conveyed has not been lost. I have from that day to this been remarkably fortunate in landing large fish. Many a fine salmon has since then fallen to the same rod, while out of the whole batch I have lost but one solitary fish, and that my first, hooked on ordinary trout tackle. I promise my readers a yarn anent the same ere long.

Below Aysgarth Force a few salmon are found, though late in the season. A good length of the fishing hereabouts belongs to

Lord Bolton, whose agents seldom refuse a day or two to respectable applicants. Still I prefer the upper reaches of the river, and these remarks must be looked upon as relating to them. The propriety of erecting salmon-ladders to allow this fish to pass the Aysgarth Falls has from time to time been discussed. It would, however, be a most costly enterprise, and in my judgment a questionable advantage. So far as my experience goes, I have always found that the presence of salmon deteriorates the trout-fishing; and to ruin the fishing of the whole season for the benefit of a month or two, can hardly commend itself to the reflective portion of the fishing fraternity. A much better course would be to introduce some other varieties of *Salmonidae*, the *Fontinalis* (American brook-trout), for instance. This lively and beautiful fish is now reared in large numbers by Mr. Capel, of Foot's Cray, in Kent, and I am sure, from what I know of him, that he would treat local associations in a liberal spirit.

The flies to be used on this stream are similar to those for the Swale. I have just published a book on trout-fishing, which contains, amongst other interesting matters, a list of 130 different flies, with way of manufacture and seasons for use. It is just the thing for this locality, and, in fact, for all the Yorkshire, Scotch, and West of England rivers. I shall be happy to send copies direct and post-free to any old friends at the published price of one shilling. About three miles from Askrigg is a small lake of nearly a mile in length, called Summerwater, in which is a good store of trout, though they are far inferior to the Yore fish, and at the same more difficult to catch. Perhaps the Gillaroo trout, of which Mr. Capel also makes a specialty, would thrive here. This is well worth a visit from tourists. There is very fair accommodation for visitors to Wensleydale, and I can assure all who may make the run of the valley that they will go away with pleasant memories, which will remain with them to their latest day. The Midland and North-Eastern Railways are connected by a branch, which compasses the whole of the dale.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the kind friends of Wensleydale for their considerate conduct to me during my last summer excursion; and even now, when the snow is scarcely melted on the tops of the everlasting hills, I am anxiously looking forward to a future and an early renewed visit to this English Paradise.

THOMAS FORD.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE EEL.

WE have to thank you heartily, Mr. Editor, for the excerpt from Dr. Quistorp's paper, concerning the generation of eels, published in your last issue. It threw considerable light on the interesting question, but exception must be taken to some of the statements made therein. I will proceed to refer to them seriatim, and then, with your permission, will add a few remarks concerning the general natural history of this most curious fish. First, half way down the first column of page 124, will be found this statement—"It is only in real salt water, and not, as hitherto supposed, in brackish water, that the full development of both male and female can take place." Now the author has placed on paper no qualification of this sweeping assertion, and a moment's reflection on the part of the ordinarily-experienced angler will reveal its inaccuracy. I assert that eels will breed, and breed largely, in land-locked fresh water—that is, ponds and lakes having positively no access to any water at all approaching brackishness. And, indeed, how often is this truth to be reiterated. During the past eight years I have seen similar statements to that which I have denied made in Continental and American natural history publications *ad nauseam*. I am not now asserting that eels do not prefer brackish water if by any possibility they can get to it, but my contention is they will spawn and milt in places where no sea has been since antediluvian times.

I laid emphasis on the word brackish just now, which sufficiently indicates my opposition in opinion to Dr. Quistorp's assertion about actual sea or salt water. My reasons are—first, Mr. Buckland, in his "Familiar History of British Fishes," asserts he saw some young eels actually hatching out at the entrance to the harbour at Galway; and, second, the unquestioned certainty that if a freshwater eel be suddenly placed in sea-water it dies. However, when eels manage to arrive at salt water it may be that our author is right—though probability is, in my mind, against him. Anyhow, the sentence immediately following the one I quoted does not at all strengthen his dictum, it being simply negative evidence. It runs "Only in one single instance has a gravid female with ripe ova been captured by Radke in brackish water." What Radke has not found, does not establish a position concerning what is to be found, I imagine.

Further on we are told, "eels eat no food whatever on their way down to the sea, and in this respect they take after other fishes." Now this is, again, unqualifiedly wrong, for on rainy nights when eels have been "running," as it is termed, I have repeatedly taken them with ordinary strong leger tackle; not frequently, I admit, as compared with the results of fishing earlier in the season when they have been ascending, but sufficiently to form a strong exception to the doctor's rule. And again, he reiterates the inaccuracy referred to in the first quotation above in the following words: "In addition to the spawning eels there are, however, others in whose intestines food may at all times be found [luckless admission, through a true one!] and these are always in condition and fat, though they never stir out of the fresh or brackish water. All these are barren females, whose ovaries, if examined, will be found in a degenerated condition with transparent, or almost entirely yolkless, ova."

In reference to this last astounding statement, I will let one or two quotations from more or less reliable writers stand as denials. Couch (R. G. in the "Zoologist," 1847, p. 1830), says: "Last summer I took a quantity of mud from a spot much frequented by eels, and carefully examined it to see if there were any ova in it; and after testing several specimens without success, I was at last gratified by observing the eels small and transparent lying on the surface almost motionless. They rapidly grew and in ten days acquired strength and size to swim about." The Rev. W. Houghton mentions that at a place on the river Stour he found it alive with young eels, "some of them scarcely hatched, at a depth of five to fifteen inches." In my "Practical Fisherman," also, these words appear—and after what I have before stated I need scarcely say I adhere at this moment unreservedly to them—"The magnificent opportunities which the lakes of Windsor Great Park afforded me during nearly two years for observation were sufficient to enable me to examine the milt and spawn of eels repeatedly, and to gather up hatched fry for microscopical examination from waters far above the level of the adjoining lands, where egress meant impossibility of return." I leave these passages without comment.

Next week I hope to resume the subject of the natural history of the eel.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

(To be continued.)

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"He is well paid that is well satisfied."—

SHAKESPEARE.

The season of 1880-81 is over, but I fear few frequenters of Father Thames will be well satisfied, or think themselves well paid by the result of their doings. On another occasion I shall have a bit to say with regard to the past season, but in my present note must confine myself to the last week's doings, and never mind the rest for a while. At Maple Durham some excellent perch and chub have lately been had, and at Caversham one trout of 8 lb. returned; three dozen roach and two dozen chub by one puntsman on one occasion, and by a bank angler one dozen perch and some nice chub, best going 4 lb., taken with tail of lob worm. At Shiplake and Sonning excellent baskets of roach and chub have been had since the water has been dropping—one artful banker on one occasion getting 19 lb. to his own hook. From Henley I glean that the last days of the season turned out better than was expected by the local talent—Mr. J. Stead (the Cure), amid some decent coarse fish, getting, whilst legering a 4 lb. trout, which was curiously danced into the river again by this good angler; Mr. Witham, with E. Vaughan, three jack, best 7 lb.; Mr. Pugh, with Tom Neal, four jack, largest 12 lb.; Mr. Petchey, with Parrott, two good jack and four dozen of roach had near Regatta Island. At Medmenham and Hurley Messrs. Sykes, Irwin, and Davies have been doing fair work considering the bad weather—best perch 1½ lb., and largest chub 3 lb. A Mr. Thomas, whilst fishing from the bank near Hurley Lock, on Sunday, landed a pretty jack of 8 lb.; and Castor, the fisherman from Temple, got hold of a nice basket of roach and perch. At Marlow, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday last great execution was done amid the finny one, 11 lb. of roach and one jack of 2½ lb. being had by Mr. Brooksbank, with his usual lobby bait; one jack of 19 lb. by a Conservancy man, who evidently was not a good Conservative, for he sold his fish-right for 6s. to a wandering Jew banker, who, under the circumstances, decidedly should eventually become a Rothschild. Between Cookham and Marlow on Monday the Wycombe Angling Association held an angling competition on the Thames, the chief prizes being obtained by Mr. Maskell (of the George and Dragon, Great Marlow), Mr. Stratford and Mr. Lovell, of Wycombe—three prizes being withheld for want of the necessary fishes.

Thursday evening.—The weather has taken a delightful turn for the better, and trout prospects consequently hourly improve. It is my impression that good sport will be obtained early in the season on the Thames with the spotted fresh-water beauties.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order. Monday, the last day, some good takes of perch were had here. Sunday and Monday, two perch, going 4 lb. I was out on Monday for half a day; took 14 lb. of perch and one jack.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river was in very fair order for fishing the last four days, but sport was very slow indeed; I don't think there was one punt that got 10 lb. of fish in one day out of all the punts that were out here. It will be a good opportunity now for the members of angling clubs to visit Richmond, to try and get the netting stopped as far down as Kew Bridge, during the fence months. The weight of the clubs and the Thames Angling Preservation Society will go a long way towards stopping it. If we get a hot summer the fish are sure to get down for the stream, as they won't stop in deep water in hot weather, and they will be swept out with the net besides; there are some of the best streams about Isleworth you could find in England, where, to my belief, there is often a trout or two, and if by chance there is to be got by the netmen. This is the eleventh season I have had as a professional fisherman, and it is the best season I ever had.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Windsor).

Immediately after the season is over we get a state of things which would gladden the heart of any angler. Here it is looking as fishy as possible, yet but a few days back anglers were floundering about on greasy banks, and hopelessly fishing in a sea of soup. Some were rewarded with a few roach and perch; others with a sight of them, and still more without seeing a fin. Some nice roach were had, but the perch ran very small. Mr. Parsons, of Windsor, had seventeen, Monday last, fishing with James Gray (fisherman), out of which he had to return nine. Taking the season, 1880-1881, it has been very poor as regards sport, though few anglers were out during the summer floods of 1879. Those who were will remember it as about the best season for sport they ever had on the Thames. It was all worm fishing, and very large bags of barbel, roach, and chub were had. Pike have had a long rest, and there must be a great quantity now in the Thames; and if a dry autumn, 1881 ought to see capital sport with them. As regards trout the warm suns of the last few days have brought them to pursue their old sport of chasing the bleak on the surface, and already I hear of some nice ones in the neighbourhood; but as seeing is believing, shall get on the "qui vive," and report to your readers their exact whereabouts. Bleak are coming to the surface, and may be seen in quantity all up the river.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Bure (Acle).

I wish to inform our angling friends that Mr. Rose, of the Bridge Inn, Acle, has every accommodation for fishermen during the coming season. Several

commodious boats are added to his "fleet," and as it is within easy reach either of Yarmouth or Norwich, lovers of the rod will do well to pay him a visit. Several London gentlemen stayed with him last summer, and expressed themselves as satisfied, both with the sport they obtained, and also with his catering. I saw some very nice perch that were taken close to the house on Sunday last.—ANGLER.

Carlisle-on-Eden.

We have had a first instalment of spring weather since Saturday. The rivers have been in good condition for bait-fishing the last three or four days. On the 11th inst. J. B. Slater, Esq., killed twenty trout; on the 12th inst. Mr. Samuel Wright killed twelve trout; and on the 14th inst. Mr. Robinson Bone and Mr. James Bone, of Cargo, killed about 10 lb. each of trout and sea-trout.—THOMAS PARKINS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The trout are now in prime condition, and are beginning to rise at the fly eagerly. The April duns are now on the water, and if the present mild March weather continues we shall shortly have good slaughter to report. The best dish got this week was one of five brace near Clonholme. Several grayling have been caught while trout fishing; but, owing to the close season, they have had to be returned to the water. A trout of over two pounds weight was killed in the Henmore with that excellent spinning bait, the Derby killer. The coarse anglers were very busy on Saturday and Monday, the weather, fortunately for the close of the season, being all that could be desired. The worm was the bait chiefly in vogue, and some good baskets of fish were killed, chiefly roach, chub and perch.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Another week of difficulties. To what disappointments we are doomed; the 14th is here, and although many attempts have been made, nothing done. This was to have been the first and last trial since the breaking up of the inclement weather. The river was getting into fine order on Saturday, and as it lowers very quickly, and Sunday intervening, we were all agog for the Monday, with rods and lines and bait in store, &c., but alas here we are smiling at our grief. Not that we mind the soft weather, but when we have such a downpour as we had on Sunday, say eighteen hours, it is impossible to get near the river banks, by numbers of yards, yes, hundreds of yards; consequently it is as well to talk over old times, and attempt something for the new, and we sincerely hope, ere the 15th of June, our position will be recorded as not being quite defunct, but that a new club will be added to your already long lists, and that their doings will be better worth reporting than what it has been of late. Trout-fishing is really not nil, for one of 1½ lb. weight came to scale during the week. Salmon, no report either by rod or net. Speaking of trout, have you seen that excellent little work on trout-fishing, by Thomas Ford, of Caistor? It really is the "vade mecum" of anglers, and should be in the hands of all. I hardly know which portion to comment upon, whether the introduction, the miscellaneous portion, the fly making, or the list of artificial flies; suffice to say the whole of the work is well worth the addition to the anglers' library, and the price, one shilling.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is very clear and bright, and in fair order for fly-fishing. The weather at present is very bright, wind N.W., barometer rising, and fish sport only moderately well. Dull, cloudy weather, with a S.W. wind would improve matters; but, nevertheless, if anglers persevere they will be rewarded. One gentleman yesterday killed 41, which is the best basket I have heard of for the season, nearly the whole of them with the blue upright—the halfstone is also killing well. A few casual March browns have been seen within the last few days.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

Lee (Co. Cork).

While the Blackwater has been up to the present quite unproductive of sport, the accounts of the Lee are of the most satisfactory character. The river, after the recent floods, appears to be well supplied with fresh fish, the increased preservation having contributed to that result. The weather has been delightful during the week, and the river has been in magnificent order. On Friday Mr. Persse, of Macroom, landed six springers in the upper Lee, or that portion extending above Macroom, where there was excellent trout and salmon fishing, and good hotel accommodation. Daniel Killehen, fisherman, Macroom, killed five on Monday, as a freshet caused by some rain on the previous day was clearing off. Mr. George Haynes landed five on Sunday, all varying from 10 lb. to 9 lb. Two were taken on the worm, and in the evening, while the water was rising, he took three on the "colley" in half an hour. I explained to you on a previous occasion that what we call the colley is what is known in England as the stone loach, which, in certain stages of the weather and water, becomes a very good bait. The other successful anglers during the week, whose name is legion, included Mr. R. Dunscombe, 4; Mr. Pratt, 3; Mr. Bass, 4; Mr. Dale, 3; Mr. Lambkin, 2; Mr. Angler, 7, in three days; Lord Bandon, 1; Mr. J. Bailes, 3; J. J. Fitzgerald and E. Fitzgerald, his brother, who carry on the fishing-tackle business in Tuckey-street, Cork, 1 each. Mr. Augustus Warren, Mr. George Colthurst, Major Nettles, Mr. R. Bailes, Mr. Bowen, and Sir Oriel Forster have been successful on their respective fisheries, and altogether we have had a remarkable week in the annals of rod-fishing on the Lee.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

The above-named rivers are fining down and the anglers are looking forward to the coming season with great expectations, and I am also of the opinion that we shall get good sport amongst the trout. Two members of the Broughton Angling Club caught five and a half brace of small trout and a few roach, on the 13th inst.; they were plump fish. The above-named club have decided to have their annual dinner on the 4th of April, when they will elect the officers for the next twelve months. They have several stretches of water in the county, and are going on well.—E. TURLEY, hon. sec.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The river is now in splendid order for rod-fishing in almost every place. It was slightly flooded during the past week, and the salmon only took the fly on the streams. Dr. Cook got two on Saturday, 10 lb. and 11 lb., on the Newcastle Bridge stream. John Hogan got another on Sunday at Newcastle. John Beston got, near the same place, 12 lb.; Mr. Bagwell got one of 15 lb. on Tuesday at Marlfield; and Dr. Cook was again successful on Wednesday, killing one at Newcastle weighing 8 lb. The cotmen have had good fishing at Clonmel, killing 34; and the cotmen at Derrinlaur got 25 for two days this week. The water being rather low for Clonmel, they only got three or four each day. The trout-fishing is very good everywhere at present and the fish is in better condition. The gold wren, orange grouse, and March brown are the best flies just now.—DORA.

Trent (Alrewas).

In concluding my last week's report I remarked that the rivers were rapidly falling, and would be in condition by the end of the week for re-commencement of angling. On Friday the water was sufficiently clear for the fish to see a bait in the slow swims and eddies. The result was the capture of some fine roach and chub by Messrs. Bullock and Chapman. Many of the roach were over 1 lb., and the largest chub $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Although the weather has been remarkably fine, very little else has been done in the Trent. One of our best anglers gave the roach a good trial yesterday without getting a bite in the Trent. He remarks, "It will really not be in good order for a week, as the water is still muddy from the melted snow. Not being able to do anything in the Trent, I went to the Tame, which was in much better trim. Commencing below Salter's Bridge, I caught a samlet, which I returned, a bream, six nice perch, and a lot of roach. All the fish were in first-class condition." Everything has the appearance of being favourable for the next week, and I anticipate some good sport for our members.—JAMES GREGORY.

Waveney (Beccles).

This river, although rather high, owing to the immense quantity of rain we have had, is now in capital condition for angling, and some splendid baskets of roach and perch have been shown. A great number of very nice jack have been taken lately. On Saturday last Mr. C. Bumstead succeeded in landing a splendid roach, scaling 1 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and measuring from eye to tail $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It was in splendid condition, and made a gallant struggle for liberty, but to no purpose. The general prospects for the season seem to be very promising.—C. B.

Wye (Ross).

The water is now getting in excellent order for the fly. It will be in first-rate condition by Monday, and no doubt some good trout may be taken next week. The topic of the day amongst anglers is the action of the Wye Conservators in resolving to abolish night netting, allow spearing in the upper waters, and to permit the taking of castspring during certain months. The night netting is the curse of the river, for if a strict watch were kept on all poaching, the Wye would be one of the best angling streams in the kingdom. It is not polluted to any great extent, and the Hereford sewage is about to be utilised, while before long action will be taken to compel the Ross authorities to stop their pollution of the stream. The fact is, the middle people do not take much interest in the river; the production of salmon in greater numbers does not affect them, nearly the whole of the fish being sent to other markets for disposal. It is well known that the lessees of the lower water, the millers, let very few fish escape them, except during the weekly close time, and the great injury to the river is done at Chepstow and the upper waters, where large numbers of fish are taken during spawning time. What is wanted here is a good angling association, to rent the water, preserve the fish, net the salmon draught only, and retail the fish, at a fair price, in the town.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The glorious fine weather we have had during the past week has caused a good many anglers to turn out on both the above rivers, and I am pleased to say that sport, as a rule, has been very fair, considering the rivers being so very full and high. The worm-fishers have fared the best, taking both trout, grayling, and a number of coarse fish. On various parts of the Derwent trolling with the well-known Derby trout killer, has been followed with fair success, two and a half brace of fine trout being killed with it yesterday on the lower length of the Derwent, besides several other persons taking a few fish during the week. The fly-fishers have also killed some fine fish, chiefly grayling, off of both rivers. The killing flies have been the claret body bumble, furnace and spider flies. The natural flies have been out very strong on both rivers during the week, especially while the sun has been out in the middle of the day, viz., the long flat-winged browns, cow lady, house fly, and duns. Every fine day now fishing keeps improving. Trout have been rising very freely on the ponds, and in the brooks during the week, taking the small March brown very freely. The fish seemed to be from six ounces to about three-quarters of a pound each. Trout are in good condition considering the early season for them. I recommend gentlemen to lose no time in trying their skill with the fly, for our rivers are early spring and late autumn rivers. I recommend the following casts:—For the Wye: two casts, one made up with the small March brown, bumble point furnace, 1st drop, and hare's east dun 2nd drop; also for second cast, claret body bumble, point furnace 1st drop, and spider fly 2nd drop. I recommend the latter cast for the Derwent.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

At length the welcome change has come in the weather, which has been simply glorious so far this week, and there seems every prospect of its continuing so. It will take another day or so to reduce the rivers sufficiently to ensure success with the artificial fly; but I should say by the time this is in print the water will be just right. According to promise, I will now give the dressing of one or two flies which will kill on the Yore and Wharfe for the next fortnight or so—that is until the March brown and blue dun get well out into the streams. One of the earliest flies on these rivers is the little early brown, it is best dressed hacklewise with a feather from under a swift's wing; body, orange silk waxed with cobbler's wax, with a few fibres of red brown mohairs at the breast. The red brown is another good fly at the present time: wings from a feather taken from a light freckled brown hen or from a brown owl; body, orange silk with a scrap of squirrel's fur worked in the breast for legs. The early dun is winged with slips selected from a brown owl; body, copper-coloured silk, tinged with a little water rat's blue fur for dubbing. These are all good trout flies for this month, and I should recommend the angler to fish with them as drop flies, using a red hackle, water cricket, or orange bumble at the end of his cast. I hope to hear of some good dishes of trout being killed before I write my next week's report.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern, LESSON in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

BERLIN FISHERY EXHIBITION AWARDS.

We are requested to state that British exhibitors to whom medals and diplomas have been awarded can now receive the same upon application to Mr. Edward Johnson, Commissaire Délégué, at the International Exhibition Offices, 1, Castle Street, Holborn.

We have received the Silver Medal awarded to the GAZETTE, and also a splendid "Diploma." The medal is a very fine piece of workmanship, and weighs about six ounces, and is nearly three inches in diameter. We here give an illustration.



THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS' FISH MUSEUM.

[N a previous number of the FISHING GAZETTE, I referred to a visit I intended to make to the club-room of the Friendly Anglers, at their comfortable quarters at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, in order to make a report of the Fish Museum; and, having carried out my intentions, it simply remains for me to detail as accurately as I can the different specimens and species of fish forming the very interesting collection I had to inspect. I must, first of all, acknowledge the great kindness and courtesy I received from Mr. King, the worthy host, on the occasion, in assisting me to note down the various descriptions of each, and in his desire to make my visit an agreeable one. I found the museum was particularly strong in the specimens of trout, perch, roach and dace; indeed, I should imagine few clubs possess a more formidable collection. It is, however, weak in its number of pike, although the four examples are not bad fish. It would appear the members feel this, and are anxious to strengthen the department by offering this year the valuable prize of ten guineas for a fish of 30 lb., which I hope they will get. At the Piscatorial Exhibition at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, the Friendly Anglers were awarded a bronze medal for the general collection of stuffed specimens of fish, and for which I remember, as one of the jurors, they were regarded to be fully entitled. In the last presentation of prizes when the results of last year's competitions were made known, it would have been as well to have placed on record the doings of some of the members amongst the trout. The gross weight made by eleven of the members was 217 lb. 4 oz.—the large proportion, of 196 lb. having been caught with the fly by the four following members: Mr. Emanuel, 88 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. F. S. Hoblyn, 83 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Craggs, 16 lb. 12 oz.; and Mr. Newson, 7 lb. 9 oz.; the smaller weights being made up by Messrs. Henderson, Hawkins, Hughes, Brown, Hunt, Mitchell and Garrett. Mr. Craggs, in addition to his 16 lb. 12 oz. of trout, weighed in 16 lb. 5 oz. of grayling. I may be right or wrong in stating that the Friendly Anglers, in reference to these two fish, trout especially, occupy one of the highest positions amongst the London angling clubs, as, on reference to some of the returns I have seen of other societies, the gross weight is largely in excess, and Mr. Emanuel and Mr. F. S. Hoblyn are practical champions. And now, as to the contents of the Fish Museum, commencing with the trout. There is a Thames trout of 10 lb. 13 oz. taken at Shiplake by Mr. T. Adlard, one of 6 lb. 5 oz. caught spinning by Mr. York, and one of 5 lb. 1 oz. taken on spinning tackle by Mr. W. B. Taylor, at Windsor. Of the Colne trout there is one of 7 lb. taken by Mr

G. Newson, another of 5 lb., and on one of 3 lb. 10 oz. caught by Mr. Henderson; and there is one from the Kennet of 4½ lb. taken by Mr. Emanuel. The four examples of pike are one of 19 lb. 2 oz. caught by Mr. Weiss, and one of 12 lb. 8 oz. taken by Mr. Pope, both from the Brent; one of 16 lb. 3 oz. caught by Mr. Powell, and one of 3 lb. by Mr. York. Of barbel there are four from the Thames, one of 7 lb. 10 oz. by Mr. F. Berry, one of 7 lb. 9 oz. by Mr. F. W. Howard, one of 6 lb. 14 oz. by Mr. Maure, and one of 6½ lb. by Mr. Beaumont. Of chub there are two from the Thames, one of 5 lb. 6 oz. by Mr. A. Ward, and one of 5 lb. by Mr. York. Two from the Colne, one of 5 lb. 8 oz. by Mr. Freeman, and one of 4 lb. 15 oz. There is also one of 5 lb. 10 oz. from the Kennet, by Mr. Garrett, and one from the Brent of 4 lb. 3 oz. by Mr. Bloxham. Of perch there is, first of all, a case of four magnificent fish weighing together 8 lb., being the portion of one day's fishing in the Kennet by Mr. F. Berry. Then there is a fine specimen fish of 3 lb. 12 oz. taken from one of the Norfolk broads by Mr. Garrett. In addition to these there is one of 2½ lb. from the Brent by Mr. Wallace, one of 2½ lb. from the Colne by Mr. Taylor, one of 2 lb. 6 oz. from the Cowley Canal by Mr. Yate, and one of 2 lb. from the Thames by Mr. Wells. Of carp there is a fine one, with no weight given, taken from private waters by Mr. Garrett, and another of 8 lb. 1 oz. from Regent's Park, by Mr. Cook. Of Crucian carp there is a single specimen of 1 lb. 5 oz. by Mr. Fordham. Of rudd, there are two in one case of about 2 lb. each, taken out of one of the Norfolk broads by Mr. Garrett, and a smaller one from the Colne caught on single hair by Mr. Wells. Of bream, there are four from the Colne, one of 4 lb. 10 oz. by Mr. Bloxham, one of 3 lb. 9 oz. by Mr. Grant, one of 4 lb. 12 oz. by Mr. Brown, and one of 3 lb. 8 oz. by Mr. Gayman. There is also one of 2 lb. 12 oz. from private waters by Mr. Fordham, and one of 3 lb. 14 oz. from the Serpentine in 1847 by Mr. Padley. Of tench there is one of 3 lb. 3 oz. from the Brent by Mr. Coke, and one of 2 lb. 8 oz. by Mr. West. Of roach there are seven specimens from the Colne, one of 2 lb. 5 oz. by Mr. Clare, one of 2½ lb. by Mr. Padley, one of 2½ lb. by Mr. Henderson, one of 2 lb. 1 oz. by Mr. Batson, one of 2 lb. 1 oz. by Mr. Padley, one of 1 lb. 14 oz. by Mr. Wells, and one of 1 lb. 9½ oz. by Mr. York. There is also one of 2½ lb. from the Thames at Hampton Deep by Mr. Ward, one of 2 lb. from the Lea by Mr. Watson—a splendid specimen of one of 2 lb. with no further particulars—one of 1 lb. 12 oz. caught on a tight line in the Uxbridge Canal by Mr. Fordham, and one of 1 lb. 2½ oz. by Mr. Brown. Of dace there are ten good specimens from the Colne, one of 14 oz. and one of 13¼ oz., without the names of the captors, one of 13¼ oz. by Mr. Hawkins, one of 12 oz. by Mr. York, one of 12 oz., with the fly, by Mr. Dyer, one of 12 oz. by Mr. Brown, one of 11½ oz. by Mr. Every, one of 11½ oz. by Mr. York, one of 10¾ oz. by Mr. Green, and one of 10 oz. by Mr. Padley. Of bleak there are three from the Colne, one of 2½ oz. by Mr. Gatesby, one of 2½ oz. by Mr. Strahan, and one of 2 oz. by Mr. Rice. Of Prussian carp there is one of 1 lb. 6 oz. taken out of private water by Mr. Verity. The grayling and gudgeon are represented by single specimens. There is a fine stuffed specimen of a very large sturgeon presented to the Friendly Anglers by Mr. Holdsworth. There are a number of framed engravings of piscatorial and sporting subjects, and a library containing a choice selection of angling works, which are kept in a mahogany case, presented to the club by Mr. Jennings, one of the members. The responsible post of librarian is filled by the excellent proprietor of the hostelry, Mr. King, who worthily discharges the duties of the office. On one of the mantelshelves in the club-room there is a glass case containing the model of an old gentleman laid up in his room with gout, fishing in a tub, with all the paraphernalia of angling materials about him, such as rods, landing-net, ground

bait, &c., &c., and the descriptive title on the case is "The Enthusiast." The Society of Friendly Anglers came into existence on the 23rd day of September, 1842, so that it is not of any recent origin. The number of members is limited to fifty. In addition to the annual dinner at headquarters in January, it has a summer dinner in the country, usually at Windsor. Long may the Friendly Anglers continue to flourish!

B.

WEIGHT, &c., OF FRESHWATER FISH.

THE season for the coarse fishing having closed, it might be interesting to those gentlemen who were chiefly instrumental in the House of Commons in getting the Freshwater Fisheries' Act passed, and especially so to Mr. Mundella, M.P., to know, as far as may be, what is the total tabulated weight of freshwater fishes actually caught during the season just closed, by the members of the various angling associations? It would, indeed, be also very interesting to those individual members who, by their prowess, had contributed to swell the grand total, and the public generally might also like to know how much, even in the present imperfect condition of our rivers, wholesome food in the form of freshwater fish had been fairly angled for and caught, and consumed by anglers or their immediate friends or relatives. The blood rose unbid to my face when I read about that fine lot (about three bushels!) of partly immature perch that were lately exposed for sale in one of the Jews' quarters in London. This has been admittedly one of the best seasons for herrings for many years. Cannot the poorer classes of Jews eat these fish on their "fast" days, and also the cheaper commoner sorts of unsalted sea-fish, instead of tacitly encouraging blackguard poachers and netters to go stripping at night time the upper ditches and water-courses, and even the tideway itself, of very many immature freshwater fish? If there was not a ready market among the Jews for these fish, the poachers would not risk the heavy fines and imprisonment and the loss of nets; besides, even the upper middle class Jews might possibly not be altogether blameless sometimes in the purchase of doubtfully gotten freshwater fish. These people, at least, can well afford to buy the very best of the sea-fish, and salmon, too. The Jews, one would think, of the better classes especially, would be so mindful and so grateful for the full enjoyment of civil and religious liberty in England, that they would be ever zealous not to raise dissatisfaction among any class of Her Majesty's subjects, least of all among the large and important and increasing body of Thames anglers, resident in London and other places, by buying fish *robbed* from their noble river. Let the upper class Jews, therefore, exercise their undoubted influence among their poor brethren in faith, to discourage this sort of river robbery in every way. A word to the wise! It is a delicate question; but it is high time that somebody spoke out and in no uncertain terms.

Having disburdened my soul of a heavy load, I will now pass to a pleasanter subject. Probably the secretaries of all angling clubs in the metropolis and elsewhere might, during the recess forward to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE the aggregate weight of fish caught by the members, and these reports might be tabulated; and then, as time passed, the gross result thus ascertained might serve as a starting point or basis for comparison in future seasons. Trout should perhaps form a separate table, because Mr. Mundella's Act pointed chiefly to the preservation and capture in fair, sportsmanlike angling of freshwater coarse fish.

Of course, no "table," nor homily, could ever do justice to the unalloyed pleasures experienced by each angler in the capture of his individual share of fish. A man might even catch a good creel full who did not belong to any club. His modesty might

even preclude him from mentioning his success beyond his own relatives or friends, or even only to his own wife and children, with whom he had possibly shared the wholesome fish dinner. But he (and every other angler) will, at the close of the season, recall with renewed pleasure the recollection of this good day and that good day, lovingly treasured up on the table of the memory in the long summer time, or in the golden harvest season, when the big fish bit freely, and all around in rural England made his heart leap for joy. And when, in the dim twilight, he had returned home and to his duties next day, he had felt better in health, and thankful to God for the blessings of existence, and for the time certainly not spent in vain!

Some of the correspondents of this journal might also give their experience as to the best modes of cooking the different sorts of freshwater coarse fish. Persons living in seaport towns know well enough that sea-fish are never so good as when cooked immediately they are brought ashore stiff and bright from boat or from smack. Some persons, in the West of England especially, affirm that a hooked fish is of finer flavour than a trawled one. These people say that half the fish sold in the London shops, or on the "costers'" barrows, are spoilt from being so soddened with water. There is a good deal of truth in this, no doubt, but it is perhaps often well-nigh unavoidable. All I know is, that years back I have had cooked many a nice lot of dace, or roach, or perch, and gudgeon, &c., only a few hours after capture, and can attest the advantage of not keeping freshwater fish long after their being caught.

AN OLD ANGLER.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO THE FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE Mayor of Norwich stated that last Saturday he and other gentlemen had an interview with Lord Suffield and Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., in reference to the forthcoming visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Norwich on the occasion of opening the Fisheries Exhibition, and on Monday he received an intimation from Lord Suffield to the effect that their Royal Highnesses will be most happy to attend the opening of the Exhibition on the 18th of April. The Royal party will arrive in Norwich at about twelve o'clock and proceed to the Exhibition, after opening which, and remaining there a short time, the Prince and Princess and party will go to St. Andrew's Hall, having done him (the Mayor) the honour of accepting his invitation to luncheon. (Hear, hear.) After the luncheon the Royal party will leave the city by the same route as would be observed on arrival. The Mayor further remarked that an escort would be provided for their Royal Highnesses by the cavalry in the city, and the volunteers would be asked to line the route, and assist in keeping order in the streets; and he was certain his fellow-citizens would show their appreciation of the kindness of their Royal Highnesses by such a demonstration of loyalty as would make the visit a pleasant recollection. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Stanley asked if it was the intention of the Corporation to encourage the illumination of the old city on the occasion of the Royal visit. He believed there was a feeling in the city in favour of a general decoration and illumination, and he thought the Corporation should set the example by illuminating the Guildhall.

The Mayor pointed out that their Royal Highnesses would have left the city before the evening, so it was thought unnecessary to set on foot a plan for illuminating the city.

Mr. Stevens supposed that the sad occurrence of Sunday would not interfere with the arrangements.

The Mayor replied that the arrangements were made on Monday.

Mr. J. D. Smith said the committee considered that as the Royal

party would not remain in Norwich in the evening, it was undesirable to have any illuminations.

The Mayor remarked that of course if any citizens liked to illuminate their buildings, there would be no objection to it. He hoped, however, bunting and other decorations would be generally employed.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

IT is satisfactory to find that this Association is occupying a most prominent position, and has obtained all the liberal concessions of the different railway companies to enable it to grant privilege tickets to the members of the numerous angling clubs already affiliated to the Association. Its headquarters are at the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, the birthplace of the West Central Association, and of which the worthy and respected host, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, was one of the principal founders, and rendered the most valuable assistance towards its successful establishment. Since its removal from this capital hostelry to increased accommodation, this Association has sprung into active existence, and with the well known energy and determination of Mr. F. C. Hatfield as treasurer, and the untiring efforts of Mr. R. Stebbings as honorary secretary, it is certainly increasing in strength and usefulness. At the weekly meeting of delegates on Friday evening in last week, under the excellent presidency of Mr. J. C. Murray, the handsome sum of ten guineas was unanimously voted to the funds of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, when it was determined to call a special meeting on Friday evening next, to which Mr. Thomas Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham were to be invited to receive the donation. The financial position of this Association is in so satisfactory a condition that it was contemplated to have given a larger sum, but it was afterwards considered advisable first to evidence the regard of the delegates for the valuable preservation of the Thames by the present amount, and on the next occasion to do more.

B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

STOCKING A POND.

SIR,—I am sure you will allow me to make a slight alteration in your reply to "East Sussex" upon the above subject. If his pond be fairly supplied with insect larvæ (and if not he should introduce caddis, the smaller mollusca, freshwater shrimps, &c.), he will find that the *fontinalis* trout will do well. This is the American brook trout, but it has been found to thrive in lakes, especially those possessing shrimps. Minnows, gudgeon, and very small carp might also be introduced as supplementary food for these trout, or he could feed and fatten them himself by means of regular feeding. Perch would do no harm to the trout if the latter were comparatively large to the former small; neither would very small roach, for the *fontinalis* is almost as voracious as the pike: but beware of putting them in of a larger size than your trout, as they are themselves capable of starving trout by their infinite multiplication, and eagerness for insect food. Mr. Andrews, Westgate House, Guildford, will supply the trout.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

NETTING.

SIR,—By the time this is in print, the close season for coarse fish will have commenced, and anglers put aside their rods and tackle until June 16, a space of three months which, speaking from my own experience, I have seen quietly accepted with hardly an exception, but in this district the roach do not spawn until June 21st and later, taking the dates of the last few years; it is, therefore a great hardship after conforming, to the Act, to know that quantities are destroyed by the netters at night time after the season is opened.

Can we not stop these nefarious practices by agitating the question now while anglers have spare time on hand, and endeavour to get a small Act passed for the purpose, say

1st. That no one be allowed to use any net, without a license (landing net excepted) subject to a penalty.

2nd. That netting between the hours of sunset and sunrise be illegal, subject to a penalty.

3rd. That the police have power to stop any one between the hours of sunset to sunrise suspected of having nets in their possession, and if so, subject to a penalty.

These are but a few simple ideas that may be enlarged upon, and I should be glad to see some more prominent angler than myself take the matter in hand, and endeavour to break through the ranks of the greatest enemy to all true anglers, the Netters.—I am, &c.

JOS. WILLIAMS, Chairman,

Jolly Anglers' Club, Leicester, March 12.

FISH IN THE THAMES.

SIR,—On Monday, March 14, ended the most disappointing season as far as my own experience goes, that I ever remember upon the Thames. I believe all Thames anglers will bear me out in the belief that the real staple fish for the Thames—jack and perch—have been steadily decreasing in numbers for the last ten years or so, and that the sport to be obtained among them is by no means what it used to be. Piloted by the same experienced veteran in the same parts of the river, and certainly fishing with not less perseverance than before, I have seldom been able to bring home during the three last years more than 4 or 5 lb. of fish in the bag, which ten years ago repeatedly groaned with 20, 30, and even 47 lb. I hear the same tale from everybody about the river. And this, be it observed, has been in spite of the greater care and vigilance exercised in the preservation of the fishing and prevention of poaching the various societies now established along nearly the whole of the river.

I shall be very glad if any of your readers can suggest any probable cause for this, and still more so should the cause suggested prove preventible.

Several changes about the river have been coincident with this progressive deterioration of fishing during the past decade.

1. The steamer nuisance. These horrible monsters doubtless keep the water in perpetual agitation, and so frighten the innocent dears that they have no leisure to look at one's bait; add to which they churn up enough mud for some yards from each bank to make them sick and indisposed to feed for at least some hours after; but this cause would not apply to parts of the river which steamers cannot approach, as the old river below Datchet, the stream from Windsor Weir to the Oak in the Eton Playingfields, &c., in which the sport has fallen off quite as much as elsewhere.

2. The vast increase of legitimate pleasure boats cannot interfere much with the autumn and winter fishing.

3. The diversion from the river of the sewage of most of the large towns on its banks ought, one would have thought, to have greatly increased the productiveness of the water, instead of having the opposite effect, which is hardly credible.

4. The number of anglers has increased very greatly, but not, I think, of those who fish for jack and perch, which involves the hiring of a man and punt for the day's amusement. At least, I do not learn from the professional fishermen that they get more employment than before, or that their number has much increased.

5. It may be questioned whether the practice of netting the ditches in March and April, and returning the fish to the river in order to save them from the wires and other poachers, does not greatly interfere with their natural increase by spawning. It is their instinct to run up the ditches to spawn; and, unless they are able to do so undisturbed, the year's increase must be lost.

6. I do not observe that swans have become more numerous than they used to be. Ten years ago I counted 38 in sight at once (about Queen's Eyot).

7. Three at least of the last five years have been marked by long periods of flood which have kept the river turbid for many weeks, if not months, of each winter. I believe there was no considerable flood between 1852 and 1875. Perhaps this may have something to do with it.

There are some grounds for hoping that trout are on the increase, though last year's results pointed rather the other way; but it is rapidly becoming a vital question whether fishing for jack and perch in the Thames can any longer be considered a rational use of one's time, money, or temper.—I am, &c.,

Eton College, March 18, 1881.

C. C. JOHNSON.

PITH BAIT.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me how to prepare pith from an ox for chub fishing, and what operation it has to go through—whether anything else is mixed with it or not?—I am, &c.,

T. W. T.

A QUERY.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me in your next issue the difference between a pike and a jack?—I am, &c.,

NEMO.

St. Andrews, Bristol.

[The only difference is in weight. A jack is a small pike and a pike is a big jack. At what weight the change in name occurs seems uncertain.—ED.]

TROUT-FISHING WANTED.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to insert the following in your paper?—Will any reader of the FISHING GAZETTE recommend good trout-fishing between Peterbro' and Great Grimsby, on the Great Northern Railway, and the best season and accommodation?—Yours, &c.,

SALMO FARIO.

FISHING IN THE RODING.

SIR,—I am innocent of any practical knowledge of angling, but I think I can answer the query put to your readers by "Merlin." I travelled from Loughton to London, three weeks ago, in company with an angler whose day's "take" consisted of a half-a-pound roach. This he said he had caught in his favourite quarters, a mill-pond on the Roding, a couple of miles above Abridge, and the fishing was free. Theydon is the nearest station,—I am, &c.,

15, Wellington Road, Stoke Newington, N.,

FREDERIC JOHNSON.

March, 16, 1881.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of £1 1s. from the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society, £1 2s. from the Social Brothers A.S., 10s. from the Acorn A.S., 6s. from the Bloomsbury Brothers A.S., towards the above fund.

Secretaries are respectfully requested to send in their lists on or before the 29th inst.—I am, &c.,

T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

PRESERVING MINNOWS.

SIR,—In replying to your correspondent, L. Fisher's, communication (and your footnote thereto) desiring information as to the mode of preserving minnows for spinning. I may say that the plan adopted in the North of England is simply followed because it is a ready and cheap one; but I deny that they are tough or bright—quite the contrary: they break if you are not careful in putting them on the hooks, and they are of a dull leaden hue and as wrinkled as a centenarian. I would advise your correspondent to use a glass pickle jar and half fill it with methylated spirits of wine, and either drop the minnows in alive, or, at all events,

whilst bright and fresh, stop up the bottle to prevent evaporation, and at the end of five years or more they will be found to be tougher—quite as plump and nearly as bright as when first put in. I have a few left now that were so treated nearly seven years ago, and I will back their appearance and baiting qualities with the fresh ones. My thanks are due to Mr. Francis Francis for this "wrinkle."—I am, &c.,

J. T. HORSLEY.

Southport, March 15.

THE "FISHERMAN'S MAGAZINE."

"Blue Dun" asked about this last week. We now find that a magazine under this name has just been started by Mr. Ohlson, of Grimsby.—ED.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

SIR,—I was much interested in the papers which appeared last year in the FISHING GAZETTE on matters connected with fly-fishing, and I write to express a hope that, with your kind permission, some of your able contributors will give us this season a series of entomological papers in connection with fly-fishing.—I am, &c.,

X.

THE MUNDELLA ACT AN ANNOYING FARCE.

SIR,—Surely the close season must have commenced, was the thought (not far wrong) of the writer, on the first Sunday of January, finding only one angler besides myself on the Paddington platform for the 9 a.m. train, where there are generally hundreds. Fortunately for the absentees, they had good information, or judged more correctly than we, for it was water, water everywhere; no getting near the river, as had been the case several times previously this season. Then followed frost, snow, and floods again; and now, just as the rivers are getting into condition and the weather delightful, all places except private waters are closed, by Act of Parliament, against fish in prime condition, viz., carp, bream, tench, chub, and roach. Not one of these may be angled for, although allowed in some cases to be taken with the nets.

Of what use is it to fence canals and places against the rods, while these very places are allowed to be netted to supply zoological gardens, aquariums, &c.? Surely fencing the Thames and the Lea, ought to be sufficient for London anglers. It will now be at least four or five months before angling will be worth notice again. Then three out of the four Bank holidays are no good. Christmas floods, Easter or Whitsuntide shut out by Mundella. Mr. Editor, I am one of those that think the Mundella Act an annoying farce.—I am, &c.,

SHUT OUT.

March 16.

[We confess we have also for some time past looked on the Mundella Act as an "annoying farce," and heartily wish it had never been heard of. London anglers should remember the Welsh Harp and other similar private waters are not affected by this Act.—ED.]

LONDON WATERS.

SIR,—Can any of your readers kindly inform me if any one is allowed to fish in the Ornamental Waters, Regent's Park, and the Serpentine in Hyde Park? Also in the New River, at Stoke Newington? Awaiting a reply.—I am, &c.,

YOUNG PISCATOR.

CLUB REPORTS.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Last Sunday decided a series of prizes lasting some weeks. The following is the result:—On Sunday, Feb. 27th: Mr. T. W. Thompson won Mr. Shepherd's prize, Mr. E. Dymond won Mr. H. Shaw's prize, Mr. J. Morgan won Mr. G. Castle's prize. On Sunday, March 6th: Mr. Blackledge won Mr. Tomkin's prize, Mr. C. Hewett won Mr. Blackledge's prize. On Sunday March 13th: Mr. J. Blackledge won Mr. Hussey's prize, Mr. J. Thinkettle won Mr. Thompson's prize, Mr. J. Miles won Mr. Gripton's prize, Mr. T. Gripton won Mr. J. Morgan's prize. The following had some fine fish:—Mr. E. Brockett roach and dace, 6 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. W. High, roach and dace, 5 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. J. Morgan, roach, 4 lb. This being the winding-up of the fishing in our club, we shall be most happy to see any angler and friend on Monday, March 21st, at the Duke of Wellington, Three Colt Lane, Bethnal Green, as we have a fine concert, Mr. S. Collier in the chair, and he has promised to bring the Maid and Maggie with him.—C. HARTLAND, sec.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members fished a pegged-down match at St. Margaret's for twelve prizes, only seven of which were won. Mr. Harding 1st, Mr. F. Plumstead 2nd, Mr. Story 3rd, Mr. Breasley 4th, Mr. Sinclair 5th, Mr. T. Lake 6th, Mr. A. Plumstead 7th. Mr. F. Arnold fished for the match to the finish without getting a nibble, when he got a very nice roach, which weighed 1 lb. 2½ oz., winning a prize given by Mr. Smith for the heaviest roach from the tow path only. The visit on No. 2 District of the W. Association will take place on Monday, March 21st, in the club-room.—T. WORLEDGE.

Sunday, March 13.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match took place on the 13th March, and some fine shows of fish.—G. Taylor, first; J. Ball, second, W. Streaton, third; A. Shakel, fourth, and several others weighing in fish.—A. SHAKEL.

THE ANGLER'S PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 13th, the members had their last outing of the season, and met with capital sport. Mr. Watkins had a pretty basket of perch, weighing 4 lb.; but the best show was Mr. Dobsson's four perch, weighing 3 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Mallet, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Scutt weighed-in some very fine roach, some weighing 1 lb. 2 oz. each; Mr. Hines, roach and dace; Mr. Soar, ditto; Mr. Wall, roach; Mr. Marshal, ditto; Mr. Dealy, ditto; Mr. Fiddes, dace. Several other members weighed-in, but the takes were small.—THOS. FIDDES.

March 14.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The Committee, at the request of several of the angling societies, have decided to extend the time for the return of the tickets for the draw for the two paintings presented by Greville Fennel, Esq., to Friday, March 25th. Tickets not paid for by that date will not be drawn for. Due notice will be published

of the winning number. The committee beg to inform the angling societies that they have provided boxes for the collection of donations to be placed in the various clubrooms. Secretaries may be supplied on application as above, on the second or fourth Friday in the month, or to the general secretary, R. Ghurney, 10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N. New Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, Clerkenwell, E.C.

BATTERSEA PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished for three more prizes on Sunday last at Garratt Park. The successful competitors are as follows: Sir Trevor Lawrence's prize, Mr. Newman, hon. sec.; Mr. Willoughby's Prize (value £1 is.), Mr. Hawkins; Mr. R. A. Banfield's Prize (value 15s.), Mr. R. Banfield. I am sorry to say that owing to the recent bad state of the water and the bad fishing season in general, we have been unable to compete for the remaining seven prizes. Due notice will be given of our supper, which would have come off before this, but our patrons, Sir Henry Peek, Bart., M.P., and Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., were unable to attend.—C. NEWMAN, hon. sec.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good show on Sunday last, the following fish being weighed-in:—Mr. Vincent, 8 lb. 4 oz. roach, and one jack, 3 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Bell, 8 lb. roach and perch; Mr. Seymore, a pretty jack; Messrs. Jennings, Goodge, Harris and Dillon, roach. On the 14th inst., Mr. Collier, 15 lb. 14 oz. roach and perch, six largest roach, 6 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Beswick, 12 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Bell, 6 lb. 9½ oz. roach.—H. TAYLOR.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

The delegate meeting of the above took place on Friday last. During the evening £10 10s. was voted to the T.A.P.S. Thomas Spreckley, Esq., and Mr. Brougham are invited to attend on Friday, March 25th, to receive it, when they will address the meeting (?).—R. STEBBINGS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club competed for the remaining prizes on Sunday and Monday last, which ended the season, with the following result:—Mr. W. Maslin being first, with jack and perch, 6 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. E. Wakeford second, with roach; Mr. T. Sutters third, with roach and bream; Mr. E. Wilson fourth, with roach, dace and perch; Mr. C. Blunder fifth, with roach. The other takes were not very large, the last being 1 lb. 15 oz.; all the prizes fished for being taken—which finished the season very satisfactorily to all the members, who showed up in good force on the last day. The annual dinner and presentation of prizes will take place on April 6th, at the club-house, Lord Ranelagh.—E. WILSON, sec.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 6th, the first peg-down match took place at Timply Stoke, when nineteen members entered their names to compete. On Saturday there were doubts as to whether it would take place on the following day, owing to the wet weather; but, however, I am pleased to say it turned out to be a very fine day, and the contest took place as arranged, when the following members took part, and won in the order of their names:—Messrs. C. Osceham, W. Lynch, W. Thomas, R. Edwards, W. Hisgrove, Nash, J. Sampson, T. Hovey, H. Parsons, W. White, Stingwood, A. Hill, Billingham, and Parrot. The fish having been weighed, our members returned to the Aqueduct Inn for refreshment; then a pleasant walk to Bath, and a ramble through the city to see the Bath beauties. At last time was called for returning home, and on arriving at Bristol found several friends of the Golden Carp and others anxious to know the result. On reaching the club-house we were heartily received by our worthy host and numerous friends, and thus passed the first contest of our association. On Monday evening, March 7, there was a special meeting of the association, when there was a large attendance of members, the president in the chair, when the prizes were distributed by the chairman, who, in the course of his remarks, said he was very pleased with the result of the previous day's work, and announced that he hoped the next contest would come off about the first Monday in August—that being Bank Holiday—when he expected a much larger entry of members to contest. A vote of thanks was then proposed to those gentlemen who had kindly given the prizes. Several members sang some capital songs, and thus wound up a very pleasant evening.—J. H. STANTIAL, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members fished a pegged-down match at Watford, near the Halfway house, on the 13th, the result being very unsatisfactory, one large prize only being won by Mr. Plumstead, sen., five of them must stand over for next season; the fish were dead off; jack were very plentiful, several being taken in the open spaces between our men. Three members, Messrs. Pratt, Johns and Chambers, jun., weighed in bream and roach from Amberley. Mr. Fowler had a pretty jack from the Colne, 7 lb. 4 oz., which has been sent to Cooper for preservation. Our return visit (eastern district), will take place on Tuesday next, the 22nd, at our club house, Coger's Hall, Bridge Lane, Fleet Street, five minutes' walk from Farringdon Street, and fifty yards from Ludgate station. Any club in or out of the district visiting us will receive a hearty welcome, also a visit in return. Mr. Fowler, of the Sir Hugh Myddelton, will take the chair.—CAS.

CLERKENWELL PISCATORIALS.

The members were out fishing for a number of prizes on Sunday last. During the evening the trays got filled with some nice specimens of fish. The next return visit will take place at the above club on Monday next, the 21st.—R. STEBBINGS.

THE DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The show of roach and perch at this club house on the 13th inst. was a sight worth seeing. The principal contributors were—Mr. Eagles, roach; Mr. Anderson, roach; Mr. Warman, perch; Mr. Fortescue, roach; Mr. James, perch; Mr. Legge, perch; Mr. Venour, roach; Mr. Lester, perch; Mr. Midson, perch; Mr. Bunn, roach; Mr. E. Kidd, roach; Mr. Finch, roach. Several other members also weighed-in. The top weight was 10½ lb. roach, taken by Mr. Eagles in the Lea. On Monday, the last day of the season, Mr. Lassetter had 17 lb. roach, and Mr. Fortescue had 11 lb. roach, thus winding up the season in a highly satisfactory manner.—W. L.

March 14.

EUSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, the last of the season, we had a splendid show of fish, Mr. Hornfeck leading with over 11 lb. roach, perch, and chub; Mr. Clements with

a show of roach; Mr. Meek with some nice roach; Mr. Percy, roach; Mr. Steadman, perch and roach; Mr. Neal, perch; Mr. Lawrence, perch; Mr. Howell, roach; all the others had something.—W. COSTER.

March 14.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last week being the last of the season, a good complement of members were out. Amongst the most successful was Mr. T. Heywood, who weighed in from private waters 15 lb. of splendid roach and 12 lb. of perch, the four largest weighing 9½ lb., the largest scaling exactly 3¼ lb. These were sent to Cooper's for preservation. Mr. Smith had a fine show of roach; Mr. Hopkins, jack and perch; Mr. Blackman, three jack, largest 5 lb.; and many other members weighed, altogether making a very satisfactory termination to season.—R. WARD.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society were out on Sunday the 13th, and rewarded with some very excellent baskets of fish, Mr. W. Moore winning a valuable prize with 12 lb. of barbel from the Thames. Mr. J. J. Holmes some handsome roach and barbel, Mr. C. Russell some good roach from the Colne, several others contributing, making altogether a good finish to a bad season.—J. CHURCHMAN.

March 14th, 1881.

GOLDEN TENCH.

The 13th of the month being our last members were out in force, and some of them, wishing to get a show of fish, missed their train, and were too late to weigh their fish. Messrs. Flower, jun., Flower, sen., and Mr. Webb weighed in from St. Margaret's; Mr. Flower, jun., roach 7 lb.—one fish 1 lb. 3 oz., Mr. Webb roach 12 lb. 3 oz., Mr. Byden roach, Mr. Higley ditto, Mr. Brown ditto from the Grand Junction Canal.—T. S. WEBB.

March 15.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING.

The members tried hard to obtain a good show of fish for our last day for weighing-in (Sunday, March 13th), and they succeeded beyond expectation. The weight of fish shown was the best we have had for a considerable time. Mr. Theobald headed the list with a splendid tray of roach, weighing 18 lb. 8 oz. one fish weighing 1 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. Dingley roach, 18 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch roach, 6 lb. 8 oz. From the Thames: Mr. J. Watling, 7 lb. roach; Mr. C. Hill, 2 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. C. Warren, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Walker, 2 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Young, 4 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Newman, 9 oz.; Mr. Page, 12 oz., from the Lea: Mr. Perkins, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Painter, 13 oz. From the Grand Junction Canal: Mr. Juber two chub, 5 lb., one a handsome fish, 3 lb. 8 oz., will be preserved; Mr. Stammer chub, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Mayes chub, 15 oz.; Mr. Parrin, 11 oz. roach; Mr. Phillips, 1 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Smith, 9 oz.; Mr. Cowper, 9 oz.; Mr. Pica, 13 oz.; Mr. Reynolds, 15 oz. Total, 67 lb. 1 oz.—J. FITCH, hon. sec. P.S.—We had two good shows of roach on Monday, Mr. T. Watling having 12 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. J. Fitch, 10 lb. 3 oz., one fish 1 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. C. Watling, jun., also showed 8 lb. 1 oz.

March 15.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 10th, we had upwards of 80 lb. of fish, weighed-in as follows:—Mr. Johnson 7 jack, 26 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Penney 2 jack, 5 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Marsh 3 jack, 8 lb. 11½ oz.; Messrs. Geen and Hoole roach, chub, perch, &c., 38 lb. 14½ oz.; Mr. Walters dace, 1 lb. 14½ oz. A tray selected from the above was sent for the use of the patients at the West London Hospital. Mr. Gatward, fishing at Maidenhead, succeeded in landing two barbel and three roach. On the 13th the following fish were forthcoming, viz., Mr. Pitts, roach from Henley; Mr. Rackstraw, two jack; Messrs. Penney, Hitchcock, Lewis and Marsh weighed-in roach and dace. To close the season, I have the following catches to report:—March 14, Mr. Aldridge, roach, chub, dace, and perch, 12 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Walters, dace and chub, 4 lb. 12 oz., from private water; Mr. Arnold, jack and perch from the Wey; Mr. Mackness, perch and roach from Hurley.—VORTEX.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out in strong force on Sunday last to compete in a peg-down match at Watford, and also to weigh-in for other prizes. Mr. W. Hall succeeded in taking first prize, presented by Mr. Roberts, of the Good Intent, the others not being taken, owing to the fish being, as often occurs, dead off. Messrs. Lane and Winyard also showed up some very nice roach and perch from the Canal near Uxbridge, Mr. Lane coming to the front with a very pretty tray of roach, weighing 6 lb. 14 oz.—T. J. STEDALL, secretary.

March 16th.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Yesterday (Sunday) being the last in the season on which members can weigh-in fish, there were four special prizes competed for. Mr. G. Wood was first with 2 lb. 15¼ oz. of roach and perch; Mr. H. Auburn was second with 2 lb. 2¼ oz. of chub and perch, Mr. B. Crook was third with 1 lb. 8¼ oz. of roach, Mr. G. Manning was fourth with 1 lb. 7¾ oz. of roach. The weights following the winners were very close; Mr. W. Mechem had 1 lb. 7 oz. of roach, Mr. A. Salmon had 1 lb. 4¼ oz. of roach. Messrs. E. Morrow, S. Wilkinson and J. Barnes also had fish; there were several other members out, but their takes were so indifferent they did not weigh-in. The members are requested to notice that the meetings will be as usual during the fence months.

March 14th, 1881.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish on our tables on Sunday night, and the six prizes we had out for competition were won. The winners were:—1st prize, a Silver Cup (presented by Mr. Castle), Mr. Blenheim, 4 lb. roach; 2nd prize, Mr. Watson, 2 lb. 4½ oz. roach; 3rd prize, Mr. Hurwood, 1 lb. 5½ oz. roach; 4th prize, Mr. Parker, 1 lb. 3½ oz.; 5th prize, Mr. Mead, 1 lb. 1½ oz.; 6th prize, Mr. Moore, 8 oz. The following members likewise weighed in:—Mr. Humphreys, roach and 1 lb. 5½ oz. perch; Messrs. Aymes, E. Barr, Harbert, Watts, Petrie, Grey, and Castle.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

March 16.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the Piscatorial Society on Monday, there was a good show of fish. Messrs. Harrison and Brown weighed three roach, 1 lb. 8 oz., and showed five

perch, 2 lb. 13 oz., the latter not weighable after the end of February; Mr. Harrison also one tench, 2 lb. 4 oz. from the Thames; Mr. Lemann, two roach, 1 lb. 4 oz., six perch, 4 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Lander, one perch, 11 oz., and 10 lb. weight of barbel; Messrs. Walker and Carter, roach, 8 lb. 12 oz. from the Thames. Messrs. Andrew's and Patterson showed 25 lb. weight of pike; Mr. Harrison occupied the chair in the early part of the evening, filled later on by Mr. Patterson. Mr. Harrison had to leave to be present at a meeting of the Rifle Association. There was a good attendance of members including Messrs. Peiree, Gillott, Rolfe, Faulkner, Jardine, Gray, Lemann, Goodger, and many others. Dr. Brunton and Mr. Chatterton were proposed as members and thus ended a very pleasant evening.—W. B. A.

March 16.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sunset to-day sees the close of the season for freshwater fish, and for members of the above society it has been a very poor one. With the limited nature of available fishing ground the members possess, and the past bad season, we shall not be able to make such a good record as the preceding year. This week I have to record the capture of a fine specimen of the English carp, weighing 6 lb. 8 oz., by Mr. Brough. It has been sent to Mr. Sanders for preservation. Mr. Ritchie, two small jack of 4 to 5 lb. each also bream and roach; Mr. Mortimer, roach and bream; Mr. Hollanders and Mr. Smith, carp from Bognor, one of 3 lb. and the other 3 lb. 9 oz. The society holds its fifth anniversary dinner on the 17th inst., when his worship, the mayor (W. Pink, Esq.), will preside. Invites have gone forth to the élite of the angling world, and a very enjoyable evening is expected.—WM. TRANTER, sec.

March 14.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Saturday last, March 12, the members of the above society celebrated the closing of the fishing season by having a sweepstake match. It was first arranged to have the competition confined to the Thames, but owing to the flooded state it was abandoned, and the competitors allowed to fish where they liked, all fish to be weighed-in by 9 p.m., by that time the result was G. Nat-tress, 9 lb. 3 oz. barbel; A. J. Little, 8½ lb. roach; H. E. Gaynor, 3 lb. 10 oz. jack; J. Brooks, 3 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace; and F. C. Clench, 1 lb. 15 oz. barbel. After the weighing was over, the competitors and some of the members sat down to a substantial supper, Mr. F. Clench occupied the chair, and Mr. J. Dean the vice-chair. After the cloth was removed the following toasts were proposed from the chair:—"The Queen and Royal Family," "Success to the Richmond Piscatorial Society," "Health of the Winners," responded to by Mr. A. J. Little; the "Health of the Chairman," proposed by Mr. Nat-tras and responded to by Mr. F. C. Clench; "Health of the Losers," proposed by Mr. A. J. Little and responded to by Mr. I. Dean and Mr. Owen Davis in some very laughable speeches; the "Health of the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Abbott," proposed by the Chairman, who said, although not with them this evening, through the loss of his only son, being an honorary member of the society they could do no other than drink his health, and direct the secretary to write to him expressing their sympathy with him in his bereavement; Mr. Dean proposed the "Health of the Secretary," and was responded to by Mr. J. H. Gaunt; Mr. Dean proposed "The Host," and was responded to by Mr. Monro, who said since he opened the Station Hotel he had always tried to do things as well as they possibly could be done, and at a reasonable price, and any proposals from the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society for the benefit of their club he should be pleased to carry out. Messrs. F. W. Crew, Owen Davis and A. Harwood gave some capital songs during the evening, Mr. F. W. Crew presiding at the piano.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The last match of the season for money prizes by members of the above society took place at Shiplake, on the 13th inst., the coin was divided into five prizes. The landlord of the Empress of Russia, Mr. Crozier, our treasurer, kindly gave us a donation in cash to swell the amount, as is usual in nearly all such matches. The takes were very small. There were two little evils against us—the river was running like a race-horse, if I may use the term, and the wind set dead east; in fact the roach were right off feed, still we managed to take all the prizes. 1st prize, B. B. Duncan; 2nd, Will Fowler; 3rd, J. Caborn; 4th, Jas. Billings; 5th, P. Rogers. The annual supper will take place on the 30th of March, Wednesday, eight p.m. sharp. Friends will kindly make a note of this.—J. CABORN.

March 14.

THE SPORTSMAN'S ANGLING CLUB.

Several of our members have been having good sport to wind up the season with. On Thursday last Mr. Parfitt had six jack and one eel of over a pound; and Mr. Fisher a nice jack. On Sunday Mr. Fisher had roach; also Mr. L. Pommerat a nice show. On Monday, Mr. A. Hodgkinson three jack—one going 14½ lb.; Mr. Green had 13 lb. of fish, including a chub of 3½ lb.—A. WILKINSON, hon. sec.

STEPNEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, the 13th inst., the members of this society brought the season to a close with a small show of fish, the principal contributors being G. Marrows, 10 lb. bream; B. Lees, 7 lb. bream; F. Jewson, 3½ lb. bream; C. Ruston, roach; C. Pross, 2 lb. 9 oz.—E. R. PEIRCE.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The close of the angling season in the River Lea has fully borne out the character of the preceding portion, which, as regards sport, has proved with few exceptions most unproductive. The following is the takes of fish I have to record since my last week's report:—On the 10th inst., Mr. T. Gretton, 2 lb. 9 oz. roach; Mr. Ed. North, 2 lb. 5 oz. roach. On the 13th, Mr. North, 1 lb. 6½ oz. roach; Mr. Webb, 12½ oz. roach; Mr. Gretton, 12 oz. roach; Messrs. Parrott and A. Pannell were also out, and saved a blank with one fish each. In taking leave of you for the next few weeks, allow me, on behalf of myself and brother members, to very kindly thank you for the complete manner you have reported the doings of the above club during the past season.—THOS. GRETTON, secretary.

March 15.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at this club on Sunday last from the Thames. R. Gaze, roach and perch; W. Rawlinson, roach; Smith, Oliphant, and Inglis, dace. N.B.—After the 4th April next the meeting nights will be altered from Monday nights to Wednesday nights.—R. GAZE, sec.

16th March.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last evening the closing night of the season (as far as our weighing-in is concerned), witnessed a numerous gathering of members and friends who were gratified by the sight of full trays, most of the members who had been out having been lucky enough to secure a show of fish. Mr. Roland was champion with 14 lb. 12½ oz. of roach; Mr. Malcolm next, with 6 lb. 7¼ oz.; Mr. Greenfield, third, with 3 lb. 6 oz. The following gentlemen also weighed-in fish:—Mr. Packman, Mr. Starr, Mr. Togwell, Mr. Rushbrook, Mr. Little, Mr. Leader, and Mr. Morris.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

P.S.—We shall not be able now for three months to catch any fish, but I hope if any netters are about we shall be able to catch them. Vigilance is specially necessary during the close season.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The final competition for the season 1880-81 took place among the members of the above society on the 11th. Results as follows: 1st, Mr. C. Bansback, with 10 lb. chub and perch from the Kennett, which entitled him to £3 3s., given by Mr. J. Collins; 2nd, Mr. Bayley, 8 lb. of roach from the Lea, £2 2s., given by Mr. J. Frith; 3rd, Mr. Beale, 6½ lb. roach from the Thames, £1 1s.; 4th, Mr. R. Cain, 6 lb. 5 oz. perch from the Kennett, £1 1s.; 5th, Mr. Howard, sen., dace from Richmond, £1 1s. The following gentlemen also weighed-in fish: Messrs. J. Collins, Howard, jun., Boalch, Weatherhead and Delehay—gross weight of all fish about 20 lb.—PIXIE.

March 16.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this flourishing society wound up the season with an open match on Sunday, 13th inst., when £6 19s. in cash, and several handsome prizes were fished for. The winner proved to be Mr. T. Hawkins, sen. (a veritable little demon), who displayed a fine show of jack from Slough, which entitled him to the 1st prize, value £2 12s. 6d.; Mr. Yarham secured the 2nd prize, £1 15s., with a handsome tray of roach from the Colne; Mr. Hare captured the 3rd, value £1 5s.; the chairman (Mr. Geo. Evans) landed the 4th, value 16s.; the 5th was awarded to Mr. Bayford, value 10s. 6d.; the 6th was received by Mr. Severn, in the shape of a valuable footstool; the 7th resulted in a tie between Mr. R. Rogers, and Mr. Fogarty, both gentlemen weighing 3 lb. 2 oz. It was agreed to weigh the fish against each other, when the scale turned in Mr. Rogers' favour, and a landing net and bait kettle became his property. Altogether the match was an unexpected success, seventeen members weighing in fish. The total weight was 59 lb. 14½ oz. The billiard saloon was used for the occasion, and every arrangement made to secure the comfort of the members and visitors.—GEO. ARCHER, sec.

NORWICH ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club held their monthly meeting at their clubhouse, the Walnut Shades, on Monday evening last. In the absence of the president (S. Grimmer, Esq.), Mr. G. Diggins (vice-president) occupied the chair, and Mr. George Daniels the vice-chair. There were also present Messrs. W. Povart, John Womersley, J. Hosken, J. L'Estrange, C. J. Greene, T. Lord, F. Fitt, Charles Daniels, S. F. Hewitt, T. E. Gunn, M. Bailey, O. Winter, A. Cox, W. Burridge, Wm. Cooper, R. Moll (hon. sec.), &c. After the business of the evening had been disposed of, the chairman congratulated the members who took part in the pike-match on the excellent sport they enjoyed and upon the arrangements, and all the competitors expressed themselves as greatly pleased with this new feature of the club. Mr. T. E. Gunn kindly read an interesting paper on "Local Aquatic Fauna." He gave an exceedingly good account of the various fishes that had passed through his hands as a taxidermist, exhibiting upon the walls of the room the outlines of large pike, bream, &c. He gave descriptions of thirty pike caught in Norfolk waters, varying in weight from 16 lb. to 36 lb. The largest fish he had had to deal with was caught rod-and-line fishing by a member of this club (Mr. Frank Thorn). One singular thing about the large pike was that of the twenty largest all were females except one, and that single male was caught by a lady, the other nineteen being landed by gentlemen. Mr. Gunn showed some capital drawings of the various fishes noticed by him, and also of the intestines of a pike, showing the way the tapeworms arranged themselves in this fish. The largest bream that had come under his notice, and he believed he might call it "the champion of England," was one caught a short distance from Cromer, and weighed 10½ lb. He had made inquiries respecting the age of this fish, and from the information he had received, he believed it must be at least fifty-six years old. Mr. Gunn concluded his most satisfactory paper, which lasted nearly an hour, by promising another instalment on the same subjects another time. Much applause greeted him, and a discussion on one or two doubtful points took place to the mutual benefit of those present. The chairman, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks, remarked that Mr. Gunn must have devoted considerable time and trouble to compiling the facts which he had so ably brought before the club, and that the best thanks of the members were due to him for his paper, and there was no doubt the specimens of the art of taxidermy, which Mr. Gunn would exhibit at the forthcoming exhibition, would reflect the greatest credit upon him. The hon. secretary (Mr. R. Moll), seconded the vote of thanks, referring to Mr. Gunn in eulogistic terms as one whose knowledge of the subject dealt with in his paper was very large, and for whose zeal on behalf of the club he cordially thanked him. A vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair closed a most enjoyable evening.—Norwich Angus.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—(ADVT.)

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1881.

MORE FISH FOR THE THAMES.

THE Thames Angling Preservation Society of late years has distinguished itself by increasing the stock of fish in the Thames. It has done it in this way: by the netting of lakes and reservoirs that have either been applied for or placed at the disposal of the Committee by the liberal act of the proprietors who have been impressed with the movements of the society in

this respect, and so evidenced their desire to support it. Amongst the various waters that have been netted may be mentioned, the ponds in Bushey Park and the Home Park, the lake of Mr. Gustav Class, of Twickenham, the Barnes Reservoir, the large lake at Kew Gardens, a portion of the Avon at Ringwood, the lakes at Montreal, Sevenoaks, the large lake of Earl Jersey's, at Osterley Park, and other places, besides the gifts of fish from Mr. Henry Farnell, of Thorpe Hall, near Colchester, and others. The committee have doubtless felt that with the large increase of anglers it was most desirable to increase the stock of fish in the metropolitan river, and although the various waters have been freely given to the society for the purposes of netting there has necessarily been a great expense in the doing of them which should be borne in mind by the anglers, and they should evidence their regard for the important movement by voluntarily coming forward in the way of pecuniary support to the committee. It appears from the Statement of Accounts in the "Blue Book" that the netting expenses of private waters last year amounted to £26, and in addition to this netting, the society has been exceedingly active in the dragging of tributaries and back waters after the subsidence of floods with their own nets, and thousands upon thousands of fish have been so restored to the river. It is no wonder, with all this, and the systematic watching of the tidal waters under the energetic superintendence of Henry Walters, the society's head keeper, that the excellent correspondent of the FISHING GAZETTE at Richmond, in last week's issue, makes this important statement: "This is the eleventh season I have had as a professional fisherman, and it is the best season I have ever had." Bravo, Mr. Bushnell! My response is, "May you have a better one next season!" Thanks to the respected curator, Mr. John Smith, of Kew Gardens, the large lake in the pleasure grounds, has been again offered to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the valuable work was once more done on Friday last, under the personal and practical superintendence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who was supported by a goodly staff of the committee, consisting of Messrs. H. J. Alfred, W. H. Brougham, F. H. Lemann, Alfred Nuthall, and J. Pattison. The services of Mr. Lewis Gibson and his sons, of Putney, were specially retained to do the dragging, and the fish were conveyed to the boats on the Thames by the society's keepers, and those in the employ of the Thames' Conservancy, under the management of Henry Walters; the curator—Mr. John Smith—contributing the assistance of half a dozen of the gardeners to help in the work. And now, as regards the general result. The weather was truly magnificent and suitable to the occasion. The lake was in splendid condition for netting, being nearly free of weeds. The nets worked admirably, and the sights of fish that were occasionally brought on shore were perfectly amazing, some of the best hauls being loudly and excitedly applauded by those engaged, and the visitors on the occasion; and it was certainly one of the best and most satisfactory day's netting in connection with the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Amongst the visitors present on the occasion were Messrs. J. C. Chubb, T. A. Mitchell, A. J. Little, Dr. Clarke, W. Jones, Clarke, J. Perrin, J. H. Gaunt, H. E. Gaynor, J. Munro, jun., Gold, F. C. Hatfield, J. Gare, E. Hickinbotham, R. Lord, Charles J. Cross, &c. &c. The commencement of netting was fixed for half-past eight o'clock, and at the exact time Messrs. Thomas Spreckley and W. H. Brougham were on the margin of the lake with the netsmen and keepers ready to commence operations, the other helpers and visitors gradually putting in an appearance. The first haul of the net brought out a nice parcel of various kinds of fish, including twenty good jack. The second cast over the same ground was not so successful, but the third draw in another corner of the lake was an excessively large one. As the net was

nearing the shore it was found to possess so heavy a cargo as to require the assistance of some half dozen hands to help in raising it out of the water for fear of breaking the net. The sight of fish was indeed extraordinary, large quantities of very fine bream, some large tench, a number of jack, and thousands of good roach and perch. The next haul was nearly as large, and with a better sprinkling of jack in it. The following cast in some rather shallow water only brought out one fish, the emperor of the state, without any retinue of supporters and unaccompanied by any state ceremony; there he was safely and alone, a monster of 25 lb. weight, handed out of the net by Mr. W. Jones, of the Railway Hotel, Twickenham; and as a memento of his distinguished services his imperial majesty endeavoured to leave him minus his thumb, but he escaped with only the loss of a little blood. Netting continued with satisfactory hauls until one o'clock, when it was ordered by the General, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, to strike colours and adjourn to the shed, where, under the capital catering of Mr. F. C. Hatfield, the men were entertained with some good roast beef, bread and cheese and beer. Several of the visitors brought their own nose bags with them, and unselfishly invited those to help them who had not been similarly thoughtful of a long day. Mr. H. J. Alfred was provided with some first-rate egg pies, the mutton in them largely preponderating; then Mr. F. H. Lemann, in addition to eatables, some A 1 East India sherry. Mr. Alfred Nuthall was not behind with tongue, German sausage, claret and whisky, and Mr. F. C. Hatfield and Mr. E. Hickinbotham, with a goodly supply of fluid in the way of sherry and claret. But it soon became evident General Spreckley would not have too much time taken up in eating and drinking, but affording reasonable time, he mustered his forces and renewed hostilities. The nets were soon in the water again, and satisfactory hauls continued. It was noticed that one of the stop nets had something in it, and acting under the General's instructions, Mr. F. C. Hatfield carefully took it up, and found at the end of the net the Emperor's mate, a splendid fish of 18 lb. It was a difficult task for Mr. Hatfield, but he is always equal to any emergency, and brought the empress on *terra firma* with great and natural triumph, all around exclaiming that Mr. Hatfield was entitled to considerable praise; indeed, it was difficult to tell whether the crowd were more jubilant over the fish or its successful landing. The General, however, rewarded Mr. Hatfield by awarding the highest praise for the scientific manner in which he secured the monster. By this time there was a large attendance of ladies, who appeared deeply interested in the netting. The last haul of the net was made a four o'clock, and the fish, which had been placed in boats suited for the purpose at Brentford Ferry, a short distance from the lake were afterwards taken up the river by one of the Thames Conservancy steam-launches, kindly lent for the occasion, and under the personal direction of Mr. Spreckley, were distributed at Twickenham, and other places higher up the river. The launch was brought to the boats under the personal superintendence of Mr. R. Lord, who accompanied the General and other gentlemen up the Thames. Thus ended a great red-letter day in the annals of the Thames Angling Preservation Society; it will never be forgotten by those who were present, and it will be a source of regret at their absence by many who had been invited to take part in the proceedings. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. John Smith for the permission and for the assistance he contributed, and also to Mr. Nicholson for his kind interest and attention.

B.

FISH IN LENT.

THE demand for fish during Lent is always greater than at any other season of the year, more especially in countries where Lent is strictly observed. And it is remarkable that England

supplies a large proportion of the food required in even the most distant of such countries. The value of the fish exported from the United Kingdom amounts in the year to about £1,000,000. That sum includes the cost of many thousand barrels of the herrings caught and salted in Scotland and the greater number of the pilchards taken by the fishermen of Cornwall. For the supply of foreign countries cod-fishing is extensively carried on in our seas as well as on the cod-banks of Newfoundland. Salted cod and ling are largely eaten in France and Spain, while the salted herrings from Yarmouth find their way to Cuba and the Brazils. The fish markets of such foreign countries as possess a large seaboard are seen to advantage during Lent, especially when fine weather favours the fishermen. In Paris, the fish-market, at all times worth seeing, is at its best then, many thousands of fish being distributed from it every day. It is fortunate that some of our finest fishes are in season during the spring time, so that people who observe the fast-days of the Church are presented with an excellent choice. Many of the fishes, however, which find a ready sale in the Continental markets would not be consumed either in England or Scotland; yet these, when carefully cooked, are really good food. Cuttle-fish, conger and silver eels, dog and cat fish, as well as numerous other unsightly kinds, are sold in the Parisian Halles Centrales, and great efforts are made by the women of the market to keep up plentiful supplies, no matter how ugly some of the fish may appear. It may be noted that the fish supply of London affords on an average a little over two ounces of fish daily to each person; while in Paris, including the enormous extra supplies provided for Lent, the daily quantity only represents a pound weight for every twenty persons.

Countries which have no seaboard must, during Lent, rely on such supplies of salted or otherwise cured fish as they can procure. In inland Continental countries, where fresh fish are required, reliance has to be placed on the supplies furnished by the lakes and rivers, or on ponds expressly constructed for the breeding and rearing of fish. Previous to the Reformation similar "stews" or ponds were common in England, more especially in inland districts, and interesting remains of them are still to be seen; while many curious industries were originally founded on the Continent with the notion of strengthening the discipline of the Church. Some of these places are even now in existence. One of them is probably unique of its kind, and shows what might be accomplished in a similar direction on our own coasts. The lagoons of Commachio, which are devoted to the culture of eels and other fish, belong to the Pope, the sale of the fish being effected on his behalf during Lent, and there is an unceasing demand for the eels of Commachio all over Italy. The eels which are fattened in the waters ascend in their season from the Adriatic in immense numbers, and are permitted to remain in the lagoons until they have attained a profitable size, other fish being grown to serve as food for them. The large area occupied by the lagoons is divided into what may be called fish-farms, each of which is cultivated by a gang of labourers amenable to a sort of military discipline, who reside in the midst of the waters and are housed in barracks erected on an island. There is a great kitchen at Commachio, which during Lent presents a very busy aspect, many tons of cooked fish being sent out in the course of it. Venice itself originated in the desire to obtain fish for the fasts of the Church. A few fishermen "squatted" on the shores of the beautiful Italian sea in order to fish for the Lombards; the number increased from year to year, unconscious of the work they were doing, until in due time

Venice sat in state, throned on a hundred isles,

and the Venetian fish market, with its choice "fruit of the sea," is to-day a spectacle for all who delight in the picturesque,

Many curious particulars are preserved of the observance of fast-days and the eating of fish in England; and it may be said of fast-days generally that their observance dates from a period of which there are no authentic records. Father Prout, in his "Apology for Lent," refers to fast-days as being in vogue at the Council of Nice. But, on looking back upon some of the old statutes, it almost appears as if the eating of fish was decreed because of the scarcity of flesh-meats. Another notion which developed itself at an early period was that fish ought to be extensively eaten because their capture gave employment to the fishermen, from whose ranks, it speedily became apparent, Government intended to recruit the naval forces of the kingdom. In all the great houses of the country an example of eating fish on certain days of the week was at one time set to the people, just as during a former period the pious monarchs of France publicly dined on fish so that they might by their example promote its use as food. Lampreys at one time were a favourite dish in England, and, cooked in many different ways, were eaten in large quantities. The herring also formed a favourite fast-day dish; it was eaten at nearly every meal, being cooked in pies, or roasted in bundles, fastened with skewers, before a brisk fire. Eels also were in constant use. In various notes of the household expenses of Bishop Swinfield we are told of the uses of eels as fast-day food; they were bought by the stick of a quarter of a hundred, which cost four shillings. Long ago the variety of fishes provided for fast-days was quite as considerable as at present; in the Household Book of the Bishop of Hereford the dietary for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday is laid down as consisting of herrings, eels, lampreys, hake, conger, salmon, wine, and beer. After the fish-days, it is related of the retainers of a great nobleman that when they sat down to beef or mutton "they knew no measure of their stomachs."

In London in the old time the market price of fish was prearranged by authority. Edward III., for instance, issued very stringent regulations for keeping down the prices; while the profits of all fishmongers were to be no more than a penny in the shilling. The following were the market prices:—Mackerel one penny, and turbot sixpence each; soles, twelve for threepence; pickled herrings, one penny per score; oysters, twopence per gallon; and eels, fourpence per hundred. No fish were allowed to be sold that had been more than one day out of the water. During the preceding reign the fishmongers—who by that period had established a flourishing guild—were jealous of their trade being intruded upon by persons selling fish in the City who were not members of the Fishmongers' Company. It was a rule in selling fish for fast-day uses that purveyors of the Court were to be supplied before any of the King's subjects. Most of the great English families were wont at the close of autumn to order their supplies of fish for winter fast-days, these being very carefully stored in dry lofts. It was found at one period a difficult task to keep the people of London faithful to fish diet on fish-days; and it proved still more difficult to persuade them to dine on fish on other days of the week, although every possible argument was used to enforce the sumptuary laws of the time. In the year 1548 a statute was passed ordaining "abstinence from flesh," and imposing penalties on all who ate it on fast-days; which penalties were much increased by an Act passed in 1562 for the maintenance of the navy. And in a pamphlet written by John Erswicke, in 1593, "the benefits that grow to this realm by the observance of fish-days" were duly set forth. The author states that the non-observance of the fast-day regulations has injured the fish trade very much, and also—the main point—that her Majesty's navy is suffering greatly from the want of a growing body of fishermen to supply sailors. In Scotland an Act was passed in 1594 extending the period of Lent, and enacting that during it

no meat should be eaten on the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. A commentator on Scottish history remarks that the Act in question evidently embodied a political move in favour of the Scottish fisheries, although it was made to appear as passed on behalf of the Church. Some of the ingenious plans devised for the popularising of fish food in more recent times—a hundred and fifty years ago—seem amusing to us in these days of fast trains. One Houghton, for instance, proposed a scheme of fleet horse-expresses to carry fish with "commanding rapidity" to places within twenty miles of London, and to return with equal speed with supplies of fresh eggs and other country produce. At an earlier period, relays of men used to carry fish to the suburbs with tolerable celerity during Lent, when all kinds of sea-produce were in great demand. Light carts were, however, speedily adopted to carry the produce of the sea to the surrounding towns; and in time spring vans were built to bring the fish from the coast to London. Such modes of carriage would be of little avail in the present day, when over 130,000 tons of fish every year reach the metropolis by railways and steamboats, which, for a population of 4,000,000 persons, is at the rate of about 72 lb. for each person per annum. Notwithstanding the cry of "over-fishing" and scanty supplies, it is found at each recurring period of Lent that a heavier weight of fish than any previously known has passed through the hands of the fishmongers. While it may be observed that during March and April there are always over twenty different sorts of fish in excellent condition for eating.—*St. James's Gazette.*

SPAWNING TIME OF DACE.

DR. BRUNTON is quite right; there can be no doubt but that dace are very early this year. February and March may have been the months in which they spawned in years ago, but certainly March, April, and May have been the favoured periods during the last decade or so. I have a theory that the average temperature of seasons—say, ten in number—so far influences the domestic interests of fishes as to alter traditional records of spawning almost entirely in some cases. Dr. Brunton as a scientific man will see what I mean at once. Suppose, for example, a dace has hitherto spawned in the beginning of March, owing to its ancestors and itself having been subjected to warm winters on the average. Owing to some solar or planetary influence the temperature of the succeeding six or seven seasons is lower (we will suppose). Is it not likely, reasoning from analogy and fact, that the spawning of such fish will be delayed at the end of the term mentioned to a later time in the year? Carp in warm quarters will breed twice a year; this I have proved; and only once in a cold residence—sometimes not even once, if the water be intensely chilly. The spawning times of fishes cannot be regulated even by Act of Parliament!

FISH IN THE THAMES.

There can be no doubt that Mr. James' complaint about perch and jack fishing in the Thames is one based on real grounds. Jack and perch are by no means so numerous as they were within my recollection, say of twenty years, but this must be attributed to the greatly increased number of anglers. For one angler twenty years ago there are ten now, and these are, in the majority of cases, of a widely different class to their predecessors. The latter were usually fishers for sport only, and, as the experience of every old Thames fisherman will bear out, were rather disposed to return undersized fish than the present race of anglers, who, if not hunters for the "pot," are certainly seekers for the premier glories of weighing-in at their respective clubs. This incentive to make weight, is, I am firmly persuaded one of the chief causes of river deterioration, and jack and perch,

being possibly the earliest fish to capture, consequently suffer first.

So far as I am concerned personally, I should be glad to see jack exterminated from the Thames, and the Thames trout reigning in its stead. A close time for trout for five or seven years, with active breeding operations such as those of Mr. Forbes, at Chertsey, at intervals of every few miles on the upper Thames, and an open season all through the year for pike, would effect this consummation so devoutly to be wished, and I am prophetically sure that the supply of fish would not for a century decrease thereafter.

Swans, floods, steam launches, and the increased traffic, must, in the nature of things, possess sound deteriorating influence—to what extent is but a matter of personal opinion. I am inclined to believe it a very great one.

By the bye, one large town, Richmond, discharges no end of sewage still into the river. Can anybody tell me how the law stands in respect of this disregard of the Act passed in 1876 (I think)?

(To be continued.)

FISH AND FISHING IN RUSSIA.

(From our Correspondent in St. Petersburg.)

IF there is a country where angling stands not far from its primitive state, to be sure it is Russia. Rod—a hazel, birch, or juniper stick; line—twisted and knotted horsehair; float—a piece of bark roughly cut into a longish barrel; hook to match.

In the last ten or fifteen years, angling has made great progress, now it is not so rare to see an angler using an English or French rod and a winch; but the majority (and a very powerful one) still cling to the hazel stick and knotted horsehair line, finding them to be the weapons which a thorough sportsman must use (no pun intended); and those even who have overcome their prejudices against “civilised” fishing tackle, have still a propensity for coarse tackle. For instance, it is by no means impossible to see an angler fishing for bream with a four-joint trolling rod, salmon reel, reel line (No. 20), and a line of salmon gut. The idea is, coarse tackle is more reliable than fine. The hooks most in favour with Russian anglers are flatted Kirby bent, with long as well as short shanks (stout wire is a desideratum). It is thought to be a *conditio sine qua non* for a good hook to be flatted, to have a roundish bent and the point turned sideways. In fact, the majority of Russian anglers would not look at a Limerick (the hollow-pointed except, which have come in usage, though restricted, of late years) or sneck bent, otherwise than with a sneer. Small hooks also are not the favourites with my countrymen; the smallest hook used for such fishing is No. 9, the finest line for the same purpose being *only* four twisted horsehairs. Having given to the kind (and, most probably, astonished) reader a slight idea of our fishing tackle, I shall give a brief account of the sporting fish met with in Russia, which are also indigenous to England.

The salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lósos Isrömya, is to be found in all rivers flowing into the White and Baltic Seas; weighs up to 60 lb. Angling for salmon is never practised, and would be deemed sheer madness, except by a very small minority of anglers; so small, indeed, as not to be worth speaking of.

The sea-trout or salmon-trout (*Salmo trutta*), Taimen, inhabits the rivers and lakes belonging to the White and Baltic Seas; weighs up to 30 lb. Is sometimes fished for with a line, the hook being baited with a lob-worm or small fish. A more usual way of catching this fine fish, is to drag a rudely made spinning bait behind a boat rowed along at a moderate rate. The bait is a

long narrow piece of tin or brass plate, armed with a single hook. The head of the bait has a particular bending, which causes it to spin; the hook is firmly soldered to the brass and has the shank trimmed with a strip of scarlet cloth.

The trout (*Salmo fario*), Forél, Pestrúshka, from “pestrü”-speckled, inhabits the rivers running into the White and Baltic Seas, as well as many of those running into the Caspian and Black Seas; weighs up to 10 and 12 lb. It is usually fished for with a float, worms or small live baits being used. Fly-fishing is practised only in the neighbourhood of Petersburg, the majority of fly-fishers being Englishmen, though there are also a few Russian anglers very proficient in this branch of the sport.

The grayling (*Thymallus vulgaris*), Chárius, Kutemá, is scarcer than the trout; it is not to be found in many rivers where trout are plentiful; weight up to 3 lb. It is also seldom fished for with the fly. In the swiftly running rivers of the Ural Mountains they catch grayling without any bait by means of a leaded hook somewhat like a single leaded trolling hook. This lure has a very rude resemblance with a fish.

The perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), Okun, is to be found over all Russia—in lakes, rivers, and even ponds. It reaches sometimes the enormous weight of 12-15 lb. (Russian). The larger are fished for with a gudgeon or bleak—the smaller ones with worms. Scoured worms are not the custom in Russia; spinning is not practised.

The ruff or pope (*Acerina cernua*), Yorsh, is a favourite with many Russian anglers; the only bait used for it is a small worm. It reaches (though seldom) the weight of 1 lb.

The pike (*Esox lucius*), Shtcháka, inhabits the rivers and lakes of all Russia; weighs up to 100 lb. Is exclusively fished for with the live bait; is often (even for the most part) caught on trimmers and night lines. In spring, small jack will sometimes take a worm, and, of course, nearly always cut through the gut or horsehair.

The carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Carpia Isazán, is to be met with in all rivers, excepting those running into the Baltic and White Seas; weighs up to 40 lb. Is fished for with extra coarse tackle, the hook being baited with a worm.

The tench (*Tinca vulgaris*), Lin, is common to all rivers, lakes, and ponds of European Russia; weighs up to 15 lb. Is not always to be enticed to take a bait. Favourite bait—brandling or red worm for the small and middle sized ones, lob-worm for the large ones.

The carp-bream (*Abramis brama*), Leshtch, inhabits the rivers and lakes of all Russia; weighs up to 25 lb. Bait—worms, rye-bread, peas.

The silver bream (*Abramis blicca*), Gústera; weighs up to 3 lb. Baits—the same as for the carp-bream.

The chub (*Squalius cephalus*), Golóvl is to be found everywhere; weighs up to 15 lb. Baits—cockchafers, butterflies, grubs, worms, crawfish, frogs, bleaks, gudgeon, &c., rye-bread.

The dace (*Squalius leuciscus*), Yelétz, common to all Russia; weighs up to 1 lb., though seldom. Baits—flies, beetles, and worms.

(To be continued.)

A NEW ANGLING SOCIETY.

OUR readers will be glad to learn that a new high class angling society is in course of formation, designed specially to meet the requirements of City and mercantile men, its present head-quarters being at Mr. Thompson's, The City Larder, 19, Throgmorton Street, E.C. An influential committee has been secured, and a large number of members already enrolled. It is but needful to add that the society not only

proposes to rent and stockwater, but to discourage the taking of small fish, and to disseminate useful information, to secure the good wishes of all anglers for its permanent success.

In connection with the above, the following circular has been issued:—

“A number of gentlemen anglers propose to form a first-class society, designed to meet the requirements of those to whom existing angling clubs are not conveniently adapted.

“The advantages of joining an association of this kind are obvious: information is disseminated by congenial social intercourse, and the best interests of the angler largely promoted. Members are also enabled to travel at greatly reduced rates to the principal fishing stations, and it is hoped in time that the new society may be able to rent water, and offer privileges not conferred by membership of other societies. It is intended to make the subscription as light as consistent with the objects in view, and that all members should be proposed, seconded, and ballotted for previous to election.

“An influential Committee has provisionally been formed, and a considerable number of members obtained. Gentlemen desirous of joining may leave their names with Mr. Thompson, The City Larder, 19, Throgmorton Street, Bank, E.C., where a meeting will be held on Friday, March 25th. Chair to be taken at 6.30 p.m. precisely. The attendance of gentlemen interested in angling is cordially invited, and any suggestions will be welcomed in the interval.

“On behalf of the Committee,

“March 17th, 1881.” “G. AUSTIN, Secretary, *pro tem.*”

ANOTHER NEW CLUB.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that we are about starting a new angling club, under the name of the St. John's Wood Piscatorials, and am very pleased to say that we have over thirty gentlemen waiting to join, and I feel sure we shall have a very successful club. If you will kindly give this publication in the next issue of your valuable paper you will greatly oblige.—I am, &c.,

W. F. FIELD.

69, High Street, St. John's Wood, March 22.

P.S.—The club will have a room at the Queen's Arms, Lower William Street, St. John's Wood.

HOW TO PUT LIVE BAIT ON THE HOOK.

THINKING many of your readers would like to know the best way to put live bait on the hook, I, speaking from experience, say take a piece of black cotton thread about a foot long, tie the middle of it tight under the barb of the hook; now take the bait in the left hand, lay the hook on its side, the barb up by the shoulder of the bait, with the shaft along the belly; now pass the thread over the shoulder and around under the fish, and tie the shaft of the hook, then pass the thread along the shaft until under and back of the back fin, then tie tightly around the shaft of the hook, then pass the thread on each side of the fish up to the back, just back of the back fin, and tie with a bow knot. This fastens the bait securely without hurting it, and you will have the liveliest and best bait ever used. As the shaft of the hook lies along the belly, it keeps the bait in proper shape, and as the fish usually takes live bait head first, you are sure to hook your fish. With just a little patience at the first trial, you will find you can tie on the bait very quickly, and then have the best bait you ever used. I learned this from a gentleman who was the most successful fisherman I ever met:

G. F. W., in the *Chicago Field*.

FRANK BUCKLAND'S BOOTS.

THE late Mr. Frank Buckland had a great objection to stockings and boots and coats, his favourite attire consisting of nothing else than trousers and a flannel shirt. Boots were his special aversion, and he never lost an opportunity of kicking them

off. On one occasion, we are told, travelling alone in a railway carriage, he fell asleep with his feet resting on the window-sill. As usual, he kicked off his boots, and they fell outside the carriage on to the line. When he reached his destination, the boots could not, of course, be found, and he had to go without them to his hotel. The next morning a plate-layer, examining the permanent way, came upon the boots, and reported to the traffic manager that he had found a pair of gentleman's boots, but that he could not find the gentleman. Some one connected with the railway recollected that Mr. Buckland had been seen in the neighbourhood, and knowing his eccentricities, inferred that the boots must belong to him. They were accordingly sent to the Home Office, and were at once claimed.

THE APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY TO WHALING.

SOME recent attempts to capture whales by stunning them with electric shocks are worth recording here. The first trial was made last December by a Bremen vessel, the steamship, *Alexander*, when cruising off the Swedish coast, between Stromstad and Fjellbacka. On this occasion the harpoon was put in communication with the battery on board by means of an insulated wire; the electric circuit, however, only being completed at will of the operator when sufficient penetration had been given to the harpoon. The result was not entirely successful. The wire snapped, its tensile strength having been over-estimated, and the harpoon also proved of insufficient weight. However, the second trial, made by the steam launch, *Victor*, when the same method and battery were employed as before, resulted in the killing of the first whale by electricity. Struck in the side by the harpoon, followed up by the powerful electric shock, the whale remained absolutely motionless, and appeared to die instantaneously. Unfortunately the carcass was not recovered, as owing to the steamer proceeding at too great a pace, and the line breaking for want of being payed out with sufficient rapidity, it sank to the bottom, with harpoon and 400 feet of line attached.

NOTICE OF TACKLE.

SPRING FLIES FOR THE DEVON AND SOMERSET RIVERS.

MR. WM. MUDFORD, of Fore Street, Tiverton, the well known tackle-maker, sends some samples of his early flies—his “principal flies” he calls them. The flies sent are the iron blue, hare's flax upright, heron's body blue, half stone, silver twist, red upright, aller bud, rough gold twist, March brown and blue upright. Mr. Mudford knows exactly what is wanted, and is himself a skilful salmon and trout angler. We can recommend his flies with confidence, and have for years past always found them good killers on the Barle, Exe, &c. Our favourites out of the above are blue upright, half stone, rough gold twist, and red upright.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

MRs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Like to the time o' th' year between the extremes
Of hot and cold; he was nor sad nor merry."—SHAKESPEARE.

Between the extremes of hot and cold, or rather perhaps between cold and hot, Thames anglers can hardly be sad, or really merry—not merry, because the past season has been so brimful of floods and disappointments—not sad, because the trout work is close at hand. The sun is beginning to shine on both sides of the hedges, the river is in prime colour and order, and good reports are in the ascendant, like the fish, from most of the good waters in Mid-Thames. Notably those of Pangbourne, Streatley, Marsh Pool, New Lock, Temple, Marlow, Odney, Boulter's (Maidenhead), Bray, and Boveney. My advice to Thames trout-men is to try their luck under the favourable condition of the stream as it is at present, before the "madding crowd," pleasure and youth—one at the helm and the other in the prow—scare the spotted leopards into inaccessible and unfishable haunts.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River in prime condition for trout work, and as I shall not have another opportunity of putting my brother piscators "fly" before the commencement of the trout season (Friday, April 1st), I would strongly advise them to be at work on the first day at 6 p.m., and toil and spin in every available cull and boil until 6 p.m., and that great may be their reward is the prayer of

MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Richmond).

There was an error in last week's report. It should have read "it will be a good opportunity now for members of angling clubs who visit Richmond," not as was printed "to visit Richmond." To correct this will oblige. Not letting the past season pass without a word. It has been a very trying one, both to anglers and fishermen. In the first part of the season there was the heavy rain, and as soon as winter set in there was the snow and ice during the nine months, there was quite half the time the river was not fishable, or not what it should be for sport, but after putting it altogether, the good with the bad, it was about the average. Here, perhaps, it is because it is near London, the last season was one of the best that I ever knew for dace-fishing. Not only the quantity, but the size they run. I remember one night coming ashore after a day's fishing; there were four of us came in at the same time, and between the four punts there was 132 lb. pounds weight of dace. This was about the best let I ever saw. Besides the dace-fishing we got our share of barbel, and it has been above the average for bream during the last part of the season. If it had not been for the bream we should not have had much to fish for. Roach-fishing of the past season was not up to the average of other seasons, the roach running so small to what they do as a rule. So here the angler that goes in search of the spotted beauties will do well in giving Teddington Lock a turn during the fore-part of the season. There are a few good fish about this season, and they are sure to find their way to the Locks, as the water gets lower. There is more fish stopped this side of the Lock this season to spawn than I have noticed before, as there are hundreds of them on the shallows now, and they look quite clean yet.—JOHN BUSHNELL, Fisherman.

P.S.—Any gentleman wanting a good punt can buy the one I fished in during the season. She is not only a good punt, but the one I won the Open Punting Race in, being one of the fastest punts there is of her kind.

Thames (Twickenham).

My last week's report having miscarried, I am pleased to say we closed the season much better than I expected. During the last six days I had thirty punts out in all, but I am sorry to say we had no large takes of fish, the average being about six dozen fish to each punt, but when we see our Richmond and Teddington fishermen honour us with their company, we may take it for granted it is bad all round. Good news for Thames anglers. Last Friday I assisted in netting from the lake in Kew Gardens, and saw placed into the river Thames nearly a ton of mixed fish, amongst them being nearly 200 jack, one monster weighing about 22 lb., and another about 16 lb. The arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Spreckley and Brougham, and several members of the T.A.P.S., assisted by Mr. Walters, the head river-keeper, and other river-keepers.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

We must not be surprised at anything in the way of weather after the eccentricities of the last few days, just as one was beginning to know something in the trout line, our old friend returns—trout turn tail and go down, disgusted with things above-surface. Worse weather than this, and many Thames trout have been made fools of on the 1st of April, and in water high and thick. As regards its present state, the colour is good; and, though not seen playing, the whereabouts is quite sufficient for a good Thames trout fisherman, if anything, rather to be preferred. I hear the "eighty-one tunner," as your contemporary *Bell's Life* calls it, has been showing himself at the Ferry rails, Eton side. When last I saw him, he looked all 12 lb., and more, but has been severely pricked, though he has had time to forget it. From other quarters, I hear of trout, but with this cold wind one's chances of seeing them would be poor; so I shall wait for a more genial time. Those who intend trying them should not be sparing of bait if water comes a little thick, as a good bright bait is everything then. The Windsor and Eton Angling Preservation Society netted some of the ditches in the neighbourhood on the 18th inst., but the result, compared with last year, is very poor, being less than half. This year, it is only 27 jack, 410 roach, 1 chub, 68 perch—total, 506; against 72 jack, 93 perch, 942 roach, 49 chub, 1 tench, 1 carp, taken 24th March last year. Difficulty in netting some of the best places, owing to obstructions, will in a great measure account for this; but, as regards this netting, a deal of trouble and expense might be

saved if, some considerable time before the fence months began, gratings, same size apart in the iron bars as that used at the waterworks, placed at each end of these ditches would prevent these jack and perch working up. The flow would not be interfered with if each bailiff looking after them, when a push of water is on, was provided with a similar hitcher to that used at the waterworks for clearing away weeds, debris, &c. This would save a lot of walking about looking after labourers and "bricks," who, in spite of all law, will, if there is half a chance, use the fatal noose. In last week's *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*, I notice a perch is reported as being taken in the Thames, at Windsor, of over 4 lb. I have been inquiring in all directions, but nobody knows anything about it. As it is an extraordinary weight for the Thames, the name and address of the captor not being mentioned, I, as well as several other anglers in the neighbourhood, would like to hear if it is correct. Perhaps some of your readers will be able to give the information, as no Windsor person to my knowledge has taken such a splendid specimen of *Perca-fluviatilis*.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Avon (Binton).

The water by this time is in very good condition, but on Monday last was still thick, owing to the heavy rains the week before. The weather here is quite like summer, but of course fishing is out of the question, as we are into the close season. It seems a shame, though, especially after experiencing such weather all through the winter. T. Atkinson, Esq., was fortunate enough to land a brace of jack in prime condition 4 lb. and 5 lb. respectively. There were also some very good baskets of roach and a few dace caught with the fly on the shallows. The dace were full of spawn, but the pike are still in good condition. —A. WELESLEY WARNER.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are now in first-rate order for angling. To-day they were coloured, owing to heavy rain on Exmoor; but, at the time of writing, are fining down nicely. In fact, it was good minnow water this morning; and this evening good for fly-fishing. The wind has been very high the last few days, and very cold. Should it become warmer, sport during the next few days ought to be very good. In spite of the cold wind, however, some fair baskets have been taken, from 1 doz. to 3 or 4 doz. each basket—chiefly taken with the blue upright, silver twist, March brown, and blue dun.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

We have had something of the lamb about this month, but much more of the lion. This week has fairly brought home Tennyson's idea of "the roaring moon of daffodil and crocus." The wind has blown so gustily that trout fishing has by no means been a perfectly happy recreation. Then, too, the wind has not alone been obstructive. We have had daily showers of snow, sleet, hail, rain, drizzle, and all the rest of the unrequited elements. However, this is the period of the year when anglers will go out; the trout are ready to be killed, and who can resist the temptation to face rude Boreas, Jupiter Pluvius, or any other of the fabulous deities who preside over the "heavens above," if not of the "waters beneath." The result is that we have had a fair number of rodsters out on "ye gentle Dove." If, however, a few rodsters have been out, not so the flies; they have been nearly all in, and they seem determined to stop in till the weather mends. Sport, as may be gathered, therefore, has not been brilliant enough to set the *blasé* piscator's mouth watering. A few nice dishes have fallen to the blue and yellow spring duns, but the best fish have been killed by Mr. Gregory's Windsor bee, a capital lure for brooks and tails of rivers, as well as for the main streams themselves. About a couple of brace would be the average with the flies above-named, while there was one basket of 4½ brace with the bee from Bentley brook.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

We have had some splendid weather during the past week, and the river has returned back to its usual spring level, consequently both salmon and trout have to be reported, but not to any great extent. Mr. G. Lee, of the Elephant and Castle Inn of this city, has commenced, with his usual good luck, by securing four fine salmon, their respective weights being two 8½ lb. each, one 9 lb. 14 oz., one 13½ lb. This gentleman proved one of the most successful rodsters both last season and the season before, securing also some heavy creels of trout. Several trout have been taken at Salmon Pool, four of which coming to Mr. Blake of the Museum Hotel. The net fishermen will soon commence in the lower waters and estuary, and everything up to the present is well in their favour. It is a most remarkable occurrence for this part of the coast at this late season, but the herrings returned here during the past week, and hundreds of thousands were taken and forwarded to most of the principal fish markets, some being sent, I am told, even to Yarmouth, where they appear to have been very short of them. I have seen an enormous quantity of them, all bearing the same appearance—viz., being over full and ripe with milt and ova. It exuded from both sexes without handling, the ova being of fine size, and every one separate. Whether it was the warm weather brought them in or not is a query, but they are all gone now, and the weather is very cold, with sundry hailstorms during the day, with a north-easterly wind. Several disciples of old Isaac were out to-day. I hope to report something worth reporting in my next. I have a letter from a friend fishing the canal near Tiverton, who reports six jack on one occasion and seven on another. The largest, however, did not exceed 7 lb. to 8 lb., but in the five times' fishing my friend and another have taken nineteen fish. These, of course, were taken previous to the close of the season. I say "Well done, friend E. B. You render a service by so doing." When the season opens again we hope to see him with us in Exeter. I hear Mr. Pearson had one of 12 lb.—FRANK GOSDEN.

P.S.—Mr. C. Blake this afternoon four trout, and Mr. G. Lee has just returned, having run one fine fish of about 18 lb., but, not being securely hooked, lost. Amount of trout, nineteen for the season up to now.—F. G.

Ilfracombe.

To-day the weather has changed for the better, and I saw a few gentlemen fishing with rod and line from the piers. There has also been a few boats out this morning hooking, they have all got fish; catches small, varying from 6 lb. to 20 lb. Catches with rod and line vary from 3 lb. to 10 lb.; time, about two hours per tide. There has nothing come under my notice this spring in fresh-water fishing worth reporting; though I am told by old hands that trout are very plentiful about the neighbourhood of Ilfracombe and all are waiting for fine weather, when they expect to make some good baskets.—HENRY COMER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

The season has closed, and all round it is about the same report—cold weather, floods, and bad fishing—and those who have come here are in one mind that takes are small. On Sunday Mr. George Stevens, bailiff, Mr. Collyer, Mr. Monro, and others were walking from Cook's Ferry to Lea

Bridge during the whole day; and I am sure the waters will be carefully watched during the fence season, so when the open season comes round we can look for sport.—S. SEWELL.

Lee (Co. Cork).

The want of sport which characterised angling in the Blackwater since the opening of the river on the 1st of February, has been compensated for during the past week the river extending from Mallow downwards appears now to be well stocked with fish, the late heavy floods having conduced to that result. During the week several springers were landed including the following:—Colonel Grimes hooked a new springer 28½ lb.; Mr. H. Smith, Millvale, three weighing 7, 11, and 11½ lb. each; Mr. Fleming, Ballyhooley, one, 26½ lb.; Captain Morgan, Bidetown, one, 22 lb.; Mr. J. Turner, Mallow, one, 16 lb., and another 16½ lb., net. On the Lee the sport was not as good as it was on the previous week. The intense cold which set in on Sunday with sleet, thunder, and snow interfered with the prospects, and not alone scared the fish from rising, but scared fishermen from the banks. On Tuesday, a heavy downpour dissipated the severe character of the weather, and a flood yesterday cleared out the snow from the river, and left the water in good order for angling. On Friday and Saturday, before the change, among the successful sportsmen were, Sir Oriel Foster, four; John Manning, four; Mr. George Colthurst and his son, three; Major Nettles, some Mr. R. Bailes, four; Sir Augustus Warren, two; Mr. George Haynes, one; Mr. J. Lambkin, one.—**ANGLER, Cork.**

Plym (Devon).

All rivers in our neighbourhood are in good condition; the late rain has done good, and some good baskets have been taken with the blue dun, march brown and the blue hackle, rats' fur body, red tail. Salmon are going to sea in numbers. Wind, E.; drizzly rain.—**WILLIAM HEARDEN.**

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The salmon fishing with single rod and line only has been wonderfully good since last I wrote. The members of the Suir Club now staying at the Glengal Arms, Cahir, killing between them in four or five days forty-three salmon, average weight about 15 lb.; and on the previous Thursday landed nine fish, and ten on Friday. Mr. Skipworth, near Golden, killed a fine fish of 25 lb. Mr. and Miss Massy, Suir Castle, have been most successful, and also Colonel Peyton and Mr. W. D'Alton in one week landed eight salmon. Mr. Stewart (20th Hussars), at Molough, killed one of 8 lb., on the "blue doctor," and Mr. Hutchings, at Banard, landed a splendid fish, weighing 28 lb., on the "butcher." Mr. Edward Quinlan, Suir Mount, got one, 12 lb., on the "Ardinnan jockey." Up to the present, Captain Palliser's fish of 30 lb. has been the heaviest. Several others have also been successful, the names being too numerous to mention. There is every prospect of this season proving the best we have had for years. The river was pretty low until to-day quite a heavy flood ran down, which will put a stop to much sport for a few days. There will now be a fresh supply of spring fish again after this flood, and it is owing to the constant floods we have had since the season opened that the upper waters are so well stocked with fish. The cot men have not done very much, but will probably make up for it to-morrow, as the water will be the proper height for them then if we do not have any rain to-night. The trout-fishing is very good. Colonel Mansfield and Mr. Perry, at Grove Stream, caught in two days between them nine dozen and six trout, averaging three to the pound. The killing trout flies are olive duns, gold wrens, silver-black hackles, &c.—**DORA.**

Trent (Nottingham).

I was unable to send you my usual letter last week, owing to illness. I will, however, give you the final notes of the doings of our anglers during the last three days before the close season commenced. The water was in splendid condition for bottom fishing, and the weather all that could be desired; the consequence was, several great takes of roach, bream and chub were made, with worms for bait; but, as several anglers truly observed, the most vexing part of the business was that they should be compelled to discontinue angling when all the three fish named were in the best possible condition. A great number of our rodsters are much annoyed at the close season commencing so early, because they are of opinion it is a mistake, and I think so too; and no doubt the Sheffield anglers are of the same opinion. The latter at one time thought it was going to be a good thing for anglers in general, but now the reverse is the case. The Mundella Act is becoming very annoying to all anglers throughout the country, and I was not surprised at your correspondent in last week's *GAZETTE* terming it "an annoying farce." No doubt things might have been altered had "Shut Out" or several of your correspondents commenced the subject sooner. Mr. James Gregory, of Birmingham, informs us that their members who rent the water at Alrewas are allowed to fish up to the 15th of May, when all the rest of the Trent is closed against rod-fishing. I and many of our anglers do not understand this, and an explanation would be gladly received. Six of the netting fraternity were caught here, and were fined altogether in a sum amounting to £17, besides the loss of all their nets. A close season will never be of any good until netting is stopped.—**W. BAILEY.**

Waveney (Beccles).

At the conclusion of last week and the beginning of this the river had gone down considerably, and was in capital condition for bottom fishing. On Monday afternoon we had a heavy downfall of snow, which materially altered the aspect of affairs. But the wind has now worked round to the west, and the river is getting again in good order, and I think that, provided we get no more downfall, by the time this is in print there will be every probability of capital sport. As the close season does not affect the waters of either Norfolk or Suffolk, anglers can still enjoy plenty of sport here while other waters are closed. On Saturday last several rods were out in the afternoon, and several very fair takes were the result. On Sunday two rodsters took advantage of a favourable day, and succeeded in capturing a painful of good roach, ninety-two fish in all, but as they were not weighed, I cannot give exact weight, although they were estimated at about two stone. Small red worms are the only bait that has proved successful up to the present. Paste no use. Pike have been drawing up the river and into the dykes preparatory to spawning, and a great number have been killed by a set of fellows who are continually on the prowl for anything they can lay their hands on. Only a few days ago I heard that five fine full fish were taken by one of these loafers, besides one that had spawned.—**C. B.**

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a flood on the Derwent last Sunday morning from the heavy rain that fell up in the woodland, which quite put a stop to fly-fishing for a short time. The weather during the week has been all against the angler. We had a great deal of snow fall last Monday, and the wind being so boisterous and bitter cold, has caused very few piscators to turn out on either of the above

rivers, and those few who have been out have done very little. Two-and-a-half brace of trout were killed on the Derwent last Tuesday with the small cockspur worms for baits, and one brace of trout were killed with the "Derby trout-killer"—the fish being nearly a pound apiece, and in good condition. We have a good many anglers down here for fishing, but I am sorry to say their fishing prospects are not very encouraging while this bitter cold, boisterous weather continues. Both rivers will be in good order for fly-fishing by Monday.—**GEORGE JAMES EATON.**

Yare (Norwich).

I am exceedingly pleased to have again to report some splendid catches during the past week. From all parts glowing accounts of a rare day's sport come to hand, and anglers have been particularly favoured in and about the neighbourhood of Norwich. Mr. Howard, at Surlingham, this week took seventeen fine roach, averaging 1 lb. each, and Mr. Hinsbey, on Thursday last, close by the same spot, bagged a stone of roach and perch, and showed the same evening several of the fish weighing upwards of 1 lb. each. To-day is a real angling day, and I counted no fewer than fifteen boats, all "high busy," at Thorpe, each man assuring me he was quite satisfied with his day's sport. I saw one roach landed which must have scaled at least 1½ lb., and bream flats were being taken very rapidly. I should like just to mention, for the guidance of our friends at a distance, and to those who anticipate a run down, now that the close season has commenced, the names of the various hostleries at which every accommodation may be obtained, as well as good fishing in their districts. First from Norwich is the Thorpe Old Gardens, lying quite by the side of the river, and attainable from the city either by bus or rail. This, as well as an angler's resort, is the head-quarters of all the principal rowing clubs in the city. Mr. John Hart is the proprietor. Next to this is the Woods End, Bramerton, about a mile and a-half further on the stream. This is a most picturesque part, and good angling always to be had. Next in order is the Surlingham Ferry, which must be reached either by the river or road, as it is some distance from a station. Between this and the next fishing station, which is Coldham Hall, is the great place for roach-fishing during the summer months, and any stranger who inquires for Birch Dyke (which is an outlet from Surlingham Broad) will be sure to be rewarded for his trouble. Coldham Hall is reached from the Brundall station, and a pleasant walk it is from the station to the house, across the marshes, in fine weather. Here is one of the largest fleets of boats kept on the river, and certainly the most useful to anglers. Leaving this we come to Buckenham Ferry, another much frequented spot. Close by the house may be found 15 or 16 feet of water, and some handsome fish have been taken here. Cantley Red House is the next, noted years since for the splendid bream which were to be got close by it, but since so many fish were destroyed by netters very seldom anything of any account is taken. Reedham Ferry, more frequented by our Yarmouth friends, is about the last place of interest, and it was here that several "great takes" of bream were reported last season. Next week I will give the houses on the Bure.—**ANGLER.**

[Will "Angler" in future be good enough to write on all cuttings the name of the paper they are from?—**ED.**]

SALMON FISHING IN THE LIFFEY.

(FROM OUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Chairman of the Grand Canal Company (Mr. La Touche) stated at the half-yearly meeting of that body last month that ice seventy inches thick had been found in the still water of the canal, a short distance from this city. The fall of snow, too, during the last season was almost unexampled, to the great loss of the great numbers whose occupations are out of doors. There are few rivers so materially affected by such a state of things as the Liffey. One-third of its course among the Wicklow Mountains is in a table land so high that even when passing the village of Blessington it is at a height of 800 feet above sea level. From thence the youthful river tumbles down to the plains of Kildare by a series of falls, or rapids (Lynnes they are called in the vernacular), with something like a fierce impetuosity. That it is so is a fortunate circumstance for the health of this city, for as the civic authorities treat the river as their main sewer, it is desirable it should be flushed, as these freshets flush it, thus rendering the bad somewhat less bad. A sluggish current, the colour of tar, and the consistency of pea-soup, the organ of smell assaulted by a compound of villanous odours, for which science has no name, are bad enough, but the quays are the healthiest parts of the city. It is with the salmon, however, who have to find their way through this filthy fluid, that these remarks are directed. There is no doubt the flushing from above, and the tide from below, assist the salmon in their upward journey, and the short distance of about a mile between clear salt and clear fresh water is as nothing to the fastest fish that swims. It should be borne in mind, too, that there are excellent salmon rivers where a similar, or worse, gauntlet must be run between sea and stream. The Tyne, for instance, passes for seven miles through the great seat of the chemical-manufacturing city of Newcastle and the vicinity, and, under a special Fishery Act, its salmon-fishing was become an important trade. The commissioners, under the Act, have secured a salt-water pond, which they have named the "Salmon Playground," and in this, at all seasons, fishing is prohibited. They have also opened free passes through all weirs, and they carefully protect the breeding fish. The result was marvellous. In four years salmon have been quadrupled. There can be no reason why Dublin should not try to do what Newcastle has done so well. Salmon-fishing in the season of 1881 has been surrounded with many difficulties. Above tide few spring fish have appeared at all, and fewer still have been captured by rod and line. They seem indisposed to rise to fly or bait, and even the oldest hands have little to boast of. The river, too, is in an unsatisfactory condition for the fly and bait—the best is the pea or roe of the fish itself—have scarcely been tried. A great cause of this lack of fish in the river is indicated above. It is well known that salmon will not leave their salt-water quarters until the temperature of the fresh rises to at least the level of the salt water, and till quite recently the stream of the Liffey was in great part melted snow and ice. Netting in the tidal part of the river is but little better off. Spring-fish are taken daily and nightly, but in very small numbers. No skull of salmon has made its appearance in Dublin Bay this season.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

DUSKY PERCH.

<i>Serranus gigas</i>	Cuvier.
" "	Yarrell, British Fishes, vol. i., p. 6, 14.
" "	Gunther, Cat. British Museum, vol. i., p. 132.
<i>Holocentus meron</i>	Lacepede.
" "	Risso.
<i>Perca robusta</i>	Loudon's Mag. Natural History, vol. v. p. 21.
" <i>gigas</i>	Jenyns' Manual, p. 333.

JONATHAN COUCH, in his History of British Fishes, vol. i., p. 198, states that this fish is not uncommon in the Mediterranean. Risso tells us that it only comes to the neighbourhood of Nice in the summer and autumn, and it appears that the south part of the coast of Cornwall is the north boundary of its wanderings, as it is of several other fishes of the west portion of the Mediterranean, but even there it is found but rarely, and no more than three or four samples have fallen within reach of naturalists. The first of these was taken near Polpero, with a line. Couch also states, I learn from W. P. Cocks, that two others have been brought into Falmouth, and one of these was presented by him to the collection of the British Museum, one, if not more, have been obtained at Penzance, but of its habits on our coast we have none to report.

The manner in which I became possessed of the "*Serranus gigas*" was passing one morning early through the west, or fish quarter, of this city (Exeter) I observed some maunds of hake and other fish exposed for sale, upon one of which maunds a fish caught my attention as being of an unusual character; without making any comment, I asked the price and became the possessor. This fish was taken with the hake off Cornwall, apparently without any particular notice having been taken of it up to this time, although it was the top fish in the basket, from which I got it. I must not omit to state that it was not over fresh, consequently it could not be preserved, although the head was kept in salt for inspection for some considerable time. I communicated with Mr. Frank Buckland, Her Majesty's Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for England and Wales, who very kindly answered me on the 19th of September, 1872, thus:—

"Many thanks for your note about the '*Serranus gigas*.' I have written an account for *Land and Water* this week. If you have got the head of the '*Serranus*' please hang it up to dry.—Yours, &c., FRANK BUCKLAND."

The extract from *Land and Water* reads as follows:—"Mr. F. Gosden, fishmonger, Exeter, has been good enough to let me know that he received on Saturday last a very curious fish, which he sent to my friend, Mr. D'Urban, Curator of the Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. Mr. D'Urban has identified it as a dusky perch. Mr. Gosden has salted the fish, so I wrote immediately to ask him to be kind enough to send it to me on my return home from North Wales. I found a letter stating that the fish had become so much decomposed that it was impossible to send it up. This beautiful fish weighed 23 lb., was two feet six inches in length, and two feet in girth. At first sight this fish has more the appearance of belonging to the genus Labrass (the wrasse) than to the family of perches; and, in conformity with this, it is said that in Spain, where it is well known, its name is the same as that of the wrasse, but closer examination corrects this mistake, and shows it to be possessed of the proper characters of the large family of perch-like fishes, to which, therefore, we are left to infer its habits belong. The under jaw of this fish is longest, and both, as well as the palate, are covered with numerous slender uncurved teeth, a bed of them in front of lower jaw; the lips resemble those of a codfish, and it has a large hole under the projection of the nasal bone. These fish must sometimes attain an

enormous size. A figure of the natural size of the head of an example, taken at Penzance, of which the body was unfortunately destroyed, measures one foot four inches from the front of the jaw to the hinder portion of the gill cover, and in depth, immediately in front of the dorsal fin, thirteen inches. I regret very much that I did not obtain this rare and curious fish from Mr. Gosden: It would have made a splendid addition to my 'museum.'"

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

FRANK BUCKLAND MEMORIAL FUND.

WE have great pleasure in publishing the following particulars respecting the proposed memorial to Mr. Frank Buckland. We have no doubt whatever that it will receive the warm and hearty support of all anglers.—ED. F. G.

"A proposal has been made by some of the friends of the late Mr. Frank Buckland to perpetuate, by a substantial testimonial, the recollection of his services to Natural History and Fish-culture, and generally to afford to the public an opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to his memory and appreciation of his life-long work.

"For this purpose a Subscription List has been opened.

"It is intended to expend a portion of the sum subscribed upon a bust of Mr. Buckland, to be placed in the Museum at South Kensington, with the collection he so generously bequeathed to the nation.

"It is further hoped that the amount collected may be sufficient to supplement the income of Mr. Buckland's widow by an annuity of £100.

"Should there be any surplus after the purchase of the bust and annuity, the Committee propose that it should be applied to the promotion of the welfare of the fishermen of this country, which Mr. Frank Buckland had much at heart.

"Subscriptions will be received by Messrs. Cox and Co., Bankers, Craig's Court, Charing Cross, or office of *Land and Water*, 176, Fleet Street, E.C., and at the above address by

T. DOUGLAS MURRAY,
E. S. BRIDGES,
(Lieut.-Col. Grenadier Guards.) } Hon. Secs,

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Further particulars can be had of the Hon. Sec. J. DOUGLAS MURRAY, Esq., 34, Portland Place, W.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advrt.]

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fifth anniversary dinner of the members of this society, took place on Thursday evening at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Commercial Road, Landport; the ex-Mayor (Alderman Cudlipp) presiding, in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor; and the company included Captain E. R. Hill, Captain Wills, Lieutenant Redward, Messrs. Edgar Goble (Fareham), G. Feltham, J. P. Hyams, P. J. Emanuel, T. Hoole (hon. sec. West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies), E. Brookes, J. T. Dyer, J. H. Bracey (vice-president), J. E. Buck (treasurer), W. R. Tranter (secretary), E. Hollanders, C. Daniels, J. A. Monck, Rutter, Hartly Pate, &c. The Secretary (Mr. W. Tranter) apologised for the unavoidable absence of the president of the society (A. L. Emanuel, Esq.) through domestic affliction; also read letters of apology from His Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the borough members, Sir Drummond Wolff and the Hon. T. C. Bruce, Admiral the Hon. F. A. Foley, Major-General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, Admiral Hayes, Sir Henry Peek, M.P., A. J. Mundella, Esq., M.P., P. Geen, Esq., Alderman W. D. King, J. P. Knight, Francis Francis, Thomas Spreckley, Esq., Messrs. Purchase and Baker, of Chichester. The decoration of the club-room consisted of a very tasteful arrangement of the rods and creels belonging to the members, and of flags and banners, &c., kindly lent by our brother member, Mr. Groom, of Point. Large globes of fresh-water fish on sideboards, the room being profusely supplied with flowers from Leigh Park. A substantial dinner was served in capital style by Host Easton. After the usual loyal toasts had been honoured, Mr. Bracey gave the "West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies," and Mr. Hoole, its hon. secretary, in response, referred to the importance of the local societies increasing their numbers, for the larger the number of their members, the more concessions they were likely to obtain from railway companies. Since concessions had been granted by the companies to London anglers, no less than seventy-eight new clubs had been formed in the metropolis. To the West Central Association 130 clubs belonged, with 4000 members. (Applause.) Mr. George Feltham proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society." In a most humorous speech, he thought such a society had the effect of promoting good fellowship amongst the members, and it had another good result, because to be an angler they must possess many virtues—two of the most prominent being patience and determination to hang on to the end. He was told that two of their members had fallen into streams, and he would suggest they should become members of the swimming club, of which he was president. He congratulated them on the state of their balance-sheet. The society was started but a few years ago with six members, and now they had over 100 with a balance of £30 in hand. He supposed that would be called by the treasurer "net profits." Mr. Triton, the secretary, in responding, said:—Two items of their expenditure had been very heavy this year—viz., the rent paid for trout fishing, and the housing and repairing of the club fishing boats. He felt that the thanks of the members were due to those gentlemen who had given them the privilege of fishing in their waters, and amongst those who had done so much he must mention the names of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and Mr. Edgar Goble. (Applause.) One pleasing feature in the working of the society had been the production of papers by the members during the winter months, which had been found both amusing and instructive, Mr. J. S. Dyer having contributed three. The members of the Brighton Angling Association had become interested in the matter, for they had written to the president, Mr. A. L. Emanuel, soliciting that gentleman to give their members a paper at his earliest convenience. Mr. J. E. Buck proposed the honorary members. Mr. Daniels gave the health of the chairman, who returned thanks in a most able manner. The secretary announced the list of prizes for the ensuing year, amounting to £50, and including one of £2 2s. from Sir Drummond Wolff, M.P., and others from Alderman Cudlipp and Mr. A. L. Emanuel. Some very fine specimens of fresh-water fish were hung around the room, and it is the intention of the committee to send six of these cases of fish as a "loan exhibit" to the forthcoming Exhibition of the National Fisheries Associations at Norwich, to be opened on the 18th of April.—WM. TRANTER, sec.

March 21.

OTTERS NEAR READING.—A fine male otter (weight 26 lb.) was shot last week on the Loddon, about five miles from Reading, by Mr. W. T. Knapp, of Sulhamstead, Reading.

STOCKING THE THAMES.—By kind permission of the proprietor, some members of the committee of the Reading and District Angling Association on Monday last netted a private lake in Hampshire, and procured five large hampers of splendid fish, which were placed in the Thames the same evening. They consisted of tench from 1 lb. to 4 lb., carp up to 5 lb., and rudd from 1 lb. to 1½ lb. each. All the fish were in beautiful condition, and stood the journey well. The Thames cannot contain too many tench and carp; while the introduction of rudd, for the first time, is of much interest to anglers.

THE CITIZEN states that Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, at his own cost, in connection with the Thames Angling Preservation Society, is engaged in the artificial propagation of fish. The present is the season for hatching the ova; and in the various troughs in his extensive fish-house there are, in the most healthy condition, 3000 real Thames trout, 6000 *salmo fontinalis*, 3000 *salmo ferox*, 1000 *salmo fario*; and of crosses from fish of his own rearing there are 3000 Thames and *salmo fario*, 3000 Thames and *salmo ferox*, 2000 *salmo fontinalis* and *salmo ferox*, and 3000 *salmo fario* and *salmo ferox*. A great number of these have already come into active life, and the others are making rapid progress towards vivification.

CAPTURE OF AN OTTER.—On Monday last William Taylor, gamekeeper to the Marquis of Townshend, caught a very fine otter, and as this makes the ninth of the species captured during his twenty years service on the same estate, it is worthy of record.

ENGLISH fishermen must look to their laurels. Their French rivals have had a big find. We learn by cable that there is now on view at one of the chief Paris fishmonger's shops an enormous carp weighing seventy-eight pounds, which was caught by a net-fisher at Biscarosse. Ten pounds is a big weight for a carp, and this Biscarosse gentleman must have been alive when good Queen Elizabeth "bossed" this pleasant little island.

CAPTURE OF OTTERS.—Two fine otters, weighing together over 36 lb., were recently trapped in Sapey Brook by Mr. Simmonds, gamekeeper to Capt. Boyd, of Sapey Bridge. They had been in the brook for two years, and last season played sad havoc with the fishy inhabitants of it, devouring them to such an extent that the knights of the rod who frequented the water had but poor catches in return for the expenditure of their patience.

YARE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Yare Preservation and Anglers' Society was held at the Bell Hotel, Norwich, on Tuesday evening, Geoffrey Buxton, Esq., in the chair. There were also present:—The Mayor (S. Grimmer, Esq.), R. Fitch, Esq., J. P., E. Field, Esq., J. P., Messrs. I. O. H. Taylor, J. Allen, R. E. Burroughs, J. B. Pearce, H. W. Stafford, F. A. Steward, S. H. Baldrey, H. Turner, M. J. Bailey, R. E. Thorns, G. Bagshaw, F. St. John, H. Thomson, C. Daniels, E. Coleman, G. Wilson, F. W. Skipper, B. W. Jolly, S. Matthews, T. E. Gunn, A. L. Littleboy, C. J. Greene (secretary), W. Butcher, W. Varvel, S. F. Howitt, F. Moll, — Burrage, J. W. Vince, W. Chettleburgh, W. G. Capon, and others.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the expenditure during the past year had been £126 15s., and that there remained a balance in hand of £47 os. 10d. There had been 46 new members introduced to the society during the year, and to had left, so that the increase was 36. (Applause.)

The President read a letter from Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., expressing his regret that he was unable to be present, and asking the members for their opinion as to the advisability of inviting Mr. Spencer Walpole and Mr. Huxley to the annual dinner.

On the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Burroughs, it was resolved to invite both gentlemen.

The Hon Secretary reported that a lot of fish, including pike, had been unfairly taken at Wroxham, and he had sent Hewitt, the bailiff, over to endeavour to stop them.

Mr. Field said, knowing the Bure was being watched, a man had got fish from the Yare, and he thought it was not a good plan to take a man off his own river and place him on another. There would be a case for prosecution on Saturday.

The Mayor with much pleasure proposed Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., as president of the Yare Preservation Society for the ensuing year. (Cheers.)

Mr. Field seconded, and said he knew no one who had exerted himself so greatly as Mr. Birkbeck had done for the protection of our fish, and in the cause of our fisheries on the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts than had Mr. Birkbeck—(applause)—whether it were in the House of Commons, in the room of the Secretary of State, or down upon the sea coast. (Hear, hear.) Wherever he was wanted, there they found Mr. Birkbeck, and he knew no one who had worked harder for the public good, for he could have nothing else in his mind. He was not working to make himself popular, but because he felt he was doing his duty, and at the same time bestowing good upon his fellow-creatures. (Applause.)

The President approved all the eulogy bestowed upon Mr. Birkbeck as well-deserved, and the motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. I. O. Howard Taylor then nominated Mr. C. L. Buxton as vice-president, and said that that gentleman was one of the most active members of the executive committee of the Fisheries Exhibition. He was also likely to be a juror, and had distinguished himself in various ways, and shown that he took the greatest interest in this society. (Applause.)

Mr. Stafford seconded the nomination, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Steward, seconded by Mr. Burroughs, Mr. E. Field was re-elected treasurer, and in acknowledging the compliment, he said he should as heretofore do all he could to promote the welfare of the society. He took a great interest in its work, and was never more satisfied than when the Act of 1877 was passed.

Mr. Jolly proposed, and Mr. Baldrey seconded the re-election of Mr. J. C. Chittock as hon. solicitor to the society, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Secretary then rose and said that after holding his present office eleven years, he must place his resignation in the hands of the members, and he said he did so for the reason that he felt a great slight had been cast upon the society by the promoters of the Fisheries Exhibition, who did not invite them to send any one to represent them as a society on the committee. He held that the Exhibition sprang from this society, and though there were several of their members upon the committee independently, he thought they ought to have been asked to send someone to represent them officially. He had frequently been asked for information as to what was being done, but could give none, whereas the case would have been quite different had the society been officially represented. He must resign the office he had held so long. (No, no.)

Mr. Baldrey, Mr. Burroughs, Mr. Jolly, Mr. Howard Taylor, Mr. Field, the Mayor, and Mr. Moll all pointed out that no slur whatever had been cast upon Mr. Greene, and that even if there had been any error committed he ought not to punish this society for it. He had been a most valuable and valued secretary, and Mr. Field showed how many of the members of this society were upon the executive committee, while Mr. Taylor pointed out that if this exhibition had been confined to East Anglia the society might well have been officially represented, but as it was a national one it could not well be unless other societies were represented also.

In the end Mr. Greene was, against his will, reappointed secretary, on the motion of Mr. Burroughs, seconded by the Mayor; and after consideration he accepted the position and thanked the members for the confidence maintained in him.

On the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Pearce, Messrs. Barwell and Stafford were re-elected auditors; last year's committee was reappointed on the motion of Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Thorns; Mr. Owles was re-elected collector; and Hewitt, the water-bailiff was also re-appointed, with the remark from Mr. Jolly that he had faithfully performed his duties.

After discussion it was resolved to interview the President as to

what date in the Exhibition week the annual dinner should be held on, and Mr. Stafford suggested that the President should not be called upon to go to the great expense of providing champagne; but Mr. Taylor thought that it should be left to the President to do as he pleased, and this met with the approval of the meeting. The dinner committee was thus composed:—Messrs. Stafford, Steward, Pearce, Baldrey, Jelley, Wilson, C. Daniels, F. W. Skipper, R. Moll and the Secretary, and the meeting separated at 11 o'clock.

We understand that all the members of the Champion Angling Club have joined the Y. P. S.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE seventh anniversary banquet of this largely-increasing club of anglers was celebrated this year under unusually favourable auspices. These occasions always take place at Moulet's Hotel, in Newgate Street, the respected proprietor—Mr. B. Boyce—being a member of the society, and whose excellent catering in public dinners is of wide-spread popularity. It was evident on Tuesday evening last, from the appearance of the banquetting hall, that a much larger attendance of guests was expected, and this was owing to the energy and activity of Mr. G. F. Spencer, the president of the society, whose admirable services the members were determined to recognise in that way. Mr. G. F. Spencer presided on this occasion, supported on his right by Mr. W. H. Brougham, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and on the left by Mr. P. Geen, of the West Central Association. The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. F. Boyce. There were present of members and friends: Messrs. F. Croutel, W. Tucker (hon. sec.); B. Boyce, G. Nicholson, C. Davison, J. W. Green, F. Kerry, W. W. Westley, C. J. Morris (treasurer); J. English, Nixon (auditors); Rennett, Caplin, Robinson, A. Burgess, J. Edmondson, W. Spencer, F. Howe, Alfred Glover, H. J. Taylor, T. Sylvester, J. Hallé, George Bruce, G. Moore, P. Fitzgerald, C. Broadlake, W. Webb, &c. &c. Altogether seventy sat down to a splendid and well served-up dinner, which reflected largely on the credit of the establishment, Mr. B. Boyce giving his personal supervision to the arrangements. The menu was most tastefully got up, and in good plain English embraced a service of soup, fish, *entrées*, poultry, joints, pastry, cheese and salad, which were cooked to perfection; and the wines were of the choicest vintages. There was a distribution of highly-perfumed programmes of music, in the way of glees, duets and songs, to be given during the evening. After the removal of the cloth, when all had done ample justice to the good things, grace was rendered most effectively by some of the vocalists. The Chairman then gave the usual loyal toast of "The Queen, and the rest of the Royal Family," referring in graceful terms to the sympathetic feelings of Her Majesty on all occasions when they were called forth by any portion of her subjects. The National Anthem was most enthusiastically given. This was followed by a selection of music entitled "Turkish Patrol," most exquisitely performed by Mr. James Hallé, of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, and which elicited immense applause. The toast of the evening, "Success to the Larkhall Angling Society," was then proposed by Mr. W. H. Brougham, who referred to the growing prosperity of the club under the rule of Mr. Spencer, who by the introduction of occasional musical evenings in the club-room, and his general activity had exalted it to a most eminent position; and the attendance that evening was by far the largest the society had ever mustered was a grand and significant proof of its success. He remembered on the last occasion, through the great energy of Mr. F. Croutel, something like twenty guineas was subscribed in the room for prizes, and he had not the least doubt that that gentleman on the present occasion would resume his appeals, which he hoped would have at least a double result compared with last year. The society had altogether prizes amounting to sixty guineas to be competed for. Mr. W. Tucker, hon. secretary, whose name was associated with the toast, responded in well-chosen words, and reported that the gross weight of fish last season was 620 lb., the principal prize winners being Messrs. G. Watkins, G. Spencer, G. Penn, J. Green and E. Watkins. For the heaviest weight of fish, Mr. G. Spencer took the first prize, Mr. G. Watkins the second, Mr. C. J. Morris the third, and Mr. G. Penn the fourth, the latter gentleman also taking the ten-guinea challenge cup for the heaviest weight in one day during the season. The next toast was "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," which was given by Mr. G. F. Spencer in a brief but complimentary speech, and in coupling the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, he was quite sure all were ready to evidence their great regard for his valuable services on behalf of the anglers. The toast was very warmly responded to, and Mr. W. H. Brougham on rising to reply received a truly hearty reception. He observed that when he was amongst them twelve months ago he referred to the valuable work his society had then done in the prohibition of snatching and night-lines, and it was his duty to tell them of what the committee were then doing, but first of all as most of their members fished the tidal waters he desired to put them right as to the capture of the net some short time ago, as it was always his feeling to "give honour to whom honour was due." Had it not been for the arrangements of their head keeper, Harry Walters, who from information he had learnt, sought the assistance of Brown and Smith that net would never have been taken. He had heard from some of the members that one of the assistants on the occasion had assumed the entire credit of the capture, but it was not so, it was entirely due to Harry Walters, the others simply acting under his concerted arrangements. He regretted to inform them that on a more recent occasion, if his assistants had kept their appointments, Walters would have had another net, but he was left to witness the dragging alone, and being powerless he could make no attempt to seize the net. Mr. Brougham then referred to the work his society had then on hand in reference to some alteration in the sizes of fish, the season for catching jack, the prohibition of netting to Kew Bridge, the enlargement of the bait net for the use of fishermen only, and imprisonment of offenders of the bye-laws instead of fines, and after noticing of the increased support of angling clubs, and the recent gifts of twenty guineas from the West Central Association, ten guineas from the Central Committee, and ten guineas from the Central Association, he resumed his seat amidst immense applause. Mr. F. Boyce gave "Success to the West Central Association," which had done such great things for the anglers in the railway concessions, and he had the pleasure of associating Mr. P. Geen's name with the toast. Mr. P. Geen, on rising, was received with well-merited applause, and as one of the founders of the association referred to the help he had at the onset from the late Mr. Berger, one of their members; he always believed with him that the issue would be a successful one, and it has now been fully realised. After referring to some additional concessions, he spoke in high terms of the work and labour of Mr. Thomas Spreckley in connection with the Thames Angling Pres-

servation Society; their friend Mr. Brougham was well known to them all, and no one was more respected by the angling clubs and anglers than that gentleman. Mr. Spreckley, since his association with the society, had laboured hard for the anglers, and he had made the society more practically useful. Mr. Geen thanked them very much for his reception and for proposing the toast. The next toast was the "Committee and Other Officers," which was proposed by Mr. P. Geen, who complimented them on their successful position, and hoped they would support Mr. Croutel that evening in getting a good subscription for prizes. The toast was replied to by Mr. Davidson and Mr. F. Croutel, the latter taking up his usual appeal, and telling those present he should not be satisfied with less than fifty guineas. It was a scene of great excitement to witness Mr. Croutel picking out the guineas, keeping Mr. Tucker fully employed in putting down the names, and the result was most gratifying as realising the amount he wanted. "The Visitors," responded to by Mr. Caplin, was the closing toast on the programme. The singing which interspersed the toasts was of no ordinary excellence, and the talent displayed by the vocalists was of the highest order. Mr. Pickett gave "The King's Highway"; Mr. Bruce a selection; Mr. P. Fitzgerald, "Paddy Carthy's Courtship"; Messrs. R. Edmondson and G. Moore, "Excelsior"; Mr. C. Broadlake, "Eily Mavourneen"; Mr. Cranch, "Oh! oh! hear the wild wind blow"; Mr. H. J. Taylor, (in character), "The Mad Butcher"; Mr. R. Edmondson, "I never can forget"; M. W. Webb, "The Showman"; Mr. J. Lovett, "Alice"; Mr. G. Laurie, a Scotch song; Messrs. Lovett, Edmondson, Bruce and Sylvester, "Strike the Lyre"; Mr. G. Newman, a banjo song; Mr. Alfred Glover, "The Lost Chord"; Mr. T. Sylvester (in character), "The Naughty Boy"; Mr. G. Moore, "Come into the garden, Maud"; Mr. Miller, "I really can't keep still"; Mr. F. Howe, a banjo and bone song; Mr. W. Spencer, "The Level Crossing"; and Messrs. Lovett, Edmondson, Bruce and Sylvester, "Sleep, gentle lady."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

SAVING FISH.

SIR,—5 large pike, largest 12 lb., 40 chub and 32 roach out of one ditch, belonging to C. Scott Murray, Esq., by the bailiffs of the Great Marlow Angling Association, through the floods.—I am, &c., A. MASKELL.
Marlow, March 19th.

PITH BAIT.

SIR.—In answer to "T. W. T.," I beg to state that nothing is mixed with the pith; it is thus prepared. The pith is the spinal marrow, of course, and when taken from the bone presents two skins. The first must be removed by cutting the column open with a pair of scissors, and then skinning it off with the finger and thumb (be careful not to injure the inner skin). Boil the pith for a few minutes till this inner skin becomes brownish, then shake it up with a little bran till dry. Cut it into suitably sized pieces, and ground bait with boiled brains, either chewed or cut up into minute pieces.—I am, &c., J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PRESERVING MINNOWS.

SIR,—We suppose your correspondent, Mr. T. J. Horsley, must have had some minnows cured in what he assumes to be the North of England plan, and which he so emphatically condemns, in saying, "they are neither tough nor bright, but break if you are not careful in putting them on the hooks," but we beg to assure him it is quite a mistake. He has evidently never had any minnows properly cured with salt, which are really better than fresh ones, as they are tougher and quite as bright. We have no wish to condemn his plan, but only to correct any false impression his letter may have produced, as we have supplied thousands of minnows all cured with salt, and have never had a complaint. We have also used them, cured with methylated spirits, glycerine and salt, and prefer the latter after twenty years' experience, spinning, &c., with minnows.—We are, &c., HARDY BROTHERS.
Alwicks, March 21st.

[Having used Messrs. Hardy's salted minnows, we can fully bear out what they say, and would recommend our readers to make a note of the fact that they can always get salted minnows by post from Messrs. Hardy.—ED.]

SIR,—I noticed a letter in the FISHING GAZETTE last week anent "Minnows in spirits of wine," and, as we keep them in stock, have taken the liberty of sending you a bottle containing half a dozen. They are Thames minnows, and are very useful where it is difficult to obtain the natural bait.

Break the bottle and examine them. You will find them tough, and though not quite equal to the fresh minnow, have been the death of trout that would not look at an artificial. I do not think any house keeps them in stock, so have sent that you may, if disposed, mention where they are to be had. We charge 6d. per bottle (extra by post). They will keep for years like this.—I am, &c., B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

"FOSTER FUND."

SIR,—I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the following sums towards the above fund:—Norfolk, 10s. 6d.; Silver Trout, 10s.; South London, 10s.; Waltonian, 16s.; Metropolitan, 6s.; Prince of Wales's, 13s. 6d.—I am, &c., T. HOOLE, sec.

WHAT DO SALMON FLIES REPRESENT?

SIR,—Will some reader of the FISHING GAZETTE kindly inform me which insect or fly the various salmon and lake trout flies represent—the Libellas? By doing so they will greatly oblige,
THE MAJOR.
Prelavé, Bohemia, March 17.

[Salmon flies and "fancy" lake trout flies represent no living insects we are acquainted with, and are taken, we think, for small fish of some kind, just as the "Alexandra" fly—so deadly to trout—is certainly taken for a minnow. Some large trout flies represent moths, caterpillars, beetles, &c.—ED.]

YARE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—The annual dinner of the Yare Preservation Society will take place on Tuesday, the 19th of April—the President, E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., in the chair; and, as many gentlemen connected with the National Fisheries Exhibition are expected to be present, it is necessary that all members wishing to attend should signify the same to the hon. secretary on or before the 2nd April. It is absolutely essential that the Committee should know by that date the probable number of persons who will be present, to enable them to arrange as to where the dinner will be held. Tickets 5s. each.—I am, &c.,
London Street, Norwich, C. J. GREENE, hon. sec.
March 24, 1881.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

WANTED.

Address of society, name and address of secretary, and meeting nights of the following:—Bolingbroke, Hampstead, Knights of Knightsbridge, Nil Desperandum, North London, Havelock Brothers, New Globe, Old Artillery Ground, Royal Piscatorial, South Essex Piscatorial, Stratford Brothers, South Hackney, Sons of the Thames, St. James and Soho, True Waltonians, West Ham Brothers, and Walthamstow.

I have made application to each of the above by post, addressed to the proprietor of the old meeting house, but fail to get the required information. I am anxious to make my New List of Clubs complete, therefore, I shall esteem it a favour if any member of either of these societies will be good enough to supply me with the particulars.

I will keep the list open until Tuesday, the 29th inst., after that time it will be too late.

Please send direct to me—a post card will do.

T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W., March 22.

TROUT-FISHING.

SIR,—If "If Salmo Fario" will send me his address, I will forward him an article on "Trout-fishing in Lincolnshire," which appeared in a contemporary a few months ago.—I am, &c.,
Caistor, Lincolnshire, March 22. THOMAS FORD.

NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that the Great Eastern Railway will forward all packages on their line to and from at single fare, and the other railway companies have mutually agreed to convey the same at a fare and a-half.

Exhibits should be forwarded as soon after the 28th of March as possible. None can be received after the 11th April.—I am, &c.,
March 24. W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS, hon. sec.

FLY-FISHING FOR ROACH.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your columns, to thank Mr. Brunton for his article in last week's GAZETTE, on "Early Fly-fishing for Roach and Dace"? It has caused some amount of argument here, as well as surprise, many ardent anglers for roach with worm, paste or gentles being entirely unaware that the fish would rise to a fly. We have a river here literally teeming with fish, and, although I have angled in it with varied success for several years, I have never used a fly or seen one used here. I learn from inquiries made that a party of gentlemen *did* go fly-fishing on the Waveney some years ago, but with what success I cannot discover.

I, and many others in this neighbourhood, should feel greatly obliged if some of your numerous readers would kindly furnish us with an account of their experiences in fly-fishing for roach, with a few practical hints as to the kind of fly to use, and how and when to use it. I have compared the accounts in your paper of takes of fish by the various club members in and around London for the past twelve months with what I know to be average takes down here, and am really inclined to think that we must be living in a complete anglers' paradise, as 20 lb. and 25 lb. of roach, rudd and perch is nothing at all extraordinary for a day's angling. If, therefore, the artificial fly can be used here with any amount of success, a fresh item will be added to our amusement, for which we may thank Mr. Brunton and the columns of your valuable paper.—I am, &c.,
Beccles, March 23. CAXTON.

[We have frequently caught roach with the artificial fly and the natural house fly, but it has always been in a very *shallow stream* and near the edge; in deep water roach are rarely near enough to the surface to take or see a fly. Norfolk and Suffolk are indeed a paradise for anglers.—ED.]

THE "COCKSPUR WORM."

SIR,—As a constant reader of your most interesting periodical, I frequently find the "cockspur" worm mentioned as a good bait for winter roach-fishing, &c.

Being ignorant of this particular description of reptile, I take the liberty of asking if you or one of your numerous correspondents would enlighten me as to the kind of worm meant, and also where found, and if suitable for the deep reaches of the Warwickshire Avon.—I am, &c.,
SHALLOW.

CORRECTION.

SIR—Will you kindly correct one or two mistakes in your report of the City of Bristol Angling Association contest on the 6th inst., the name "Limley Stoke," should read "Limply Stoke," and the names "Ocesham and T. Hovey," should read "Oxenham and E. Hovey." By so doing you will greatly oblige our members.—I am, &c.,
17, Weston Street, Barton Hill, JAMES H. STANTIAL, hon. sec.
Bristol, March 22.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The West-Central visit of angling clubs, No. 2 District, Mr. Thorley, officer, took place on Monday, March 21. Mr. Bonvoisin kindly accepted the office of chairman, and was to be supported in the vice by Mr. Medcalf; but through an accident he was prevented from holding the office. Mr. C. J. Smith ably fulfilled the vice in his absence. Mr. Patrick commenced the harmony of the evening by singing "The Men of Merry England;" Mr. Phipps, "The Beggar Maid;" Mr. Fowler, "Revelry;" Mr. Robinson, "The Mermaid;" Mr. T. Lake, "Give me a grip of your hand;" Mr. Wicks, "Village Home;" Mr. Oram, "The Farmer's Dog;" Mr. Brook, "One more glass before we part;" Mr. Hunt, "Renouf;" Mr. Wood, dissolving views; Mr. Sav, "Will a monkey climb a tree." Mr. C. J. Smith kindly thanked Mr. Bonvoisin for taking the chair, which was responded to by that gentleman in a very effective manner. On the roll being called, the following answered:—Amicable Waltonians, City of London, Norton Folgate, Sir Hugh Myddleton, St. John's, Hearts of Oak, Bostonians, Bridgewater Brothers, Never Frets, North Eastern, Hoxton Brothers, North Western, Convivial, Canonbury, Good Intent; in all 16 clubs. Harmony resumed by Mr. White, "Down by the river side;" Mr. Brearley, "The grey mare;" Mr. Thorley, "Silver Bells;" Mr. Bonvoisin recited "The Frenchman and the rats;" Mr. Holt, a song; Mr. Rosen, a song; Mr. Patrick, "Dogerty the Tailor," and the last song of a very pleasant meeting, "A man you don't meet every day."—J. WORLEDGE.
March 21.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING CLUB.

The fourth annual dinner of this club took place on Tuesday last, Mr. W. H. Payne in the chair; Mr. W. Readwin, vice-chairman. Forty members and friends sat down to a substantial repast provided by the host, Mr. Pettet. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman gave the toast of the evening the Battersea F. A. C. The secretary, in response, gave a flattering account of the progress of the club during the past season, being able to give good club prizes, and having a good balance in cash and some valuable prizes in hand to commence the coming season, and also thanking those friends who had subscribed to the prize list. W. H. Brougham, Esq., responded to the T. A. P. S., and L. Bonvoisin, Esq., for the W. C. A. A., after which the company went in for harmony, and some capital singing was given by Messrs. Howell, Webb, Drury, Wellman, Payne, Saunders, Blow and other gentlemen; Mr. Webb, sen., giving some beautiful solos on the violin, and Mr. Carver selections on the pianoforte, the harmony being kept up until an early hour, when Mr. Readwin proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, dwelling at great length on his valuable assistance to the club, which was received with musical honours. After a vote of thanks to the stewards, responded to by Mr. Excell, the meeting was brought to a close, all present spending a most enjoyable evening.

THE DE BEAUVOIR ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On the 13th Mr. Starkey 12 lb. roach; Mr. Dallimore, roach and dace; Mr. Foster some fine jack. On the 15th Messrs. Starkey and Spooner had a fine take of jack and roach from private waters, which presented a very handsome appearance when laid out on the trays in the club room.—J. NOBBS.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members closed the season by fishing for a series of prizes, and our trays were fairly well filled. Mr. G. Stevens was, as usual, well up with roach and dace. Messrs. Collyer, Money, J. Hastler, perch, and Mr. S. Richards and Wray also had fish. Mr. Stevens, the local bailiff, is by no means hard up for assistants, and our members are in hopes that by keeping a sharp eye on the water the time will soon arrive when waters about the Angel-road will compare favourably with the waters higher up.—D. G. M.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the above society was held at the club house, the Great Eastern Wine Vaults (host Palmer's), on Tuesday evening last. The business being to elect new members and to decide date for next angling match. Five new members were then elected, and the secretary announced that this brought the club up to its full strength again, as several of the late members, owing to not paying up their arrears, were struck off the books. Mr. F. Bradley had also tendered his resignation, owing to pressure of business, and his inability to attend the meetings. The first angling match of the season was then discussed, and it was ultimately arranged to hold it at Coldham Hall on Thursday, April the 28th. The Chairman (Mr. W. G. Capon, of White Lion Street, Norwich), said that anglers of Norwich and its vicinity might congratulate themselves upon the prospects of the coming season, as reports of good catches and fine fish were even now coming in from all parts of the river. He trusted, ere long, that the pollution of the river now going on would be put a stop to, as not only would it interfere with the pleasures of angling, but also it would prove to be very injurious to the inhabitants generally. Messrs. Nockolds (secretary), Capon, Fowler, Palmer, and several other members then gave some capital songs and recitations, and the meeting ended.—ANGLER.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We fished for our last batch of prizes on Monday, March 13th. Mr. Theobald won two, Mr. Dingley two, and Messrs. J. Watling, J. K. Fitch, and F. Jucker one each. Our total weight of fish for nine months (Sunday bank fishing only) is 1024 lb. 5 oz. We shall be very pleased to see any of our brother anglers and friends on Wednesday, April 6th, the opening night of our concerts—Mr. Page in the chair, and Mr. Parkin vice. Mr. C. Watling has kindly consented to conduct the concerts for the three months, and trusts you will favour him with your company. A large number of anglers have consented to take the chair in rotation.—J. FITCH, jun.
March 22.

KING'S CROSS UNITED.

The following members weighed in fish on the 6th inst.:—Mr. Armstrong, roach; Mr. Bell, roach; Mr. Morley, Mr. Davis and Mr. Woelfell, roach. On the 13th inst., Messrs. Davis, Woelfell, Armstrong and Morley, roach and perch. Mr. Armstrong wins the silver medal presented by Mr. Smith.—W. EMMS, secretary.
March 16.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society having become subscribers to the Thames Angling Society the committee of the T.A.P.S. invited them to meet them and the keepers of the T.A.P.S. to take part in the netting of the lake in the wilderness in Kew Gardens, on Friday week; the T.A.P.S. had permission to net on account of the large pike devouring some of the broods of ornamental water fowl, who would wander down to the lake from the ornamental water opposite the Palm House. Six of the members of the R.P.S. put in an appearance and assisted the members of the T.A.P.S. and their keepers in the capture of about a ton and a half of fish of all kinds, the principal being pike and jack, with a fair sprinkling of roach, perch, and tench, the largest fish taken out being two pike, one of about 22 lb. and the other about 18 lb. At the usual weekly meeting, held at the Station Hotel, the secretary reported that the two large pike had been placed in the river opposite the One Tree, Kingston, and the rest of the fish at various places further on. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, three new members were elected, making the society nearly eighty strong. Mr. Owen Davis presented the society with a very handsome pike of 20 lb. weight, Mr. T. Abbott presented a chub 4½ lb., taken by him at Teddington, and a perch of 2½ lb., taken by his deceased son at the same place. A very satisfactory letter was read from the London and South-Western Railway, granting tickets at a reduced rate to members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society only going to the various fishing localities on their line, on production of their card of membership. Mr. F. C. Clench gave in his report with reference to the riparian owners of the Upper Thames, and also stated that the Corporation of the City of London had taken the matter up very strongly.

ST. JOHN'S.

I beg to state that we had a splendid show of fish on Sunday the 13th. Mr. Thorling, 15 lb. of jack and perch; Mr. Hunt, a nice show of roach from the Thames; Mr. W. Clark, roach from Boxmoor; Mr. Goudge, dace from the Thames; Mr. Stevens, roach from Boxmoor; Mr. W. Larner had 9 lb. of roach from the Thames. Our late secretary, Mr. W. Oram, had a splendid jack of 14 lb. from Ashford station ballast pit. Mr. Carpenter, sen., had jack and roach from the same pit. Several of our members fished the Harp, but had a blank day. I am happy to state that all the above-named members won prizes.—F. L. T.

March 22.

THETFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The followers of old Izaak Walton were stimulated by the announcement of the Angling Society's Committee that prizes would be given for pike, roach, and perch caught between the town and Downham bridges from the 1st to the 14th March. The fishing for a long time past had been far from good, on account of the water coming down from the lands. The banks had been inundated, which for a great distance prevented the most ardent fishermen from getting near the favourite haunts of the pike. The water having gone down, however, during the last few days, many lovers of the gentle art were induced to rig up their tackle and encase themselves in their waterproofs and sally forth for the prizes to be given by the society. The loose, open conditions announced by the committee are open to objection. No instructions were imposed, but fishermen were allowed from the 1st to 14th to go as they pleased—a great temptation for them to use liggers, or any other unfair means to endeavour to obtain the 20s. prize given for a pike weighing 5 lb. It would have been better had they arranged to meet on certain days, at an appointed hour, not less than two rods being together during the stated time. Sunday fishing, too, should have been barred. The last day of the open season was taken advantage of by a great many of the fishermen. The water was in prime condition, and the day was beautifully fine for March; but no really good catches were made, for the heaviest pike taken did not scale 5 lb. One caught the previous day (Sunday) scaled near 9 lb.; this was taken by Mr. Thrower, and as there were no restrictions made he claimed the prize. Perch and roach were taken during the day, the largest being caught by Mr. G. Balls—prize, 10s. 6d.; roach caught by Messrs. Thorpe and Crack—prizes 10s. 6d. each—all having been properly weighed at Mr. Woods'. The genuine fishermen then looked upon the season as being finished by the supper which took place at the Green Dragon on Tuesday evening. The great number of tickets purchased for the spread showed a warm spirit was shown in the sport. About 90 sat down to a sumptuous repast, served up with Host Cash's usual judgment. The chair was ably filled by G. A. Marsham, Esq., supported by the Mayor (E. Frost, Esq.), J. Johnson, Esq., Dr. Archer, Dr. Clouting, J. and F. Honchen, Esqs., and many other gentlemen, with tradesmen, &c. After the removal of the cloth, the usual speeches, songs, and toasts followed.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On Sunday, the 13th, several members of the above competed for five prizes, which consisted of a felt hat, and several bottles of brandy, whiskey and port, given by Messrs. Bayley, Boalch, Bansback, and Co., to those members who cared to go for them on that day. The result is as follows:—Mr. Irons took first prize, Mr. Weatherhead second, Mr. Bayley third, and Mr. Fox fourth. The fifth was not taken but was distributed among the members who were present at the meeting held on the 18th. A general meeting is called for the 25th, all members are requested to attend for the purpose of electing a committee to consider the four following momentous questions:—(1) The assessment of prizes taken during the last season. (2) Revising of rules. (3) The annual supper, and (4) the accepting of the challenge from the Surrey Piscatorials, to play a friendly game at cricket, and afterwards to dine together at the Greyhound, Dulwich, some time during the month of May.—PIXIE.

March 22.

THE WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday, the 17th March, 1881, the members of this flourishing society met to enjoy a social evening and to celebrate the conclusion of their first year of association at their club-house, the Common Gate, Mark House Lane, Walthamstow. The president, Mr. C. F. Haines, being in the chair. After a capital supper, provided by the worthy host, Mr. G. D. Casey (the treasurer of the society), the cloth was withdrawn, and the Chairman proposed the health and prosperity of the members of the society, and in a very happy speech, congratulated them on the very satisfactory position of matters financially and otherwise, and pointed out that all such societies had troubles to encounter at first, but he was happy to say that those having been surmounted, he could foresee a favourable wind for the future. Dissension, which in a trifling degree annoyed them, had been entirely eradicated by the resignation of the chief dissident, and that all now required for the continued welfare of the club was "anglers," not "wranglers." (Loud and prolonged applause.) The prizes were then distributed, the list of which gave

great satisfaction, and evidenced the splendid piscatorial abilities of some of the members during the season concluded, prominent amongst which were Mr. C. Cashford, heaviest barbel, 8 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. D. G. Casey, heaviest weight of roach, 208 lb. 9 oz., and heaviest jack, 11 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. G. Lancaster, heaviest weight of bream, 85 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. J. Lathom, sen., heaviest weight of jack, 39 lb. 14 oz., with others too numerous to mention. In all the club had weighed during the season a total of 7 cwt. of fish. During a felicitous evening, interspersed with harmony of a varied nature, numerous handsome prizes were promised for competition by the members during the ensuing season, and several gentlemen present expressed their readiness to join the society.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

March 24.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

At a special meeting of the above Association, held on Friday the 18th inst., the following gentlemen were elected to fill vacancies upon the Anglers' Benevolent Society:—Messrs. Becket, Field, Noble, Welch, Hull, Marshall and Jennings. Mr. Hoole, the hon. sec., announced the fact that the Great Western Railway Company had kindly granted concessions to Windsor and Moulford, and have under consideration the running earlier trains upon Sunday. The announcement was received with cheers. As the next general meeting (April 15) will fall upon Good Friday, it was decided to hold a special meeting on Friday the 8th of April. All societies enrolled are particularly requested to send delegates, as this will be the annual meeting, and the election of all officers will take place. Thirty-nine societies were represented on the 18th inst., viz., Amicable Brothers, Angler's Pride, Acorn, Bostonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, Beresford, Cadogan, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, Excelsior, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Hammersmith United, Hammersmith Club, Hampstead, Knights of Knightsbridge, King's Cross United, Larkhall, Metropolitan, Marylebone, Norfolk, North Western, Odds and Ends, Penge, Phoenix, Prince of Wales, Peckham Brothers, Royal George, Richmond Piscatorials, Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, South London, South Belgravia, Trafalgar, United Marlborough Brothers, Waltonians and Westbourne Park. Also Messrs. Aldridge, High and Page, representatives from the East Central Committee. A new and complete list of the London angling societies will be ready for the delegates on the 8th April.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

(No. 1 DISTRICT VISIT.)

The return visit was paid by the Duke of Norfolk Angling Society, Duke of Norfolk, Norfolk Terrace, Bayswater, on Wednesday evening, 16th inst. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Darby, faced in the vice by Mr. Huggett. The club room, a large one, was well filled. Messrs. George, Blackburn, Green, Busbridge, Muddyman, Bonvoisin, Smith, Pearce, Stone, Lee, Williams, and Jennings, amongst others, contributing some capital songs and recitations. In the absence of the district officer, the roll was called, at 11.15, by Mr. L. Bonvoisin, when it was found that the following clubs in the district were represented:—The Bostonian, Cambridge, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Norfolk, Hampstead, Norfolk, North-Western, Prince of Wales, Westbourne Park, and the City of London, from No. 2 (by Mr. Castell). A few minutes after the roll had been called, Mr. Osmond, whose entrance was greeted with repeated cheers, entered the room. Addressing those present, he apologised for his late attendance and explained the unavoidable cause of it, viz., that, as it was a special meeting night at his own society, there was a great deal of important business to transact, and, as chairman of the society, he was compelled to wait till it was concluded. He had made all haste, and his brother members and self had come over as quickly as cabbies could be induced to urge his steed. He felt sure that, under these circumstances, they would excuse his late attendance. (Hear, hear.) We were pleased to see among the visitors—Mr. Galloway, the host of the Norfolk Anglers, and Mr. Chandler, of The Rent Day. It is to be wished there were more who would follow their example—landlords, as a rule, like to see a good visit, when the turn to receive one comes, to the society held at their house, and it would be an act of courtesy costing little, and much appreciated, both by their members and those of the club they visit, if they would occasionally, when business allows, accompany their members when they return the compliment to a neighbouring society. Of the Duke of Norfolk Angling Society we will only say that, with a fair and daily increasing number of members, a good club room in a good situation, and officers of the right kind, and, above all, a proper host, they bid fair to become a strong and flourishing society. The next visit will be paid the Globe Angling Society, of which due notice will be given.—LEO. BONVOISIN.

March 24.

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1881.

IN SEARCH OF TROUT-FISHING IN NORMANDY.

IT is a truism to repeat that no change of scene in England has one-half the refreshing effect which a few days in France or Germany produce. It is all very well to feel a contempt for continental newspapers, but it is not a little pleasure to escape for a short time from the columns of news which are daily put before

the English reader; and one ought, when out for a holiday, to be really thankful that the conductors of foreign journals are so far behind their English *confreres* in energy and organising power. But at Easter time no one who cares for fishing can afford to neglect giving some thoughts to it. Easter, like Christmas, comes but once a year, and if the pleasant April time is neglected by the fisherman, he may never be able to make up for it during the live-long summer. Therefore, wishing to unite the change of foreign countries with at least an attempt to hook a trout, plans were at once made to spend eight or ten days in the fertile Norman country, and see some more of those grand churches and quaint old buildings which give it so unique a character among foreign lands.

And here it is natural to call attention—as I have done before—to the utter want of all information, reliable or unreliable, as regards fishing, in the handbooks for continental travellers. Why a person who has all his life been fond of his rod and his gun should be supposed by Mr. Murray to care for nothing but Gothic architecture, picturesque scenery, and the origin of cities, as soon as he has crossed the Channel, is utterly incomprehensible, but so it is, and apparently so it long will be. I am not forgetful of that useful publication, the "Angler's Diary," but it is not sufficiently large or detailed to be of any real assistance after it has given a general idea of some of the foreign countries and their rivers. Arriving, then, at Havre, from Southampton, and crossing by steamer to Honfleur, and thence by train to Lisieux, the first night saw my companion and myself ensconced in the Hotel du Normandie. Next morning, some time was necessarily spent in looking over this quaint old town, whose antique features are, however, now rapidly passing away. Then, setting off with our rods up the valley of the Touques, we prepared to see whether there were any fish to be taken in it. Having got well outside the town and gone about a mile along the road, we struck the river. What a sight it presented! A rapid current of chocolate was what it most resembled; obviously it was utterly useless for fly-fishing purposes, but we still asked a few questions of a civil labourer in the neighbouring farm, who told us that any one could fish there, and that all sorts of fish lived in the waters of the Touques, and that the trout were fine. But, as a matter of fact, unless a Frenchman or a German happens to be a fisherman himself, his information is, as a rule, wholly unreliable. He either speaks solely from imagination, or with so slight a substratum of fact, that his remarks are quite valueless. If cordially minded, he will fancy that he has heard of trout being taken, and consequently will endeavour to please the stranger by assuring him that the river is alive with fish. If he is in a hurry, or cross, he will probably forget if he ever heard of any one taking a trout in the waters in question, and he will say, in a downright fashion, that no fish inhabit the stream. However, we followed the river another mile, as far as the hamlet of St. Martin de la Lieu. We could admire the fertile valleys, covered with orchards in the pure beauty of their white blossoms, even if our feelings as anglers had suffered disappointment. True, it had rained heavily the previous day, but I doubt if at any time the Touques can be of much good as a fishing stream. The river, more to the north, in the department of the Eure, as we afterwards found, were clear enough. At any rate, as it is natural to have heavy rains in the spring time, and as the ten days' traveller cannot afford to wait three or four days for a stream to fine down, I put a mark against the Touques as one not to be thought of by the angler travelling in the spring. So much for essay number one. Much charming country did we see—a richer and a sunnier England—but trout there were none brought hence that night. The next day, Caen being one of the places to be visited, it was determined to pass on further, taking a look at the Dives where it

passes by the large village of Mézidon, but it was in exactly the same state as the Toucques. The accounts as to fish were contradictory; but it appeared doubtful whether the trout are numerous enough to make it worth while to put the Dives into the angler's calculations.

"Faute de mieux," as the French say, it seemed the only course, after Caen had been thoroughly visited, and consequently the second most remarkable town of Normandy had been made familiar to the mind, to turn back into the department of the Eure, to try what the Charentonne at Bernay was like, and if that were useless finally to make the best of the Iton from Evreux. And it may be useful here to remind the reader that the close time for trout and salmon is by the law of the 10th of August, 1875, and that of 22nd of November, 1875, from the 20th October, to the 15th of March, and for other kinds of fish from the 15th of April to the 15th of June, so that our sporting neighbours have in fact a close time for all kinds of fish. Bernay is a town very charmingly situated, much more primitive in its manners and customs than some of the larger Norman towns. Thus, the maitre d'hôtel sits down to dinner as one of the company, and in all respects considers himself the equal of his guests. whilst at the same time, with true French tact, he is always on the *qui vive* to take care that every one obtains what they require. But the accounts of the Charentonne were far from favourable, and it seemed very doubtful whether, even some miles above the town, it would be worth trying. Still, it was determined that if the morning were fine, as the scenery was pretty, no harm could be done by walking up to the village of Broglie—where is the seat of the once famous political duke who has disappeared into political darkness—and trying on our way for a trout.

But the first of morning sounds was the steady pour of the rain. So soon after eight o'clock, the railway station, and not the road to Broglie, proved to be our object, and before noon we were at Evreux, in the valley of the Iton—a town three hours' distance by rail from Rouen. After the wet morning it proved a warm day with puffs of west wind, so that, after a good walk, the cider of the country was not unacceptable. The cider of Normandy is an excellent beverage, and is always given gratis as part of the dinner; and many a thirsty traveller must often, as he quaffs it, think of old Olivier Basselin, the true poet of Normandy, who, in his simple mediæval fashion, sang, in the Vaux de Vire, "Hommage aux Cidre."

"O soulas de gosiers
O tres bon jus de pomme,
Prions pour le bon homme
Qui planta les pommiers."

A walk of a couple of miles from the Hotel du Grand Cerf brought us to the village of Arnières where a large mill stands on the Iton. Permission was obtained here to fish on M. le Duc's—the miller's—property. The stream was rapid for some distance. There was a dam, or some obstruction, then a long stretch of dead water, until the rapid flow from the mill again changed its character. Nothing seemed on the move, though the water, unlike that of the streams of Calvados, was little affected by the late rain. At last a small trout fell a victim to the attractions of a March brown, and then another or two. In the dead water there were undoubtedly good trout, but the puffs of west wind ruffled the water only here and there, and a regular gale was needed to make it really satisfactory fishing. However, at last, dropping the cast gently beneath a willow, a good fish dashed at the March brown. Whirr! went the reel, and away went the trout. But then there was a sudden rush toward the bank, and the dropper was securely anchored in the low, overhanging branch of a neighbouring willow. The fish was out of reach of the landing net, and before the branch could be brought

within reach of the net the trout gave himself a twist and disappeared. Another small trout or two was added to the basket, and a fair-sized fish was risen at the beginning of the dead water above the mill, and by that time it was necessary to turn our steps homeward with only half-a-dozen small trout, after a provoking first afternoon on the Iton—provoking, to some extent, because at the mill a gentleman from Evreux was encountered, also, like ourselves, an *amateur de la pêche*, who, with his small artificial minnow, had secured a fine trout over a pound, and a second nearly half the weight.

Of course, in an English trout-stream, a minnow would not have been allowed in water which should have been kept essentially for fly-fishing purposes, but in the "chasse" the foreigner looks rather to the bag than to the sport, whatever be his nationality, as I have found whenever I have encountered him in this pursuit—in the Tyrol, in the Black Forest, or in France.

The following day—a Sunday—was chiefly passed in a walk down the valley, through crofts and past mills, so that a thorough investigation of the river was made for fully ten kilometres down stream, to below the village of St. Germain des Angles; but from the amount of water carried through the meadows for the purpose of fertilisation, and the many cuts, it was pretty clear that the real fishing-ground of the Iton was above the town of Evreux.

Monday morning saw us on the tramp up the valley, with a bright sun and a blue sky above, and a feeling that the day would be more like one in England, in the leafy month of June, though in Normandy the primroses and wild violets, the wood anemones, the more stately purple orchids, graced the banks in profusion, and the meadows were yellow with cowslips. Passing the village of Arnières, about a mile above, there was a large mill, with a good piece of water below, so we determined to try for permission here. But on demanding if monsieur the miller was at home, we were referred to a stout lady, who, with French abruptness, refused permission. We pleaded that we were strangers, and in all probability might never have the opportunity of fishing there again. This appeal, *ad misericordiam*, only caused madame to refuse even more decidedly. The offer to present her with any trout we might take only caused a look of scorn to break over her not very beautiful features, and argument and entreaty being alike exhausted we retreated in no very amiable frame of mind from the mill yard. Half a mile higher up was the village of Aulnay, with yet another mill. Here we were confronted with another madame, the wife of M. Delille, the miller, but of a different kind. The old Norman type of countenance, the signs of a descent from the old Scandinavian rovers, the followers of Roric and Rollo, are still to be seen, and Madame Delille preserved them in her fair hair, her bright complexion, and her clear blue eyes. At first she hesitated but soon she seemed to come to the conclusion that her husband would not object to the delegation of his authority, and presently she ended her sentence with "Allez pêcher, Messieurs." But it was unfortunately a *jour de fete*, and consequently all the dams in the river seemed to be discharging their waters, and it was fully a foot and a-half above its usual tide, and somewhat muddied into the bargain. However, before long two small trout were taken, and then the writer moved over a half-built wall into the next field, where he was confronted with a hard-featured old peasant, who vouchsafed the information that it was his property; and apparently his dignity was so much injured by the mode of entry, that he would in no way budge from his obstinate "*Non, non!*" The next cottage being empty, the following was tried, and here another blue-eyed matron kindly vouchsafed her leave, and also went to the part belonging to the empty house, which belonged to her brother-in-law, and I was soon joined by her husband, a handsome and kindly peasant proprietor. Presently one trout, which

was, however, less than a quarter of a pound was landed, and in the meantime much conversation on all subjects, from angling to politics, took place, and the main gist of the political subjects was that, before all else, Frenchmen desire tranquillity. And then a small trout or two were taken before two o'clock, but the water was very unfavourable, and the "pounders" which seemed to inhabit the waters, were not to be allured. We parted from our friends in a properly cordial manner. The family were seated at dinner—not at the cabbage and bacon of an English labourer, but at rolled veal and asparagus, camembert cheese, washed down by cider, and followed by *café noir*. But a bottle of Bordeaux was opened in our honour and mutual healths were drunk to much clinking of glasses.

As we came out of the village we encountered the fisherman who shared with a gentleman from Evreux the right of fishing for a half-a-mile down the stream, for which he paid seventy francs a year. He was a professional fisherman, who sold the fish which he took, and his sole instrument was a net. His companion in this fishery was a professor at a lyceé in Evreux, and as we watched the former deftly cast his bell-shaped net into the stream, the companionship of the two seemed, to the English mind, incomprehensible. So far, indeed, as regards fishing, it would seem to have been a case over again of the iron and the earthen pots sailing down stream together. However, eight casts did he ineffectually make with many good-humoured growlings at the "*mauvaise pêche*" and the "*eau forte et troublée*," which was doing him out of his day's earnings. Of course, the trout he sometimes took were monsters, five to seven pounds in weight—a tale I venture to question, though, doubtless, in the deep mill pools there are some fine large trout, very likely two or three pounds in weight. Another small trout nearer M. le Duc's mill was basketed on the way home, but half-a-dozen was all the result of the day's fishing, thanks, we may fairly opine, to the flooded state of the river. Two days' fishing on the Iton had thus only brought a dozen small trout, and from the point of view of sport alone, were essentially poor days, though in other respects they had been most enjoyable. Much pretty country had been seen, and much varied character had been met with.

Next day the time had come for us to leave Evreux, but having a few hours to spare in the morning, it seemed best spent in M. le Duc's meadows, especially as there was a fresh breeze from the south-west and little sun. The river at Arnières was still more or less abnormally large, still it was worth trying, especially in the usually dead water, which to-day was not a little ruffled by the wind. Before very many minutes of fishing, a nice trout was hooked and safely brought to the bank, turning the scale at half a pound. Presently another rise, and another fish was hooked, but managing cleverly to secure the line to a branch passing down stream, he thereby made his escape. Presently the more rapid water was left, and the rest of the bank was lined with willows and poplars, some little distance apart, bordering in a more slow-flowing portion of the Iton. Here the fishing, with the strong wind, became rather delicate, but the trout were clearly on the look-out for insects dropping from the trees, and some of them were nice fish, which showed good sport when secured. Nearly at the end of the reach, just as the fly was making a circle with a gentle eddy beneath a willow tree, there was a barely perceptible breaking of the surface, and away went a trout for the opposite bank, running out several yards of line before his course was completed. Delicate handling, under the circumstances, was needful; but after a little patience, an excellent trout was placed among the daisies and buttercups, which brought the scale down to the pound mark. He was the best and the last trout I took from the Iton. When the basket was counted nine trout were placed side by side—one a pound, four half-pounders, and two

under a quarter of a pound. This was a very pleasant morning's sport for the two hours we were at work. The fly which took every fish was a moderate-sized February red, or rather one with a roughish claret body. The March brown and the olive dun were quite out of favour. The two fishermen with whom I had a talk on the previous day assured me that larger flies were better, and that mine were too small. This I doubt, for the morning's fishing clearly proved that the trout of the Iton took a moderate-sized English fly very readily. As a matter of fact, the French fishermen do not understand much about artificial flies. I have a native-dressed fly now before me, the "*Papillon jaspé au soleil*," a clumsy thing with big wings of a cock's wing and a large red body, which I purchased in the town as a curiosity. The better class of flies resembled an English May fly, and had all large light wings. The common kinds were all very gaudy, red and blue, some palmers and others winged, but all most inferior to those of English make. I should like to see one tried fairly with a smaller English fly, which would probably kill many more fish, unless they were in a particularly voracious mood. Indeed, you scarcely ever see a fishing-tackle shop in France, and these flies were quite an exceptional sight to me among the wares at an ironmonger's shop. Where there is any fly-fishing to speak of, there must be plenty of flies to be sold, and the fact that this is not the case, is a kind of circumstantial evidence that fly-fishing is really scarcely practised at all; and, therefore, that anything which is said as to the best size of flies by native fishermen, is probably based on the merest prejudice, and should not weigh in the balance against the judgment and the experience of an English angler.

E. S. R.

FISH FARMING AT CHERTSEY BRIDGE.

FOR several years Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, has been actively engaged in the culture of various species of Salmonidæ, and although the river which he intends to benefit has not at present received any material advantage from his work, the prospect is not far distant of its obtaining an increase of one of its best kinds of fish—the *real Thames Trout*. There is nothing in the way of speculation as to this result being realised—a visit to his charming fish-house at this time has afforded me tangible proof. In some of the troughs there is a fine collection of eggs taken from Thames trout that were caught at Sunbury last year. They are all in a most healthy condition, and fast approaching vivification. The eyes are plainly visible, and the eggs look strong. Mr. Forbes, I have no doubt, is proud of his work in this respect. It was the aim of the late Mr. Frank Buckland and his worthy coadjutor, the late Mr. Stephen Ponder, to accomplish this, inasmuch as every Thames angler regards the increase of their own fish in preference to foreigners, and I quite agree with some of my friends that we should turn our attention to carp and other fish suited to the river, in order to maintain a stock of the finny tribe for the largely-increasing number of anglers, whose constant visits must decimate its numbers to a terrible extent; but I shall shortly refer to this in a special article. I must now, after this little deviation, return to the fish-house at Chertsey Bridge, where, in company with Mr. Forbes himself, I am inspecting, for the benefit of my piscatorial friends, his splendid stock of ova and young fry. In addition to the genuine Thames trout, there are some thousands of the *Salmo Fontinalis*, and crosses of the *Salmo Fario* and Thames trout; the *Salmo Fontinalis* and the *Salmo Ferox*; the *Salmo Ferox* and the Thames trout; and the *Salmo Fario* and the *Salmo Ferox*; and besides these different crosses, in which Mr. Forbes has been wonderfully successful from his own hatching and rearing of fish, he has the *Salmo Ferox* and *Salmo Fario* separately, in all, about 27,000 partly vivified eggs,

and healthy young fry. He has just now shown me in a glass tube the splendid eggs of the Thames trout, which could not fail to elicit my highest admiration, and then in the various stages of fish development all the other kinds I have before enumerated, which are similarly satisfactory, some of each kind being more advanced than others from having been put in the tanks earlier. I have every year made occasional visits to the fish-house, and I must candidly confess I never saw the eggs and young fry so good as they are this year. I am sure Mr. Forbes himself must feel he has now arrived at perfection in fish hatching. It is a marvellous sight to see some young fry of the *Salmo Ferox* recently hatched in a slate trough—little tiny morsels full of life and vigour, and then in a glass tank below the same species that came into life twelve months ago, now about four inches in length, the very picture of health and beauty. One would have thought it impossible for them to have made such rapid growth, but it is no wonder, when they are fed on the best of rump steaks every day. Mr. Forbes may well feel proud of showing the contrast in the lively fry above with the well-developed fish below. I never remember seeing the entire stock of one and two years old fish in the various glass tanks in a more superb and healthy condition—and those in the large tank at the extreme end of the fish-house are exceedingly good specimens. Amongst them are a brace that got out of his stream at the back of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel some two years ago, and were afterwards caught in an eel basket in the portion of the Abbey river which at that point runs into the Thames. I believe Mr. Forbes is indebted to Mr. Cook, the respected proprietor of the mill, for getting them again into his possession, and highly appreciates the act. After an interesting inspection of the fish-house, of which I cannot speak too highly, we went outside to the stream which has been made by Mr. Forbes, which is divided into compartments, each being well stocked with fish up to 5 lb. each, the latter being the two Thames trout from which the ova I have referred to was taken, and the others, up to about 3 lb. each, that have been hatched at Chertsey Bridge. At the opposite side of each partition there is a shelter made for the fish, consisting of a piece of wood about twelve inches in width, and underneath which the fish run on the approach of any one. But here is Mr. Forbes with a plate full of liver or rump steak, portions of which he throws into the water, and there is an immediate rush of the occupants from their hiding covert, eagerly seizing the food, and filling the open space with active and vigorous life. Yes, and of splendid specimens of various kinds of Salmonidæ, which show themselves to immense advantage. I cannot conclude this brief notice of "Fish farming at Chertsey Bridge" without congratulating Mr. Forbes on what I saw. In the hatching of the ova—the healthy young fry—and his grand stock of fish life—everything was in full perfection, and a higher attainment appeared to me next to impossible. B.

FISH AND FISHING IN RUSSIA.

(From our Correspondent in St. Petersburg.)

(Concluded from p. 148.)

THE barbel (*Barbus fluviatilis*) Mirón Usatch; is confined to some of the rivers running into the Black Sea; weighs up to 30 lb. Baits—worms.

The roach (*Leuciscus rutilus*), Platvâ, common to all Russian rivers and lakes; ordinary weight, 1½ lb., sometimes 3 lb.; in the lakes of the gov. Perm, up to 7 lb. Baits—worms, rye-bread, silk weed, bloodworms.

The rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), Plotwa krasnopiórka is to be met nearly everywhere, where the roach is to be found; weight, to 13 lb. Bait—worms, grubs, pieces of fish.

The gudgeon (*Gobio fluviatilis*) Peskar, inhabits all Russian rivers. Baits—red worms, brandlings, and bloodworms. The bloodworm is an excellent winter bait for most white fish.

The bleak (*Alburnus lucidus*), Ukléika. This little fish which is to be found in all rivers is seldom fished for, its only merit being that it is a good bait for many other fish. The usual baits are, house flies, small worms, gentles and blood-worms.

I nearly forgot to mention the Crucian carp (*Carassius vulgaris*), Zolotoï, Karas, and the Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*), Serebrianis. They are to be found over all Russia, in rivers, lakes, and ponds. Their usual weight is from 2 lb. to 3 lb., but in some lakes it increases up to 12 lb. and 15 lb. Both these fish are great favourites with many anglers, the best baits are worms and rye bread, kneaded into a paste, of course.

The eel (*Anguilla vulgaris*), Ugor or Ugr, inhabits only the rivers running into the Baltic Sea. Weighs from 8 lb. to 10 lb., and very rarely up to 15 lb. and 20 lb. Is very little fished for, the hook is always baited with a lob-worm.

Besides these fish, familiar to English anglers, we have some more, proper to Eastern Europe. These are: 1. The (*Lucioperca sandra*), Sudâk. This fine fish weighing up to 25 lb., and even to 30 lb. and 40 lb. (though very rarely), is common to most Russian rivers, those running into the White Sea excepted. It is not much fished for, the bait most in favour being a lively bleak or gudgeon, the greatest part of these fish, if caught by means of a hook, are caught on night lines. Spinning would, no doubt, prove a very killing method of fishing for these fish. Smaller ones sometimes take a worm or the tail of a craw fish.

2. The (*Lucioperca volgensis*), Bersh, a variety of the former seldom attains the weight of 6 lb. or 8 lb. It is confined to the Ural, Volga, Don, Dnieper, and Dniester. Baits as above, only it will take a worm more freely than the sandra.

3. The *Acerina rossica*, Nosâr, is a long-nosed variety of the ruff, whence its Russian name, "nos" (being the Russian word for nose), peculiar to the Don, Dnieper, and Dniester. Maximal weight ½ lb.; baits as for ruff.

4. The *Aspius rapax*, Sherespior, Gerich. This fish inhabits most rivers running into the Caspian, Black, and Baltic Seas, and attains the maximum weight of 30 lb. in the Volga. It affords much sport, being a strong game fish; sometimes it bites very boldly, at other times very warily. It has a trick, when not very sharp-set, to knock off the bait from the hook with its tail, and to run away with it. The favourite bait is a bleak, hooked on near the back fin. On some rivers a coarse artificial fly, dragged behind a rowing-boat, or cast into the current is a very killing bait. Red palmers dressed on hook No. 1 or 2, with a broadish gold or silver tinsel wound round it, have proved to be very killing, as well as a natural or artificial spinning-bait. But it must be remembered that these baits are used only by some ten, or even less, anglers.

5. The ide, *Idus melanotus*, Yás, is to be met with in all Russian rivers and lakes; it attains the weight of 15 and even 20 lb. The favourite baits are worms, grubs of cockchafer, crawfish and rye-bread paste. Small ide are taken with the bloodworm in winter; large ones will at times take a live bait, though very rarely indeed. The ide is a powerful fish, and often damages the tackle (though coarse) of unskilled anglers.

6. The *Chondrostoma nasus*, Podust, is proper to most Russian rivers, and attains the weight of 3 lb. It will bite very boldly in running water and very warily in mill-streams, if the sluices are closed. In the last instance, it bites as fine, and perhaps finer, than a roach. The tackle generally used is the fine roach tackle described above. Baits—rye bread paste, worms, and sometimes silk weed. Single hair for the hook length, and ground-baiting previously to fishing proves to be a very efficacious remedy against

the wariness of the chondrostoma, but neither of them is the favourite with my countrymen.

7. The *Abramis ballerus*, Sinetz, weighing up to 3 and 4 lb., is to be found nearly over all Russia. Seldom takes a bait; baits as for the bream.

8. The *Abramis sapa*, Glastách, inhabits nearly all Russian rivers; weight up to 2½ lb. Takes the worm only, and even that exclusively just after spawning.

9. The (*Abramis Vimba*), Sirt, weighing up to 5 lb., is to be met with in all rivers, running into the Black and Baltic Seas. It will freely take a hook baited with any description of worm, lob-worm, brandling, blue head or red-worm, or the tail of a craw fish.

10. The sly (*Silurus glanis*), Sorn, is to be found in all rivers, except those running into the White Sea, and attains sometimes a weight of 160 lb. Angling for this greedy fish is practised with very coarse tackle, sea-hooks being chiefly used. A stout rod is used in angling from the shore; in angling from the boat the line is held in the hand. Baits, worms, frogs, mussels (*Unio*), live baits (weighing sometimes 2 and 3 lb.), rooks, crows, pieces of meat; shortly, all that is by any means edible. It is by no means rare to hear that the sly has attacked men—drowning children, and wounding grown-up men.

AN "ACQUIRED" TASTE.

EVERYBODY has heard of the famous Berkshire breed of pigs; indeed, members of the much-prized pure, sleek, short-legged, black and white, curly-tailed family are now to be found in most all the counties; and should any fellow-angler be in the neighbourhood of a river where big trout, of fastidious pampered appetites, frequent, let him get, if possible, a bit of the true succulent Berkshire fat bacon—no other—as a last resort when all other lures have failed—for the following reason:—Not many years since, idlers upon Newbury Bridge, and the riverside residents also, had noticed a large fish disporting itself near to and under the said bridge that spans the Kennet in the centre of the town. Now, be it known that most all the fish hereabouts—aristocratic and plebeian—become "educated," so to speak, into looking out for all the unconsidered trifles that wasteful cooks or improvident kitchen-maids had thrown down the back kitchen sinks having outlets into the river. I have myself often seen roach and dace fighting for bits of bread, &c., that got into the river in the manner described. But this big fish—discarding flies and minnows and dace and the beautiful bleak—had, alderman-like, got used to something that was apparently as great a treat to him as ever calipash or calipee are to our modern municipal epicure. To be brief, the big fish had tasted Berkshire bacon, and liked the delicacy.

Hard by the Newbury Bridge—in fact, upon a portion of it, stands the Old Bank, and one of its partners—its semi-partner, in fact—is Mr. Charles Slocock, J.P., who, like his father before him, is a capital all-round sportsman, as good with the Craven Hounds in the Berkshire woodlands as he is in the partridge-field or by the riverside. He, too, had seen, or rather had *heard*, the big fish when performing this jumping and splashing business, so the thought naturally enough occurred that he would try and capture the scaly Leotard. Mr. Slocock, putting this and that together—as only hunters, shooters, and anglers can do, save diplomats—came to the conclusion that the big fish wouldn't make all this fuss over a poor dace or a bleak, nor even over any number of "ups and downers" (May flies), drop they never so "yellowly" upon old Kennet's bosom. No. Inspired thought! He baited his hook, like a true Berkshire man as he is, with a choice morsel of Berkshire bacon—a pinky bit cut out of the back, probably of

the size of a filbert—and cast his line upon the waters, not from the river's bank, but from the side window of Newbury Old Bank. The big fish was on the look-out. Thinks he, "Oh, Polly, the cook, has washed up the dishes, and here comes along a tit-bit for me." He plunged for the prize, but alas!—the cold steel had entered into his golden-tinged jaws, and was driven home by the delighted angler. After some fine "play," and with assistance, the fish was landed in a most difficult spot, and proved to be a splendid Kennet trout, that kicked the beam at ten and a-half pounds!

SPOTS.

PAINTINGS AT THE NORWICH NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

WE are requested to state that a special space has been reserved for the exhibit of paintings of a piscatorial nature, and the Committee will feel extremely obliged to any gentlemen who will lend paintings. Particulars can be had of W. Oldham Chambers, Esq. (Hon. Secretary of the Exhibition), Lowestoft.

THE NORWICH EXHIBITION.

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement which appears in our columns respecting the arrangements for opening the exhibition and the railway facilities and reduction in fares.

THE LAMMERMUIRS.

THE Whitadder and its tributaries were opened after close time for anglers, on the 15th ult. It is generally believed that this will be a remarkably fine fishing season. The trout are numerous and in good condition. The rule of taking no fish shorter than six inches is a good one, and will be strictly enforced here. Of course, no angler worthy of the name will require supervision, as the old game of "Murdering the Innocents" is detested by all real sportsmen. Again, should the day be exceedingly favourable and the trout taking very freely, it is recommended that only half-pounders and upwards be retained. If these rules are followed the fishing will improve from year to year, and preserved waters become a thing of the past. A very fair fisher can easily capture in four or five hours about 10 lb. of trout. Anglers who spend the whole day on the water can therefore afford to put many small fry back, and still have as good a basket and much choicer trout. The upper part of the Whitadder is the best, and accommodation can be got, we understand, at the schoolhouse of Cranshaws, near Dunse, by applying to Mr. Pringle there.

ON FLY-FISHING FOR ROACH IN JULY.

Across the Exe, fair Exon near,
There is a bridge called Countess Weir;
Above the bridge a deep pool lies
At rest beneath the summer skies,
And on its surface often lie
Fish feasting on the fearless fly.
Rare ruddy roach that pass the day
In sucking-in their heedless prey,
With many a sparkling, silvery dace,
That cuts the wave with easy grace!
Here, 'neath July's unclouded sun,
With palmer red and small blue dun,
Have I drawn lightly to the shore—
Of roach and dace a goodly store.
Like down the feathered fairies fell
Above the fish that loved them well;
The water dimpled—yet again!—
And lo! I had a noble twain.
Thus often I, by twos and threes—
When favoured by a southern breeze—
Would draw them lightly to the marge,
Till—trust me, friends—my take was large!

F. B. DOVETON.

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that,
And manage it against despairing thoughts."

—SHAKESPEARE.

The cruel east wind has rendered the river as chill as ice, and I fear that few respectable trout, under such conditions of the elements, will reward the toiler and spinner; but hope is a fisherman's rod (as well as a lover's staff); do not fail, therefore, my gentles and simples, to walk hence with it during the coming week, and manage it against despairing thoughts, and possibly great may be your reward. The river is bright and in good-looking condition, and big and little fish are reported to me, as having been seen feeding at most of the likely weirs between Windsor and Streatley during the sunshine of last week. At Maidenhead and Medmenham the ditches have been well looked up by Association bailiffs, and some 110 jack (best 12 lb.), 51 perch, 343 roach, 49 chub (best 4 lb.), and 1 tench returned to their Father Thames, and thus rescued from the wily sportsmen who hav'n't a soul beyond powder or wire. The Wycombe Trout Association hold the annual meeting on Friday next, at Mr. Bowden's, the White Hart Hotel, when it is intended to propose many salutary alterations in the rules, such as the extension of the season until the 30th September, and the restriction of bait to the fly only. I am invited to go and see some "beauties" at this fishery, and do not mean to be backward in coming forward, and will report anon.

Thursday evening.—River low and clear—strong wind (marrow freezing) blowing from north-east. Prognosis: unfavourable.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for trout fishing, but very cold winds. There has been a trout feeding this last day or two, and I shall try hard for him on Friday.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Windsor).

The bitterly cold winds of the last week have stopped trout frolics. Even in mid-day the sun has not been strong enough to induce them to appear; and he will be a brave man who can tackle four or five hours to-morrow if the wind is the same as this morning, and most certainly deserves to be rewarded. As regards the state of the water, it is perfection, and will necessitate fine tackle, having got as clear as it is possible for it to get; so shall not be surprised if a few fish are taken.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are very low and bright just now, and it is hard work to get a good basket of trout. Fishing with very fine tackle, and up stream is almost the only chance. The wind has been very cold from the N.E. during the last few days, with very sharp frosts, anything but good weather for fishing, and unless we get a change angling for the next few days will not be up to much. Some baskets of trout have been made during the last week, but their average has been small fish, chiefly taken with the blue upright, silver twist, small march brown, and watercress.—W.

Bure (Norfolk).

The late stormy weather has had a tendency to slightly damp the ardour of anglers, but, nevertheless, some very fair catches have been reported. About forty nice perch were taken close by Wroxham last Saturday, some, I am informed, with live minnows, but mostly with the ledger. I am very pleased to find that the river watchers on the stream have succeeded in bringing to justice two men caught liggering, one being John Crane, labourer, and the other, George Spanton, blacksmith, both of Hoveton. They were charged with illegal fishing on Wroxham Broad, contrary to the bye-laws, under the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, 1877. Mr. Chillock, hon. solicitor of the Yare Preservation Society, appeared for the prosecution. George Clare, a river watcher, employed by the society, stated that on the day in question, he was watching Wroxham Little Broad. He saw the two defendants in a little boat about half-past ten in the morning; they were liggering, and he saw them take the liggers from the water; they were using double pike hooks, baited with roach. He told the men that he should summon them, and when he happened to meet with Spanton later on in the day, he threatened to do him some bodily injury, because of this. Spanton pleaded guilty, but pleaded ignorance of the laws. Crane said he was drawn into it innocently by Spanton, but it was proved that he was convicted of a similar offence in February, 1880. Spanton was fined 10s. and 15s. gd. costs, while Crane was mulcted of a penalty and costs of £1 5s. gd., the costs including the solicitor's fee. Well done, Clare, you have indeed caught a *sly old bird* this time.—ANGLER.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The waters are in first-class order for angling. Trout-fishing opens on Friday. There has been a number of trout seen during the past few days; if the weather continues fine there are prospects of good sport. There has been nothing doing during the past week, the cold wind no doubt stopping many from coming out. We beg to remind our angling friends that our season commenced on the 26th of March for season tickets, subscription one guinea, day tickets are issued for bottom fishing, 1s., and trout fishing, 2s.—E. GODFREY.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge.)

Salmon-fishing with the rod opened on 26th, and there has been some good sport. Mr. Hedley killed 4 salmon; Mr. Stephenson, Hairdean, 2; Mr. Scott,

Felton, 3, and a dish of trout; Mr. Weed, Linden, 1, from 2½ lb. to 8 lb. On the 28th, Mr. Leighton, Theselhaugh, killed 8, 35 lb. weight; Mr. Hedley, Felton, 6, from 3 to 8 lb. On the 26th, Mr. Marsden, of Morpeth, 3, 15 lb. weight; Mr. A. Dobson, Felton, 2, 8 lb.; Mr. Hedley, Felton, 1, 3½ lb.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Both weather and water are now in favourable condition for fly-fishing here in the Midlands, if it were not for the nasty winds. The March brown is just coming out on the Dove, and several takes have been effected by it already, one of which (numbering 3½ brace) was obtained below Mayfield. Great things have been done when this fly appears in unusually large numbers, and as they are already fairly plentiful, something unusual will most probably be accomplished here during the ensuing week or two. Minnow-spinners have plied the rod very successfully since my last; 3½ brace of heavy trout were taken from the Henmorn, on Friday, with the natural minnow, as were also 2½ brace (scaling 5½ lb.) from near Mayfield on Monday, with the "universal killer." A few gentlemen have taken two and three brace in the evenings since my last both with fly, minnow and worm. The wind is still rather cold, but the sun is getting powerful in the middle of the day, causing the flies to appear in greater numbers daily.

Exe (Exeter).

It has very rarely of late been my lot to report of good times, but since my last report news has reached me from various parts, viz., from rivers with which I have nothing to do, therefore will not venture to report that which I hope will reach you from other sources, but suffice to say that sport all round has been excellent. Our river is teeming with the silver beauties, and many a noble fish was seen on the green sward during the past week. The gentleman who, as reported in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, had killed eight salmon and nineteen trout, added three splendid fish to his creel on Saturday last, weighing respectively 1 lb. 8 oz., 1 lb. 9½ oz., and 1 lb. 12 oz., beautiful clean run fish, in fact I do not see how they could be otherwise, for a kelt or slat I have not seen since the late flood. Mr. Pearson also added another to his creel on Saturday, and two others were taken near Trews Weir on the same day; so that, after all, we must not consider the river Exe such a late river as some would have us think, and my opinion is that it is out of the power of man to make an early river late or a late river early. I have known but a very few fish to be taken from the Exe before May, and I have seen a clean run fish in January on the banks, partially eaten by otters. Very few trout have been taken, no doubt partially owing to the very bright weather accompanied by north and easterly winds. Mr. C. Blake, of the Museum Hotel, while fishing for bass and flat fish, caught one of the finest Lucky Proach (*otus bubalis*) I ever saw, measuring 8 inches long and 6 inches round, splendidly mottled in tortoiseshell colours on the sides, belly light blue verging into green, the palate, tongue and throat a brilliant blue—numbers of these fish have passed through my hands, in fact, the largest previous to this I gave to the Albert Memorial Museum here, but it is nothing like so fine a one. I omitted last week to state that M. Pinot, a French gentleman, wound up the open season by taking a splendid pike, 24 lb. weight, from the canal near Burlescombe, and from the information received hopes, when the season opens, to visit this part in company with your occasional correspondent, "J. A. K." The fine weather seems inclined to hold out, so that we may yet say, like a lamb the month of March has left us, although a lion it came in.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Lee and Blackwater (Co. Cork).

Easterly winds have set in again, and the weather since Tuesday has been harsh in the extreme. For the four days previous to the change there was capital sport. The best bag was made by Mr. George Haynes, who, on last Thursday, landed eight springers of the aggregate weight of 82 lb. Four of these were taken out of one stream, and all were hooked on the worm, the branding. Tired of the fly the fish are now beginning to take the worm freely, and in bait fishing Mr. Haynes has no superior. On the same Thursday, Mr. Henry Dalz brought four to bank, three of which were taken on the fly and one with the worm. Mr. Dale was also out on Tuesday, and placed four more to his account. Mr. Haynes on Sunday landed three, and on the same day Mr. Lambkin two, one of which was a fine fish of 14 lb. Sir Augustus Warren killed seven in two days, on his preserves at Warren's Court, and among the other successful anglers were, J. Readon, two; Captain Abbott, two; Sir Oriel Forster, Major Nettles, Mr. George Colthurst, J. Manning, &c. At Itown yesterday, some poachers were fined for fishing with illegal nets. The Blackwater is now in fine condition for angling, but the cold weather has doubtless interfered with sport and driven the fish out of humour to the bottom.—ANGLER.

Severn (Kidderminster).

The Severn has been again troubled with snow water, which has made it against anglers, but should the weather continue fine, I think it will be in good condition for the end of the week. A few brace of trout have been taken by some members of the Kidderminster Angling Society, in good condition. The above society will contend for prizes on Easter Monday, jack fishing only. The contest will take place in the Severn, between Bewdly and Highly, when a highly-contested match is looked forward to. Mr. A. G. Titley, Swan Hotel, Kidderminster, in company with Mr. E. Laurence, have had some capital sport among the trout in Shropshire, having taken 32 brace in fair condition, weighing 27 lb., taken with the worm. Some of them were over 1 lb. each. Mr. J. Williams and W. Mound, after trying a long time with brains for chub, did not succeed in taking one, and while sitting on the Severn bank, taking refreshment, Williams saw on the bank a piece of lobster shell. Imitating a spoon, he placed it on the hook, and threw it in for amusement several times, when at last he found a tug, and, on drawing it, found to his astonishment that a jack about 4½ lb. had seized the piece of shell, and the skilful play of Mr. Williams succeeded in drawing the fish and bringing him to the water's edge. But alas! the bank being steep and slippery, and being without net or gaff, could not lift the fish with line, and so the fish made good his escape, and disappointed his would-be captor.—ANGLER.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

Some few local anglers have been out, and a few trout have been landed, but the takes are small, both as regards size and quantity, and the worm is the bait as yet. As soon as the wind chops to the south, and a shower of warm rain, I shall expect some good sport with the minnow; also the fly-fisher. Will try the early brown, the blue dun, and red spinner. This fly is the blue dun after it has cast off its dun coat, which it does in about four or five days. It is a morning and evening fly, as it cannot, or will not, fly for long in the bright daytime; but with the three flies named I will fish any one if they will choose any

other cast of flies. The brooks are in good order for trouting, and I shall recommend the brandling worm. Well-scoured in moss, it makes them tough, bright, and also gives them a flavour and smell that I have proved is favourable to good sport.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

We had some rain on Wednesday last which brought down another flood. Consequently, between it and having frost every night, there have not been so many fish killed as there might have been. The water has again run down, and those that cared to face an easterly wind had some good sport. On Friday Col. Peyton landed five fish, and on Monday four. Mr. Thompson got seven salmon during the week; Mr. Dalton one, 25 lb. Thomas Phelan, on Lord Donoughmore's preserves, killed four. Dr. Cooke has landed two or three fish almost every day. At Newcastle, Rochestown waters have been taken, and two salmon caught there already. Mr. Quinlan and Dr. Donaldson caught one each at Suirsmount. Tom Russel and James O'Donohue at Clonmel killed a fine fish each, and several others were also successful whose names I have not procured as yet. On March 29 the Cahir Club landed nine fine fish. The cot men at Clonmel did very little, owing to the river being flooded; they only got sixteen for the week, and the cots lower down did comparatively nothing. Between Cashel and Thurles the river has been dragged by nets, and the poachers could not be captured. We also hear of both old and new salmon being caught by poachers on the river Tar. If there were funds enough to protect properly the Suir, there would be no ends to the stock of fish it would contain. The trout fishing has been very good. Mr. Lyster (Dublin), at Grove Stream, in a few hours had splendid fishing, killing sixty-seven good-sized trout, weighing 19½ lb. Charlie Milan got twenty-two large trout on Sunday last, fishing from Kilshielan down to Carrick. Mr. Middleton kills every day. The best flies for present season are March brown, orange grouse, and red hackle. The weather is intensely cold, and glass steady.—DORA.

Swale.

Very little has been done on the upper reaches of this splendid trout stream, owing to the presence of heavy drifts of snow, which yet remain on the tops of the mountains. When these are gone some good sport will be had. Local fishermen generally begin with the minnow, which is a most killing bait, owing to its scarcity in these waters. A discussion has recently taken place in these columns as to methods of preservation. The Swaledale fishermen adopt a plan which quite beats curing out of the market. At this time of the year they go over to Wensleydale with a small mesh landing-net and a tin can which will hold a gallon or so, and collect from the small brooks which there abound a store of two or three hundred fish, which they keep alive. By changing the water about twice a week they can be kept in a large pan during the whole of the season. They are then taken to the waterside as required, in a workman's small tea-can. No one hereabouts, except a casual visitor, uses artificial baits. Now that the Midland Railway runs to Hawes, let me advise anglers who like good trouting to run over to Swaledale Head. They will here find a perfect El Dorado. I have often caught ten or twelve dozen in a day, and the fishing is free and open. In fact, the population is so sparse that the natives are always glad to see strangers, and are, furthermore, hospitable to a virtue. I shall be glad at any time to supply information required, and will, if possible, send a list of flies next week with which to commence the season.—THOMAS FORD.

Yare (Norwich).

The obstinate north-east wind have prevented many rodsters from turning out this week, and those who had nerve enough to do so have come home with anything but a full creel. Messrs. Webb, Capon, Hart, Howard, Palmer, Nockolds, members of the E. A. P. S., were all out the early part of the week, but nothing of any importance was done. I am sorry to hear that a great many pike are being taken by snares, or, in the fishing parlance, "collared." Persons are under the impression that this is not illegal; but should our vigilant river watcher meet with them, they will find themselves labouring under a great mistake. Dykes and small outlets are the spots where these poachers usually practise, as they are aware that the fish are now migrating up these places to spawn.—ANGLER.

Trent (Nottingham).

So far as fishing in the river is concerned, I have little or nothing to say. Dace have been seen on the shallows going through the spawning operation, but not in such quantities as if the weather had been fine and warm. Pike are also going through similar work in the backwaters, and should be strictly watched during the next month, as they will be, after spawning, in a perfectly helpless condition. Angling is still going on in the private water near to Nottingham, and some capital baskets of roach and bream have been caught, both fish being in the best possible condition, and I think with most of our rodsters here that it is a great pity and wrong that we are not allowed to angle for roach and bream until the middle of April, as both fish do not deposit their spawn till the end of May, and in some rivers later than that. They take the cockspur worm freely at this season of the year, more especially when the water is slightly discoloured. I give a description of this noted bait elsewhere which must be paid particular attention too, or your readers will not understand my meaning.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

Owing to the reappearance of winter during the past week, the river is not in the best of order at present, and I fear there is not much prospect of sport for the next few days, unless the weather and the wind should change. It is said that "variety is charming." If this be applicable to the weather, we may be said to have had a "charming" supply, for there has been "variety" enough—sometimes a little sunshine, but more often cloudy, then a downfall of snow, the performance varied occasionally by a selection of unpopular airs by the east wind. I hear that a few pike have been taken by one fisherman during the past week, but very few anglers have been out, and those who did venture got but very little reward for their trouble.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the above rivers have run down nicely during the week, and are now in splendid condition for angling; and I am pleased to say that a good many fishermen have been out on both rivers, and most of them have done very fairly. Last Friday, the 25th inst., was the opening day for trout on the Darley Dale Club waters, and some very fine fish have been killed with fly, minnow, and bottom-fishing with the worm. April 1st is the opening day for trout on the Wye; there being no restriction as to grayling at any time of the year, which, in my humble opinion, is quite wrong. Why should the only fish that affords really good sport at the season when no other fish will rise to a fly,

be so little thought of and persecuted? I can only say myself that, if they are not better protected, our Derbyshire Wye will not be worth fishing. Only look at the great quantities of grayling that died last year of disease; they are getting scarcer and scarcer every season now. It is thought by many that the grayling destroy the spawn of the trout. Now this is a complete mistake. All practical men, I feel sure, will agree with me that the greater portion of the trout spawn in the brooks, and very few, if any, in the main river. Now grayling do not run up brooks, and it is very rarely indeed that we find a grayling in them, unless they are of a large size. How can grayling, then, take the trout spawn? The small grayling, called shot grayling, about five to the pound, do not spawn, and are capital eating the season through. The night-line party I hear have killed a few trout during the week in the Derwent with large lob worms for bait. Fly-fishing prospects good for a few hours in the middle of the day, while the bright hot sun is out. The killing flies have been bumble, furnace and spider flies; and the fish have been killed chiefly by the sides of the streams.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

I am sorry to say that trout-fishing still continues to be a "delusion and a snare" in this district, which fact is no doubt attributable to the keen frosts that have prevailed every night. The few brace that have been caught have fallen victims to the "little brown" or "woodcock and orange," as it is locally called, neither the blue dun or March brown being yet on the streams. Jackson's dressing for this fly is as follows: wings, feather from inside of a woodcock's or hen pheasant's wing; body, red copper-coloured silk; legs, brown hackle; it is a capital fly for the early spring months. To any angler who may be meditating a visit to our Yorkshire streams, and who is at a loss what flies to select, I strongly recommend a little work on trout-fishing recently published by Mr. T. Ford, Caistor, Lincolnshire. It is a thoroughly practical book, written by an enthusiastic fly-fisher who has spent many years of his life in our Yorkshire dales; a great number of his patterns for artificial flies are taken from a book published some years ago by a veteran angler who resided in this county, and a better guide he could not have followed, as I can testify to from experience, having many a time been indebted to that same little book for a heavy pannier of trout and grayling. Mr. Ford's book is written in a very similar style, and at once stamps its author as a man of poetic temperament, and a keen admirer of the works of Nature, and I feel sure that all fly-fishers will find it worthy of a place in their library of angling literature: at all events, I welcome it as a valuable acquisition to mine.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

SCOTCH REPORTS.

(From Scotsman.)

THURSO RIVER—BRAWL CASTLE.—Last week in Thurso district there was much inclement weather. The fish killed during the week were as follows:—21st—Mr. Wason, two, 18, 22 lb.; Mr. Maitland, two, 9½, 8 lb. 23rd—Mr. G. Ashley Dodd, two, 17, 6½ lb.; Mr. Maitland, two, 9½, 9½ lb.; Mr. Dunbar, one, 10 lb. 24th—Captain Fairfax, R.N., one, 10 lb. 25th—Mr. Maitland, one, 16½ lb. 26th—Mr. G. Ashley Dodd, two, 11½, 8½ lb.; Captain Fairfax, one, 17 lb.; General Mignon, one, 18 lb.; Mr. Maitland, one, 17 lb.; Mr. Dunbar, one, 8½ lb.

LOCH TAY.—On the Killin Hotel water the takes on Saturday were:—Sir Wm. Fielden, Scarborough, one salmon, 23 lb.; yesterday, Sir Wm. Fielden, Scarborough, one salmon, 16 lb.; and Mr. Malloch, Perth, one salmon, 24 lb. On the reserved water at Killin the results, yesterday were:—Mr. Earp, Derby, five salmon, 22 lb., 19 lb., 16 lb., and two 16 lb.; Sir Wm. Elliot, one salmon, 16 lb. On the Kenmore reserved water, Provost Wilson, Govan, killed on Saturday one salmon weighing 16 lb., and also a fine fish weighing 34 lb.

THE TWEED—KELSO.—The more genial south-west wind which prevailed yesterday gave anglers some hope of sport, but the result of the day's fishing was disappointing. Mr. Farrand and Mr. J. A. Bushfield fished in the Sprouston water, but only landed a kelt and two trout; and other anglers reported that fish were not taking at all.

CALLANDER.—Lochs Lubnag and Vennacher being now free from ice, both lochs are expected to be in fine order this week. Mr. McLaren, tailor, caught on Loch Lubnag, on Friday, a fine fish, weighing 16 lb.; and another of 13 lb. was caught in the river on Saturday by Mr. Anderson.

LOCHLEVEN.—The first taken of the season was by Mr. R. Lindsay, of Dunfermline, who was out for an hour yesterday afternoon, and landed a trout weighing 1 lb.

THE YORKSHIRE RIVERS.—I am very glad to see that Mr. Thomas Ford, the schoolmaster-poet of Caistor, Lincolnshire, has turned his attention to a graphic description of the Yorkshire streams. Mr. Ford is an elegant writer and an accomplished fly-fisher; and although he is now removed from the scene of his delightful northern reminiscences, his soul appears to be earnest in the endeavour to increase the sport of his brethren, he having already, at his own expense, and by the assistance of his friends and neighbours, already made some of the more important rivulets around Caistor joyous with trout life. I wish him every success with his little shilling manual of flies, and send for it together with a supply of "barbed features" for the present season.—G. F.

FISHERY INQUIRY AT HEREFORD.—Mr. Walpole and Professor Huxley, the two fishery inspectors, held at Hereford on Wednesday, the last of their series of inquiries as to the cause of the Rebecca disturbances in the upper part of the Wye, which had been attributed by the rioters to encroachments on their rights to fish in that river with the spear for salmon. It was alleged at the former sitting that the scarcity of fish in the upper country was due to excessive netting in the middle and lower portions. Witnesses from above Hereford said that the quantity of fish which passed the nets had much fallen off, and that the angling portions of the river were not nearly so well supplied as ten to fifteen years ago. The inspectors will shortly report to the Home Office.

CLEVES HUNTING AND SPORTING EXHIBITION.—The opening of this exhibition has been fixed for June 12th. The lists of applications for space from this country will be transmitted to the central commission at Cleves at the end of the present week. Intending exhibitors can obtain forms upon application at the International Exhibition Offices, 1, Castle Street, Holborn.

THE SAUCHIE FISH-REARING PONDS.

As many of our readers are aware, Sir James Ramsay Gibson Maitland has for years been conducting experiments in the hatching and rearing of salmon and trout in artificial ponds at Sauchie. At Howietoun, and within a few hundred yards from the hatching-houses, a convenient spot has been selected as the site of a series of ponds, laid out after an ornamental design, the waters of which swarm with salmon from a month to five years old. The fry are conveyed from the hatching-houses in specially constructed iron despatching chests, mounted on wheels, and are placed at first in several small ponds. These are supplied with water from Sauchie Burn, where a sluice regulates the flow through two spigot and faucet glazed clay pipes, ten inches in diameter, which discharge into settling wells at the head of the ponds. The water is not admitted to the ponds direct from the well, but passes through a process of purification intended to separate foreign matters, and to prevent as far as possible the clogging of the bed of the pond by a deposit of any kind other than is precipitated from solution in the liquid. Passing out of the settling well, the water travels underground over a bed of rough gravel placed underneath the walks at the head of each pond. These rough stones form a kind of filter, which is renewed from time to time as the ponds are cleaned out, generally twice a year in the smaller ponds, and once in twelve months in the larger sizes. The water finds its way out of the ponds through a screened outlet in the bottom, and wells up in spring-like fashion from the bed at the head of the pond next below. The precaution is necessary of protecting the outlets and inlets to these smaller ponds very carefully with perforated screens, as the young fry at the period when they are placed in these smaller ponds are very difficult to confine. It has the further advantage of preventing the fry from injuring themselves by rushing against a head weight of water, or inducing the growth of a fungus on their backs by jumping against falling water. On an average each of the first six ponds contain 50,000 to 60,000 fry, of the size at which they leave the hatching grilles. These ponds have therefore accommodation for 400,000 fry of each crop, or 800,000 in one season. In a series of twelve ponds where young fry are placed previous to transportation, there is ample room for at least 660,000 more, being equal to a supply of 1,060,000 each crop, or 2,120,000 per annum. This enormous number of fish will be readily disposed of, the value of stocking waters as a preventative of the decay of fishing becoming more and more recognised. In these small ponds the half-inch fry are fed with horse flesh and crushed grain, which by an ingenious arrangement is dropped through water sieves into the pond. In the pond adjoining the first there is a depot for burn trout of a twelvemonth old, of which there are 2000, hardy brown fellows, who jumble and tumble on the top of the pond when food is thrown to them in the liveliest possible manner. The water runs from this pond through a settling well and syphon into two others in which American trout and hybrids are lodged. These ponds are some 90 feet long, by about 40 broad, and 16 deep. These hybrids are between salmon and burn trout, sea trout and yellow trout, &c. Next these hybrids lie three ponds in which are springlings, of from three to five inches in length, and on an average about fourteen months old. These have not yet assumed the bright silvery garb of the salmon tribe, and are thus in capital order for sending to other waters, where they will be little molested with predatory fish—in fact, to preserved ponds and burns.

Up till 1879 this series completed the extent of the fish ponds at Howietoun on the construction of which Sir James Maitland had expended over £11,000. Since then he has added a very large basin for the reception of the larger fish, with the view of learning more of the natural habits of the creatures he so successfully rears from the ova. This experimental pond will doubtless furnish the solution of many difficult questions as to fish—propagation, migration, &c., which are still mysterious and unravelled. With this view a summer-house has been erected in the pond. Leaving the bank on a bridge, one can descend by means of a staircase to the bed of the pond, and there, through the windows of the house, learn somewhat of the movements of the finny inhabitants of the waters. Sir James, it may be here mentioned, has been closely studying the vexed question of the disease afflicting the salmon of the Tweed, Solway, and other rivers near the Borders, and claims to have discovered its cause. He is at present engaged in preparing a treatise on the subject, and it is almost superfluous to add that, being the result of actual observation and experiment, it will be an undoubted authority on the matters with which it deals.

During 1881 it is proposed to rear in these ponds 8000 two year olds, 16,000 yearlings, and 140,000 springlings, 250,000 fry of Lochleven trout, and about 10,000 American trout, besides the salmon ova just hatched out. To supply these shoals a very extensive supply of mussels, clams, and horse flesh is necessary. Apparatus is fitted up in houses adjoining the ponds where the shellfish are cleared from their outer coverings, and mincing machines are placed for the horse meat. Some three horses a week and tons of shellfish are needed. Only animals in perfect health are used, and with the view of ascertaining the certainty of this, a month's quiet holiday grazing at Millholm is allowed. A very successful system of rearing the snail peculiar to Lochleven has also been working for some time, and on these it is found the fish feed greedily, and improve in weight with great rapidity. Sir James Maitland proposes to add to his fishery during the present year a sheet of water 70 acres in extent, to rear fish for the market. The agricultural value of the land at present is about £2 an acre; as a fish pond, from £60 to £70 per acre may be realised. This lakelet will be placed close by the tails of the ponds, and will be capable every season of rearing thousands of marketable fish, which will be sent there, as far as possible, alive. When this project has been completed, a sum of not less than £50,000 will have been expended on the Howietoun fishery.—*Edin.burgh Courier*.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE ROYAL.—On Monday last was produced, for the first time in England, "Jeanne, Jeannette, and Jeanneton," grand opera comique, in a prologue and three acts, by MM. Clairville and Delacour, music by P. Lacombe, the English libretto by R. Reece; characters by Mesdames Constance Loseby, St. Quinten, Alice May, Ivanova, Jamieson, San Martino, &c.; and Messrs. W. H. Woodfield, Fred Leslie, W. S. Penley, Kelleher, Power, Collini, Sweetman, &c. In Act II. is introduced a grand mythological ballet, entitled "Endymion," music by G. Jacobi, in which Mdle. Palladino will make her first appearance at this theatre, in addition to Mdle. Pertoldi and Mdle. Th. de Gilbert, supported by Mdle. Rosa and the entire corps de ballet. Maitre-de-ballet and stage-manager, Mons. Bertrand. The success of the opera was most decided.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, TACKLE, &c.

MESSRS. J. WARNER AND SONS, wholesale manufacturers only, of Hewell Works, Ridditch. Their goods are sold by all tackle dealers, and at the Midland Counties Angling Repository, 121 and 122, Broad Street, Birmingham.

MESSRS. J. WARNER and SONS have sent us some flies for notice, and also some of their patent needle-eyed hooks and their new illustrated price list.

The flies sent are three shades of the invincible blue upright, with one shade of which, the lightest hackle, we had first-class sport last spring. We can most strongly recommend these three shades of the upright to all fly-fishers who fish rapid streams in any part of the kingdom—they will kill, if anything will. They are very neatly tied and will stand an immense amount of wear. We caught over thirty trout with the same fly of Messrs. Warner's, and it killed even better at last than at first.

We have never actually tried the needle-eyed hooks, but they seem to us to be better, because neater, than any other kind of eyed-hook we know. We would recommend Messrs. Warner to send a printed note of directions for fastening on the gut (which is done by a knot). The hooks are of the finest steel and a good shape, they are well worth a good trial from practical anglers. They are well spoken of by Greville Fennell, H. Wade, and other first-class authorities.

Messrs. Warner's illustrated catalogue and price list is quite a splendid affair, consisting of many hundreds of beautifully drawn and coloured illustrations of every conceivable form of fishing apparatus and tackle. It is for wholesale purposes only, and a glance over it amply proves how deep and widespread the love of angling must be. The illustrations are on stone, or we should much like to have borrowed some to print in this paper, as they are so well drawn.

MESSRS. F. T. WILLIAMS AND CO., FISHING TACKLE MAKERS, OF 10, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON, send their new catalogue of prices, which also contains much information useful to anglers. We can speak from long personal acquaintance most highly of the goods supplied by Messrs. Williams and Co., and their moderate cost. They have several specialties, and any of our friends who have not been there will find it well worth while to look at their stock of artificial minnows, flies, fly-rods, &c. Their guinea fly-rod is a splendid article. We bought one many years ago, and never had a better. Unfortunately a friend—a novice—completely spoilt it by straining the wood in attempting to get the joints apart when wet. It is the greatest mistake in the world to get a friend to catch hold of one joint and then twist the joints apart. It strains the wood, and the rod soon gets limp and out of shape. In taking a rod apart the ferrules only should be grasped, and if this hold is insufficient a little heat will soon put matters straight. A lighted wax match held under the metal is sufficient to heat it and start the moisture.

A LADY'S OR BROOK FLY-ROD.

Speaking of rods reminds us that we have not noticed a most beautiful little rod, which Messrs. Williams and Co. make, and of which they have sent us a specimen. It is in three joints, about nine feet long, and weighs only eight ounces. It is just the very thing for a lady, or for whipping udder bushes on a narrow trout-stream. Its price is very moderate, and it is made of thoroughly-seasoned greenheart, the best wood now in the market for making rods of. Hickory is not to be had—worth having.

MR. JAMES GREGORY, OF VYSE STREET, BIRMINGHAM, is one of the neatest and best makers of artificial baits in this country, and therefore, in the world; and he is always devising something new. His last is what he calls the "Wheeldon Salmon and Trout Bait." It is a beautifully-made metal bait, made to spin on the "Archimedean" principle. We should prefer a darker colour for the back than gold, as we have frequently found these very brilliant spinning baits not half so deadly as more "quietly" coloured ones. A dark brown or blue back, and white belly, is the nearest approach to the colour of the natural bait, and it is impossible to improve on *that*. For beauty of finish Mr. Gregory's baits are unsurpassed.

DEATH OF MR. HARRY WIX.

OUR Lea fishing friends will be very sorry to hear of the death of the veteran roach-fisher of the Lea. Henry Wix was born in the year 1804, and was the son of the Rev. Samuel Wix, who was the Rector of Inworth, Essex, and Vicar of St. Bartholomew-the-Less, London. Mr. Wix served his apprenticeship with the Messrs. Rivingtons, of St. Paul's Churchyard; and afterwards commenced business on his own account as a bookseller and publisher, in New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, where he published several valuable works. He took an active part in the establishment of the Booksellers' Provident Institution, and acted for twelve years as one of its directors. He also advocated the shortening of the hours devoted to business; and formed one of a deputation to wait upon the leading booksellers and publishers, with the view of inducing them to close their establishments at an earlier hour, so that the young men employed might have greater opportunities for self-improvement. His house being required for the extension of the premises of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, he retired from business altogether. Being a member of the Stationers' Company, he has latterly for some years been upon the Court of the Company. He died at his residence, Clay-hill House, Walthamstow, on March 27, 1881.—*Publishers' Circular*.

NOVEL USE OF THE TELEPHONE.

L'Electricité states that M. Dohrn has introduced the telephone in connection with his scientific explorations of the bed of the Bay of Naples. By its use the diver and the boatmen overhead are able to communicate with each other quickly and intelligibly, a hint which might be taken advantage of by British divers.

SPRING-FED POOLS.—I was walking with a friend a few years since in some meadows to the north of London, when seeing some small permanent pools of water (fed from springs, most likely), the question was asked as to whether fish would be found therein? Not long after we took a small meshed bait-net, and, to our great surprise, out came several small carp, bright in the scale, and in good condition. This was repeated at another pool, with the same result. My friend returned most of the fish to the water, but took home a couple or so and placed them in an improvised aquarium. We tried some water where we had often seen water efts (male) and newts (female). No carp were here, although several of the former creatures were brought to bank. Now, are these little carp indigenous (so to speak) to these spring-pools, or were they dropped there by herons or other water-birds? No such fish are to be found in the New River, but it is just possible that the "ancestors" of these carp might have been placed in the pools in Queen Elizabeth's time, when a great portion of the north of London was covered more or less with woods, and where the great "Virgin Queen" hawked and hunted.

THE HERO OF THE "GREAT JACK" OF NEWBURY.—Mr. Thomas Newton, a cheery angler, and otherwise very popular with all classes in Newbury, has unfortunately had a paralytic stroke. Mr. Newton caught the big pike that weighed close upon 26 lb., baiting with a live roach of 2 lb. weight. This bait, singular to note, was uninjured—the rush of sharky driving the roach up the gut or gimp. An attendant got into the water to help out the big fish. The capture was made in Sandleford Priory Lake, belonging to Mr. W. Chatteris, and an extra-parochial district in the borough of Newbury.—SPOTS.

A FISH "STICK."—People in the West of England seldom sit down to breakfast or tea without a bit of fish. They procure a holly "fork," or limb with the forks left upon it, on which they hang small dabs, or joey whiting, or other cheap fish, over which they throw some salt, and cook a fish as it is wanted. If any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE should go to the west—say to Dartmouth or Slapton Sands, let them try the clotted cream, and if possible the Dittisham plum-jam. Neither will be soon forgotten.—F. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

SIR,—When I read "Blue Dun's" first communication on this matter, I felt a great inclination to reply to him, yet I thought it would be unprofitable, and a waste of time explaining one's knowledge and experience to one who seems to be fast wedded to Pennell's theory of "three flies" for all practical purposes.

I and others who have for thirty or forty years toiled with the rod, and studied the natural history of the many flies trout are partial to, whether land or water bred, their particular seasons, their colour, shape and make up, and the times they are in greatest request—whether morning, noon, or evening—don't care a fig for Pennell's or "Blue Dun's" theoretical stuff. If we chose to select three or even four flies of general merit to fish with exclusively through the season, we could easily do so; but would they satisfy us? I rather think not. We will suppose I have been fishing almost every day since the opening of the season, and it is now say May, and I suddenly resolve to adopt Pennell's theory of three flies, and select them accordingly; the trout are not stirring, but I cast away, of course. Presently a warm drizzling rain sets in, and I know, from study and practical observation, that it is about the time for a certain little fly to be on, or must make its appearance at any hour, and I keep a sharp look out. The fish are beginning to "tumble up," but not at my three "chosen ones," and I stop and scan the water carefully, for the fly I am looking for is a minute little object, with pale blue upright wings and dumpy pea-green body. Yet there he is to a certainty—the little green cowler fly. My heart gives a thump, for I know what is in store for me. "Lucky!" I have the fly dressed (if I had not I could have planted myself in a sheltered corner and dressed it in a few minutes, and this accomplishment has often rewarded me with a creel full of fish, which the "theory flies" would not have brought me), on a No. 00 hook, pale pea-green silk, and smallest feather from the sea swallow's wing dressed hacklewise, and I never think it a "great trouble" to change a fly, especially when it's an uncertainty for a certainty; for look you, sir, trouty is now dancing and "coming home" fast and furious. This is one instance out of many which occur through the season, and to my thinking the only effect which "Blue Dun's" argument can have will be a pernicious one for all young aspirants to the art, for, if persevered in, it can only end in disappointment and disgust. The system of the "three-fly theory" is only adapted to the cockney sportsman, who can't be "troubled" with changing his fly to something, he is too lazy to learn what. Gutting a trout to find out what he's had for breakfast, would be too "dirty a job" for him; whereas, were I to meet with a man engaged in such an operation, I should pal in with him at once, as a man after my own heart. See him poising on the point of his penknife the "greatly disfigured" atom from amongst the "dirty job" lot in the trout's stomach. Disfigured it may be, and crushed and minus legs and wings; but he knows what it means, his mind is made up, and if he has not its representative ready made, he's got the materials at hand, and the "colour won't die out" before it has earned its just reward. Of course, that man don't angle in kid gloves—such people are better at home with their mother and sisters, if only to save them from catching cold.

In conclusion, I would advise "Blue Dun" to carry out his theory to the end of the season, and keep the result a profound secret, otherwise I think he will find if he sums up that he might with propriety transpose his *nom de plume*, and write himself "Dun Blue."—I am, &c.,

J. F. HORSLEY.

Southport, March 15.

SIR,—"Blue Dun," in his reply to my former letter on the above subject, characterises my argument as "a courteous one," and I am very glad to think that he feels that my remarks were made in no unfriendly spirit, but that I wrote what I did simply from a wish to represent that vast body of anglers who believe in the other side of the question, who follow nature as their pattern, and who are guided entirely by the seasons, and the flies that are upon the stream. There was once a time, many years ago, when I held the same opinions as he does, but I was not long in discovering my error, and every season that now passes serves to convince me more and more that the only reliable way of taking fish with the artificial fly is to match the flies that you are using with the living ones upon the water, and not only that, but your imitations must be as perfect in size and colour as it is possible to make them.

It is an old saying, but none the less true, that "if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well," consequently I argue that, if it is necessary to imitate a fly at all, that fly must be a more deadly agent if dressed exact to nature; in fact those two essential points, viz., colour and size, form the very keynote of the art of fly-fishing, for, however neatly dressed a fly may be, unless it be the exact shape and the exact size of the fly upon the water, it will be found next to useless. Ask any noted professional fly-dresser, say Mr. Eaton, of Starkholmes; Mr. Ogden, of Cheltenham, Mr. D. Foster, of Ashbourne, or Mr. Cummins, of Bishop Auckland, whether I am correct in this assertion or not, and I will guarantee that their answers will be "yes" in each case. I name these four because I know them all to be thoroughly practical fishermen, and therefore competent judges. Our worthy Editor's opinion I am already acquainted with, and therefore do not include his name.

"Blue Dun" goes on to say that, although my argument sounds well in theory, I must admit that artificial flies are only imperfect imitations of the real insect. To this I reply that I am not content with theory, but base my remarks on actual practice, and have found, during an experience extending over fifty years, in which I have devoted the whole of my spare time to fishing, mainly with artificial fly and almost exclusively for trout and grayling, that, by adhering closely to nature and using imitations of the very flies that the fish are feeding upon, you kill about three fish to every one that you take fishing haphazard. I do not mean to say for a moment that a man cannot kill fish by following out "Blue Dun's" theory, but I do most emphatically say that the other plan answers the best; so that, although he and his friend killed a good dish on the day that he names, he does not know whether he might not have doubled his take if he had only taken the pains to discover what the small fly was that the fish really were feeding upon.

Now as regards "trouble." I consider that such a word should be unknown to the "born fisherman," and when I tell "Blue Dun" that frequently, during the summer months I rise at 4 o'clock a.m., in order to catch the 5 o'clock train, travel thirty miles, and then walk another seven before I reach my water, wade all day against a strong current, and return home the same night,

he will be able to understand that "trouble" never enters my mind, where a day's fly-fishing is concerned.

With regard to examining the contents of a fish's stomach, it is not nearly so dirty an operation as "Blue Dun" seems to think, but often proves exceedingly interesting; a basin of water, or failing that the hollow in a rock filled from the river, and a small pair of scissors, is all that is needed. You cut your fish open, turn the contents of its stomach into the water, and when thus diluted it is easy to distinguish the various flies, larva, or beetles that have been recently swallowed. I have sometimes taken from a trout's stomach a solid mass of flies larger than a wood pigeon's egg.

Sometimes, as "Blue Dun" remarks, you cannot discern any flies upon the surface of the water. When this is the case, you must use your own judgment, and most likely you will discover that it is some water-bred fly that the fish are taking, such as the water cricket, the sand fly, or the spider fly.

I will just mention another proof which I consider a most conclusive one. We will suppose that you are starting for a day's fly-fishing, say in April or May, then put on your cast a March brown, a blue dun, and a red spinner, you will find that the fish will show the preference to the first-named flies, which are in the habit of frequenting the streams in the daytime, but as the afternoon wanes and evening advances you will see the browns and duns gradually disappear, and in their stead comes the beautiful transformation of the blue dun and the red spinner. Now you will find that the flies that have yielded you good sport in the daytime are almost wholly neglected, and the imitation of the new comer will be prime favourite. Now I would ask "Blue Dun" why this should be, if the fish cannot distinguish the difference. Let him just try this simple experiment during the coming season, and I think that he will find my words correct, not only as regards this fly, but also with the yellow dun, and its imago, the brown spinner, the iron-blue dun, and its imago, the Jenny spinner. In a case of this kind I immediately take off the other flies, mount three different shades of the respective spinners (in order to hit the right colour), and usually great has been my reward.

And lastly, as the Editor so truly remarks in his footnote to my former letter, what would become of those pleasant chats around the cosy fire, when drawn together by that mystic bond of union so characteristic of true anglers, you compare notes with your neighbour, and pulling out your fly books you show each other the different patterns of flies, all of which have some tale of their own to tell? A man once remarked to me on one of these occasions, "I should think that you would not take a sovereign for that book." "I would not take ten," I replied—not so much for its intrinsic value, but on account of the memories treasured up in it.

In conclusion, I can only say that "Blue Dun" has as much right to possess a theory of his own as I have—and he may be, for anything that I know to the contrary, both an older and a more experienced angler than myself—still, I must acknowledge that I hold totally opposite views to his, that they are based on experience derived from facts only and that "facts are stubborn things.—I am, &c.,

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

"THE FISHERMAN'S MAGAZINE."

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, "Blue Dun," I beg to inform him that a magazine called "The Fisherman's Magazine and Review" was published monthly in 1864-5, at 1s. 6d. each, by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, London, and was edited by Cholmondeley Pennell; but was discontinued after reaching the second volume. It is to be regretted, as it contained a deal of valuable information for the angler, as well as pleasant day chit-chat; besides, the plates were executed in gold and silver. The first twelve numbers I shall be happy to show any angling friend calling at the Free Library.—I am, &c.,

CHARLES LINGS.

Leicester, March 28.

TROUT-FISHING NEAR GODALMING.

SIR,—I should be much obliged for information whether there is any good trout fishing near Godalming or Guildford, and if the water is free or available by subscription for the day. If not there, where could I go for a day's fishing on Easter Monday within forty miles of London that would not be greatly crowded?—I am, &c.,

T. A. W.

[We should advise Winchester; but Easter Monday is a bad day for getting quiet fishing anywhere.—ED.]

THE THAMES MUST BE FREE!

SIR,—Last summer an angler, while fishing from a punt in the upper Thames, near the residence of a well-known baronet, was interfered with, if not rudely insulted, by stones being thrown into the water close to where he was peacefully trying his lures. I forget whether these stones were actually thrown by a lady who is now in Africa, but at all events, a sort of complaint was written to the *Field* that anglers would fish in the said part of the river; but the editor of the journal in question most unhesitatingly declared that the angler had a perfect right to fish at the spot indicated, or anywhere else in the Thames. Bravo, Mr. Francis! Stick to your text!

Another person—or, at least, another landowner—has, it seems, set up an exclusive right of fishing in a certain part of the river. It was therefore high time that these pretentious claims should be settled once and for all; and it was with this object that Mr. Francis Francis, Mr. Brougham, and others sought an interview with the Finance Committee of the Corporation at the Guildhall. I believe few anglers need be uneasy as to the ultimate issue of the steps being taken to search the ancient charters of the City of London.

The River Thames forms the great heritage of all anglers. The village lad, who hardly dares even to look over the parish bridge at the spotted "fly-catchers" at home, will most likely, in time, add another unit to the Great City. He will then fear no magnate, nor magistrate either, so long as he does his duty well and truly. But he will most likely take to angling—in the Thames especially. That the "Thames must be Free" there is no manner of question. These are days of liberal concessions to the noble army of anglers—not of attempted repression. It would, indeed, be a pretty business if every landowner on either side of the Thames set up an assertion of "private rights" of fishing where his land was bounded by our river, to the detriment of everybody else. No. Such a claim will never be set up by His Grace the Duke of Westminster for his beautiful Cliveden property; nor by the young Squire Grenfell for his Taplow estate; nor by the head of the ancient Roman Catholic family of Scott-Murray, at Marlow; nor by the equally historic family of the Catholic Blounts, of Mapledurham; nor by the wealthy Crawshays, of Caversham Park; nor by Mr. Palmer, of Holme Park, Sonning—among many other

higher and lower resident landowners on either side of our beloved Thames, from its very source to the tideway at Teddington.

The Corporation of the City of London is all-powerful in protecting the people's ancient rights. The Corporation wrested that splendid heritage—Epping Forest—from the rapacity of the Essex "land grabbers," and gave back to the people what really was their own, for ever! The Corporation of the City of London in its municipal capacity will in like manner protect and defend the rights of the people, especially of all its many thousands of anglers in fishing everywhere and anywhere in the Thames, for ever, without asking any man's leave. And no matter what these alleged "private rights" may be, they cannot and must not, by any figment of a bold or reckless conveyancing attorney, be allowed to over-ride the ancient public rights. As the mist of the valley disappears before the morning sun, so, I make bold to predict, will these "private rights" the dissipated once and for all.—I am, &c.,

AN OLD ANGLER.

WHO MAKES SILVER CUPS FOR CLUB PRIZES?

SIR,—Could you oblige me by letting me know where I could get a silver cup to give as a prize to our No. 5 Angling Lodge Society?—I am, &c.,

Neptune Hotel, Blackburn.

JOHN HARGREAVES.

[Perhaps some club secretary will kindly answer this.—ED]

FISHING AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

SIR,—Can any reader of the *FISHING GAZETTE* kindly inform me whether there is any fishing to be had at or near the above town; not particular as to sort, but should prefer pike.—I am, &c.,

THAMES SPINNERAL.

FISHING AT LANCASTER.

SIR,—Can any of your readers kindly give me any particulars of fishing in the rivers in the vicinity of Lancaster?—I am, &c.,

VORTEX.

FLY-FISHING FOR ROACH.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in giving your correspondent, "Caxton," a few hints in natural fly-fishing for roach. The common house-fly is best, or yellow cowdung fly, if the house-fly cannot be got. The best time is June and July, in which months roach swarm in mid-water. A small shot on the line is best, so that the fly sinks an inch or two below the surface under trees or bushes, in about three or four feet of water. I have taken roach with the house-fly on the bottom when they would not take any other bait. The roach has a very quiet way of taking a fly; he does not dash at it like a dace, and he has not the caution of the chub. I have taken rudd with the same bait in still water, and in rivers on the surface and on the bottom.—I am, &c.,

CAS.

FOSTER FUND.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscriptions towards the above fund:—Penge, 10s.; Hampstead, 16s. 3d.; United Brothers, 7s.; Hammersmith United, 17s.; Mrs. S. Williams (fishing tackle manufacture), 10s.; Thos. Spreckley, Esq., 5s.; Stepney, 6s.; Cobden, 3s. 6d.; the Duke of Norfolk A.S. 10s. 6d. Secretaries are respectfully requested to send in their lists at once to Mr. Ghurney or myself.—T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—There are many more anglers of the same opinion as "Shut Out," who think the Mundella Act an annoying farce; but if anything is said against the Act you are to think the angling clubs were the cause of it. I am a Thames angler, and belong to an angling club held in a well-known town ten miles from London, on the banks of the Thames. That club had a match on March 13th. The fish that were weighed-in consisted of barbel, bream, dace, jack, perch, and chub. All these fish were as full of spawn as they could hold. There happened to be a large meeting that night, and all the members present were of the opinion that we ought to have back the old fence months—from 1st March to 1st June for all freshwater fish except trout and jack fish; for trout from 1st April to 1st September, and commence jack-fishing 1st September, and fish for them right through the winter to the 1st March. I consider the Mundella Act a complete robbery to our rivers, because anglers are allowed to take the fish about a fortnight before spawning time, and deprived of angling when no harm could be done. It wants a combination of anglers to submit their views to the Home Secretary, for him to bring the matter before Her Majesty in Council, to have it altered. Let us hope something will be done before another season.—I am yours, &c.,

H. E. G.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next Central return visit will take place on Tuesday, April 5, at the Anchor and Hope, William the Fourth, Canal Bridge, Old Kent Road.—A. SHAKEL, sec.
March 28.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our return visit (Eastern District) took place on Tuesday evening, 22nd ult., our large room being well filled with company, Mr. Fowler, of the Sir Hugh Myddleton, in the chair, faced by Mr. Barr, of the Little Independent, Mr. Dudmarsh pianist. We had some excellent harmony by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Fowler, Barr, Parkins, Langdon, Bonvoisin (recitation), Latch, Wells, Muddiman, Jennings, Head, Small, Plumstead, jun., Shearman, Scarrott, Hyde, Dear, Boyle, G. Oram, and Sparrow. At the roll-call the following clubs were represented:—Amicable Brothers, Alliance, Amicable Waltonians, Hoxton Brothers, Reform, Convivial, North-Eastern, Alexandra, West Central, Norton Folgate, Hearts of Oak, Eustonian, Little Independent, Sir Hugh Myddleton, and City of London. Also the following clubs not on the Eastern District list:—Anchor and Hope, Bostonian, Bridgewater Brothers, Cadogan, Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Duke of Norfolk, Knights of Knightsbridge,

North-Western, and Westbourne Park Piscatorial's—twenty-four in all; also Messrs. Ghurney, Bonvoisin, and Stebbings, representing the three associations. After the roll Mr. Ghurney made an earnest appeal to the anglers present on behalf of the widow and family of the late George Foster, recalling to the memory of some of our old members the doings of bygone years, when they, in conjunction with Foster, met in our present club-room to form the City of London Society. He spoke of the many good qualities of the man, and the share he took in the work of obtaining the privileges which all club anglers now enjoy. He urged them to contribute their mite for the widow as a small recompense for his past services. Mr. G. Oram, bailiff of the Lea, was present, followed by his four-footed assistant. He gave us some interesting facts relating to netting. Let us hope his efforts to prevent it will be successful. We thank our brother anglers who attended, and will return their visits at the first opportunity. The next will go to the Sir Hugh Myddleton.—CAS.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

A meeting was held on Friday evening last, at the City of London Larder, 19, Throgmorton Street, Bank, E.C., in order to form an angling society, which it was resolved should be called "The Gresham," and which was designed to meet the wants of City and professional gentlemen. The room was crowded, and the greatest interest evinced in the proceedings, several eminent piscatorial authorities being present. Mr. T. Crumplen was voted to the chair, and was supported by Messrs. George Austin, J. Aveling, G. Bennett, C. T. Beattley, T. Cooper, S. C. Harding, W. J. Haye, J. Thompson, &c. Mr. G. Austin having read the minutes of two previous meetings, the chairman remarked that these gave a good indication of the purpose and objects of the society. They might briefly be stated to be for congenial social intercourse, the dissemination of useful knowledge, the promotion of a higher standard of angling than commonly prevails, the society encouraging the taking of large fish, rather than the competitions for gross weights, the latter being an sportsmanlike system, detrimental to the true interests of the honest angler. They also contemplated renting water and offering numerous facilities only to be obtained by mutual combination. At the close of the proceedings, Mr. Alfred Jardine, who had previously offered several welcome suggestions, and wished success to "The Gresham," proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, remarking that he was clearly the right man in the right place, and that if the society's business were always conducted as it had been begun, it would soon rank as one of the first in London. A large number of gentlemen handed in their cards and joined the society, Mr. Jardine and other well-known anglers being among them.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Our district visit will take place at the club house, Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, on Thursday, 7th of April, when we hope to have a good muster, as every angler is cordially invited, whether in the district or not. We trust the landlords of the various club houses will take the hint given by Mr. Bonvoisin, in the FISHING GAZETTE, last week. The Builders' Arms is within two minutes' walk of the three Hammersmith Stations, from whence trains run every few minutes to Richmond, Westbourne Park, Battersea, Clapham Junction, Mansion House, Moorgate Street, Victoria, Waterloo, &c.

—VORTEX.
March 28.

SILVER TROUT ANGLING CLUB.

This society ranks amongst the oldest angling clubs in London, and time has added strength to its operations. The number of members are on the increase, and the funds are in a most satisfactory condition. In its establishment the late Mr. F. T. Williams was one of its chief originators, and the fishing-tackle establishment carried on by his widow bears the designation of "The Silver Trout." It is no wonder, then, that its annual dinner is always looked forward to with no ordinary interest. This event took place on Tuesday evening last, in the club-room, Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, and very pretty it appeared on that occasion. The walls were well covered with a splendid collection of stuffed specimens of fish, and the tables were tastefully laid out with some choice floral embellishments and other ornaments. The presidential chair was worthily occupied by Mr. Edward Hawkins, one of its oldest members, and who looked exceedingly happy on the festive occasion. He was supported on his right by Mr. W. H. Brougham, and on the left by Mr. J. P. Wheelton. In other parts of the room were Messrs. J. H. Stead, W. Randall, A. Allison, W. Griffiths, J. Butler, Pike, Upton, Grace, Collins, &c. When all were comfortably seated, the worthy host, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, entered the room carrying a magnificent salmon of 25 lb. weight, followed by a splendid cod-fish, both of which he served up to the guests in first-rate style, then came some prime roast beef and a beautiful boiled leg of mutton. These were succeeded by a nicely-flavoured boiled ham and some capital veal, rich plum-puddings, all on fire, and other sweets, with a choice Gorgonzola cheese, made up a superb dinner, the service of which, under the direction of Mr. Hatfield, was perfection, and the cooking by Mrs. Hatfield was deserving of the highest commendation. There could be few diners more thoroughly enjoyed and more highly appreciated. The catering of Mr. F. C. Hatfield has become thoroughly established. After grace had been said, the chairman gave usual loyal toast, and then called upon the company to drink "Success to the Silver Trout Angling Club," which, he said, was in every way prosperous. This was succeeded by a report from the indefatigable secretary, Mr. W. Griffith, which stated that the first prize for gross weights had been won by Mr. Grace, and the second prize by himself. Mr. Holman took a prize for the heaviest pike, Mr. Davis for bream, and Mr. Edwards for chub. The prizes given by Messrs. Hawkins, Davis, Roebuck, Lake, Holman, Dumenil, and Windeye, had been won by Messrs. Grace, Edwards, Davis, Dumenil, Griffiths, Holman, and Lake. Mr. J. H. Stead, who as a singer, is "the perfect cure," and as an angler is one of the best, gave "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," and spoke on its merits, making special allusion to the recent addition of one ton of fish to the river, concluding by coupling the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, whom all anglers held in the highest esteem. Mr. W. H. Brougham, after speaking on Thames preservation, the necessity of maintaining a stock in the river, and the proposed revision of the bye-laws, recognised the assistance he had always received from the Silver Trout Angling Club, and especially at the time when he first took up the movement of preventing the slaughter of unsizable fish. He believed that club was the first to adopt the Thames rules, and he should always prize and value the society for that assistance. They could not be in better quarters than where they were, but that they all knew, for his friend, Mr. Hatfield, was a thorough angler, and one of the best of men. Other toasts followed, but there was no special toast-list, and when that one came of the "Host and Hostess," it was a scene of

the greatest excitement, each being anxious personally to evidence their sincere regard for Mr. Hatfield. The demonstration was perfect and complete, and the respected host most feelingly replied. There was some splendid harmony, in which both Mr. J. H. Stead and Mr. W. Randall took great prominence, and were rapturously applauded, the other vocalists coming in for a due share of honours. It was a most enjoyable evening. There was no hitch of any kind, and on leaving Mrs. F. T. Williams and Mrs. Hatfield's sister assisted the guests in putting on their overcoats, which were greatly needed on a bitter cold night; and with such union of effort on the part of all at the hostelry, the whole proceedings were highly satisfactory.—B.

The small sturgeon which was caught in angling with a worm at Charlton, near Woolwich, in June last, by Mr. Thomas Howlett, a member of the Woolwich Piscatorials, has been preserved, and is now on view at Mr. Hatfield's, Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross. It measured only 9 inches from the eye to the end of the tail.

THE STANLEY ANGLERS.

I have much pleasure in sending you a very good report from the Stanley Anglers on the finish-up of their fishing and financial season. The last week in the season we had some capital shows of fish—amongst them two shows of very fine roach by Mr. J. Duncan, and weighing respectively 20 lb. 2½ oz. and 25 lb. 9½ oz.; and amongst them 13 roach, averaging 1 lb. each; also a show of the above fish by Mr. C. Scull, weighing 32 lb. 2 oz., which were very nice fish, though not up to the average weight of Mr. Duncan's fish. I may mention that Mr. Scull is one of our very best roach fishermen. We also had very nice shows from Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. T. W. Harris, and Mr. R. Humby. The total weight of fish shown in by the members of the society for the past season amounts to 1031 lb. 9½ oz., out of which our worthy president, Mr. C. R. Wheatstone, shows in 334 lb. 11 oz.—but, still, he has fallen very much below his regular season's average, as have also several members, and likewise the collective gross weight. I suppose it is a general complaint with most societies, and can easily be accounted for when we look back to the unfavourable fishing weather we have had. I am very pleased, however, to inform you that our financial year has been a success, as we have got a good balance in hand. Our annual ball took place in the middle of this month, and was—as usual—a great success. As before, it was a private ball, and was conducted on the principle of friendship—in fact, it was more like a family party than anything else. Over 100 sat down to supper, and everything passed off satisfactorily. Mr. Jarvis, our president, was a very successful caterer—Mr. Johnson, as usual, showing his superior abilities as M.C., and Mr. F. Roberts supplying us with a first-class band. Great credit is due to the stewards, viz., Messrs. C. R. Wheatstone, T. Godsell, J. Duncan, J. E. Lawford, Gow, Paramor, U. F. Pistrucci, Rix, Thompson, and Lieut.-Col. Crauford, for the manner in which they vied with each other to procure the greatest amount of pleasure for their clients. I must admit that their labours were not arduous, as every one appeared to have made up their mind to thoroughly enjoy themselves—and in which, I am happy to say, they were successful. Apologising for the length of this report, I am, &c.,—C. LAIDLAW, hon. sec.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

At the general meeting of the members of the above society, held at the St. Paul's, Westminster Road, Walworth, the Rules Revising Committee submitted their revised copy for the approval of the members, who received it with great satisfaction. Among the alterations is that the meeting nights be every second, fourth and fifth Wednesday in the month, and not Thursday, as hitherto. It being the wish of the society to make a collection of the different species of fish, members catching fish of or above the following weight can have them preserved by the society:—Salmon, 10 lb.; Thames trout, 6 lb.; trout, 2 lb.; grayling, 1 lb. 8 oz.; pike, 15 lb.; perch, 2 lb. 8 oz.; barbel, 7 lb.; carp, 5 lb.; crucian carp, 3 lb.; tench, 4 lb.; chub, 4 lb.; roach, 2 lb.; dace, 12 oz.; bream, 5 lb.; rudd, 2 lb. The time allowed for taking fish in this society is according to and agreeable with the Acts of Parliament for the regulation of the same. The minimum weight of each fish permitted by the society is as follows:—Thames trout, 2 lb.; other trout, 8 oz.; Thames grayling, 1 lb.; other grayling, 8 oz.; pike, 2 lb.; perch, 3 oz.; roach, 3 oz.; chub, 12 oz.; barbel, 12 oz.; bream, 12 oz.; tench, 12 oz.; dace, 2 oz.; gudgeon, 1½ oz. The following gentlemen were elected as officers for the season of 1881—82:—Dr. Carpenter, as president; Dr. Maples, as vice-president; Mr. Medway, as chairman; and Mr. Weekly, as vice-chairman. Committee of management, Messrs. Boalch, Duck, Linstead, Murray, Beckett and Pugh. Auditors, Messrs. Boalch and Haywood. Treasurer, Mr. C. Bansbach. The annual dinner will take place on April 27th. Tickets 5s. each, which can be obtained of the stewards, Messrs. Beckett, Boalch, Duck, Linstead and Haywood.—PIXIE.

March 30.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—Members of the above society are requested to attend at their club house on Wednesday next, April the 6th, at 9 o'clock sharp, it being quarterly night, when the distribution of prizes will take place.—R. GAZE, sec.

March 29th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

At the general meeting of the members of the above, held on March 25, it was agreed that all prizes won during the past season should be assessed at 5 per cent., and that the annual dinner takes place on May 11. Mr. Evans, assisted by Mr. S. J. Weatherhead, will preside. Stewards for this occasion are Messrs. Bayley, Piolaine, Fox, Grigg and Sutcliffe, of whom tickets can be obtained. In consequence of the amount of time it would take to distribute the prizes on this occasion, it was unanimously agreed that the distribution be postponed until May 20.—PIXIE.

March 30.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

NOTICE.

In consequence of the 15th being Good Friday, a special meeting will be held on Friday, April 8th. A circular will be sent to every society enrolled,

secretaries are requested to inform me if they do not receive one. P. Geen, Esq., hon. president, will preside. Election of officers for the coming twelve months and other important business will be brought forward. Delegates are earnestly requested to attend. A new list, containing the names and address of over 120 angling societies in London, will be presented to each society represented.—T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

March 29.

AN EXTRAORDINARY WHITING.—Brixham, South Devon, is perhaps the most important fishing town upon the English coast. A number of whiting were brought in here on Saturday, March 5, and amongst them was one very large and heavy fish. This whiting measured 2 feet 6 inches long, and weighed 6 lb. 2 oz. The Brixham trawlers go to the North Sea, and down to Cornwall at certain times of the year. Of late the fishing interest has been much depressed, with the exception of one week about a month ago, when quantities of best and other fish were landed, and disposed of in Brixham market, the best to go away to large cities, the inferior being sold to local hawkers. No wonder best fish is so dear, when orders from distant places cannot be executed. It was at Brixham where William of Orange landed; and hard-by lived the late Rev. Mr. Lyte, who wrote "Abide With Me," and other beautiful hymns.—RUSTICUS.

Mr. Arthur Norman, of the Bow Brewery, killed a fine pike when at Fritton Lake, near Yarmouth, recently. It was 40 inches long, weighed over 13 lb., and altogether a very handsome fish. Mr. Norman fished with Thames dace, which are no doubt by far the best bait. This splendid water is only just opened for fishing, after being closed for six months during the decoy season. It is nearly three miles long and very deep. The proprietors are Sir Saville Crossley, Bart., and Lieut.-Colonel Leathes, of Herringfleet Hall. Under Mundella's Bill, we should not be allowed to fish until the month of June, but being in Suffolk, we can fish as we please, and they cannot stop us in any way.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaits, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

THE VALUE OF FOGS.

THE author of "Life in Normandy: Sketches of French Fishing, Farming, Cooking, and Politics, drawn from Nature"—2 vols. p. 800. Edinburgh, 1863—a rare book now unfortunately, shows how a fog may be a great boon to anglers. He was fishing one day in the river Colne with the May-fly when a thick fog came on after a bright morning, with the fish rising well. With the fog fled the fish and flies. He was about to give up in despair, when he saw an old fellow, whom he knew to be a desperate poacher, watching him. He gave him a drink, when the old fellow said, "I can give you a wrinkle that would make you stay by the river." A half-crown was promised. "The fish are feeding just as fast as ever below, and they don't require to rise to the surface. The May-fly be a-coming out of their cases just now as before. When the sun is bright them creturs is up and away in a jiffy; but when the day is dark, one as does come out of his case either crawls up the reeds at the side, or if they do rise in the stream they gets on but slowly, and the fish nabs them afore they reach the surface, as I will soon show you." He thereupon proceeded to collect several flies, which were clustered round the stalks close to the edge of the water. He then arraged the line in this manner: First he took off the flies, and put on in their place two small bait hooks, the one about a foot above the other. Then he took two large split shot out of his own pocket and fastened them on the casting line, three feet above the upper hook. The hooks were baited by running them through the tails of a couple of the May flies, and all was ready. He proceeded to the head of a weir where the stream was very deep, but there was a rush of water through two or three places where the sluice-boards were drawn. He cast the line across one of these small rapids, let it sink for a minute, and then drew it gently towards him through the rush. No sooner had the line reached the rush than there was a fine fish hooked. The author adds that he caught more fish by that method on that day than he ever caught before or since in the same river.—Globe.

ERRATUM.—The writer of the article, "Weight, &c. of Freshwater Fish," in last week's GAZETTE, writes to say that the memory of a good day's sport is always living treasured upon the tablets of the memory—obviously not the "table."

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedeal spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedeal fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1881.

FLAM, ON THE DOVE.

By FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

TO the tourist angler, who wishes to enjoy the beauties of nature, and perhaps indulge in a little sketching or botanising in addition to his favourite sport, few places yield greater

scope for the fulfilment of his desires than Dovedale, that pleasant valley along the bottom of which meanders that crystal stream from which it takes its name, and which every true angler holds sacred to the name of dear old Izaak Walton.

It was approaching the end of September in last year, and I began to think that it was about time for me to spend a few days among the grayling, but could not quite make up my mind where the appointed place should be. I had been on a similar expedition in the previous year to the Derbyshire Wye and Derwent, and had then heard a great deal about the beauties of Dovedale, so after a little further consideration, I decided to go there, and forthwith wrote to Mr. Prince, landlord of the Izaak Walton hotel at Flam, to know whether the river was in proper order. His reply being favourable, I started off on the following Saturday, and after a somewhat tedious journey found myself and belongings on the platform of Ashbourne station on the North Staffordshire line, at 8.30 p.m.

The night was bitterly cold, and as I was aware that a five-mile drive awaited me, from Ashbourne to Flam, my feelings, for the previous half hour, had been the reverse of cheerful; however, my fears were unfounded, for Mr. Prince had thoughtfully sent a neat little closed 'bus to meet me at the station. In this I was soon ensconced, and was being driven to my destination as rapidly as a couple of post horses could take me. The distance was soon accomplished, and the hospitable doors of the Isaac Walton opened to receive me. A comfortable meat supper was in readiness, which soon dispelled the weariness consequent upon my long journey, after which I spent half an hour in the consumption of a drop of the "cratur" and a pipe of reflection, and then to roost.

I was up betimes next morning, eager to see the prospect from my bedroom window, and indeed I was not disappointed, for it was a beautiful one. The hotel is a long, low built building, forming two sides of a square, and is situated at the summit of a lofty hill; from one side of the house you obtain a splendid view of the entrance of Dovedale; two lofty mountains, named respectively Bunster and Thorp Cloud rise abruptly on either side, and I could just catch a glimpse of the winding river flowing between them, and glancing in the rays of the bright morning's sun like a thread of silver. The appearance of the whole scene from this side of the house is wild and rugged in the extreme, but on going round to the other side quite a different aspect meets your eyes. The road from the hotel slopes down to green fields and pastures, through which the more impetuous tributary stream, the Manifold, runs murmuring, joining the main stream about 200 yards from the road. In the extreme distance are waving woods and green hedgerows, while on the right hand you catch a glimpse of the lofty gables and chimneys of Flam Hall, rising above the trees, and nestling at the foot of the hill are the few neat cottages that constitute the village of Flam.

The day being Sunday, of course there was no fishing to be done, so I took a long ramble down stream and prospected the river. For some distance below the confluence of the Manifold and the Dove, and also along a portion of the former, the whole of the fishing is strictly preserved by the Okeover Angling Club, which is a very exclusive one, consisting of a limited number of members. Much I envied those fortunate individuals as I wandered along the banks, for the stream looked perfection from an angler's point of view, and here and there a little dimple in the water marked the spot where some newly-hatched fly was sucked down by the watchful fish. I met the river watcher some distance down the river, and after a long chat with him, *de omnibus rebus*, I returned to the hotel.

Monday morning came at last. Not one of those soft, hazy September days, most welcome to the ardent grayling fisher, but

a cold, uncompromising sort of day, with a dull leaden sky, and a sharp north-east wind, which foreboded anything but good sport. However, about 9 o'clock I sallied forth, descended the hill, crossed a field or two, and was soon on the spot where the Manifold joins the Dove, this being also the place where Mr. Prince's right of fishing commences. The river here is somewhat contracted, and thickly fringed on the banks with willow trees and hazel bushes. My rod was soon together, and wading in under the near side, I started to whip up stream, with no apparent results, however, until I came to a place where a strong stream ran under the near bank, whilst the river widened out at the far side and formed a drinking pool for cattle. Here I saw a good grayling follow my top fly, which was one called locally the "October dun." Twice he came in that gliding way peculiar to this fish, but at his second attempt I pricked him, and, consequently, saw him no more.

After this I fished on for some distance, over some grand looking water, until I came level with the hotel; but beyond basketing a brace of trout, and rising a few more, nothing else did I see. I now approached the entrance of Dovedale proper, and here the angler will find some grand haunts for grayling; quiet eddying streams from two to four feet in depth, and flowing over a combination of loam and sand. I felt certain, as soon as ever I saw the stream, that there must be grayling here, but as I obtained no rises in it, I felt equally certain that unless they changed their mood I was not going to kill many grayling that day; and as the time wore on my expectations were fully verified. A high iron gate guards the entrance to the valley on the hotel side of the river, and just below it is a fall, with a nice pool below. In it I saw a good fish rise, but he laid in dangerous proximity to some submerged thorns; however, I determined to risk it, so after a preliminary cast, just to measure the distance, I let my end fly drop about a foot above him. He came with a regular dash at it and hooked himself; as soon as ever he felt the hook, as I anticipated, he at once made for his fastness under the thorn bush, but I was a trifle too sharp for him; and before he was aware of the fact, had run him down below it. Three or four minutes' sharp play, and he was in my landing net—a beautiful golden trout just under $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. I next fished along a deep piece of water just above the fall and gate alluded to before, and which I was subsequently informed is one of the best bits of grayling water in the river; but on this occasion they were clearly not in the humour, so that beyond a trout or two I got nothing out of it. From this point the surrounding scenery is extremely fine; lofty mountains rise up on either side of the valley, between which the river flows peacefully along, broken here and there by miniature falls, with grand pools below them; then you suddenly come upon a clump of trees forming a small wood, with scattered rocks and boulders interspersed. The bed of the river here is more rocky than it is below, and therefore forms a succession of fine rattling streams, which are perfection for the trout fisher. In order to fish this part of the river properly, the angler will have to wade pretty deeply under the overhanging branches of the trees that line the near bank, casting up stream with a short line. The trout season being almost over, I did not do much myself, but I felt none the less sure of the fish being there. I wandered along, casting here and there, until I fished about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the river; I then began to retrace my steps and had just got in sight of the hotel when suddenly the heavens opened. I quickened my steps at once, but got almost wet through before I could get indoors, my total for the day being $2\frac{1}{2}$ brace of nice trout, but not a single grayling. On looking out of the window next morning, I saw at a glance that there would be no fishing that day, as the wind was blowing a regular tornado down the valley, accompanied by torrents of rain; so there was nothing else for it but

to put a good face on the matter, and, consequently, spent the day in overhauling my fly hooks. The storm continued until about 4 o'clock p.m., when the weather suddenly brightened up, whereupon I donned my mackintosh, and started off to inspect the river. I found it, as I fully expected, in full flood, and felt very doubtful about the morrow; but on my return, Mr. Prince told me that, providing no more rain fell, he thought that the river would be fishable—at all events upon the shallows; so I retired to rest about 10 o'clock hoping against hope.

I awoke early, and was greatly delighted to find the sun shining brightly, so that half an hour only elapsed before I was again on the banks of the stream. It had run down considerably during the night, and the bottom was plainly visible in places here and there; I mounted larger flies than I had previously employed, and by carefully fishing the edges of the streams I soon began to take fish, but not the ones I was in quest of. To-day, however, I was not surprised at this, as grayling invariably rise badly in either a rising or a falling water. The trout, however, made up for them, and soon had a couple of brace of nice bright fish in my basket. About 200 yards or so, perhaps rather more, above the iron gate is a fall, and just above it a small island encompassed by a lagoon of rushes. Throwing a long line between the bottom end of this island and the top of the fall, saw I a wave in the still water, which I suspected was caused by a fish following my flies; accordingly, I struck at once. Whirr! went my reel as a splendid trout of at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sprang into the air, and before I could determine what was the best course to pursue, away he went over the fall below. I followed him up as quickly as I could, and much to my delight found the line still taut; but, *miserabile dictu*, my top fly had caught on a projecting stone covered with moss, so that the trout, suddenly making another dash, took nearly the whole of my single hair cast and three flies, leaving me to bewail their loss and that of the best fish I had yet seen. I went on hooking and getting trout until I had a nice little dish of $4\frac{1}{2}$ brace, but it was not trout that I had come in search of but grayling; and as they were evidently not inclined to stir, I determined to waste no more of my time, but return to Yorkshire and see whether "Salmo Thymallus" was in a more amiable mood in that county. Accordingly I packed up my belongings, and returned home that same evening.

This was my first visit to the Dove, but I trust not my last, as it certainly is one of the prettiest and most picturesque rivers that I have ever fished. Owing, no doubt, to the clearness of its water and also to the great number of anglers who frequent its banks, the fish are remarkably well educated, and, as we say in Yorkshire, "know a hawk from a hernshaw." It is therefore imperative for the angler to use the finest of casts and the smallest of flies, throwing carefully up stream; but to anyone who can handle a fly-rod at all, I feel certain that a visit to the Dove will prove anything but a disappointment. The scenery alone is well worth a visit, and I was told that in spring it is something lovely; some very rare ferns and wild flowers may then be found by the enthusiastic botanist—in fact, they told me that in some sheltered places lilies of the valley grow wild.

As regards the accommodation, I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the Izaak Walton is conducted, both Mr. and Mrs. Prince doing everything in their power to render you comfortable and "at home." The attendance throughout is first-rate, the cooking most excellent, the whiskey and cigars of the best brands, and the beds perfection as regards comfort and cleanliness. When I have said this much, I think that I have touched upon all the points likely to interest the angler. With respect to what flies to use, of course, they vary with the months; but I found the orange bumble and red Furness hackles answer the best, used conjointly with the October and the whirling blue dun.

The former were dressed for me by Mr. G. J. Eaton, of Stark-holmes, and the latter by Mr. David Foster, of Ashbourne, both of whom are masters of the art of fly dressing, and are also great authorities for the Derbyshire streams.

Mr. Prince will, I feel sure, be only too glad to furnish any further particulars to any one who may apply to him, and I feel certain that any one who pays him a visit during the coming months of April or May will not regret it, but will in after days treasure up the remembrance of it as being one of the pleasantest excursions in their angling experience.

PIKE-FISHING IN NORFOLK:

TO a lover of the rod, pike-fishing in the winter months is the very essence of exhilarating sport, and here, in the capital of the Eastern Counties, we are exceptionally favoured in the pursuit of this, the river pirate, our splendid broad meres and rivers affording sport worthy the consideration of all lovers of the craft. The early part of the present season was an exceptionally favourable one; never do I remember so many pike in our rivers. In autumn the number killed in the river Yare between Thorpe and Brundall must have been very large, some enthusiastic spinners wandering as far as Cantley and Limpenhoe. Takes of a dozen fish a day were nothing uncommon. The practice of trailing a spoon or any bait behind a boat, albeit not very sportsmanlike, is very destructive, and to those who cannot, from constitutional or other causes, brave the cold winter's fishing, it gives them a chance of sport without fear of ill results from exposure to wintry weather. Any autumn day when the water is in fair condition a number of boats may be seen on the river, with the necessary oarsmen in the fore part, and one or two eager fishermen in the stern, trying hard to catch Mr. Jack, every rodster apparently having an idea of his own as to the method of using his bait. Some simply pay out line and let the bait work with the motion of the craft; others give a succession of jerks, some quick, and again slow, communicating to the bait a peculiar and supposed eccentric motion. The number so caught some days is very large—as many as thirty have been taken by one boat—unfortunately, the fish so caught run small, scores being under two pounds weight. Many of these fish are returned to the river, but more we fear are kept; still there seems no lack of the supply. Now and then may be seen a more advanced member of the craft known by his dead natural bait on a flight of hooks, trying over some likely haunt for the second or third time; the objection is that in autumn the weeds are so much up that a natural bait, although very killing, soon gets damaged. The variety of artificial baits has so increased of late years that the finny tribe must really wonder at some of the peculiar strangers flashing through the water. My own experience has been that the old-fashioned spoon is the most killing of all, and if the water is a little cloudy, a bait with red on the concave part is very enticing. I am not a great advocate for trailing or spooning, and I know some of our metropolitan brethren speak out very strongly on the subject, but I must confess a row over several miles of our beautiful rivers on a fine autumn day is not without its recommendations.

“There is a beautiful spirit breathing now
Its mellow richness on the clustered trees,
And, from a beaker full of richest dyes,
Pouring new glory from the autumn woods,
And dipping in warm light the pillared clouds.
Morn on the mountain, like a summer bird,
Lifts up her purple wing; and in the vales
The gentle wind, a sweet and passionate wooer,
Kisses the blushing leaf, and stirs up life
Within the solemn woods of ash deep crimsoned,
And silver beech, and maple yellow leaved,
Where autumn, like a faint old man, sits down
By the wayside weary.”

In our local rivers in September and October the pike and perch take very freely to artificial baits, and this without any preparation or much effort on the angler's part is often a consideration.

The Fish Preservation Bill as applied to the Eastern Counties is already bearing good fruit, and in a year or two the fishing on our rivers must be very excellent indeed. The many broads we have in connection with our streams render their recuperative powers amazing, and now that illegal netting on the rivers is severely punished and the nets confiscated the most desirable results must follow. Had I been told five years ago that I should sit in a boat at Thorpe snap fishing for pike quite near the city, I should have deemed my informant a madman; yet such has been the case, and I have had excellent sport, too, catching some very good fish, whilst some who had more leisure time than myself have been most successful indeed. Next to salmon or trout we must consider pike the noblest quarry for the fresh-water angler. What a game rascal he is when hungry—or angry! The difference I think is very little; many a small jack I have had run away with my bait, and on coming near the side of the boat shake the unfortunate dace like an angry dog a bone, when obliged to part with it or be drawn out of the water.

The North River or River Bure must not be forgotten here; the scenery between Horstead and Horning is something worth a journey to see. Wroxham divides these villages, with a convenient railway station near the river, so that there are few difficulties to surmount to reach this haunt of the angler, two good river-side inns existing with every accommodation for the lovers of the rod. There is a reach called the Gravel Dyke just past Wroxham Broad, with a hard bottom, and fairly deep; here capital jack and perch are to be found. Immediately past this is a grand stretch of water called the “Black Currant Reach,” from some bushes of that fruit growing wild. This is a beautiful spot; at one side trees grow nearly to the edge of the water, with some bends in the river, forming natural basins, called by the aboriginals “pulsks.” These nature's harbours, if I may call them so, are partly covered with lily pads and other aquatic plants, and afford a rare spawning ground for fish. The other side of the river are rushes and tall reeds, flowering on the top, their stems kissed by the tide as it flows sluggishly by. Commend me to this spot when—

“Autumn bleak and sunburnt do appear
With his gold hand gilding the falling leaf.”

This charming reach of water is a perfect El Dorado to the pike fisher; the river is rather narrow, and in places fairly deep; the paternoster lover, skilled in the manipulation of two lively baits, may get plenty of runs; never have I tried this place with the water in any condition without satisfactory results.

“When Autumn scatters his departing gleams,
Warn'd of approaching winter, gather'd, play
The swallow-people; and tossed wide around,
O'er the curtain sky, in convulsion swift
The feather'd eddy floats, rejoicing once,
Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire.”

The various artificial lures are very killing on this the North River, we natives not giving the fish the credit for the education the finny tribe on the Yare have had. In brown October a row on this stretch of river is worthy of a place in the angler's memory; the change from growth to decay has begun, leaves assume a “russet hue,” and the first high wind that whistles through the trees will bring them down in a plentiful shower. The ruin of the year has commenced in earnest!

“But see, the fading many-color'd woods,
Shade deepening over shade, the country round
Imbrown; a crowded umbrage, dusk and dun,
Of every hue, from wan declining green
To sooty black.”

Passing on to the colder months of mid-winter, when the days

are dark and short, here the pike-fisher, the real veteran of the rod comes to the fore; the autumn fisher has had his sport in fine weather; has seen nature in her calmest moods. Let him not begrudge us our pastime.

"Each season has its special charm, each hour its special grace."

Now for a visit to one of our broads. We get the required permission and send a line to the keeper fixing a date to try our fortune on the water he so jealously guards. But we have a more serious matter before us now; we must be prepared to do battle with the elements, and a day on a large sheet of water without the necessary comforts of clothing and ammunition for the inner man is no joke. We don clothes that give one an idea of incipient suffocation, finishing with a pair of boots strong and water-tight. 'Tis a frosty morning, and a drive of a dozen miles in an "eager and a nipping air" tells us what to expect, but what of that? The air may be frosty—it chills not us, enthusiasm in sport affording such additional zest to its indulgence.

Mr. Leggings meets us at our destination. A most mysterious man is this gentleman of the gaiters, and knows every yard of the broad we purpose to fish and the likely haunts of some of these larger rovers in his waters; he fears, in answer to our enquiry as we row a short distance along the river, that the fine ice formed during the night will be troublesome amongst the reeds; however, we find there has been some wind during the night, and the greater part of the sheet is quite clear. To fit up and get to work does not take long; we are provided with a couple of dozen silvery dace and roach; the bait gleams like silver as it is cast into the most likely spots, attached to a pippin float and a snap hook. Ha! A run! The rapidity with which the float disappears argues well—what a charm there is in the electric-like motion with which it spins away! We give Mr. Jack no law, merely winding quickly up all slack line. I have him, and it is a battle royal between us. Cynics may preach what philosophy they please to me about fishing—let them see a handsome ten-pounder rush to his doom, and if I do not make a convert I have lost my faith in all mankind. What mighty struggles he makes for life and liberty! This is sport! Compared to which trailing—but no, that sportsman has had his share of good things; let us enjoy life while we can and fishing while we may. Steady, my friend Leggings, with the net! You are too impetuous for a stolid man of nearly three-score; We have him at last! How he fixes me with his eye as I unfasten the hook off the swivel; Mr. Leggings gives him what he calls a knap on the head with a short stick, and his troubles are at an end. But we must not stop to moralise. The winter's day wears on; a pull at the flask filled with whisky distilled in the land of the thistle, and once more we are fitted up, and with varying success pursue our efforts in search of sport till the welcome idea comes that luncheon would not be amiss. We run our craft into a likely spot in the reeds, and change our snap for a gorge bait; quickly our substantial viands disappear, and friend Leggings buries his face in the mug, after which he visibly relaxes, and sagely remarks that a drop of good ale "is very comforting like." Quick to work again; the day is short, and already the little sun there is begins to sink behind the clouds, and it is barely one o'clock yet. There is a heaviness in the sky denoting snow at no very distant period. We will have a change—and a dace on a neat flight of hooks is cast upon the waters. Now is the time to test the quality of the pike fisher; if he can spin this dead bait well enough to deceive our pirate that roves the waters, we may put him down as being able to take his own part against Mr. Pike; a firm wrist and sharp eyes are required for this purpose. In good waters the perseverance of the spinner will be soon rewarded, the heavy weight and sudden rush showing we are fast, always bearing in mind to keep him well in hand and give no quarter except your fish abso-

lutely takes it; play him cautiously yet firmly, keeping his head below the surface of the water till the gaff or landing net fixes its victim. A word on this: I used a gaff hook for years, and I may say I have lost a number of good fish by the frantic efforts of the different gentlemen in gaiters to secure them. A very large folding net has solved all my difficulties, since the use of which I have hardly lost a fish. The day is waning fast; a coldness in the air and a fleecy fall of light snow warns us to commence our homeward journey. Once more the flask does duty for ourselves, Charon preferring the product of malt and hops. A rich red melancholy by this time pervades his honest features; he grows very confidential, and tells us how the water was let down very much in Mr. So and So's time, but that his present governor spares no pains or expense to have the fishing well looked after. We have another enemy, said he (as I was doing up my rod) that "I never hear you fishing gentlemen talk on, viz., the salt tides. Why," said he, "I have seen bushels of fresh-water mussels turn up by the salt water, and have seen dead fish by thousands as far as Horning Ferry." This is a state of things that I myself fear no Fishery Protection Bill can remedy. What an alteration in the aspect of the sky and water during the last hour! The air is cold and frosty, but everything is still and calm as we watch the receding lake.

"Its silver face,

Veiled by the wintry gloaming: silent voiced,
Cold, calm, and still as soft sweet maiden sleeps
A dreamless slumber in her virgin shroud.

"The alder boughs are fringed with diamond drops,
Rich pendant sparks that in the gloaming glint,
And glow, and glitter with a thousand fires,
Nature unsullied gems, chaste icicles.

"The heavy clouds enwrapped in leaden gloom
Grow thick with gathering snow. The sobbing wind,
In low dull angry murmurs o'er the fens,
Brushes their reedy armies, whilst the boom
Of the lone bittern, hermit of the waste,
Sounds o'er the mash, as sounds the knell of doom.

"The purple-crested mallard, from the sedge,
Whirls whirring upward, with a clarion shrill,
That bodes his quick alarm: The snow-flakes fall,
Fall thick and fast; and fast and faster still
Comes onward black robed night: The landscape pales,
The last faint gleams of sunlight die away
A death-like stillness falls upon the fens,
And all is silent as the reign of Death."

Gradually we near our homeward destination. I have sat musing over the description of the salt tides that I have heard from my companion, and I enquire the cause. It is soon given—"They will open Yarmouth Bar," said he. I ask no more questions, and we soon part. Sundry half-crowns change hands, and mutual expressions of good will are exchanged as well. What effect Yarmouth Bar has on our tidal rivers is as much a mystery to me now as ever.

G. G. W.

PRIVATE PIKE FISHING—THE BAIT QUESTION—AND RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

THE thirty-first of March was a bright cheerful-looking morning above, but it was bitterly cold below. It was an idea of mine to test the character of jack-fishing in some private water thus late in the season, as, in the experience of many anglers, they are not so forward as in rapid streams and flowing rivers. I know that many of my good friends would be shocked in discovering my attempt to catch jack after the fourteenth day of March; but for "scientific purposes" and "practical experience," there is no small degree of palliation in doing such a thing. But, as will be seen, the fates were against me, and I was unable to carry out my intentions. My journey lay in the direction of King's Cross, and on studying my South-Western time table, I found the train from my station was due at Gunnersbury at 7.3,

and there was a train from there to King's Cross at 7.2. I could not help thinking this was a bad arrangement, but when I mentioned the circumstance to the guard and engine-driver they told me they would run me there in time for the Metropolitan, and therefore that difficulty was removed, their promise being duly fulfilled. I succeeded in getting to King's Cross a little before eight o'clock, the train I was going by having to leave at the half hour. I wanted to get some little information from the platform officials, and there was no difficulty about this, as the men employed by the Great Northern, as a rule, are experts at civility—very different to some lines I know, where it is impossible to get a courteous reply. The train I had to travel by starts from the local platform, but I could see nothing of my two friends who had arranged to accompany me, and in my anxiety about them the inspector and the guard feelingly took up my ideas, and were as anxious as myself for them to put in an appearance. The lower bell on the main line sounded "all right," but before giving the signal for the train to start I was kindly asked whether my friends were in sight, and giving a negative reply, away went the iron king. The inspector then informed me there would be another train at 9.5, and as I was ignorant of any other approach to the local platform, I calmly resigned myself to a seat on the main line platform, waiting with intense eagerness to catch a sight of my friends, as I was under the impression they must pass that way, but here again I was sadly disappointed, for I saw nothing of them, and after the bell had rung to start the train, I returned homeward. It has since transpired they had no idea of finding me on the main-line platform, as there was a separate approach and booking-office to the local platform; that one of the pair did not arrive for the 8.30, but both left by the 9.5, wondering where on earth I was, as I was never known to disappoint any one, little thinking if they had come under the arch which connects the two platforms, I was within a stone's throw, and full of anxiety about them. I had a glass of sherry with one of them the next morning as he said "To show there was no ill-feeling between us." And now, as to result, the paucity of sport gave evidence the fish had other duties to perform, and at the end of March it was unreasonable to suppose they would be found at large on the deeps. There is some good fish in the water, but only two of about 3 lb. each came to the bait and the landing net, in addition to a perch of 1½ lb. It is very clear, therefore, as far as this water is concerned, that jack-fishing in March has no legitimate or sportsmanlike character about it. I saw a fish of 8 lb., about a month ago, taken out of this water, and brought to the club-room of the Piscatorial Society, as full of spawn as possible. The members present expressed a regret that it had not been returned to the lake again, as it was bad to kill a fish in such a condition. Still, there may be other places, and I know of one at least where the jack during March are always in a good condition, and the proprietors willingly recognise the time; but there is one great difficulty attending this, and that is the bait question, for, according to the Fresh Water Fisheries Act of 1878, the fishing-tackle shops have no legal right to sell even a single minnow between the fifteenth day of March and the fifteenth day of June, both days being inclusive. It is doubtless a hardship on the respectable tackle shops, and I expect the argument against any relaxation in this respect would be an opening for the sale of freshwater fish under the pretext of being used for bait. This objection could easily be obviated by licenses for the sale of bait, such licenses having a merely nominal charge, and I am satisfied no respectable dealer would take unfair advantage such relaxation would assign to him. Then, again, now that the trout season has commenced, what have the anglers to do for bait? The law must be evaded somehow or other, as they cannot fish altogether without it. There are plenty

of private waters where bait could be obtained if the sale was recognised. The Bill to which I have referred does not prevent angling in private waters, or where Boards of Conservators have claimed exemption from it, but it prohibits the sale of freshwater fish wherever they have been caught. If the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk are exempt from angling under the Act, it is clear they are not as regards selling of the fish. No Act of Parliament will ever be complete that generalises one entire close period. It is a difficult question to legislate upon, inasmuch as some kinds of fish are much later than others in spawning, and in some waters the fish spawn at a different time to others. A complete and perfect law would, if it could be drawn up, almost give all the year round fishing, and the tackle shops and anglers would then have no period of suspension. The rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk at the present time are open to the anglers. There is there no recognised close period, but there is one drawback to be removed, and that is this—the distance and necessary expense of getting there. I am perfectly satisfied with the liberal policy of the Great Eastern Railway, if the three associations of angling clubs would approach the management and directors, and point out the growing desirability of concessions of railway fares being made to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Norwich—the three great centres—facilities would willingly be granted. There are something like one hundred and forty London angling clubs connected with these associations, representing at least a constituency of eight thousand anglers, and it would be on behalf of these the Great Eastern Railway would be asked to benefit; and whilst benefiting them they would without doubt benefit themselves. Distance would be no object to the angler when the access to travel is made easy; and the boundless character of the fish farms of Norfolk and Suffolk will supply unlimited sport to the thousands who would avail themselves of it, especially at a time when all our metropolitan rivers are closed against them. I am satisfied this is just the time to deal with the question. It may be new to the present active general manager, but I am certain with his determined and enterprising spirit in conducting the management of the Great Eastern Railway, he will give the question his most serious consideration, and being satisfied with the mutual advantages to be derived from it, he will gladly recommend his Board of Directors to give a favourable response. B.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Friday, the 15th inst., being Good Friday, the publication of the **FISHING GAZETTE** will take place on Thursday, the 14th inst. Notices and Advertisements must be delivered on Wednesday, the 13th inst.

RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"The nature of bad news infects the teller."

—SHAKESPEARE.

I had hoped to have reported some big catches of the spotted leopards, but this *bête noir* of a wind has upset the feeding proclivities of the scaly beauties, and I am left lamenting, not having any news worth ink to report or any prognostications of a favourable character to indite. At Marsh Pool, Humbledon, Newlock, Marlow and Boulter's Weirs, anglers possessed with the "faint heart never won fair lady" principle, have been paying their matutinal and vespertine devoirs; but no flight of imagination or reality would induce the full-blown beauties to be tempted from their aqueous homes, and many an angler, after tailing and spinning in vain, has wished himself *any weir, any weir* out of the wind, and has eventually gone home heavy in heart and lighter in pocket. A river-trout angler, who has hitherto been very successful, tells me that he, in a twenty years' experience, never remembered such a continuous, marrow-freezing, and sport-destroying wind, and that it was positively dangerous in some exposed situations to be on the water. My advice to Thames troutists is to wait until some warm showers enter an appearance, and the wind is S. or S.W., and then take the 12.1 a.m. train to a favourite *weir*-about, and sport will most assuredly result.

THURSDAY EVENING.—The river is low and bright, but otherwise in every apparent good trim for spinning, but a strong gale is blowing from the N.E. to E., and under this condition of affairs successful trouting is almost hopeless.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Windsor).

No one would think it possible to walk from Windsor Bridge to Cookham Bridge, a distance of 11 miles 2 furlongs, without, in April, seeing a few fish or a few anglers knocking about, but such is the state of the Thames this season up to the present, owing to this piercing wind, which we have had now for nearly three weeks. I walked the towpath yesterday, calling at Bray, Maidenhead and Cookham, and the whole distance was more like a sea than a river. To notice a fish moving, even if one had done so, would want sharper eyes than I am possessed of. At Bray, the Rev. Fardell, of Jesus Hospital, had a pretty little fish on Monday, going 2½ lb., and at Maidenhead I could hear of nothing beyond four small fish taken by Harry Wilder, with a patron, and doubtless Wycombe fish. At Cookham that well-known fisherman, E. Codder, has his eye on a brace of something larger than "brownies," and as soon as it turns to the balmy will introduce some of his patrons in the hope of closer acquaintance. James Gray, who is daily on the water, tells me he has not seen a fish move since the close season. I have not wetted a line, and do not intend till this wind shifts, and consider it next to useless, to say nothing of the misery. Thames trouting is bad enough at the best of times. The members of the Windsor and Eton Angling Club, held their annual dinner at the Royal Oak, Windsor, on the 1st inst., when prizes were awarded to Messrs. Parsons (five prizes), Bambridge, of Eton (three prizes), Stevenson, of Windsor (two prizes), and Linford (one prize) for heaviest and gross weight of fish.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The easterly winds have had the effect of both driving the anglers away from the river banks, and also the fish off the rise. I never knew a severer week than this in April. We might have been in the Polar regions, and still at the same time the sun has been out every day. I hear that the protracted piercing winds are doing much injury amongst the trout fry. I regret to state that Mr. David Foster, the well-known naturalist-angler, of Ashborne, on the Dove, is seriously ill, and not expected to recover. Mr. Foster has been celebrated for many years throughout the country as a fly-tier.

Exe (Tiverton).

Fly-fishing, trout. Very little is being done during this dry, cutting N.E. wind and rising barometer. The river has shrunk away very much; fine tackle and small flies and a hardy constitution is what is required just now. The flies that are killing best are the blue and red upright, hare's flax, and iron blue. There will be no good sport until we have had some rain, and the wind shifted to the opposite quarter, which will make it more pleasant by the river side.—WM. MUDFORD, Tiverton.

Exe (Exeter).

"Jack Frost," who has been with us more or less since last October, still sticks to us, and there has been plenty of ice nearly half-an-inch thick, every morning during the past week, which is vastly different to last season, when the hedges were budding out, and now, even in the most sheltered parts, have they made but very little progress in that way. I wish I could reiterate my statement of last week, in the way of sport, for the sake of those who face these cold east winds, in which quarter "Boreas" still reigns supreme, and

were it not for the bright sunshine we might once more imagine that the winter was just commencing over again, which is not a very pleasant feeling after so many months of cold sport. Very little has been done in the trout way, and but few salmon have been banked, although the gentleman, as reported last week, who had secured eleven fish to his creel, has increased that number by two more splendid fellows. By the way the three fish taken by him last week should have been one 8 lb.; one 9½ lb. and one 12 lb., instead of as they appear in the **FISHING GAZETTE**, as 1 lb. 8 oz., 1 lb. 9½ oz., and 1 lb. 12 oz. Of course any one can read it is a mistake. I believe there were two or three others taken, but have not had particulars, so must report next week. A quantity of roach and perch have been seen here, exposed for sale, all full of spawn. They had been netted, but from whence they came I could not ascertain. Flat fish, &c., from estuary more plentiful, and as the tide serves more favourably this week, we may hear of some good sport, especially if the wind shifts more southerly.—FRANK GOSDEN.

P.S.—Mr. C. Blake, of the Museum Hotel, Exeter, has just informed me that trout fishing on the Torridge has been very good, and that several salmon have taken the trout fly.—F. G.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel, (Ireland).

The cold easterly wind still prevails, with bright sunshine, but notwithstanding that there have been some salmon caught. The Cahir Club have had pretty good sport, Mrs. Grubb landed two fine salmon on Ballybacon stream; on Tuesday, James O'Donohue killed the first salmon on Dudley's stream this season, 10 lb., and fresh from the sea; Thomas Phelan killed one on Monday, 9 lb., and one on Friday evening at 7 o'clock, 17 lb., on Lord Donoughmore's preserves; Bryan Connors got two at Poul-ma-quorish, weighing 30 lb. and 10 lb. The cotmen got fifteen last week, the corresponding week last year they got but ten. The price of salmon at present is from 1s. 10d. to 2s. per lb. There is great poaching going on on the river between Thurles and Cashel, men with nets sweep the river on every opportunity, and sell the fish in and about Thurles for a ridiculously low price. There's a gang of stroke-haulers at Roultrough almost every day when they get the bailiff's back turned; they place spies on the Bridge, so that they can kill with impunity the fish trying to get over the weir. The trout fishing is not at all good this week; water so low in every place, and sun so bright, fish won't rise.—DORA.

Swale.

Another heavy mantle of snow has fallen in the Yorkshire dales, which will again postpone the opening campaign against the finny tribe. I, however, according to promise, send a list of six of the very best and earliest flies which anglers can hold in readiness for commencement. I furthermore put them in the regular order in which they will probably appear. They can all be made on hook, No. 2, Hutchinson's manufacture:—No. 1, early brown, "Inside woodcock;" body, yellow silk; legs, red hackle; wings, woodcock's quill from underneath the wing. No. 2, red brown, "Old Joan;" body, peacock's harl; wings and legs, dark red hackle. No. 3, "Royal Charley;" body, orange silk; legs, freckled hackle, from red or golden dun hen; wings, partridge grey feather tinged with brown from side of breast. No. 4, light brown, "Outside woodcock;" body, orange silk; legs, red hackle or mohair; wings, dark woodcock. No. 5, blue drake, "Blue dun;" body, orange silk tinged with fox-cub's down; legs, a few fibres of amber mohair; wings, starling's quill. No. 6, brown drake, "March brown;" body, grey hare's ear ribbed with straw coloured silk; legs, partridge's back; wings, grey partridge's tail. Some fishermen vary the above details a little, but I venture to think that in the main they cannot be greatly improved. The female march brown is made as above, but with wings from the hen pheasant. I have always killed better with the partridge dressing.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Nottingham).

Owing to the close season now being on of course I have little to say as regards rod-fishing, but I might make one remark, that it is the general opinion here that the time is too long. Mr. James Goegory's time is considered right and all that is necessary—from the 15th of May up to the 15th of June, and no fish to be exposed for sale during that time, which, of course, will put a little check on the netters taking the fish at the spawning season. Pike have been seen going through their usual work at this season, and dace in the shallow streams were busy, but owing to the cold east wind neither fish have shown in any quantities. The anglers on some of our small streams commence fishing for trout on the 1st of April, which I think is a little too early, as most of the fish that have been caught up to now were not found to be in such good condition as they would have been a week or two later on. The 1st of May, for small streams, I think is the proper time to commence trout fishing. They will then take cadbaits, the cockspur, on the bottom, and on fine days the fly on the surface—all of which are then taken freely. These few hints the proprietors of certain waters might watch for the next season.—W. BAILEY.

Tweed and Teviot.

Another week of very inauspicious weather has rendered angling both for trout and salmon a very trying one for the patience and perseverance of the disciples of the rod and line. On the Sprouston water on Monday last Mr. Ferrand landed one unseasonable fish, and in the Kelso district a few good baskets of trout were got the same day, but, of course, the speckled beauties were in anything but the best of condition, being still far from firm, and in a lanky state. On the Teviot, a little below Jedburgh, Mr. Valentine Knight, Orchard House, Jedburgh, killed a clean fish of over 10 lb. On Carham water, in the Tweed, Mr. James Moffat, Edenhall, Kelso, has had the good fortune to be the most successful angler as far as the season has gone, as he in one day killed three clean salmon, besides landing some half-dozen of unseasonable salmon on the same at Sprouston water. Mr. Ferrand killed a sea trout and landed some kelts on the Twizel water, in Tweed. Mr. Etty has had good sport, killing four clean fish with his own rod—all being taken with the minnow, the fish utterly refusing to look at fly, although put over them for half a day. The Teviot, which is teeming with fish, both clean and foul, has also yielded up its quota to the number of clean fish killed. The reports from the netting stations are not very encouraging, as the cold and bleak weather is very much against the fish entering the river from the sea, and the takes, consequently, are very moderate. Some of the stations are doing better than others, the takes at the more favoured places being reported as from five to six fish at a haul, but this only occasionally. The fungus disease is very rife in both rivers, some hundreds of dead and diseased fish having been taken out of both Tweed and Teviot by the water bailiffs, and buried. It is no uncommon sight to see in one pool as many as half a dozen large-sized salmon together, nearly covered with this loathsome disease; but we are informed by those who are in authority that the disease was a good deal worse last season, when, out of a stretch of nearly fifty miles under the surveillance of the Tweed Commissioners, their bailiffs took out

nearly 5000 diseased fish or those that had died through the effects of such disease."—*Edinburgh Daily Review*.

Waveney (Beeches).

The water has now cleared nicely from the snows and floods of winter, and is in about as good order as can be desired, but with the wind at E. and N.E. there is not much pleasure to be derived at the river-side. Should the wind veer round, however, to a warmer quarter, anglers might have an exceptionally fine time, as the fish appear to be more numerous than has been known for many years, owing, no doubt, to the operation of the Fisheries Act, which has made the immense nets at one time so common here already things of the past. A few good takes of roach and perch have been had, and a goodly number of pike have within the last few days been secured, varying from 3 lb. to 10 lb. in weight. Smelts have just made their appearance in the rivers, but not in very great numbers at present, and while smelts are about pike will hardly look at anything else, having, I suppose, a weakness that way. Perch appear to be getting very full of spawn now, but roach are still rather backward. —C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both weather and water are now in excellent condition for fly-fishing on both the above rivers. If it were not for the nasty easterly winds that have been prevailing the whole of the week, no doubt good sport would have been had, for there has been very many natural flies, and on both rivers during the week, principally browns, but very few trout rising at them. I have noticed now for very many years that wherever the wind is from the 21st March to the 25th inst., it generally prevails nearly the whole of the spring in that quarter. Trolling with the "Derby Trout Killer" has been followed with fair success near Matlock, and several young trout have been killed. The bottom fishers have done very little this week. The night-line party still keeps killing a few trout between Darley Bridge and Matlock, with large lob worms for baits. I have just seen Mr. T. Ford's, Caistor, Lincolnshire, "Little Shilling Manual of Flies," and to any angler meditating a visit to any of the Yorkshire rivers, I can strongly recommend this book to them as a guide as to the best kind of flies to be used, and the proper way to make them. I sincerely wish him every success with his book, which is worthy of a place in any gentleman angler's library. —GEORGE JAMES EATON.

P.S.—All anglers fishing in Derbyshire on either the Wye or Derwent are required to get a trout license. The price is 1s. for the whole season.

Yore (Yorkshire).

The winds still keep in the north, so that very little improvement has taken place in fly-fishing. I have only heard of one decent dish of trout having been killed, and that numbered ten fish. Easter is a great carnival among Yorkshire fishermen, but I am sadly afraid that it will prove a disappointment, unless there is a change during the next week. There have been a few March browns on the water, and the best dressing for this fly at present is the following:—Wings, from the tail of a partridge; body, red silk ribbed with olive; legs, grey feather from a partridge's back; tail, two strands of the same. Both the Yore and Wharfe, at the time of writing, are excessively low and clear; so that, to ensure success, the angler must fish well up stream with the finest of tackle. —FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION AT NORWICH.

In our advertising columns will be found the announcement of the train arrangements of the Great Eastern Railway for the opening of the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, on Easter Monday. Apart from its own intrinsic merit as a rare exhibition, the fact that it is to be graced by the presence of the illustrious and beautiful Princess of Wales, must tend to intensify the interest attaching to the opening of it by the Prince of Wales, and we are sure that large numbers will avail themselves of the Easter holiday to make a trip to Norwich for the opening of the National Fisheries Exhibition, and take advantage of the liberal arrangements offered by the Great Eastern Railway.

NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—Easter Holiday Arrangements.—We beg to call the attention of our Readers to the detailed announcements of the Easter holiday arrangements of this Company to be found in our advertising columns. We may mention, that for the convenience of the London public, with the usual forethought and courtesy indigenous to the officials of this line, the ticket offices at Euston, Broad Street, Kensington, and Willesden Junction, will be opened throughout the days of the 13th, 14th, and 18th of April, so that intending travellers can obtain tickets prior to the day of starting, and have the tickets dated to suit their requirements. Tickets will also be issued at all the town receiving offices of the Company on all days except Easter Sunday and Monday.

A NEW MINNOW NET.—Nashville, Tenn.—Editor *Chicago Field*:—This simple contrivance astonishes all who see it, because they naturally ask the question, how it was that no one ever thought of it before? A globe of wire netting split in two, fastened at the bottom by hinges, and attached to a stick by strings from the top: this is the whole affair, save a small place in the centre for bait; the two hemispheres are so arranged as to open partially from their own weight, if allowed to touch bottom; or they can be separated by pulling one of the strings above mentioned. As minnows are generally found in shallow, clear water, it is easy to see when enough have entered the trap, to close and draw it out. This invention does away entirely with seining, and the disagreeable necessity of wading in the water. The pole or stick upon which the trap is hung, may be made of any desired length, and jointed, thus permitting the entire apparatus to be packed in a small space. Those of our Nashville anglers who have seen it, are of the opinion that nothing else will be used for catching minnows, once they become known. —CLIMAX.

A GOLDEN EAGLE.—On Thursday, Mr. Hood, principal gamekeeper to the to the Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby, trapped in Turleum Forest a large and beautiful specimen of the golden eagle. It measured from tip to tip of wing 7 feet 10 inches. The bird was caught by the claws, and it is now safely caged at Drummond Castle.

A FISHERIES EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH.

A SHORT time ago, the propriety of holding a Fisheries Exhibition in Edinburgh in 1882, similar to that to be held at Norwich in the course of next month, and to that which proved so great a success at Berlin some time ago, was advocated in these columns. It is said that a suggestion has since been made to the Highland Society to have a fisheries exhibition in Glasgow along with their show in 1882. There are, however, many strong and cogent reasons for holding the first fisheries exhibition in Scotland on a great scale—if it is to be held at all—in Edinburgh. In the first place, all the boards and associations which have the supervision of our fisheries, or any connection with them, have their headquarters in Edinburgh—such as the Board of White Herring Fisheries, the Board of Northern Lights, the Salmon Fishery Commission, and the recently-formed Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association. In the second place, our most productive fisheries are on the east, not on the west, coast. The herring fishery—the most valuable fishing industry in the United Kingdom—has its chief seat on the east coast, the Aberdeenshire ports alone receiving more herrings than the whole stations on the west coast. The cod, ling, haddock, and other hook-and-line fisheries on the east and north coasts are also far more valuable than those on the west; while, as regards the salmon fishing, the rental of the Tay and Spey only, taken together, is equal to the rental of all the salmon rivers on the west coast, from Cape Wrath to the Mull of Galloway. In the third place, it may be doubted whether there is any place in Glasgow so suitable for a Fisheries Exhibition as the Waverley Market in Edinburgh, which has not only a most advantageous situation and a vast area, but also possesses the further advantage of having the aquarium beneath its roof, from which supplies of salt, as well as fresh, water might be had for the purposes of such an exhibition. In the fourth place, the Highland Society's Show in Glasgow will last, we believe, for three days only. But three days is entirely insufficient for a Fisheries Exhibition, which should remain open for a fortnight at least. That to be held at Norwich next month will last for a fortnight, and that at Berlin was open for at least as long a period. Without insisting, therefore, on what may be thought the more sentimental argument, that Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, it seems to us that the practical reasons brought forward above are amply sufficient to prove that Edinburgh is the natural and proper place for the first great Fisheries Exhibition that is to be held in Scotland.

With regard to the means of meeting the expenses connected with such an exhibition, it should be borne in mind that, besides the sums derived from single and season tickets of admission, a considerable revenue may be expected from the sums paid by exhibitors for space to display the articles which they exhibit. At Norwich, the charge made is 15s. per superficial yard for ground space, and 10s. 6d. per superficial yard for wall space. It is stated that the space at the disposal of the Committee has been pretty well taken up; and the belief is that no less a sum than £600 will probably be derived from this source alone. —*Scotsman*.

THAMES ANGLING CONVICTION.

AT the Chertsey Bench on Wednesday last, Alfred Harris, fisherman, Laleham, was fined £2 and one guinea costs; and two anglers who were with him were each fined £1 and one guinea each costs, for fishing in the Thames in the close season at Borough Head. The defendants all pleaded guilty, and the fines were paid. The proceedings were instituted by the Thames Angling Preservation Society upon the evidence of Alfred Thompson, one of its wholly-paid keepers.

AMATEUR SEA-FISHING.

(Continued from page 135.)

ALTHOUGH we are coming now close to the end of our tether, we cannot refrain from an allusion to dear friend Buckland's graphic description of his cruise with "An old man-of-war's-man, Robinson Crusoe, an outing with whom will be found in his "Log-book of a Fisherman." We do not intend to reproduce that admirable Charles Lamb-like sketch of the veteran George Buller, then living in a little by-way of Gosport, but rather to supplement the anecdotes given of him by the "Missing Link," by one which appertains to our text.

We were well on board, with all ready for deep-lining, and had dropped anchor, waiting for the tugs which did not come, when it was suggested that Robinson Crusoe should give us a yarn.

He was nothing loth, so, shifting his quid from one side of his mouth to the other, while sending forth over the gunnel an amber jet, he commenced :—

"I was a bit of a boy at the time, in a frigate laid up in the Chatham lines. My master was the bo'swain of her, and there was only the three warrant officers on board of her. Well, the guard-boat of the commodore's ship was rowing about all night, and if they passed a ship that did not hail them, they would go alongside and steal anything they could get hold of, and carry it ashore in the morning to the commissioner's office in the dockyard. One night my master, the boatswain, had the first watch; and, having been ashore all day on duty, felt very tired. He told the boy (Toby) to keep a good lookout while he went down into the galley to smoke a pipe, and he went down and fell fast asleep. The boy, not accustomed to keep his eyes open, fell asleep, too, and the guard-boat, passing, hailed them; when, receiving no answer, they went alongside, and actually unshipped the bell from its place, carrying it quietly over the side without being found out. At twelve o'clock the bo'swain awoke from his sleep, and, going to strike the bell, found it gone. He immediately knew who had taken it; so, calling to the boy, and after bestowing a good deal of 'Latin' upon him, said to him :

" 'Now, there's only one thing can save my warrant and your back, and if you don't get it for me I'm done. I must have the commodore's broad pennant before to-morrow morning.'

"He accordingly got into the punt alongside and took the boy with him, and, pulling quietly ahead of the commodore's ship, got under her bows, and the boy, laying hold of the mooring chain, swarmed from thence to the bobstays, and getting up to the bowsprit, went quietly along the forestay into the foretop, and from thence to the main-topmast-stay to the masthead, finally to the truck, where, unbinding the flag, he stuffed it into his bosom. Being the night pendant, it was not very large—so, returning the same way unobserved, he got down the mooring chain, and giving a low whistle, the bo'swain, who was some little distance off, dropped under the bows and took him in. The bo'swain was highly delighted with his success, and the next morning, giving the boy directions, when he should wave his pocket handkerchief, to hoist the captured flag at the ensign staff, he went ashore to the dockyard to answer the signal that was made for him. He went boldly to the commissioner's office, having just made the sign to the boy to hoist the flag, and there was the commodore, who always attended to such complaints as might be made, sitting with all the gravity on his countenance which such a case demanded. The bo'swain was called, and, with his best bow, wished to know what he was wanted for. 'Mr. So-and-so,' said the commodore, 'I am very sorry, very sorry indeed, that such a gross neglect should be laid to your charge, as that now preferred, sir. The guardboat went alongside your ship, sir, last night, sir, and during your watch, as is proved, took away the ship's bell, sir. Now, sir, you must either have

been drunk or turned in, both of which are very great crimes, sir; and I am sorry, truly sorry, that I shall be obliged to report your case to the navy board, when you will be sure to lose your warrant, sir.'

" 'Very sorry, your honor,' said the bo'swain; 'shore; knocking about in the dockyard all the day; not asleep a minute.'

" 'No excuse, sir, no excuse at all for such a gross neglect,' replied the commodore. 'Why, sir, if such a thing was to go unpunished, we should have the commodore's ship as bad as yours.'

" 'Why, your honour,' said the bo'swain, 'your ship has got a full complement of men on board, and sentries in both gangways, and, for all that, ain't so much better after all.'

" 'What d'ye mean?' exclaimed the commodore. 'Not keep a good look out on board my ship? What d'ye mean, sir?'

" 'Why, sir,' replied the bo'swain, 'when I found my bell gone at twelve o'clock last night, I sent aboard your ship, and got your broad pendant to save my warrant.'

" 'My broad pendant!' cried the commodore, as blue as a bursted gooseberry.

" 'Yes, your honour; and if you will just step outside, I will show it you, flying at the flagstaff of my ship.'

"Accordingly the commodore and all his officers went out, and sure enough there was the pendant, as the boatswain had said. The flag had, it seems, been missed in the morning, and they had put it down as blown away.

" 'Oh!' exclaimed the commodore, 'the boatswain has quite weathered me—I had better say no more about it.'

" 'So you see,' added Robinson Crusoe, 'the boatswain, after all, bore off the bell.'

It must not be supposed that the old salt's yarn interfered with our fishing, for he went on with his story as he took off the fish and re-baited the lines of a lady who was with us, and who, by-the-bye, far excelled us in the number of codling and whiting which fell to her share.

Upon one of our party asking Crusoe whether there were not several sorts of flounders, he told him that there was the dab, the rough dab, and the smear dab, as well as the true flounder; then there is the top-knot flounder. "But here," he observed, taking out a greasy pocket-book, "is what Mr. Buckland wrote with his own hand. Besides what I have told you, is the sail fluke, the carter, Muller's top-knot, Block's top-knot, and Elstrom's top-knot, the long flounder and the megrim or scald fish; so there's a pretty good lot to tell tother from which, but he could do it (meaning Mr. Buckland), and if he was in doubt he'd make the fish tell him before he had done with it." But we must part company with our old friend here, as our own description must be more concise. Still we should like to know whether George Buller the old man-of-war's-man is still living. His address when we last profited by his services was, 3, Willow Place, Mill Lane, Forton, Gosport.

The dab is a little thicker than the plaice, but much inferior to it in dimensions, and the scales are larger in proportion to its size, but it is without spines, the dark side is of a pale brown, sometimes clouded with a darker colour and speckled with spots of a dusky yellow, the lower side of a pearly-white by it may be distinguished from any other flat fish. The dab, as we have already stated, although smaller than the plaice, is far superior in goodness, being almost equal to the sole. The Southampton waters are famous for them, and we have there frequently hauled them on board two at a time as fast as the lines could be let overboard. The hooks should be small, and whipped to stout silkworm gut—for there is little or no fear of meeting with fish of formidable calibre in this estuary—and the baits kept just clear of the bottom. Off the pier, at Southend, used to be a

good situation, but you should visit the ground when the tide is out, and picking a spot free from weeds and stones and of a sandy soil; mark the rail of the pier over it, that you may find it again when the tide is up. They bite best during the time of slack water, or when there is little tide running. Like the plaice, they prefer deep water, seldom venturing near the shore between high and low water mark.

The rough dab is of a much longer form than the common dab, and grows to as large a size as the plaice. The form of the body is an elongated oval, almost equally pointed at both ends; the parts of the mouth are capable of some protrusion. The eyes are large, the upper one a little before the other; the orbits separated by a long ridge. The dorsal and anal fins extend almost to the tail, which is slightly rounded; the cheeks and body are covered with rough scales, the lateral line straight, or very slightly inclining as it approaches the operculum; the upper side is a pale brown, the fins lighter, the lower side white. This fish is rarely met with on our coasts. They are, however, frequently taken on the coast of Heligoland with a hook and line. Their usual food is small crabs and lobsters.

The smear dab: This fish has many aliases in different parts of the kingdom. In London it is known by the name of the smear dab, at Bath by that of lemon sole, at Plymouth it is called a merry sole, and at Penzance a queen. It is, however, by no means so common, nor, in our humble opinion, so good a fish as the common dab. The head is very small; the dorsal fin begins very near the mouth, and extends almost to the tail; the dark side is of a light brown colour, spotted with yellow; the eyes are rather close to each other; the irides pale yellow; the mouth is full of small teeth; the lateral line slightly incurved at the origin, and then continues straight to the tail and the upper side is covered with small scales. The margin of the gill covers is yellow, the lower side white, although it is sometimes marked with large dusky spots. It takes the same bait as the plaice, but it is much more frequently caught by trawlers than with hook and line.

FISH-CULTURE AT CHERTSEY.

MR. JAMES FORBES may well be complimented upon his indomitable perseverance in the laudable attempt to multiply the number of sportive fish in the Thames, for which the hearty thanks of all true anglers are due. Still, I am, in common with many advanced pisciculturists, in great doubt whether valuable time and cost is not ill-directed in the task of producing hybrids. Mr. Frank Buckland did this more from a desire to render the process of fish-hatching at South Kensington popular and attractive; for he did not hesitate to say that there existed grave doubt whether or not he was breeding a colony of fish which would be unable to comply with the command of nature—to increase and multiply. There is, however, consolation in the fact that the hybrids—although they may be doomed to a life of celibacy and single blessedness—have an equal chance of attaining the same age as their fellows, the amorous and vigorous Benedicts. B.'s hopes of the Thames being ultimately stocked with the several lesser orders of salmonidæ will, I think, appear to many to be somewhat cloudy, and shrouded in anomaly. He writes, "For several years Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, has been actively engaged in the culture of various species of salmonidæ; and although the river which he intends to benefit has not, at present, received any material advantage from his work, the prospect is not far distant of its obtaining an increase of one of the best kinds of fish—the real Thames Trout. There is nothing in the way of speculation as to the result being realised, &c." Thus B. jumps to the conclusion that because Mr. Forbes will succeed in hatching out troughs of eggs from trout caught at Sunbury,

"there is nothing in the way of speculation as to the result being realised." That is, the consummation of "material advantage" to the Thames. Indeed, it would seem that B. makes this tremendously venturesome leap into the future from premises consisting only of ova "approaching vivification, in which the eyes are plainly visible, and the eggs look strong." There is an old and familiar adage respecting the counting of eggs which would aptly apply here. The fact is, this sanguine language, almost word for word, has been applied to the infancy of every experiment since pisciculture took root in England, and the mere assertion, from a view of the ova, that such and such happy consequences must tend to an accomplished certainty, no more removes the present experiment (for such only can it be considered), from the possibility of those failures attendant upon others regarding trout ova of various kinds. And I have little doubt Mr. Forbes, with his long experience, looks upon the chances, despite the flattering unction thus administered, in this light.

It is highly praiseworthy in Mr. Forbes to leave no thought untried, but an unqualified pronouncement of certain and unalloyed success, founded upon such unstable grounds, if it encourages hope, cannot but add to the poignancy of disappointment should such be the fate of the trial.

I am quite prepared to admit, with the Rev. J. J. Manley, in his "Notes on Fish and Fishing," that the Thames trout is "one by himself," as the country folks say, and I further quote "He differs from all other kinds of trout. He is not of any distinctive species yet recognised by naturalists, yet he is very distinctive. He is not of the family of the great lake trout, *Salmo ferox*, nor is he a bull trout, *Salmo eriox*; nor a white or sea trout, *Salmo trutta*. Ichthyologically he is certainly a brown or common trout, *Salmo fario*, but truly an uncommon common trout." But in conceding this much, I am far from being disposed to acquiesce in the notion that there is anything in the nature of the Thames trout to justify the *ad captandum* declaration that a different and more congratulatory result will follow the vivification of the ova of the Thames trout than that which has been the case with the eggs of its congeners. The reverse, I take to be dogmatic and presumptuous.

I have every reason to believe that Mr. Forbes' reward is not to be looked for about Chertsey, and that those juvenile trout which have survived the ordeal of the rapacity of every fish in turn, are now far from the scene of their birth. The nature of trout is to head up against the current; small fish seek shallow, colder, and sharper waters, which are not to be generally met with until the higher portions of a river are reached. Indeed, we have evidences, year after year of late, that in the pools of the disused weirs, even above Oxford, a marked increase of trout is to be found, and as there exist no artificial breeding operations in those districts, it is but fair to attribute this augmentation to the most reasonable cause, and that cause may be (I do not positively say it is), the breeding operations of Mr. Forbes at Chertsey. Ere long, when the trout in the upper reaches have outgrown their quarters, it may be found, as elsewhere, that they will drop down into deeper waters, and then, perhaps, again visit the locality of their nativity, grown in "strength and stature."

But, whatever may be the ultimate consequences of Mr. Forbes' unselfish and noble efforts to add value to the resources of the Thames, one thing is clear, that neither he, nor I, nor B., can foretell, with any claim to attention, that there is nothing in the way of "speculation" as to the results of "material advantages" to the river. In B.'s case, the only reliance on which appears to rest upon the fact that the germ from which the blessing is presently to flow, is now in a healthy condition, with eyes plainly visible, and awaiting vivification. Would that, for the nonce, B. could truthfully claim the gift of sacred prophecy!

I am quite in accord with B that "it is incumbent to maintain a stock of the finny tribe for the largely-increasing number of anglers, whose constant visits must decimate its numbers to a terrible extent." But would it not be well occasionally to trace effects to causes—to ignore the parrot-cry that fair angling can never injure a fishery, and denounce fearlessly and outspokenly, which but few writers as yet have done, the "terrible extent" of decimation occasioned by the demoralising and pot-hunting system of gross weights?

CONSISTENT.

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHOWERS BEFORE.

Past is the Winter numbing;
 The Spring-time fast is coming;
 Soon in each nook,
 My babbling brook,
 By thee will bees* be humming,
 Half-hid in flowers—now growing—
 Then blooming—whilst, on-flowing,
 Thy charming stream,
 Thro' changing gleam
 And shifting gloom, keeps showing.
 How—glancing in the glory
 Of Sol's rays, raining o'er thee—
 Bright brook, thou'lt shine!
 His light divine—
 Half-veiled—will, *con amore*,
 Thy trouts bring on their rising
 At March-browns appetising;
 I'll hook a lot—
 If *Luck* I've got—
 The deadly lure disguising.
 Last Monday—by the Powers!
 That seventh of March of ours—
 There fell that day
 (As Pat would say)
 Our first of April-showers.
 I said "You'll make, old fellow,
 The primrose yet more yellow,
 And violet, sir,
 Peep purplier,
 You are so soft and mellow!
 "And if snowdrop and crocus
 Within my muse's focus
 Come not, you know
 Those blossoms blow
 Ne'er where you seek to soak us.
 "Nurselings of Art—not Nature's
 Free-born, wild-floral creatures
 That to yon skies
 Our thoughts bid rise—
 The angler's moral teachers.
 "Good day! sweet Angling-weather;
 But when, with fur and feather,
 Me on the feat
 You chance to meet,
 We'll chat again together."

A. R. I. E. L.

March 12th, 1881.

* Umble-bees, as Uriah Heep would say.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessors in fly making given.—[Advrt.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A LOVER OF THE SPORT.—You had better get Stewart's "Practical Angler"; it can be had of Mr. W. J. Cummins, fishing-tackle maker, of Bi hop's Auckland, for 2s. 8d. in stamps.

J. C., Little Tower Street.—The only place we know of that would suit you is Winchester. The trout run large, are very numerous, and a skilled hand will always make a fair basket. You cannot get good trout-fishing by paying for it nearer than Winchester.

H. T. H.—In the GAZETTE for 1879 and 1880 we published some recipes for varnishing rods.

THEORY OF ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

SIR,—Verily I am overwhelmed with all the opprobrious epithets and inuendos that have fallen on my head for having set forth an opinion on the use of artificial flies which does not fall in with that of Mr. G. F. Horsley. His letter, written in answer to mine (after second thoughts, I suppose, as "it would have been a waste of time, and unprofitable to explain his knowledge (?) and experience to one who seems fast wedded to Pennell's theory of three flies," which is untrue, as, though I use only four flies, they are not Pennell's)—his letter, I say, deals with a subject on which there are dozens of widely different opinions, and having found some one who does not hold the same theory as himself, he forthwith proceeds to pour forth his invectives against him with totally unnecessary warmth. However, I will try to answer some of his wrathful arguments (?) in as mild a tone as my ruffled spirit will allow. I suppose that Mr. Horsley is a well-known and widely celebrated angler, or else he would hardly have the "cheek" to call Mr. Pennell's theory on flies "theoretical stuff," as Mr. Pennell asserts in his "Practical Angler," that he has tested his "three-fly system" (here called "theoretical stuff") in nearly every river and lake of Great Britain and Ireland, and by their use has always secured a larger and heavier basket than any other anglers that accompanied him. I presume, therefore, that his opinion on flies is worth something, and not merely "theoretical stuff," as Mr. G. F. Horsley is pleased to call it. He next cites an instance of which I don't see the point at all, as it is a well-known fact that when trout are rising at any particular fly on the water, they will usually rise far better at an artificial one of an entirely different species. Mr. Horsley next remarks that the "three-fly system" is only adapted to cockney sportsmen; here, I think, Mr. Horsley's "cheek" reaches a climax, in coolly calling such great authorities as Mr. Pennell and Mr. Stewart cockney sportsmen, for holding opinions opposite to his own. The latter gentleman, who advocates the use of six flies only, is under Mr. Horsley's ban, I suppose, and his opinion on this subject merely "theoretical stuff"! In stating that the "colour of a fly does not die out before it has earned its just reward," I think Mr. Horsley must have been wandering in his mind. As a matter of fact the colour dies out of a fly almost immediately, or very soon after it is put into the water (by that time, I suppose, it has earned its just reward), and this is one of the great arguments against the "many-fly" system.

In conclusion, let me state that it is now three seasons ago since I became an adherent to the three-fly, or rather four-fly system (for I use four only); and far from "keeping the result a profound secret," as I am gratuitously advised to do by Mr. Horsley, I am now convinced that it is as sound a theory as the other one, since I have nearly always equalled and often times exceeded the takes made by my brother anglers. Of course I don't deny that the opposite theory is a good one, also, but mine saves time and trouble, and fly-fishing thereby loses none of its charm for me; but I hold that Mr. Horsley ought at least to allow others to have opinions as well as himself, and not write an angry letter against the theories of people which may be just as good as his own.—I am, &c.,

BLUE DUN.

April 3rd.

FEEDING OF SPAWNING FISH.

SIR,—I don't quite agree with your correspondent, Mr. William Bailey, when he says fish never bite, only when they are in condition. For instance, roach will take the fly off the weeds, they are at the same moment depositing their spawn on; and chub will take the locust on the very gravel they are spawning on, and barbel will take the cod bait when the spawn is running from them, and dace will take fly when rough as a file; and, all the world knows, old kelts will take anything from a spoon to a knife or fork.

Nottingham.

FISH AND SPORTSMAN'S FRIEND.

AN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT.

SIR,—A rather curious incident occurred to an acquaintance of mine while fishing in some private water near here. He was fishing for trout with the worm, and had, as he supposed, hooked a fish, but what was his astonishment in pulling out the line to find, instead, a half-digested frog attached by the leg to the hook. Evidently the fish had taken the frog some time before, and, in swallowing the worm, the hook instead of fastening in his throat, caught the frog's leg.—Yours truly,

A. WELLESLEY WARNER,

Midland Counties' Angling Repository,
121, Broad Street, Birmingham, April 2, 1881.

(We have read scores of curious fish stories, but we think this beats all.—ED.)

A NEW REMEDY FOR PARALYSIS.

SIR,—I see by your paper (which I take weekly) that Mr. Thos. Newton has had an attack of paralysis. As I do not know him, I venture to write to you about what I know from personal experience is a sure cure for the same.

I feel that when any one is aware of that which may be the means of saving valuable lives it is his duty to make it known.

I send you a book about this treatment (it is adopted in most of the French hospitals), which only requires to be tried to make a convert of any sufferer from almost any form of malady, for you will see that it promotes equalisation of circulation and breaks up congestions. And what is disease but congestion?

I can answer for the truth of all the cures given in the book I send, but they are only a very few out of many.

I may just mention that, in my own case, I had been suffering for years with chronic indigestion and nervous prostration and then creeping paralysis, all of which are nearly gone. I have a set of instruments, and use them at home when required.

I caught this season, at Wilstone, a pike of 17½ lb., which I have in my hall.

I trust you will make what use of my communication you think best. I enclose my card.—I am, &c., J. L. G.

[Our correspondent is a clergyman in Buckinghamshire, and the system he refers to is described in a pamphlet published by Mr. Christopher Hindle, 17, High Street, Dunstable, price 2d.—ED.]

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the undermentioned amounts from the following societies with thanks:—Izaak Walton, £14s. 6d.; Cavendish, 16s.; Walworth Waltonians, 11s.; North Eastern, 10s.; West Ham, 9s. 6d.; Reform, 12s. 6d.; Alexandria, 8s.; South Essex Piscatorial, 8s.; Woolwich Brothers, 6s.; Edmonton and Tottenham, 5s.; Bridgewater Brothers, 4s.; Burdett, 4s.; Alliance, 3s.; Carlisle, 1s. 6d.—I am, &c., R. GHURNEY.

United London Anglers' Central Committee,
Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, E.C.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

A special meeting was called on Friday evening last April 1, when the draw took place, on the Art-Union principle, for the two paintings presented to the society by Greville Fenwell, Esq., for the benefit of the funds. The amount paid in for tickets was £18 10s. The winning number is 375. The fortunate holder of the ticket may receive the paintings on application to the committee at their next meeting, Friday, April 22, between 9 and 10.30 p.m. The committee beg to thank those anglers and friends who have so kindly responded on this occasion. The tickets of membership to the society become due for the new year on May 1st.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

April 5, 1881.

THE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above society will take place on Wednesday, the 13th instant, at 8 p.m. precisely, when the favour of many members' company on the occasion is respectfully solicited.—W. SUTTON, sec.

April 5.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society took place on Thursday, March 31st, at the Albion, East Road, City Road, and a very excellent repast was provided by the host, Mr. Riches. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. T. Wright, hon. sec., and Mr. Money were voted to the chairs. The usual toasts were proceeded with and drunk with much enthusiasm, "Success to the society, host and hostess," "The secretary and committee." Mr. Riches and Mr. Wright responded, after which commenced the harmony. There were some excellent songs sung by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Wright, Money, Wood, Thomas, Bennett, Johnson, Webb, Edmonston, and C. Watling, jun. Mr. Thomas gave a few selections on the banjo. Amongst the visitors were the following well-known faces of R. Ghurney, J. Hackett, H. De Costa, C. Watling, jun., and J. Fitch. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice brought a pleasant evening to a close, 1.30.—W. H. PEARCE.

April 4.

THE DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, March 29, an important meeting of the members of this society was held at their club-house, the principal business of the meeting being the election of officers for the ensuing year. The proceedings, although very animated, as was to be expected under the circumstances, were conducted throughout in a very decorous and dignified manner. The following is a list of the officers elected:—Chairman, Mr. Legge, re-elected; treasurer, Mr. Eagles, re-elected; delegate to the East Central Committee, Mr. Bunn; and the trustees are Messrs. Richardson and Wainwright, as before; and Messrs. Claydon, Fortercue, Lassetter, Long, and Richardson were elected members of the committee. Mr. Lassetter having expressed his determination not to stand again for the office of secretary, Mr. Malby was elected to fill that position. Owing to the time occupied by these proceedings the meeting was ultimately adjourned until the following meeting night, when other important business will be transacted.—W. L.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Thursday, March 31st, we had a good muster of members, and after the usual business and the election of two new members, the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony. Among those who entertained the company, the following gentlemen may be mentioned:—Messrs. Hoole, Penney, Toms, Howe, Watts, Franklin, Taylor, Page, &c. It is to be hoped that this will be an incentive to our members to attend in larger numbers.—VORTEX.

THE RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the usual weekly meeting of the above society, held at the Station Hotel, on Wednesday, March 23rd, a fine pike of 15 lb. 10 oz., was sent as a present by Mr. Smith, Curator of Kew Gardens; it was one of those left behind a fortnight ago from the netting operations; it was while the weeds in the lake were being cleared out the fish was seen, and one of the men gave him a crack on the back, so that he should feast no more on the young ducks of Kew Gardens. After some discussion it was decided to have the fish preserved and placed in the museum of the above society, the secretary was directed to write Mr. Smith, thanking him for his present to the Richmond Piscatorial Society. Three new members were elected, making in all eighty-one.

There was a very large attendance of members and visitors at the weekly meeting, at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday evening last, having been attracted there to inspect a collection of fish specimens belonging to the members, and intended for the Richmond exhibition, at the Castle Hotel, during the present month. Mr. F. C. Clench occupied the chair, and Mr.

Owen Davis the vice-chair. The energy and determination of these two gentlemen in making the society one of the most popular and largest angling clubs out of London is being eminently carried out. The attendance at the weekly meetings is always large. Every week there are new members elected. The proceedings are conducted in a business-like manner, and not a stone is left unturned to raise the character and position of the society. Amongst the numerous gathering on Wednesday evening last there were:—Mr. Thomas Spreckley, chairman, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society; Mr. P. Geen, president of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies; Messrs. William Maxwell, Thomas Abbott, G. H. Knevet, W. Baker, J. Bagley, G. Nattrass, H. E. Gaynor, R. A. Rowe, H. W. Staveley, J. H. Ford, G. Lawrence, sen., H. S. Giles, F. A. Crow, J. Munro, Dickenson, A. Millar, G. Lawrence, jun., W. J. Holliday, F. J. Scrutton, F. C. Guido, &c., &c. The spacious club room presented an imposing appearance. The cases of fish were tastefully arranged; the tables were decorated with a profusion of flowers; and altogether the effect was most pleasing. After the ordinary business was disposed of, the remainder of the evening was spent in a jovial manner. There was some first-rate harmony, and sundry speeches by Messrs. T. Spreckley, P. Geen, and others. The attention of Mr. John Munro in supplying the wants of those present was highly appreciated. The Scotch whiskey, for which he is so famous, was in constant demand; and the alacrity with which orders were executed by the young ladies in attendance was of a superior character. The society is fortunate in possessing such accommodation, and this, together with the efforts of Messrs. F. C. Clench, Owen Davis and J. H. Gaunt, in their respective offices of president, vice-president and honorary secretary at the weekly meetings, makes the Richmond Piscatorial Society a permanent fact.—April 8. B.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society took place on March 30th. Thirty-four members and friends sat down to a splendid spread provided in the usual sumptuous style by our worthy caterer, Mr. C. P. Flawson, late chef, London Tavern. We cannot give Mr. Flawson too much praise for the able manner in which he tried to please each guest. Mr. H. Crosier, our host and treasurer, supplied the liquors. His port and sherry were highly commended by the company. The club-room is spacious and well lighted, and capable of seating 200 people. I feel sure the members of the above society are well pleased with their new quarters. The remnants of the supper being cleared away, the Chairman, Will Fowler, commenced the harmony with "Will-o'-the-Wisp," which was received with applause. The vice-chairman, Mr. Edward Smith, followed with "Simon the Cellarer" and "The Village Blacksmith." Mr. Stead (formerly "the Cure," but now "the Curiosity") highly amused the members with his humorous songs, &c. Mr. Stead started with a medley; afterwards, "I Love my Love in the Morning" and "The Soldier's Tear." Mr. Charles Allard gave "The Man who first Planted the Vine," and "Jack Robinson"; Captain Dennis, "Nothing like Leather"; Mr. Thomas Allard, "Queen of my Soul" and "The Low-backed Car"; Mr. Lyons, of the Sadlers' Wells Theatre, by special desire, recited "The Battle of Killiecrankie," which was highly applauded; Mr. Mathews gave a nautical song; Mr. Walter Allard sang "The Whale" and "The Bold Cavalier"; Mr. Leo Bonvoisin made a nice little speech upon the advisability of a fine season, &c., and afterwards gave his usual recitation; Mr. Speaight sang "Before the Battle, mother" and "Balaclava's Heights." Mr. Thompson, an old angler of 42 years' standing, made a few remarks upon angling and anglers; how conducive to health was the sport; the picturesque scenery the angler would be sure to meet with in his rambles after the funny tribe would gladden the hearts and eyes of every peaceful disciple of old Izaak Walton. Mr. Thompson afterwards gave his old song, "To-morrow." The chairman then gave his Irish patter-song with great success. During the intervals in the harmony, the society received some substantial prizes. The names of the donors were:—Captain Dennis, P. F. Rebaut, Esq., T. Allard, A. J. Allard, Billings, Edward Smith, Duncombe, Pearce, Coborn, Rogers, Leo Bonvoisin, Speaight, and Thomas. The chairman thanked the visitors for their kind attendance, and proposed their health, coupled with our worthy host, which was drank with musical honours. Thus terminated a very pleasant evening. The next return visit will go to the above society on Wednesday, April 15th, eastern district.—J. CABORN, sec.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

There was a special meeting of the delegates of clubs affiliated to this association on Friday evening in last week at the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, for the purpose of presenting to the Thames Angling Preservation Society a contribution of ten guineas as one of its first recognitions of Thames Preservation. There was a very large attendance on the occasion, presided over by Mr. J. C. Murray, the brother of the gallant hero of Laing's Nek, with Mr. W. Griffiths in the vice-chair. After the transaction of some ordinary business, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, chairman, and Mr. W. H. Brougham, Secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, were introduced into the room by Mr. F. C. Hatfield, the influential treasurer of the association. Their appearance was the signal for an exceedingly warm greeting and hearty applause, and they took up their seats on the right hand side of the chairman. Very shortly after this ovation Mr. C. J. Murray rose and made some complimentary allusions to the work of the Thames Angling Preservation Society which had for so many years laboured so nobly and well in the protection of the Thames Fishery. He felt they were largely indebted to that society for what it had done in the interests of the anglers, not only in the way of Thames Preservation, but in increasing the stock of fish by the netting of private waters. The association had determined upon giving a donation of ten guineas—it was a small amount compared with the magnitude of the society's work—but it must be received as a trifling evidence of appreciation on their part, and as a pioneer to a larger sum on a future occasion. He hoped the time would soon arrive when they would be able to support the other associations in the upper Thames, which had been formed long after the establishment of the one to which Mr. Spreckley and Mr. Brougham are attached, and for the maintenance of which those gentlemen worked so hard. He then handed over to Mr. Spreckley the sum of ten guineas with great pleasure as a willing offering from willing hearts. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, in thanking them for their kind contribution, expressed the happiness he felt in coming amongst them, and assuring them that their support was a great impetus to future operations. He then noticed the work that had been done in reference to the heading up of the dace, as every arrangement had been made, as the state of the river needed, to facilitate their progress upwards, for the complete performance of their domestic duties above.

They had all gone up in undisturbed safety, and after seasons would prove the value of this unimpeded progress, as they all naturally knew before we could have large fish there must, in ordinary nature, be smaller ones. His remarks in reference to the movement as to the assumption of private rights in the Upper Thames were loudly applauded, and he assured them that a meeting of the Common Council at Guildhall, on Monday last, at which he and Mr. Brougham attended, was most favourable to steps being taken to put down all claims which had not the least foundation. The movement was made on behalf of thousands upon thousands of anglers, and not only for their sake but for thousands that were yet unborn. As long as he remained in the position he did with the Thames Angling Preservation Society, they might rest satisfied he should labour for their benefit, and there should neither be stint of time or money with him to make the Thames a noble river for all-round angling. He took from Kew Gardens the previous week nearly one ton of fish for distribution in the Thames for next season's angling, and after again thanking them for their support, resumed his seat amidst loud applause. Mr. W. H. Brougham observed after Mr. Spreckley's exhaustive remarks on the Thames, he felt inclined to roam away from his favourite river and to find himself amongst the anglers representing the Central Association. The room in which they were then assembled gave birth to the West Central Association, and it was the clubroom of the Silver Trout Angling Club, which had taken prominent part in its growth. One of its parents they had then amongst them in the person of his friend, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, whose energy and determination were indisputable, whether in the clubroom or on these occasions, whether in the practice of angling or assisting in a day's netting, he always shone with great brilliancy and displayed the greatest perseverance. It might be said there was no need of the Central Association, but he did not think so. He felt there was room enough for all, and this was substantially proved by the success of the association, some addi-

tional clubs even that night having become connected with it. He trusted it would go on prospering and to prosper, and all the rest would prosper with it. The suggestion of railway concessions was first mooted by him in an article in *Bell's Life*, of June 17, 1871, and he held in his hand a letter from the late Mr. Kingsland, secretary of the Silver Trout Angling Society, asking him to receive a deputation to confer with him on the subject, thus the Silver Trout were then keenly alive to the real object of these associations. Mr. Brougham then referred to some proposed alterations in the present Thames bye-laws, and for which the meeting expressed itself most favourably, and then sat down with enthusiastic applause. The retirement of Mr. Spreckley in order to catch his last train was another signal for immense cheering, which continued during his progress out of the room. Mr. W. H. Brougham claimed permission to propose the health of their chairman, who was evidently the right man in the right place, and after some humorous remarks and some praiseworthy observations to Mr. R. Stebbings, their hard working honorary secretary, and to Mr. F. C. Hatfield, their undaunted treasurer, he concluded by calling upon them to do all honour to the toast. Mr. J. C. Murray, in his reply, referred to the great success of the Central Association, which, he said, was fixed on a permanent basis, and continually increasing in strength. It was now, beyond all doubt, firmly and solidly established. Several other toasts were given, and when that of the treasurer, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, was proposed, it would be impossible to describe the hearty manifestations of good feeling that were exhibited towards him—the cheering was long and loud—and such warm expressions of feeling must, to say the least of it, be highly gratifying to Mr. Hatfield. A very pleasant and harmonious evening was most agreeably spent. It was announced during the meeting that the Association had received additional concessions from the Great Western Railway on tickets to Windsor and Moulshurst, and from the Midland Railway on tickets to Bedford and St. Albans.



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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1881.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

EASTER MONDAY, which from time immemorial has been distinguished for its annual election of churchwardens, and in more recent times for its big Volunteer Reviews, will this year earn additional renown as witnessing the first National Fisheries Exhibition held in England. The ancient city of

Norwich, the capital of East Anglia, whose marine fisheries are of such enormous extent and value, and whose vast inland waters are so attractive, has the honour of introducing and welcoming the disciples of Izaak Walton to a feast of fish and fishing-tackle, boats, apparatus, and gear, which may equally intoxicate them with pleasure and invigorate them with information and instruction.

No better exemplification of the great results which may follow upon modest intentions can be afforded than by the exhibition which opens on Monday next. Its originator was Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, of Lowestoft, a devoted pisciculturist, the honorary secretary of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society; a society which, as its title implies, seeks to supplement the coarse indigenous inhabitants of the waters of Norfolk, such as pike, bream, roach, rudd, and perch, with some of those finer and more delicate varieties at the head of which stand the salmon tribe. But Mr. Chambers, when he suggested a local exhibition, with the laudable object—for this was his practical intention—of developing the system of acclimatisation, cannot have entertained the remotest suspicion that he was destined to be the parent of an undertaking unique in the fishing annals of the three kingdoms. This suggested local exhibition it was proposed to hold last autumn, but the Fates beneficently decreed a postponement till the spring. Meanwhile, that most devoted fisherman, the ubiquitous and inexhaustible member for North Norfolk, Mr. Edward Birkbeck, with Mr. Gurdon, a county member, and Mr. J. J. Colman, one of the members for the city, considered that the sphere of the exhibition might be enlarged, and its aspirations partake of a national, rather than of a local, character. Application was made to the Government, who favourably regarded the proposal, and made a small grant in the shape of medals; whilst H.R.H. the Prince of Wales graciously consented to become the patron of the exhibition and to open it in person, accompanied by his illustrious and ever-popular consort; by his brother, Prince Leopold, and other distinguished personages; the murder of the Czar, alone preventing the attendance of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

It was originally intended to hold the exhibition in St. Andrew's Hall, one of the noblest municipal buildings in the country, but when even to "the Blackfriars, solemn and grand old nave" was added the adjoining Plain, it was found that the space was wholly inadequate to cover the dimensions of the exhibition. The promoters, therefore, applied to Lieut.-Colonel Boileau, the commanding officer of the 1st Norfolk Rifle Volunteers, for the use of the Drill Hall, a large Tudoresque building of brick and flint at the south-west end of the city, situate at one corner of the Chapel-field Gardens—the old "field" having, within the past two years, undergone a great transformation, and besides its well-designed and tastefully laid-out grounds now containing in the centre a magnificent pavilion exhibited by the well-known firm of Barnard, Bishop and Barnard's, at the Paris International Exhibition. The Drill Hall, however, could only afford accommodation in part for the numerous and manifold exhibits entered by anglers, collectors, and makers from all parts, and an extensive annexe has been projected in the gardens themselves by permission of the Chapel-field Gardens Committee. Mr. Hawes is the contractor entrusted with the building, Mr. Holborn with the decoration, and Messrs. Nevor and Page with the furnishing of the reception-rooms for the Royal visitors. No expense has been spared in making the affair a great success, and the completeness of the arrangements may be inferred from the fact that the exhibition is to be lighted in the evening with the electric light.

The list of patrons and guarantors would occupy too much of our space to give in detail, but it includes dukes, marquesses, earls, the Lord Mayors of London and Dublin, and the Lord

Provost of Edinburgh, civic representatives, and noblemen and gentlemen, to the number of more than 200. E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., is the President, and the general committee consists of the following gentlemen, those marked with a * forming the Executive Committee:—R. T. Gurdon, Esq., M.P., J. J. Colman, Esq., M.P., *C. L. Buxton, Esq., *L. O. Howard Taylor, Esq., *J. H. Gurney, Jun., Esq., *R. R. B. Norman, Esq., H. Lee Warner, Jun., Esq., H. Stephenson, Esq., Rev. E. Dowell, E. Field, Esq., W. Brown, Esq., *J. B. Pearce, Esq., W. G. Sandford, Esq., John Gunn, Esq., J. Stanley, Esq., F. Sutton, Esq., F. Norgate, Esq., G. C. Davies, Esq., *E. A. Field, Esq., J. D. Farrer, Esq., *A. J. N. Chamberlin, Esq., *W. S. Everitt, Esq., *Jethro Hornblower, Esq., Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company of the City of London, J. H. Crossman, Esq., F. J. Mann, Esq., Hyde Clarke, Esq., D.C.L., V.P.S.A., Edmund Johnson, Esq., E. W. Peto, Esq., E. Jex, Esq., C.C., J. L. Sayer, W. H. Williamson, Esq., G. Stevenson, Esq., C. C., T. Balls, Esq., R. Sayer, Esq., J. W. De Caux, Esq., H. Fenner, Esq., Capt. Coleman, J. D. Thew, Esq., F. Cresswell, Esq., Colonel F. Custance, Captain Feilden, F.G.S., C.M.Z.S., *T. Southwell, Esq., *C. Clowes, Esq., and H. W. Stafford, Esq. The other officers are: Treasurer, G. F. Buxton, Esq.; Hon. Curator, A. J. N. Chamberlin, Esq.; Hon. Commissaire Délégué, Edmund Johnson, Esq.; Hon. Secrétaire, W. Oldham Chambers, Esq.

Having said that an amply sufficient guarantee list has been subscribed, let us now invite the attention of our readers more particularly to the exhibition itself, and its prizes, amounting in value to upwards of £1500, with the £100 worth of medals granted by the Government. The President offers a prize of £25 for the best plan or model of fish-culture established; the Exhibition Committee are donors of numerous prizes for fish-hatching apparatus, appliances, and implements for trawling and drifting gear, nets used in deep sea drift fishing, and for essays on different subjects. The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London are very liberal prize-givers. They seek, among other things, to bring out the best approved trawl net, capable of allowing immature fish and refuse to escape therefrom; to learn the best way to improve the breeding of the oyster; and to get some fresh light thrown upon the migrations and spawning of sea fish, as well as the most effectual way of establishing mussel beds and protecting those at present existing for the purpose of the long line fisheries. To sum up the 'general character of the exhibits as entered in the catalogue and received during the week, the exhibition will illustrate the complete history of the finny inhabitants of the waters from their birth, as shown in the hatching troughs of Mr. Capel, Mr. W. O. Chambers (the Hon. Secretary to the Exhibition), Mr. Andrews, Mr. Guy (the Howietoun Fishery), the Marquis of Exeter, Mr. Andrews, of Guildford, Mr. Armistead, of Dalbeattie, and others—to their full development in those magnificent specimens, the trophies of the skill of Mr. Jardine, Mr. Sachs, and many notable Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as more distant anglers. The grand collection of the London Piscatorial Society is exhibited, and we need scarcely say is alone worth a visit. The art and mystery of fish capture are made clear by a multifarious assortment of nets of every description for deep-sea and trawl fishing, including the latest inventions, as well as by full-sized fishing boats and models; amongst the latter being a variety of models of steam fishing vessels, for which Mr. Duff, M.P., and other gentlemen give a prize of £50—and by rods, lines, hooks, and every other imaginable appliance, in which makers from all parts of the kingdom compete. Nor is the social condition of the fishermen themselves forgotten, entries of improved dwellings for them, and improved dresses and life-saving apparatus occupying a satisfactory

amount of space in the catalogue. Perhaps one of the most popularly interesting features of the exhibition will be the illustrations of the aquatic *fauna* of Norfolk and Suffolk, which are to be exhibited in a series of aquaria, specially prepared for the occasion, and furnished with live specimens of every fish, indigenous to the local waters, as well as others that have been acclimatised. The display of preserved aquatic—or rather fish eating birds, for to these the entries have been restricted—are likewise particularly rich and attractive; the two counties being specially favourable for the pursuits of the naturalist as well as the sportsman. Not less so, locally, is the splendid collection of casts of fish, &c., made by the lamented Frank Buckland, which have been allowed to be transferred for the time from their *locale* in South Kensington Museum to the Norwich Drill-hall; and the picture gallery to which Mr. Rolfe, the eminent fish painter, is a leading contributor. Then the Board of Trade have sent the latest improvements in life-saving apparatus with men to exhibit them in operation, whilst the Royal National Life Boat Institution is worthily represented.

Earl Ducie, Viscount Powerscourt, Lord Lovat; Mr. Spencer Walpole, and Professor Huxley, H.M. Inspectors of Fisheries; and Mr. Calcrafft, the Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade, have been appointed by the Home Secretary to act as Her Majesty's Commissioners; and, in addition to a large number of special money prizes, the Government gold, silver, and bronze medals, and diplomas of honour, to which we have previously adverted, will be awarded by the following jurors:—

CLASS I.—Pisciculture: Lieut.-Colonel F. Custance, C. L. Buxton, Esq., and T. J. Mann, Esq.—Shell Fish Culture: F. Wiseman, Esq., W. H. Williamson, Esq., sen., and W. H. Williamson, Esq., jun.

CLASS II.—Models: J. Vere, Esq., and J. C. Hoad, Esq.—Trawling: E. Jex, Esq., C.C., Geo. Fellows, Esq., and J. Alward, Esq.—Drifting: R. Sayer, Esq., H. Fenner, Esq., and J. Murray, Esq.—Canvas and Ropes: B. M. Bradbeer, Esq.—Inland Fishing Tackle: J. P. Wheeldon, Esq., H. Ffennell, Esq., and J. Barwell, Esq.

CLASS III.—Life-Saving Apparatus, Lamps, Fog Horns, Signalling, &c.: Vice-Admiral Phillimore, R.N., and Captain Prowse, R.N.—Architectural Plans: J. B. Pearce, Esq., and E. Boardman, Esq.—Fish Markets, Fish Curing Establishments, Fish Vans, and Fishermen's Clothing: E. Jex, Esq., C.C., and M. Dunn, Esq.

CLASS IV.—Pictures: James Webb, Esq., and H. G. Barwell, Esq.—Utilisation of Condemned Fish and Fish Refuse as a Manure and Rendering Innocuous Polluted Streams by Sewage: F. Sutton, Esq., F.I.C., F.C.S., and P. P. Marshall, Esq., C.E.

CLASS V.—Dried, Salted, Smoked, and Tinned Fish: R. Sayer, Esq., H. Fenner, Esq., and E. Seaman, Esq.—Shell Fish: F. Wiseman, Esq., W. H. Williamson, Esq., sen., and W. H. Williamson, Esq., jun.—Fish Oils, Manures, and Disinfectants: F. Sutton, Esq.—Aquatic Flora and Fauna and Birds that Prey upon Fish: Rev. E. W. Dowell, J. J. Gurney, Esq., jun., and H. M. Upcher, Esq.

CLASS VI.—Loans: C. L. Buxton, Esq., J. Vere, Esq., and E. Bidwell, Esq.

We turn now to the imposing ceremonial that may be anticipated on Monday.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Leopold, and the other distinguished visitors, will enter the city at noon by the Thorpe Railway Station, the more frequented of the two railway entrances to Norwich. The mayor and sheriff and other civic dignitaries will, as a matter of course, be in attendance to offer the formal but hearty welcome. But this will by no means repre-

sent the more brilliant part of the pageantry. The military will be represented by a guard of honor, consisting of the local volunteer corps and an escort of the 3rd Hussars, now stationed in the city. Received and accompanied in this fashion, the Prince will once more traverse what he must now regard as the familiar route to the Drill Hall. For the visits of his Royal Highness have been neither few nor far between, and more than one local event—from the founding of a new hospital to the opening of an annual cattle show—has been graced by his presence and honored with his patronage. Let us take a glance at the line of streets through which he will pass, for it is replete with objects of interest and attraction. The Royal party will leave on their right the charming suburb of Thorpe, with its picturesque residences, breezy heights, and its well-wooded copses, between which flows the devious stream of the Wensum. The entrance to the city will be by the Foundry Bridge, a perilously-narrow structure which exists as a reproach to our railway company and a wonder to the outside world. Passing along Prince of Wales-road—finest and broadest of Norwich streets, and the scene of many a loyal welcome in the past—the Prince and Princess will come in full view of the Castle, strikingly situated on an eminence and overlooking the Cattle Market. The castle is a Norman structure, and, with its lofty position, imposing castellated front, and massive architecture, makes a grand centrepiece to the city buildings. The Cattle Market—now partially closed owing to the outbreak of cattle disease—is every Saturday a scene of busy life, and, during the great annual fair held in the present week, is crowded with many thousand head of sheep and cattle. But the *cortege* then enters Bank Plain, the principal objects in which are Messrs. Gurney's old establishment and the fine new restaurant known as "Cooper's." In London Street, the next thoroughfare traversed, the signs of the "improving" spirit of the age at once become manifest. Old Norwich is, in fact, disappearing, and a fine modern city is springing up in its stead. Wood pavements take the place of the abomination known as "petrified kidneys," and handsome shops and wholesale establishments stand where, at one time, everything was dingy and old-fashioned. From London Street Prince and party will pass on to St. Giles Street, skirting the noble square, which serves as a market place, on their way. Directly in their line of route lies the Guildhall—the seat of the corporation and magistracy, and the battle-ground of many a tough party fight on "Mayor's Day," the 9th of November. St. Giles Street—another fine thoroughfare—leads to the Drill Hall, where, of course, the real work of the day will begin.

The Royal party will be received at the Hall by the president, Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P. An address will be presented and replied to, the exhibition will be opened, and their Royal Highnesses, after making a tour of inspection, will proceed to St. Andrew's Hall, to be entertained at a *dejeuner* by the Mayor. This will conclude at once the work and the pleasure of the day, and the Royal visitors will leave for Sandringham at four o'clock in the afternoon.

As we write, these arrangements in connection with the great exhibition are being rapidly pushed forward. Workmen are busily engaged in bringing the Hall and the annexe up to the required state of completion and adornment, and the spaces allotted to the various exhibitors are now nearly all occupied. The police arrangements and traffic regulations will be all that can be desired, and nothing will be left undone to ensure the success of the occasion. Special efforts have been made by the Great Eastern Railway Company to meet the convenience of passengers travelling from the metropolis. On Easter Monday, in addition to the ordinary service, a train will leave Liverpool Street station at 8 a.m., will arrive in Norwich in time for the opening ceremony, and will return to London by 9 p.m. Tickets at single

fares will also be issued for the double journey, and tickets of admission to the exhibition may be purchased at Liverpool Street. Strangers and visitors will, we think, be assured of a cordial welcome, and a pleasant sojourn in the old city during the twelve days for which the exhibition will remain open. The beauties of the Cathedral, the historic associations of St. Andrew's Hall, and the archæological remains in which Norwich abounds, will provide ample material for enjoyment and reflection to the seriously-inclined. The angler will find ample opportunities of enjoying his favourite sport on some of the picturesque broads of the Bure or North River, and the quiet reaches of the Yare and Wensum. The lover of nature will be more than recompensed by a visit to the beautiful hamlet of Thorpe—"the Richmond of Norwich,"—and for the pleasure-seeker pure and simple, Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Cromer will furnish all that he can well desire.

M. GAUCKLER ON PISCICULTURE.

THE French have distinguished themselves by several excellent works on the science of pisciculture, the latest of which has just been published by M. Gauckler, who was for ten years at the head of the famous fish-breeding establishment at Huningue. His book embodies not only the results of his own experience and studies at Huningue, but also contains a condensed account of what has been done in France and other countries to improve and develop the art of fish-culture.

Pisciculture has been practised from the most remote antiquity. Two thousand years before the Christian era, there were laws in China regulating the periods for collecting fish eggs for artificial incubation; and even at that early date they appear to have had recourse to processes similar to those practised in our own days. In India, Persia, and Egypt, natural and artificial lakes were used for fish culture; and among the Romans artificial fish-hatching was carried to great perfection. Lucullus, that celebrated patron of luxury and extravagance, had a mountain pierced through, and a canal constructed in order to admit the sea-water into his vivaria or fish-ponds. Varro enlarges on the advantages of economic fish-ponds, and describes fresh and salt water tanks for fish cultivation. Many of the owners of these ponds appeared to have derived a considerable revenue from them. Sergius Orata made a fortune by turning fishmonger on his own account, and assumed his second name from the popular fish (orata)—a favourite side dish on the tables of the rich—which had raised him to wealth. C. Hirrius, the first who established ponds for lampreys, derived from them an annual income of £4800; and several other proprietors who had sunk capital in fish-ponds found them by no means a bad investment. The Romans occasionally brought fish from a great distance for the purpose of stocking their preserves; but in general their fish-ponds were supplied with species caught in the immediate neighbourhood. A well-known Latin writer tells us that they turned lakes and rivers into natural vivaria by carrying to and depositing in them not only fresh-water fish, but also the spawn of all those species of sea fish which are in the habit of penetrating some distance up rivers and estuaries; and he mentions several rivers, such as the Velinus, Sabatinus, and Volsinius in which the experiment had been successful. The Romans were very fond of fish, and the rich and luxurious among them sometimes gave enormous sums for their favourite delicacy. The mullet was held in great esteem, and the seemingly incredible prices of £48, £64, and even larger sums, are said to have been paid for a single choice fish. To be rich, in short, and not to have the best fish on your table was to be without taste. A Roman named Cassiodorus sold his slave in the morning that he might sup on a lamprey in the evening; and Veditius Pollio caused offending slaves to be thrown into the ponds where his

lampreys were kept. A broken decanter or a shattered dish sent a slave to be food for fishes, till Augustus, on the complaint of a slave doomed to feed the lampreys, caused the fish-ponds to be filled up, and Pollio's stock of glass and crockery to be smashed on the spot.

The title of M. Gauckler's book is "Fresh Water Fish and Pisciculture" (*Les Poissons d'eau douce, et le Pisciculture*). The first part, of about 100 pages, consists of descriptions and plates of fish, beginning with the salmon and ending with the lamprey; while the second, nearly twice as long, treats of Pisciculture. This science has for its objects the multiplication of the most useful kind of fishes, and it also aims at introducing and propagating them in waters where they have not previously existed. In order to carry out its objects, various processes are necessary, such as the stocking of waters by the introduction of adult fish capable of reproducing their species; rearing in fish-ponds; the collection of the spawn which fish deposit in the natural way, and its transference into the waters which it is wished to stock; the appropriation and adaptation of streams to the different kinds of fish by the formation of spawning beds and places of refuge, by the construction of fish ladders, and by the extermination of their natural enemies; artificial breeding, in which man intervenes and assists in the fecundation and incubation of the eggs, and afterwards in sheltering and watching the young fry. To these various piscicultural processes M. Gauckler devotes several chapters.

Almost from time immemorial, fish have been transferred from the rivers and waters of one country to those of another. To this we owe the introduction of the carp, now so common in Europe, which originally inhabited the waters of Persia and Asia Minor; of the gold-fish, a native of China; and of the shad, which was brought, about a hundred years ago, into the rivers of North America, where it had not previously existed. The choice of new species, however, requires great care and discretion; and the introduction of such fish, for example, as the *silurus glanis*, which some have proposed to bring into the rivers of France and Great Britain, would be a great mistake, as it is exceedingly voracious, and its flesh of only mediocre quality.

M. Gauckler has an interesting and instructive chapter on fish-ponds. The celebrated Lake Mocris, in Egypt was a vast fish-pond, which served at once for irrigation and fishing. In ancient India, many tanks were constructed and stocked with fish. The Romans, as already mentioned, were famous for their love of fish and fish-ponds. The monks of the middle ages were great fish cultivators; and in France at the present day there are about 500,000 acres occupied by fresh-water fish ponds, without counting the rivers and lakes. In Austria and Bohemia, also, large tracts of country are covered with artificial pools. The district of Wittengau alone has 250 of them, occupying about 1,200 acres, which have been used for supplying fish for 600 years. Bohemia at one time had no fewer than 22,140 fish-ponds, but now has not above a third of the number. Northern Germany possesses a great many; and in the single domain of Peitz-Cottbus there are 82, which produce annually about 220,000 pounds weight of marketable carp.

M. Gauckler gives many useful and practical details concerning the position, the soil, and the water most suitable for fish-ponds; the formation of the dams that retain their waters; the various apparatus used for emptying them; the construction and dimensions of the *poele* or *pecherie*, that is the part of a pond sunk below the general level to which the fish retire when the waters are drawn off; and the precautions to be taken in severe frosts and sudden thaws.

Some fifteen pages are devoted to an account of fish-ponds for rearing carp, the fish which has most generally and for the longest time been thus cultivated. The carp is a hardy and very prolific

fish. It grows most rapidly during the first four years of its existence, after which its growth is much more gradual. At four years old it commonly attains the weight of 4 lb.—a good marketable size. Dame Juliana Berners mentions the carp in England in her book on angling, published in 1486. It is there stated to be a dainty fish, but to be scarce, and to be so strongly armed in the mouth that no weak harness may hold him. In this country 12 or 15 lb. is considered quite an exceptional size for a carp; but in warmer climates he attains to a much greater weight. In the German lakes carp have been caught from 20 to 30 lb. In Prussia 40-pounders are not unfrequently heard of; Pallas speaks of one taken in the Volga which measured 5 feet; Valmont de Bomare of another, served at the table of Prince Conti at Offenburg, weighing 45 lb.; and a monster is said to have been caught in the Oder, near Frankfort, in 1711, of the incredible size of 9 feet long by 3 deep. Jovius speaks of carp in the Larian lake (Como) weighing 200 lb., which were assailed by arrows shot from a cross-bow, or by harpoons with lines attached. The carp possesses great tenacity of life, and occasionally attains a great age—according to some writers, 200 years. The following extract from Mr. Buckland's "Familiar History of British Fishes" will give some idea of how extremely prolific a fish the carp is:—"I have a fine cast," he says, "in my museum of a carp, lent for this purpose by Mr. Charles, of Arabella Row, Pimlico. This fish weighed 21½ lb. I have since, by carefully weighing the roe, discovered by average that it contained no less than 1,310,750 eggs. Another smaller fish, which turned the scale at 16½ lb., contained roe which weighed 52 lb., giving the total of 2,059,750 eggs. These weights and calculations were made by a professional accountant."

Fresh spring water, and a gravelly, rocky, or sandy bottom are most suitable for trout ponds, which should be bordered with trees to give shelter and coolness, and from whose foliage numerous insects, the favourite food of trout, will drop into the pond. Instead of flat banks, with a gradual and regular slope to the water, the sides of the pond should be irregular and broken up by fragments of rock, roots, and stumps of trees as places of retreat and shelter for the fish. On the bottom of the pond, too, artificial inequalities and refuges should be formed. It is of great importance, before stocking a pond with young trout, to make sure that it contains neither pike, nor perch, nor minnows, nor sticklebacks, nor predatory insects. The trout in the same pond should be as much as possible of the same size. If there be great difference in size, the larger will devour the smaller. If trout are to attain a weight of 2 lb.—a good marketable size—there should be three separate basins, each of which should contain trout of the same year. The depth of the pond for the trout of the first year should be from 18 to 20 inches; for those of the second year, at least 3 feet 4 inches; and fully five feet for those of the third. Under the most favourable circumstances with regard to the abundance of pure and well-aerated water, and the supply of food, a great many trout may be reared in a comparatively limited space. A pond between 60 and 70 feet in length, from 18 to 20 in breadth, and from 5 to 7 feet deep, can easily accommodate several hundred three-year-old trout. The stocking may be carried the length of two or three fish for every cubic yard of water. The plants best fitted for trout ponds are those which encourage most the production of insects and their larvæ, which they prefer to all other kinds of diet, and on which they thrive best. A special apparatus for affording a supply of such food has been invented in the United States.

M. Gauckler's closing chapters treat of the transport of the young fry and of the enemies of fish. In transporting fish, two conditions should be specially attended to with reference to the water in which they are conveyed—namely, a suitable tempera-

ture and sufficient aeration. The water in which the young fish has been brought up ought to be used in preference to any other during the process of transport, and various means may be employed for replacing the oxygen consumed in the course of the journey. Several forms of apparatus have been tried for securing the safe transport of fish; but that which M. Gauckler prefers, and which, he states, has always given the best results, is that constructed by M. Biennet, which has been in use in Huningue since 1865, and in which even large salmon have been conveyed without damage for hundreds of miles. He gives several drawings of this apparatus, and an elaborate description of it, which, however, is too long to quote. In the transport of fish, the water, though it should be aerated at intervals, should not be renewed, because the new water might be different in chemical composition from that to which the fish had been accustomed, and might possibly cause a mortality among them. We should also be careful that the air which we inject into the water has not been vitiated by deleterious emanations or by tobacco smoke. A very small quantity of these poisonous fumes is sufficient to destroy the young fry. Those charged with their transport should, therefore, carefully avoid smoking carriages. For success in this department of pisciculture, as in every other, the great point is to multiply precautions, and not to neglect the smallest detail. In fact, the true practical rule may be summed up in a few words:—"Attention, attention, and still more attention." The result will amply compensate any trouble that may have been taken.

At the head of the enemies and destroyers of fish, M. Gauckler places the otter, one of which, he says, will destroy, in a single night, half a dozen carp of a couple of pounds weight each. In the next rank, he places the heron, one of the boldest and most successful robbers of streams and fish-ponds. No doubt the heron is a daring and prosperous fisher, but we never before heard that he had stored up within him an infallible means of fascinating and attracting the fish on which he feeds. M. Gauckler tells us that M. Noury, puzzled by the sort of madness which brought the fish to the very point of their enemy's bill, inquired into the matter; and proved that the heron has certain glands in his body from which he can exude a fluid which, on contact with the air, becomes a bluish powder, very fine and unctuous, and of an exceedingly fetid odour. This powder, by a peculiar movement of the heron's body, is shaken into the water, and slowly descends the stream where he is fishing. Its smell has an indescribable attraction for the trout; and scarcely have they felt it, when they begin to ascend the stream to seek for its source, add so fall an easy prey to the voracious heron. Poachers, M. Gauckler tells us, have long been aware of the peculiar attraction for fish which this heron odour possesses; and they compound heron oil, with which they anoint their baits. They prepare it in the following way. They pluck the heron without gutting him, and pound him in a mortar. The paste thus obtained is preserved in a bottle, hermetically sealed, from fifteen to twenty days in a warm place, until it becomes a sort of oily pulp. Any fragments of bone are then separated from it, and the remaining paste is mingled with flour, honey, or bread, and is carefully kept, in well-corked phials, until the moment arrives to smear with it the hooks and baits which are to be used in fishing.

In the United States and in Canada, the great importance of pisciculture is recognised as a means of increasing the stock of fish in rivers and lakes, and counteracting the effects of bad seasons, destructive modes of fishing, and other causes of decline; and in both countries, establishments for fish culture are supported by the Government, who have not been slow to appreciate the advantages to be derived from them. In Scotland, too, though nothing has been done by Government, we are glad to say that artificial fish-breeding is on the increase. Besides the Stormont-

field ponds, which have been in operation for more than twenty years, there are now the extensive hatcheries of the Duke of Sutherland and the Marquis of Ailsa, as well as several others on a smaller scale in different parts of the country; while Sir James Maitland's establishment at Craigend, near Stirling, is the most complete in Europe, and is, year by year, being extended and perfected. Illustrations of the various processes and apparatus in use in these hatcheries would form one of the most interesting departments of the fisheries exhibition which we hope to see held in Edinburgh, in the Waverly Market, in the spring or early summer of next year.—*Scotsman*.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

RARE AND CURIOUS FISHES OF DEVON.

SPINOUS SHARK.

Squalus spinosus

Turton's Linnæus.

Squale Bouclé

Lacepede.

„ „

Risso.

Echinorhinus spinosus Yarrell, British Fishes, vol. ii., p. 534.

ACCORDING to Couch, vol. i., p. 54, the spinous shark was not known to naturalists before the latter end of the eighteenth century, and at present little more is ascertained concerning it, besides the figure and the extent of sea through which it is distributed. Dr. Smith obtained it at the Cape of Good Hope; it seems scarcely rare in the Mediterranean; and in Britain it has been taken in Yorkshire, and Brixham, and three or four times in Cornwall. Its haunts, probably, are in very deep water, and consequently little of its peculiar habits can be expected to become known, except by some fortunate accident of uncertain occurrence. We must rest content, therefore, in collecting what scattered notices exist, with the addition of the very little obtained by observation. Mr. Charles Fox met with one that was taken towards the end of September, 1835, near Helford, in Cornwall, about a mile from land. Risso speaks of a specimen so large as to weigh about six hundredweight.

On March 7th, 1872, I received a magnificent specimen of the spinous shark from Brixham, this being one of the most curious fish I had yet seen, and the first of its kind. Knowing full well how pleased my friend Mr. Buckland would be to see it, I immediately telegraphed to him; an answer was quickly returned to this effect, "Pray send me the spinous shark as soon as possible." It was accordingly sent, and a splendid cast taken of it by Mr. Buckland, and is now to be seen in his Museum of Economic Fish-culture, South Kensington, S.W.

Mr. E. Parfitt, in his "Fauna of Devon," page 42, gives an excellent description of this particular fish, viz., that three specimens of this almost world-wide distributed fish have been taken on our shores. Two of these have been mentioned by Mr. Yarrell as having been taken in trawl nets off Brixham, and the other was hooked off Berry Head. The third one I saw at Mr. Gosden's, fishsalesman, High Street, Exeter; this was captured off Brixham, March, 1872. The form of this specimen was very much like the one figured by Mr. Yarrell at page 54, long and thin. Length, 5 feet 3 inches from apex of snout to tip of fleshy part of tail; breadth of head, from eye to eye, 7 inches; width of tail, 1 foot 2 inches, from tip of nose to anterior base of pectoral fin 14½ inches; from apex of nose to anterior arch of mouth, 5½ inches; transverse diameter of mouth, 6 inches.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows."
—SHAKESPEARE.

I know a great many of such banks, beside old Father Thames, where not only oxlips and violets may be gathered, but beauties of a more substantial character in the shape of trout, may be gathered by patient toiling and spinning. A grand change for the better has taken place in the weather, the river is perfection with regard to trout condition, and the troutist that now hesitates to visit some favourite haunt will be lost—it is now or never on the Thames, for it is useless to hang fire until the "madding crowd" has scared every respectable fish into unfishable quarters.

THURSDAY EVENING.—I have many interesting items to communicate with regard to trout doings within the past week, but your "special notice" has taken me off my feed. I had altogether forgotten Good Friday, but, with all my heart and soul, I trust it may prove a good Friday to all brother piscators; so, until next week, "o-river."—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear; we had a lot of rain here on Monday night. Prospects look better; wind in a better quarter, south-west. There have been a few trout taken round about here at Pangbourn; 8 trout were taken, largest 3 lb., at Newbury; a trout was taken, 8 lb., on the Kennet; a large trout has been feeding here last week, at Gatehampton Ferry.—JOHN RUSH.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

At last we have some fishing weather, after a long period of frost and cold north-east winds, with these rivers very low. However, last Sunday a change came, wind veering round to the south, and a gentle rain fell for twelve hours, which was not only received thankfully by agriculturists, but also anglers, and caused these rivers to be in fair order for fishing. At the present moment of writing they have got very low again (the few hours of rain not being sufficient), but it looks very likely for a change, and in the bad way the fish sported to-day indicate such; with more rain the water will be in first-rate order. Very good baskets have been made during the last two days. Baskets have averaged from from twenty to thirty trout in each. On Monday, I caught twenty-one, and on Tuesday twenty-two, average-sized fish, with small the blue upright, silver twist and sand-fly. I am sorry to see there are otters about, and I am sure we (anglers) would be pleased to see our old friend Mr. Collier bring up his grand otter hounds at his very earliest convenience, as he generally has a few pleasant days on the Barle and little Exe.—W.

Bure (Acle).

CAPTURE OF A FINE EEL.—A magnificent specimen of the stream eel, was taken at Acle last week, by Mr. Rose, landlord of the Bridge Inn, weighing 7 lb. and some odd ounces; the mode of capture being a small roach for bait on ordinary eel hook. This fine fish is still alive, and will probably be shown at the forthcoming Fisheries Exhibition. Mr. Rose informs me that owing to the absence of salt tides during the last few months, some good fishing may be expected here, as soon as the weather became more settled.—ANGLER.

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

On March 31st, Mr. Foster, of Brinkburn, killed 2 trout, one 25 inches long, and 15½ inches girth, one over 7 lb. and the other 2½ lb., and 3 salmon; Mr. Mathews, 1 salmon and a dish of trout; Mr. Hedley, of Felton, 5 salmon; Mr. Dobson, of Felton, 4 salmon; Mr. Wood, of Lindon, 2 salmon and a dish of trout; Mr. Hilton, 2 salmon and a dish of trout; Mr. A. Hutchinson, of Bockesfield, a splendid dish of trout; Mr. Leighton, of Theslyhaugh, 6 salmon, from 2 to 9 lb. weight.—A. GLASS.

Fareham (Hants).

Trout fishing has commenced in this neighbourhood, but the takes are small, and owing to the cold spring fish are not in very good condition. Mr. E. Goble, the secretary of the Titchfield Club, fishing near Romsey, caught a fine salmon weighing over 25 lb., with a small silver-bodied fly.—RED PALMER.

Medway (Tunbridge).

The water is in splendid condition, but as we have no trout worth speaking of, no angling can be done at the present time. The dace have finished spawning, and the jack and perch in large numbers have been seen in the spawning beds during the week. The prospects for the coming season are most encouraging.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Yore (Yorkshire).

I am happy to say that we have entered upon spring weather at last—weather calculated to raise the fly-fisher's hopes, and make his heart feel light, at least so mine feels at the present time at the prospect of a clear week's good fishing. If the present weather continues great will be the slaughter of trout throughout England during Easter week, and many a golden monarch of the streams will flap his tail in his native element for the last time. I recommend the water cricket for point fly, sand fly for the second dropper, and blue dun and march brown for third and fourth, but of course neither I or any other angler can tell what fly will really kill until we get to the river side.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE EEL.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

(Continued from page 137.)

I PROMISED some further remarks in my article of March 19 on the above subject, and as during this comparatively "off season" the matter may be interesting, I proceed to fulfil the promise.

That, after this, no one of my readers may be in the least doubt as to the mode of generation in eels, I will take this branch of their natural history first. I have before me at this moment a private letter from a prominent American fish-culturist (on the United States Fish Commission), in which the following passage occurs:—

"Professor Baird has five specimens [of eels] with ovaries in the Smithsonian Institution. Professor Packard found a male and found spermatozoa, and I counted some eggs, and from that estimated the number in a 6 lb. eel as 9 millions."

Taking this as accurate—and I know my correspondent's scientific ability too well to doubt it—the 11½ lb. eel in Mr. Buckland's museum at South Kensington would represent about 18 millions of ova. (It is the cast of a female *anguilla mediostriis*—a silver eel.)

The probable reason why the ova and milt of the eel so long escaped detection in the animal was the expectation of finding appearances similar in a close degree to those of other fishes.

The likeness, however, is but slight; and, indeed, in some particulars, even distant. Two long, narrow sacs, continued beyond the vent, and throughout the entire length of the abdominal cavity, consist of membranes, secreting on the inner surface the milt of the male, and affording attachment, as in other fishes, for the ova of the female. They are, in the words of Jesse, "puckered or gathered along the line of junction to the peritoneal covering of the spine, and the free, or loose, floating edge, is therefore thrown into crevices or plaits like a frill." This writer, through Professor Owen, had an opportunity of seeing some drawings belonging to the collection of John Hunter, in which the peculiarities of the sexual organs of the eel were beautifully shown.

From the calculation referred to above, it is clear that the eggs of the eel are of microscopical minuteness. Indeed, one moment's glance at the convoluted fringe containing them is sufficient to show that the largest is scarcely definable by the unaided eye, and the smallest utterly undiscernable without high magnifying powers. The varying size lends itself to the supposition that the ova is shed continuously as it matures. According to Couch, "some of the tiny globules were a hundred times larger than others from whence the conclusion is that some are approaching maturity, and that their exclusion is in succession." I am of opinion that, during the winter season, the maturing process is arrested, and that it is in early spring that eels spawn in salt and brackish water, and in summer in fresh water.

The eel fare, or elvers, in earlier times so plentifully seen on the Thames, consisted of a dense, wriggling dark mass of tiny eels, making their way upward from the lower reaches of the river. This is seen to this day near Worcester, and other places on the Severn. At the Faithful City these tiny fish are mixed with a little flour and spice and baked, forming a sort of eel-cake, which is exceedingly delicious but very rich. Mr. Eden (Museum of Fish-culture) pointed out some of these cakes to me the other day, which were preserved in spirits; and, though cooked, they presented every indication of the nature of their composition. No such eel fare is observable in land-locked waters, as the young eels bury themselves in the soft ooze or traverse its immediate surface, feeding on the smaller annelids or mollusca, as well as the smaller crustacea and larvæ of insects.

It may tend to lessen the tediousness of somewhat dry ichthyological details if I recount some of the extraordinary accounts of the genesis of this fish, which have gained credence. Even now, it seems, there is a marvellous amount of ignorance existing on the subject. It is only a few weeks since our editor was asked if eels would be engendered by horse-hair soaked in water! "Might not such a popular superstition," writes Dr. Badham, of this very common belief, "have originated the singular tresses of Medusa?" These were composed of snakes, as all my readers are aware. Oppian thought the mud engendered eels, so did Aristotle. Pliny opined they rubbed themselves against the rocks, and that from the detritus issued a new generation. Other ancient naturalists ascribed them to celestial agencies making them the offspring of Jove and a white-armed goddess, Anguilla. Van Helmont, in later times, believed they came from May dew, and that they might be engendered by the following process: "Cut up two turfs covered with May dew, and lay one upon the other the grassy side inwards, and thus expose them to heat of the sun. In a few hours there will spring from them an infinite quantity of eels." Rondelet professes to have *seen* eels embrace, and Leuwenhoek, in the urinary, and Vallanieri in the swim, or air bladder, assert they found eel fry. The eel-lets, or elvers, are very light-coloured at first, but become greenish-brown later in the season.

Although I have not said as much, the attentive reader will have seen that in the matter of generation, I am inclined to the opinion that there is no difference from other fishes in the mode. It has been asserted that those species which are migratory spawn only in the sea, to which they make their way every autumn. Mr. Pinkerton says, that the sharp-nosed eel is migratory, and the broad-nosed species is not. This opinion he very substantially backs up from his experience of Irish eel-fisheries, and he would be entitled to his deduction being accepted as a fact were it not for the trifling circumstance that my observations in respect of English eel-migration are almost oppositely opposed to him. I have found the broad-nosed eel in certain localities to predominate over the other species, and quite as persistent in their efforts to pass down stream as their sharp-nosed congeners. Dr. Roots, of Kingston, held that the migratory eels (meaning all the species of the Thames) made two migrations each year, namely one up, and we may presume, one down, like the salmon; and, where this is possible, I am inclined to think his opinion a true one.

(To be continued.)

FISH CULTURE AT CHERTSEY BRIDGE.

I am very glad to find that your correspondent "Consistent" has considered it worth his while to notice my remarks in reference to "Fish Farming at Chertsey Bridge," although he is not altogether correct in all his conclusions. In speaking of "Mr. Forbes being actively engaged in the culture of various species of salmonidæ," he is not to infer that my idea is at all favourable to the introduction of foreign fish into the Thames. I have never spoken in favour of it, but at all times strongly advocated, instead, the increase of our own native fish, and particularly what is known as the Thames trout. I have all along considered it a mistake to propagate the different species of salmonidæ which was first taken up by the late Mr. Frank Buckland for the Thames, and afterwards carried on by his worthy successor Mr. James Forbes. I think "Consistent" is unnecessarily sharp in charging me with jumping at conclusions in regard to the hatching of the Thames trout; and he must know as well as I do, that the first, and most important stage of success, is in the character of the ova; and at the time I wrote upon the subject, the eggs were fast approaching vivification, and now, when I saw them last week,

they had satisfactorily passed into active life. I had, therefore, occasion to be sanguine in this respect, and I am so far sanguine of the ultimate result, that even if only one sixth of the young fry are raised to a good size for turning into the river, it will be a grand gift to our noble Thames. The arrangements that are being made at the present time to bring about such a result have never been adopted before, and when the time comes for placing the young fry in the rearing pond, I shall be in a better position for detailing the particulars. I hope then "Consistent" will feel that, instead of looking forward to disappointment, which is no principle of mine, there will be every chance of success: It is no use looking on the dark side of any question. Our hopes should always be bright and cheerful. Nothing to me in this life appears difficult. If there is a difficulty, it should be grasped, and it will be overcome. I look forward to success in everything I undertake, and so far I have never been disappointed. I am satisfied that the cultivation of the real Thames trout may be safely and satisfactorily carried on. Every one knows that there are great risks in the raising of the fry, and great care is needful in bringing them up—and if we can only get through the period of infancy, I do not anticipate—neither will I anticipate—the difficulty of raising a goodly proportion of the youthful stock. I only wish "Consistent" could see for himself at the present time the thousands of young fry in the fish-house at Chertsey Bridge! he would take a more cheerful view of what our good friend, Mr. James Forbes, is doing in the way of fish-culture. I lay no claim to "a gift of sacred prophecy,"—I look forward to hope, and it will carry me onward—not resting on hope alone, but that which leads up to it—the duty which is attached to the work in which we are engaged; and if the plans that are now arranged for future operations are rightly carried out, in the course of two more years the result will manifest itself. I may not be spared to witness it, but others may, "Consistent," I hope, amongst the rest; and he may, perhaps, then, with some satisfaction, exclaim "after all, 'B.' was right." Whether it may be so or not, I trust he will feel with me at the present time I am not using words in any bitterness of spirit, and I can, in return, assure him I do not regard anything of aggression in his remarks. I rather value correspondence written in a kind and courteous manner, whether I am differed with or not. We have all a right to private judgment, and I am not so wedded to notions as to be above being convinced.

B.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

BLUE POINT OYSTERS.

A FEW days since, I purchased from Mr. Gow, fishmonger, Broad Street, some Blue Point oysters that he had been feeding, for a period of four weeks, in the English beds at Colchester, and I am now able to report with satisfaction on the result. I found the oysters very fat—in fine condition—and thoroughly clean. I can strongly recommend them, and the prejudice I had against Blue Points has been thoroughly overcome by this process of cleansing and giving them a more wholesome flavour. Mr. Gow is, therefore, deserving of support, and the price is wonderfully moderate.

B.

FISH AS FOOD.

THE researches of German and American chemists into the character of fish as food have disproved many of the commonly accepted theories about its extraordinary qualities, especially its value for the building up of the brain.

According to their investigations there is no evidence to prove that the flesh of the denizens of the river and sea is any richer in phosphorus than other meats, and that, even if it were so, there is no proof that it would, on that account, be more valuable for brain food, as the nourishment of the brain and the sources of intellectual energy are too abstruse in the present condition of knowledge to enable persons to arrive at any positive conclusion.

Some one asked Mark Twain, when he was editing a weekly paper in California, how much fish he ought to eat in order to improve his brain, and the humorist replied, through the columns of the journal, that he could not exactly tell, but, judging from the character of the inquiry, that seven or eight dozen whales might have some effect on him.

Dr. J. W. Draper, of New York, has, evidently, no belief in fish as brain food, for he says: "Since during the acts of sensation and intellection phosphorus is consumed in the brain and nervous system, there arises a necessity to restore the portions so consumed, or, as the popular expression is, to use brain food. Now, as every one knows, it is the property of phosphorus to shine in the dark, and as fish is a certain stage of putrefactive decay often emit light or become phosphorescent, it has been thought that this is due to the abundance of phosphorus their flesh contains, and that they are, therefore, eminently suitable for the nourishment of the nervous system and an invaluable brain food. Under that idea many persons resort to a diet of fish and persuade themselves that they derive advantage from it in an increased vividness of thought—a signal improvement in the reasoning powers. But the flesh of fish contains no excess of phosphorus, nor does its shining depend on that element. Decaying willow wood shines even more brilliantly than decaying fish. It may sometimes be discerned afar off at night. The shining in the two cases is due to the same cause—the oxidation of carbon, not of phosphorus, in organic substances containing, perhaps, not a perceptible trait of the latter element. Yet, surely no one found himself rising in a poetic fervour by tasting decaying willow wood, though it ought on these principles to be a better brain food than a much larger quantity of fish."

According to other scientists, people who eat fish largely may, after awhile, approach Homer, Socrates, Tacitus, Juvenal, Virgil, Dante, Milton, Shakespeare, Macaulay, and other celebrated writers of the past in intellectual power, but they will learn in the course of time how fallacious are such fancies.

One thing may, however, be said about fish, and that is, that while it is much cheaper than meat, the better kinds are almost equally as nutritive; and are well adapted as food for all classes, but especially the poor, who have no money to waste on the mere pleasing of the palate, and only eat to live. And, as cheap and wholesome food is necessary to the progress, culture, and even morality of a people, it follows that fish is an important factor in our national welfare.

The taste for fish advances with civilisation, a fact which is apparent when we consider the attention now paid to sea and river fisheries, and the largely-increasing quantities of fish caught each year. It is estimated that London alone disposes of 80,000 tons annually, and that Paris and New York use at least as much more, making a total of 160,000 tons for three cities.

The Americans are greater fish eaters than the Europeans, and as they have many species in their waters, they are able to have fresh fish the year round. They seem to have inherited the taste of the Ancient Romans for fish, for we learn that some Roman nobles paid as high as 2,560 sesterces, or twenty pounds, for a single lamprey eel, and from twelve thousand to twenty thousand

sesterces for a six-pound mullet, and considered only the livers and gills of these creatures fit to set before a king. We also learn that they sent ships to foreign countries for the finny denizens of the deep; that they built ponds for breeding the freshwater species at home; that they fed them with veal soaked in human blood, and even with the remains of slaves sacrificed specially for that purpose.

Fish contains more water than beef, mutton, or pork, and the fatter it is the less water it contains. Thus fresh eels, trout, salmon, and shad are more nutritive than cod, halibut, flounders, and others, because they are fatter. Ere referring to the nourishing qualities of different fishes, it may be well to explain what the nutrients of food are, so that their character may be readily understood. These nutrients are divided into albuminoids, carbohydrates, and fats, each of which has its own specific work in supporting life.

The albuminoids, for instance, are nitrogenous, that is, they contain carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen, and are, therefore, the most important; for not only do they help in the formation of the fatty tissues of the body and in the supply of animal heat and muscular power, but they have a work of their own to perform in building up the nitrogenous tissues, muscles, cartilages, and tendons, in which none of the other substances, or ingredients, can share. We find the albuminoids in the gluten of wheat, the white of eggs, the serum of the blood, lean meat, and curd.

The carbohydrates are non-nitrogenous, and are made up of carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen. They are found in starch, sugar, and cellulose, and are supposed to be employed for the purpose of supplying fuel to produce animal heat and muscular power. Although they are important constituents of food, they are inferior to the fats and albuminoids.

The fats, which are also non-nitrogenous, occur in butter, fat meat, lard, tallow, linseed oil, olive oil, and other vegetable substances. These are mainly useful for storing fuel in the body, by giving the flesh the required amount of fat to sustain animal heat. The albuminoids are considered to be the flesh formers, and the other two nutrients the respiratory substances; but all these, undoubtedly, take part in producing muscular energy and respiration. It is evident from this that persons would starve in a short time if they depended solely on carbohydrates and fats, though they might live for days, if not weeks, on lean meat.

It is a well known fact that savages who live for any length of time on lean meat become so fond of fats that they will swallow raw oil without suffering any ill effects from it, and will eat fat raw pork as ravenously as a starving man would a piece of bread. Now the flesh of fish, like that of other animals, consists principally of albuminoids and a small portion of fats, but no carbohydrates; and as vegetables contain the latter nutrients, and only little of the others, it follows that a combination of meat, fish, and vegetables make the most wholesome and agreeable diet.

Professor Atwater, of the United States, has recently been analysing the nutritive qualities of various species of fish found in American waters, and from his researches we learn that they are far more watery than one would expect. He says that in a hundred pounds of cod, only one-sixth is composed of solids, but the solids amount to a third in the dense and lordly salmon. The following table will give an idea of how the species stand in order of merit.

In flesh of—	Water, per cent.	Solids, per cent.
Flounder	82.8	17.2
Cod	83.1	16.9
Cod	82.4	17.8
Striped bass	78.7	21.3
Striped bass	79.6	20.4
Bluefish	78.1	21.8
Halibut (lean)	79.4	20.6
Halibut (fat)	69.3	30.7
Mackerel	77.8	22.2
Mackerel	74.2	23.8
Shad	69.3	30.7
Shad	64.5	35.5
Eels (salt water).	70.4	29.6
Whitefish	69.6	30.4
Brook trout	75.7	24.3
Lake trout.	68.7	37.3
Salmon	66.4	33.6

These figures prove that the lake trout, the shad, the salmon, fat halibut, and salt water eels rank before all their congeners in nutritive qualities, and that, with few exceptions, fishes that feed on the bottom are not so good as those that frequent the upper waters. A good quality of lean beef, free from bone, contains about 75 per cent. of water, while fat beef contains as low as 55 per cent.; so that the difference between meat and fish is not very great. To judge from this, the person who would prepare fish extracts in

the same manner as beef ought to make a fortune in a short time.

To show how fish compares with other foods in nutritive qualities, I give the following table, which has been compiled with great care by Dr. König, of Germany, and Professor Atwater :—

COMPOSITION & VALUATION of ANIMAL FOOD. (Flesh free from bone.)	Ingredients.				Nutritive valuation compared with medium beef—100
	Water.	Albuminoids, Protein.	Fats.	Extractive matters, Mineral Ingredients.	
MEAT.					
Beef, lean	76.71	20.61	1.50	—	1.18 91.3
Beef, medium	72.25	21.39	5.19	—	1.17 100.0
Beef, fat	54.76	16.93	27.23	—	1.08 112.0
Veal, fat	72.31	18.88	7.41	.07	1.33 92.4
Mutton, medium	75.99	18.11	5.77	—	1.33 86.6
Pork, fat	47.40	14.54	37.34	—	0.72 116.0
Smoked beef	47.68	27.10	15.35	—	10.59 146.0
Smoked ham	27.98	23.97	36.48	1.50	10.07 157.0
GAME, FOWL, &C.					
Venison.	76.76	19.77	1.92	1.42	1.13 88.8
Hen	70.06	18.49	9.34	1.20	0.91 93.9
Duck	70.82	22.65	3.11	2.33	1.09 104.0
MILK, EGGS, &C.					
Cows' milk	87.41	3.41	3.66	4.82	0.70 23.8
Cows' milk, skimmed	90.63	3.06	0.79	4.77	0.75 18.5
Cows' milk, cream.	66.41	3.70	25.72	3.54	0.63 56.1
Butter	14.14	0.86	83.11	0.70	1.19 124.0
Cheese, skimmed milk	48.02	32.65	8.41	6.80	4.12 159.0
Cheese, fat	46.82	27.62	20.54	1.97	3.05 151.0
Cheese, very fat	35.75	27.16	30.43	2.53	4.13 163.0
Hens' eggs	73.67	12.55	12.11	0.55	1.12 72.2
FISH.					
Flounder	82.85	15.24	0.62	—	1.29 65.0
Halibut	74.31	18.20	6.38	—	1.12 88.0
Cod	82.78	15.67	0.34	—	1.25 68.0
Eels	70.44	18.66	9.80	—	1.00 95.0
Shad	66.93	19.19	12.51	—	1.36 99.0
Striped bass	79.13	17.59	2.13	—	1.14 79.0
Mackerel	76.02	18.28	4.60	—	1.09 86.0
Bluefish.	78.15	19.33	1.25	—	1.27 85.0
Salmon	66.41	19.72	12.71	—	1.10 104.0
Haddock	80.63	18.03	0.18	—	1.16 78.0
Lake trout	68.69	17.70	12.26	—	1.35 94.0
Brook trout	75.70	19.92	3.02	—	1.36 91.0
Whitefish	65.59	21.66	7.14	—	1.61 103.0
Red snapper	75.45	22.40	0.67	—	1.48 97.0
CURED FISH.					
Salt mackerel	48.43	20.80	14.40	0.38	16.27 111.0
Dried cod	16.16	78.91	0.78	2.59	1.56 346.0
Smoked herring	69.49	21.12	8.51	—	1.24 104.0

We deduce from these figures that beefsteak is about three-fourths water, and milk seven-eighths; so that a pound of the former contains only four ounces of solids, or about as much as a quart of pure milk. The difference between both as food is very great, however, and for the simple reason that the meat is mostly composed of albuminoids, which sustain life, while the milk consists of fats and carbo-hydrate, or sugar of milk. According to certain German chemists, beef is the most nutritive of substances, yet there is not much difference between it and fish, except that the latter have less fats. One pound of albuminoids is said to be equal to three pounds of fats; hence, if we take medium beef at 100, the following will be the ratios of other substances:—Milk 23.8, butter 124, medium mutton 86.6, fat pork 116, smoked been 146, flounders 65, cod 68, shad 99, whitefish 103, salmon 104, dried cod 346.

Fish is, therefore, almost as nutritive as meat, especially that which is dried or smoked, while it only costs one-third or one-half as much, and, what is more, it is always palatable. Why persons should waste so much money on beef and mutton is a mystery, and can only be accounted for on the ground that they do not know the value of fish as food, or that they have not educated themselves to appreciate it.

A careful survey of the preceding table will enable the prudent housewife to see which species of fish are the best and the most

economical for food, and if she does not pay for those which please the palate rather than those which are best fitted to sustain life, she will find that she can support her family much cheaper and better by buying fish occasionally than if she spent her money on meats alone.

NATURAL HISTORY.

(Continued from page 84.)

HERRING FAMILY.

WE come next to twelve specimens of the gizzard shad, whose minute fry swarm in countless numbers in the waters of our larger rivers in midsummer. These were taken in June and July from the Illinois river, from Ottawa to Peoria. The smallest of the group twenty mm. long by two mm. wide—as slender as cyprinoids and nearly cylindrical, although the adult is a high, thin fish. I was greatly interested by the discovery that the maxillaries of these smallest specimens are provided with teeth—a single row of nine or ten on the lower edge—although the mouth of the adult is entirely toothless and smooth. The internal structure also differs remarkably from that of the adult, especially in the much greater simplicity of the digestive apparatus. In a young gizzard shad, seven-tenths of an inch long, by one-tenth of an inch high, the intestine was found to pass almost directly from the anterior end of the stomach to the vest; and at this time pyloric cœca was entirely wanting. The intestine of this specimen was filled with various species of entomostraca.

On the other hand, in a fish three and three-fourths inches long, showing the general characters of the adult, the intestine passed upward and backward from its origin, running without flexure the whole length of the body cavity (this part being covered with an immense number of pyloric cœca) then turned forward to the stomach, and made a large number of intricate turns and doublings from side to side and end to end of the abdomen, extending in all to about eight times the length of the perivisceral cavity. This intestine was well filled with mud with only a slight sprinkling of unicellular algæ.

These twelve fishes, all under two inches, had eaten about 90 per cent. of entomostraca, 2 per cent. of chironomus larvæ, and the remainder, algæ.

MINNOW FAMILY.

A single minute minnow, three-eighths of an inch long, which I could not determine specifically, had eaten entomostraca (25 per cent.) and chironomus larvæ.

Three specimens of the common chub minnow (*Semotilus corporalis*), ranging from five eighths inch to one inch, indicate somewhat doubtfully an exception to the general rule respecting the early food of fishes. Only 7 per cent. of their food was entomostraca, and the whole remainder consisted of filamentous algæ. It should be noted, however, that 20 per cent. of the food of the smallest specimen, five-eighths inch long, was cyclops, and it may be that the chub minnow lives wholly on entomostraca at first, merely changing its habit earlier than most of its allies.

CATFISH FAMILY.

Numerous specimens of the young of this family show that, notwithstanding its many peculiarities of structure and habit, it is no exception to the general rule respecting the food of the young. The smallest of these specimens were from a little school of minute fry, taken in June from the friendly protection of an old oyster can in the Illinois River. These little creatures were colourless and seemingly almost helpless, and only three eighths of an inch in length. They had already begun to eat, however, and their stomachs were filled with entomostraca and chironomus larvæ. These were certainly *Amiurus*, but it was, of course, impossible to tell the species.

Other specimens of this genus, making thirteen in all, none longer than an inch and five-eighths, were obtained from various places in the Illinois, and from mud holes in the Mississippi bottoms in Union County. These thirteen individuals were feeding almost wholly on entomostraca and larvæ of chironomus, the latter composing 74 per cent. and the former 18 per cent. of their food. A few young amphipoda and a few unknown insects' eggs account for the remainder of the food.

No specimens of *Noturus sialis*, varying in length from seven-eighths of an inch to an inch and a quarter, differed from the foregoing in the much larger proportion of chironomus larvæ (41 per cent.) and in the 26 per cent. of young *Allorchestes dentata* (a very abundant small amphipod), eaten by the larger specimens. These had also taken 7 per cent. larvæ of May flies. Those under an inch in length were peculiar only in the large ratio of chironomus larvæ (65 per cent.), a fact probably indicating that this species seeks its food chiefly on the muddy bottoms.

Six specimens of the other genera of catfishes were taken small enough to show their earliest food, but as far as can be judged from the food of four specimens of *icialurus*, from two and a half to three and a half inches long, the other genera will not be found to differ especially from the foregoing.

DOGFISH FAMILY.

A single dogfish (*Amia*), one and three fourths inches long, taken in June, had eaten 70 per cent. of entomostraca and 2 per cent. of larvæ and pulpæ of chrinomos. A few young allorchestes and some water bugs (*corixes*) complete the brief list.

Several specimens of *amia* under one inch in length, whose anatomy I studied three years ago, I remember to have had their intestines packed with entomostraca.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.

WHO MAKES CUPS FOR CLUB PRIZES?

SIR,—In reply to Mr. John Hargrave's question for the above I beg to say that Mr. W. B. Payne, of Castle Street, Bristol, is the best place to obtain a silver cup, or any other present suitable for a prize.—I am, &c.,

LEWIS WRIDE
Secretary to the Bristol Golden Carp Angling Association.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of following sums towards the above fund:—Marylebone, 14s. 6d.; Duke of Norfolk, 10s. 6d.; Bostonian, 10s. 6d. The list is now closed.—I am, &c.,

T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

THE ALEXANDRA FLY.

SIR,—I should feel obliged if you, or any of your correspondents would kindly give me their experience of the Alexandra fly as a trout killer. My attention has been called to it several times in your *Gazette*. Where can it be obtained?—I am, &c.,

A TWO YEARS' SUBSCRIBER.

Gloucester.

[We believe that several of the London fishing-tackle makers, whose advertisements will be found in our paper, keep this deadly fly for trout; and we know for certain that Mr. Bowness, of the Strand, London, keeps a very good pattern in various sizes. The method of using the fly is to throw across and down stream, and then to draw the fly in a series of gentle jerks against the current. As we have before said, we are certain that the fly is taken for a minnow, and it looks exactly like one in the water. It will also kill if worked like a salmon fly.—ED.]

FISHING AT DAGENHAM.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space to ask your readers the following questions?

- (1) Is fishing allowed at Dagenham during the fence season?
- (2) Which fish are likely to be in the best condition?

—I am, &c.,

A.

EDITORIAL CORRECTION.—In last week's article, "Flam on the Dove," should have been "Ilam on the Dove."

CLUB REPORTS.

THE BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

The above club have their third annual supper at the Club House, Alscot Arms, Alscot Road, Bermondsey, on Tuesday, April 12.—I am, &c.,

WM. ALLEN, sec.

BOUGHTON ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club held their annual dinner at the Portobello Inn, St. John's, on Monday evening, when Mr. J. Gillam presided, and the company included, amongst others, Mr. T. Davis (vice-chairman), Messrs. W. Tandy, C. Newman, Hopkins, A. Bosward, J. A. Griffin, J. R. Pool, J. Deakin, A. Shaw, J. R. Bunn, H. W. Carey, J. R. Bosward, and J. Chambers. The capital repast prepared by Host Griffin having been done justice to, the loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed by the Chairman, who next gave "Success to the Boughton Angling Club." He congratulated them on having enrolled so many efficient members during the short time the club had been in existence, and hoped that during the coming season their ranks would be further augmented. Mr. J. R. Pool responded, and said the club started very prosperously, and was going on in the same way. The number of members was nearly 30, and as there was a prospect of others joining, he had no doubt but that they would have a good season. He hoped next year that the prize list would be a more lengthy one. The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Presidents," a toast to which Mr. Griffin said it gave him very great pleasure to respond. When he accepted the post of president, he did so with a determination to see whether it was not possible, with all the good anglers in St. John's, to have a club in connection with the parish which should be second to none in Worcester. His friends had rallied round him, and he was pleased to be able to say that their united efforts had met with success. They had not had many fish weighed in, as the rivers had been all against angling, and for the last six months he did not think they had had a nine days' water. The object of the club was the furthering of the interests of all anglers, and the protection of fish. It behoved all anglers to do all they could to protect the salmon, though in doing this they should not ignore other fish. To the working classes angling was both a profitable and enjoyable pastime. Last year 4000 licenses to fish in the waters of the Worcestershire and Shropshire fishery district were taken out, and he thought the Severn Fishery Board might well do something towards providing enjoyment for those who paid license money. (Hear, hear). Mr. Deakin proposed "The donors of prizes," which was acknowledged by Mr. Bunn. "The Committee" was proposed by the Vice-Chairman, and responded to by Mr. Hopkins, who said the club was in a good financial condition. He hoped the members would do all they could to further the interests of the club. The other toasts were "The visitors" and the "Host and Hostess." Songs were given by Messrs. Gillam, Pool, Miles and Bosward; Mr. J. J. Bateman presided at the piano, and Mr. W. Wainwright played the piccolo. Mr. Caldicott's new "Sleigh Race Galop" was given, with the accompaniment of bells. The prize for the heaviest aggregate weight of fish taken up to the commencement of the close season was awarded to Mr. Hopkins, and the prize for the heaviest one day's catch to Mr. Deakin, of Malvern, who weighed in 10½ brace of trout and grayling.

THE CADOGAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first annual supper of the above society was held on Thursday last at the Prince of Wales, Exeter Street, Sloane Street, when a most excellent bill of fare was provided by our hostess, and thoroughly done justice to by thirty

members and friends, including Mr. Bonvoisin, of the W.C.A. After the removal of the cloth, the distribution of prizes having unfortunately to be postponed, a most pleasant evening was spent. Some pleasant harmony, in which Messrs. Rickets, Heads, Smale, Olliver and Fawcus were most prominent. Also a recitation by Mr. Bonvoisin, whose company we were very sorry to lose so early, he having promised to attend the Hammersmith Angling Club's return visit, which took place the same evening. It is intended to distribute the prizes on Thursday, the 14th, when all members are requested to attend. The principal winners are Messrs. Smale, Spring, Pike, Seeley, Goodger, Hemson and Tilley. We have had a fairly prosperous season, and, with several new members joining, look forward to a better one next. Some handsome prizes standing over to commence the season with.—April 11. W. ROBSON.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Tuesday evening last a general meeting of the above was held, about forty members being present. After the election of fresh members had taken place, the Rev. W. H. Matthews, B.D., Chairman of the Club, gave a short but deeply-interesting lecture, the subject being "Life Amongst the Red Indians," this being a sequel to his former one, "The North American Indians; the Modes of Fishing, and Various Species of Fish." The rev. Chairman having had considerable experience with many tribes during his missionary course, and during which he must evidently have studied and watched their habits most minutely, made many interesting statements in reference to their peculiar customs, habits, and legends. Speaking of the Arthabascans, or Chippewas, who live between Slave Lake, Bear Lake, to the Arctic Circle, they are divided into many branches, some—for instance, the Hare or Slave tribes—are in condition wretched, have no huts, live principally in open air, and dress in hare skins; and their chief diet is fish, mostly speckled trout, which abound there in abundance, also the cat fish (Songas), lump fish (Canamas), and salmon (Meugos). Also the Dog Kill Indians, who dress in reindeer hides, anything but active in their habits; their territory is from Nelson River to Deer Lake, fish also forms a considerable portion of their food. The Tahkali, or Carrier Indians, are tall even to grossness, especially the women, lazy and filthy. These Indians often make attempts to destroy their children, even before birth. They used to burn the corpse of a man upon a wooden pyre, then place the wife upon it until she was burned in many parts and nearly suffocated; after the man's body was consumed the wife would have a bag made from skin given her, filled with ashes from the remains, these she carried with her for three years, at the end of which a pole daubed over with dark clay and ochre was erected, on its top the bag of ashes was placed, and there lay until the pole rotted away. The woman is then free to marry again, having been treated rudely and severely by her relatives, and made to do the most menial duties they could enforce upon her. Other Indians living in Oregon territory regard the spirit of a man as living separate from the body, and the Salish tribe holds that it can be so parted for a short time without death. Salmon abounds much in this district, and the Indian reason for such is this:—The Salish always considered the wolf to have supernatural powers. This animal came to their tribe and asked for a wife, and in return would give them salmon; they assented. The wolf went to another tribe with the same demand, they also agreed; but when he reached the Arthabascas they refused; the wolf told them they should have no salmon in their territory, and raised the Spokane Falls across the river, thus preventing the fish leaping over them. The Arthabascas are a yellow, swarthy class, with high cheek bones, small grey eyes, dark brown hair, some have grey eyes tinged with red. Speckled trout is there in abundance with the white fish, similar to the bream. The Chippewas are very expert fishermen, diving into the vast rapids with a small wicker net upon a pole, and rarely failing to bring up fish from the deep parts of the boiling stream. Pickerel, or pike, are also to be found in great numbers around this Manitoba territory, as are also the lucker, a grovelling fish, always caught upon the bottom, attaining a weight up to 8 lb. White herrings are caught in the vicinity, and in the great lakes of Huron and Erie by shoals. The Sioux Indian inhabit the parts chiefly at the foot of the Rocky Mountains and the prairies, and are divided into various breeds; one band, the Mandans, are similar to half-breeds, especially the women, of pleasing symmetry and proportion of figure, large grey, blue or brown eyes, with a mildness and sweetness of expression, blended with an excessive modesty of demeanour. To this tribe there is a peculiar freak of nature, nearly one out of every ten have grey or white hair. The men are so ashamed of it that they disguise the colour by mixing ochre or clay with it, whereas the women are proud of the same; frequently it hangs below the knees. The other tribes of Sioux are a warlike class, and are ever and anon engaged in plunder with other tribes, principally the Blackfeet and settlers. The Chinuks are most deserving of notice as fishermen. They possess rather a peculiar aspect, from the fact that when young they have a pad bound tightly across their foreheads, in consequence of which their heads are almost flat. Living as they do contiguous to the Pacific Ocean (north), after daubing their faces with soot and red clay in peculiar patterns and designs, together with the bone ring worn through the septum of the nose, they put out from shore on their fishing exploits in their canoes, and oftentimes catch the whale, which they bring to shore, and make use of nearly the whole of it. From such daring exploits they are the best fishermen amongst the whole race of Indians. After having given a most graphic account of the Blackfeet, Creeks, Iroquois, and other tribes, the rev. Chairman concluded. His peculiar humour kept the members spellbound until he terminated, when an unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to him, one and all heartily sorry he could not exhaust his subject, hoping he will give them another lecture when his numerous engagements will permit. We might add this Club augurs well to be the first in the Eastern counties.—ANGLER.

TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

A committee meeting of the above club was held in the Bull Hotel on Monday evening, under the presidency of Mr. T. Ellicott, of Tunbridge Wells. A large amount of business was done, the secretary reporting that the consignment of 1000 carp presented by Edward Canzalet, Esq., of Fairlawn, was placed in the river, and were doing well. It was determined to appoint a sub-committee to confer with the secretary and draw up a code of rules to form a weighing-in club in connection with the society.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT. April 12.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The Midland Railway Company have granted to the United London Anglers' Association, on the production of cards of membership, tickets from Moorgate Street, Kentish Town and St. Pancras to the following stations:—Elstree, Radlet, St. Alban's, Harpenden, Chilton Green, Seagrave, Harlington, Flit-

wick, Amptill, Bedford, Oakley and Sharnbrook. Available for return on the day of issue or either of the two following days. The tickets originally were granted only from St Pancras.—R. GHURNEY.
April 12.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION—No. 1 DISTRICT.

The return visit of angling societies was held at the Golden Barbel on Tuesday evening, April 5th. Mr. L. Bonvoison occupied the chair, faced in the vice by Mr. W. Packman. Considering the exceedingly short notice given, the attendance was exceedingly fair, and when the roll was called, shortly after eleven, by Mr. Osmond, the district officer, it was found that ten societies were represented, viz:—Cambridge, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, Hammersmith, Norfolk, North Western, Prince of Wales, Waltonians, Cavendish and St. John's Wood Piscatorial. Some capital songs and recitations from Messrs. Dixie, Packman, Penney, Chambers, Harrison, Shergold, Smart, Lumley, Robson, Staples, Blackmore, Lane, Sanson, together with some spirited operatic selections by that clever little instrumentalist, J. Stanton, made the evening pass agreeably. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice terminated the proceedings.—L. B.

THE WOOLWICH PISCATORIALS.

On Monday last the members of the above had their annual dinner at their club house, the Cricketers' Arms, Sand Street, Woolwich. The room was nicely decorated with flags, cases of fish, pictures, &c., some of which were lent by the members and their friends. The tables were ornamented with very choice flowers, &c. A splendid dinner was served up by our worthy host, Mr. Thomas Howlett, and it was done justice to by all present. A private band played the whole time. After grace Mr. Page took the chair; Mr. C. Howlett vice. After the loyal toast, the "East, West, and Central Associations" were given, followed by the toast of the evening, by Mr. Jones, "Success to the Woolwich Piscatorials," which was responded to by Mr. H. J. Belstead, the secretary, who said that it gave him very great pleasure to be able to inform them that the society is in a very prosperous state, that the number of members has greatly increased, and that there are sufficient funds in hand to meet every claim, and to give some prizes for the coming season. "The Visitors" was given by Mr. Bowles, and responded to by Mr. Biggs in a very praiseworthy manner. "Our Worthy Host" was given by Mr. C. Howlett, and responded to by Mr. T. H. in his usual good-humoured style. Mr. Blakeborough of the Hoxton Brothers presented the prizes. The first, an armchair, given by Mr. T. Howlett, and won by Mr. H. J. Belstead; second, a dozen ivory-handle table knives and forks, given by Mr. C. Howlett, and won by himself. The honorary member's prize, a carving knife and fork and cruet, given by Mr. C. Howlett, won by Mr. Page. Three prizes, given by Messrs. Bowles, Jones, and Belstead, were not taken; they will be fished for on the 19th June, at Dagenham. During the evening several prizes were given for the ensuing season. Some excellent singing by Messrs. Page, Lewis, C. Howlett, Franks, Summers, Barber, Jones, Belstead, Neale, Biggs, and others enlivened the evening, which closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY EASTER ARRANGEMENTS.—On the South-Eastern Railway all express and ordinary return tickets for distances over 10 and under 50 miles, including those between London and Beckenham Junction, the cheap return tickets between London and Westenhanger, Hythe, Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Folkestone and Dover, issued on April 14th, 15th and 16th, will be available up to April 20th. Return tickets for distances under ten miles, and those for distances over fifty miles, will be available for the usual time. The cheap Saturday to Monday return tickets to the seaside, issued on April 16, will also be available to return up to and including the following April 20th. On Good Friday and Easter Monday special excursion trains will run from London and New Cross to Dover, Folkestone, Shorncliffe, Sandgate, Hythe, Westenhanger, Ashford, Margate, Ramsgate, Canterbury, Minster, Sandwich, Deal, Hastings, St. Leonards, Tunbridge Wells, &c.

THE CLOSE TIME FOR FISHING.—The committee and some of the members of the Birmingham Piscatorial Society met at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday evening—the two local conservators of the river Trent, Mr. Allan Bagot and Captain Willoughby Wood, being present—to consult as to the close time to be observed on that portion of the river, Trent at Alrewas rented by the society. Mr. Oliver Pemberton presided. Last year, the Conservancy Board, under the powers vested in them by the Freshwater Fisheries Act, granted an extension of the close time to May 14, but this year they refuse any concession, and therefore the Act must be adhered to. It is the desire of the club to abide by the wishes of Lord Lichfield, the proprietor of the water, as well as those of the conservators, but they feel that they are by an arbitrary Act being deprived of their fishing at one of the best periods of the year, as the spawning season for roach, dace, and chub in the Trent will certainly not commence for another month. The opinions of some of the best anglers throughout the Trent district, obtained very recently, is that a general close season is not applicable to all rivers, and that in this respect the Mundella Act is a mistake. In so far as the prevention of the sale or exposure for sale of freshwater fish during the close time is concerned, the Act has worked beneficially, as it has stopped the netting by poachers, which did more mischief than the rods of all the anglers put together. No doubt the Trent Conservators are right in their desire to see the Act carried out in its strict integrity, but some allowance should be made for climatic influences in different localities, so that the legitimate sport of true anglers who have no desire to infringe the law may not unduly be interfered with.—*Birmingham Daily Post*.

THE COCKSPUR WORM.—This noted bait is found in old rotten manure and is about 1½ inch long; it has a small ring half a inch from the head, and a gilt tail, with no stripes whatever, but when well scoured in damp moss for a few days is of a perfectly pink colour. The brandling and another blood red worm are to be frequently found in the same manure, but neither of these is to be compared with the cockspur, or, in fact, nothing like it, for, as I have said, the cockspur has a gilt tail. For the information of your correspondent last week I will inform him that so far as trout fishing goes it is the best bait we have for winter fishing, and will kill in any depth of water where the places can be fished with a quill float.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.—The general meeting of this society, of which Lord George Hamilton, M.P., is president, has been announced for seven o'clock on Thursday, May 5th, at the City Larder, 19, Throgmorton Street. We are sure our readers will wish success to a society so important to anglers as this seems likely to become.

STOUR FISHERY ASSOCIATION.

The general annual meeting of this Association was held at the Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, on Saturday, March 26th, under the presidency of the Rev. Cyril Randolph.

The accounts showed that after discharging an extra outlay upon the fish preserves, the balance in hand of last year was nearly maintained; and it was resolved that the subscription of last year, namely, three guineas for members fishing above Canterbury, and one guinea for those fishing below Fordwich be continued, and that each member be allowed to issue six visitors' day tickets during the ensuing season.

Captain Lambert, the Honorary Secretary to the Association, reported that he had been in communication with George Bowdler Gipps, Esq. (now in Egypt), who had agreed to continue to members of the association the same privilege which his late father had granted of fishing through the Tnannington Estate on payment to the funds of the association of an extra subscription of two guineas.

It was unanimously resolved that the number of fishing members subscribing three guineas per annum be limited to 40, so that there is only opportunity for three vacancies to be filled during the present year.

After some conversation upon the loss of Mr. Frank Buckland as a member of the association, Captain Lambert proposed and Mr. Benjamin C. Bush seconded—

"That the members of this Association desire to record their deep regret at the loss this and kindred associations have sustained through the lamented death of Mr. Frank Buckland, whose untiring zeal and devoted exertions, both practical and scientific, have tended greatly to improve the fisheries of Great Britain."

The resolution was unanimously carried, and the Honorary Secretary was requested to forward a copy of it to Her Majesty's Inspectors of Fisheries at the Home Office.

The Honorary Secretary reported that the alterations and additions to the fish nurseries had proved very successful, and that the trout eggs in the fish-house were hatching out in a most prosperous manner.

This choice fly-fishing river opens to members on the 18th April, but visitors' tickets are not permitted to be used until the middle of June, after the "rise and fall" of the May fly, which is the "par excellence" of the season. The May fly, as is the case with other streams where it is indigenous, is more or less prolific according to seasons, coming out in large quantities during a mild spring, and of an exceptionally large and yellow colour. There are two distinct species to be met with in the river Stour, viz., those emanating from the cadis enclosed in a short incrustated hollow house, composed of minute shells, stones, &c., being the flattest and handsomest, whilst those produced from the locally-named "stick-bait," consisting of a soft piece of reed or flag, are generally of a sickly grey, and of undeveloped proportions.

There is no better period of the year to determine and judge for yourself as to whether there are trout in the river or not, than to walk along the banks during the time the May fly is out, the fish invariably feeding during the time the fly is on.

Many of the flies are demolished during their transition state, particularly those inhabiting the main stream; but there are a great many brought into existence from the tributary streams and ditches; which love to disport themselves in their full plumage, dancing on the river surface until captured by the swallows, who dart after them with avidity, or are snapped up by the wary trout, which is never in real condition until after the "May-fly is over."

Fishing is only allowed with the artificial fly, a restriction comparatively unnecessary, since the majority of the subscribers, who are real artistic anglers, are content with throwing the artificial and securing a brace or two a day from 1½ lb. to 3 lb. each fish.

The trout will rise in this water either to a wet or dry fly, much depending on the manner in which the bait is offered, and which can only be known to such men as "know every inch of the water." Evening tide has always been the most successful time for getting the big fish where no one even thought of; but letting the fly fall as it might, wet or dry, near the enchanting circle, and allowing it to drift over the extending rings towards the centre of the focus, and challenging the fish in such a way that a rise is only omitted by the clumsy manipulation of the thrower.

The cow dung and red hackle, with peacock body, not too large, are taking flies all the year round, and in the early part of the season the March brown is a sure killer, more particularly in the lower reaches of the Stour, where the water is deeper and with a stiff south or westerly breeze.—A. H. CLARIS.

CAPTURE OF A HUGE PIKE.—A short time back, as Mr. Arthur Nash was fishing on Oulton Broad, he hooked a monster pike, weighing 21½ lb., and measuring 3 feet 4 inches. The fish was exceedingly well formed, and created quite an excitement as it lay exhibited in Mr. B. Mummery's window. It was afterwards sent to Norwich for preservation, and it is believed it will be shown at the forthcoming Fisheries Exhibition.

A FORGETFUL SWAIN.—Some of our readers may possibly have read about the eccentric, but forgetful, Rev. George Harvest, who lived in the latter half of the last century. Mr. Harvest had a partiality for the then Bishop of London's (Dr. Compton) daughter. The wedding day, in short, had been fixed, but, unluckily, he (Mr. H.) forgot all about it, and went out fishing instead. The bishop's daughter, highly incensed, broke off the engagement.—RUS.

THE "CLOSE" TIME FOR THE THAMES.—Cannot something be done to acquaint Mr. Mundella, M.P., of the mistake that has been made in the recent Act in reference to the "close" time for coarse fish in the Thames and other rivers? It is too late now for this season, but communications ought certainly to be addressed to the right hon. gentleman before next spring, upon the subject. Probably an Order in Council could alter the times for "closing" our rivers. It is a sin and a shame to kill roach, &c., in March, heavy in spawn. Jack are not properly in season before Michaelmas. By delaying jack fishing until the autumn, many small things would be spared from being hooked. Perch too are all the better in autumn and winter. The angler who strives to capture a nice Thames trout will, when successful, be amply rewarded for his patience.—SPORTS.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

FRANK BUCKLAND'S "PORTRAIT AT HOME."

The following article, written by Frank Buckland, appeared on August 2, 1879, in *Land and Water*.

I HAVE frequently been asked by photographers to sit for my portrait. I have hitherto invariably refused, as I have the greatest possible objection to be put up in the shop windows and sold for a shilling. My friend Mr. Sam Walker, of 230, Regent Street, has at last induced me, after much persuasion, to allow him to point his photographic lenses at my phiz. At first I steadfastly refused. He then told me that he had just introduced a new process by which he could save his clients the trouble of calling at his studio, inasmuch as he could bring up all his apparatus and photograph me "at home."

Wishing to see how this novel plan would succeed, and also to encourage a new idea, Mr. Walker came to my house and arranged myself and the groupings in the "monkey room," as the servants call my working place. From the specimens hanging on the wall Mr. Walker selected a cast of a very fine "rod fish"—a salmon, 45 lb weight. By the fish's side he placed an oyster attached to a whelk, from the bottom of the North Sea. Behind the head is the cast of the largest British octopus known, and a very beautiful horn of a narwhal, the owner whereof was harpooned by my friend, Captain David Gray, of the whaler, *Eclipse*, Peterhead, among the ice considerably to the north of Jan Mayan Island, north of Greenland. Behind the monkey's cage is the fore arm of the extinct Irish elk, and in the cage the monkeys Tiny and Jenny. Tiny's outline can just be seen in the corner of the cage, and Jenny's tail can just be made out among the hay at the bottom of the cage. Under the monkey's cage is the tame rat's house, but the monkeys would not keep quiet, or the rat come out. This is not the fault of either Mr. Walker or myself. The background is formed by the shelf containing the bound volumes of *Land and Water*, the weekly "over-matter," &c. I mention all these particulars not out of swagger, but to show what the meaning of a "portrait at home" is. It signifies the portrait of an individual surrounded by his or her favourite belongings,

be they china, furniture, pictures, salmon, oysters, or monkeys. When a person goes to a photographer's studio, it is, of course, impossible to carry about the immediate belongings, surrounded by which we generally associate our friends and neighbours. By ladies especially this new idea of taking portraits "at home" will be appreciated, as a lady, when dressed for presentation to Court, a ball, a wedding, christening, opera, garden party, &c., has simply to stand still and remain quiet while Mr. Walker instantly transfers every detail of feature and dress on to a glass plate.

To the friends of invalids who have not health enough to visit the studio, the knowledge that a portrait can be taken without fatigue, and in the ordinary position, cannot fail to be on many occasions welcome.

In order to test Mr. Walker's skill, I requested a friend of mine, who has a very smart drawing-room, and whose wife is very proud of her "Fixings," to be kind enough to allow Mr. Walker to photograph them in their own room. Although the sun was not polite enough to show his face, yet the general group was admirable, and I recognised my friends "at home" in a moment.

In Sir Joshua Reynolds' time photographers were unknown. Mr. Walker's grandfather, Mr. S. W. Reynolds, engraved most of Sir Joshua's pictures, while his father is also known as the engraver of the "Literary Party at Sir Joshua Reynolds's," "Passing the First Reform Bill," as well as many other works. The grandson, Mr. Sam Walker, keeping pace with modern times, has, while deserting the graving tool and the copper-plate, devoted his whole mind to the perfecting the idea of bringing up photography to a point as nearly equal as possible to engraving. To this he has added the capital idea of not requiring his sitter to come to him, inasmuch as he can bring up his apparatus and finish an artistic portrait of them "at home."

Mr. Farini, wishing to have as good portraits as possible of his "Friendly Zulus," has entrusted the task of photographing them to Mr. Walker. He has brought me proof of these portraits; they are most admirably done and very life-like.

FRANK BUCKLAND.

[Mr. Walker has sent us a copy of this portrait. It ought to be in every angler's album.—ED.]

THE IMPERIAL LONDON BISCUIT COMPANY

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MR. G. CARDINALL has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. S. Hartley, to SELL by AUCTION, at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Sudbury, on MONDAY, April 25th, 1881, at Six o'clock in the evening, a superior Freehold Brick-built FAMILY RESIDENCE, known as the "Great House," containing Entrance Hall, Breakfast, Dining, and Drawing-rooms, seven Bedrooms and domestic offices, Stabling, Chaise-house, Groom's Cottage, extensive Pleasure and Kitchen-gardens, with Greenhouse. The property is within a short distance of Sudbury, and covers an area of an acre and a half, within the meet of three packs of foxhounds. There is capital fishing in the preserved river Stour, and good shooting and private coursing to be obtained in the neighbourhood. By rail two hours from London. Further particulars may be obtained of the Auctioneer, Sudbury, Suffolk.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1881.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE opening of the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, on Easter Monday, was in every way a brilliant success. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Leopold, and the Royal party, were favoured with lovely weather, the sun shining through

the clouded sky and tempering the cold north-easter. The old city fairly arrayed itself for the occasion, and wore a profuse drapery of flags and flowers, the quaint and winding line of streets—in which the new is everywhere striving for mastery with the old—presented a wonderfully picturesque appearance. The ceremony has been very fully described in the columns of various contemporaries. It will be sufficient to note that the original programme was fulfilled to the letter, and that in the day's proceedings pleasure and work were agreeably mingled. The Prince showed himself gracious and attentive as is his wont, the Princess was charming as ever, and the citizens exhibited every sign of loyalty and respect. The visit to the exhibition occupied some considerable time, and was anything but perfunctory in character. The interest of the Royal party never flagged, and no noticeable feature was passed over. The sections devoted to our marine fisheries, and the objects associated with the fisherman's calling and social condition, came in for special observation. Anglers will be pleased to observe that their interests were not forgotten: Mr. Jardine's grand collection of preserved fish was favoured with a minute inspection, and the exhibitor was able to unfold their merits and beauties to the Royal visitors. It need only be added that the decorations of the hall were handsome and appropriate, and that the public interest has so far been admirably sustained. The great importance of the exhibition, its marvellous variety and its extent, and the illustrations it supplies of a delightful and popular sport, are the best guarantees of its success. It is only reasonable to anticipate that the results will be such as to ensure to the Committee, and especially to the energetic president (E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P.), a full reward for their labours.

A glance round the Drill Hall and its spacious *annexe* shows how wide is the ground covered by the exhibition. The exhibits are divided into six classes, and nearly every one of these opens up a fresh line of study and source of attraction. There are to be seen representations of well-nigh every kind of fishing vessel in existence—from a Yarmouth trawler to an Indian canoe—and illustrations of every branch of industry that may be said to have the remotest connection with the "fishing interest." From the fish to the fisherman, from the live to the dead specimens, from fishing tackle to fish culture—whether the end in view be useful or recreative, to preserve or to destroy—the method of illustration is as full and complete as can well be desired. For the convenience of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, it may be well to disregard the classification in the catalogue. We propose, therefore, to treat exhibits which relate to the "rod and the angle" in the present article, and to reserve the great subjects of pisciculture and marine fisheries for a future paper.

The sides of the hall itself are occupied by a number of cases of preserved fish and fish-eating birds, forming a very fine and complete collection of the aquatic *fauna*. The exhibits are arranged in separate bays, lined with red cloth and surmounted with trophies of heraldic devices. The gems of the collection are, beyond question, the group of shore and fish-eating birds lent by H. Stephenson, Esq., the splendid contribution of the Piscatorial Society, and Mr. A. G. Jardine's magnificent exhibits. Many of the specimens have interesting little bits of history attached to them. A goodly number are in the nature of "trophies," testifying to the prowess of some local angler, who has been careful to record the particulars of his triumph. Thus Mr. Fred. Thorns, of Norwich, shows a pike weighing 36 lb., caught by him in February last—a tremendous fellow, but neither particularly elegant nor very neatly preserved. The Hon. J. de Grey, Mr. R. Rising, of Horsey, Mr. R. Blake-Humphrey, and others, have some fine specimens, and altogether the collection of pike is a feature of the exhibition. Let us turn to the cases in the order in which they are ranged, beginning at the

right-hand side of the dais erected for the reception of the Royal party. Mr. D. Houghton, of Norwich, sends a nice collection of local fish, and W. A. T. Amherst, Esq., M.P., exhibits a sturgeon, preserved, by the bye, in a fashion that is more ingenious than natural; and Mr. W. Howlett, of Newmarket, has a number of pike, bream, roach, perch, chub, &c., caught in the river Lark. In the next few bays angling associations are well represented, the Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society contributing a nice museum of freshwater fish, neatly mounted and preserved. The Silver Trout Angling Club occupies two bays with a fine collection, the specimens of tench being especially remarkable for size and weight. One of the "curios" is a case containing a 4 lb. pike in the act of swallowing another pike weighing about 2 lb. The proverbial voracity of the species could not be more neatly illustrated. Mr. Mason, of the Wherry Hotel, Mutford, shows a variety of coarse fish and aquatic birds shot on the Oulton waters, one of the most charming of the Norfolk Broads and a favourite angling resort. Colonel Leathes exhibits a grand otter, and other objects not especially interesting to the freshwater fisherman. Two curiosities in this part of the exhibition are the skull of an angler fish, and the sun-dried head of a pike measuring no less than four inches between the eyes. The Waverley and Oulton Fisheries Protection Society have, in addition to an excellent assortment of fish, some fine water-colour drawings of Suffolk fishing stations, by Harrison, of Yarmouth. H. M. Upcher, Esq., shows a good collection of birds, somewhat indifferently preserved. We come now to Mr. Stevenson's unequalled collection of Norfolk aquatic birds, which include tits, terns, sandpipers, bitterns, and other species, many of which are great rarities, while others are practically extinct. All of these, be it observed, have been shot in local waters, the great confluence at Breydon, off Yarmouth, supplying a large proportion of the specimens. Among the rarest are a pectoral sandpiper, green-backed gallinule—the only authenticated wild specimen ever secured—different varieties of the crake, and other treasures of the naturalist and collector. The collection also includes a case representing a charming little picture from nature—a tern, hovering and lamenting over the dead body of one of its mates. Mr. Cole, a local stuffer of considerable skill, fills the next two bays with some fine cases of fish-eating birds, admirably mounted and preserved. The specialty is a large case representing a pair of herons in water, a picture of Surlingham Broad being painted in the background. Mr. Perelli-Rocco exhibits some casts of fish done in *papier maché*—a novel and interesting process—and Mr. W. Loughrin, of Cornwall, some cases of stuffed marine fish, including sturgeon, &c. The Piscatorial Society are worthily represented by forty splendid cases of preserved fish caught by members of the society. The whole collection is beautifully mounted, and many of the specimens are remarkable for size, weight, and beauty. They include Thames and Wandle trout—a great feature—pike, chub, a specimen of the flying-fish caught in Brazilian waters, &c. There is also a cast of a pike finely modelled by the late Frank Buckland, Esq., and painted by Mr. H. S. Rolfe. The loving cup of the society—quaintly formed out of a pike's head—and a carved oak chair with appropriate devices—make up a truly magnificent collection. Mr. Jardine is next to the front with a splendid set of cases, comprising no less than ten pike of extraordinary size and weight, and most of them caught by the exhibitor. A couple of monsters in one case weigh together 73 lb. The veteran fisherman also shows some of Mr. Buckland's exquisite modellings of pike, a lake trout weighing 26 lb., and a number of splendid Thames trout, barbel, tench, carp, perch, chub, &c. The cases on the left-hand side of the dais may be briefly summed up. Mr. Gunner, a local naturalist, has a great collection of fish and aquatic birds, the largest and finest case

representing an otter with young. There is also a curiosity in the shape of a heron being throttled by an eel. Messrs. Tomkins, of Yarmouth, show some casts of sea-fish captured off the coast, and also a cast of a silver eel by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, and painted by Mr. Rolfe. Mr. C. J. Greene, a keen local angler, and secretary to the Yare Preservation Society, exhibits a splendid specimen of bream, weighing 9 lb. caught in the Wensum, and believed to be one of the fish originally turned into the river by the late Nicholas Bacon, Esq. The others have nearly all been captured, and many of them have been preserved by the successful anglers. S. G. Buxton, Esq., of Calton Hall, and J. D. Berney, Esq. (the High Sheriff of Norfolk), and Mr. J. De Grey, and other gentlemen, send some remarkable specimens, including a salmon caught at Fakenham, near Norwich; and there is also a stuffed carp, captured at Cantley by Mr. Brett of Norwich. It is supposed that this "Mr. Carp" has other brethren in the same waters, and that many an "ugly rush," carrying away the hooks and tackle of the astonished angler, is to be attributed, not to huge bream or mighty perch, but to the big carp which lurk in the unknown depths. We give the tradition for what it is worth, and pass on to the "feast of tackle" which is temptingly disposed on one of the lines of central stands in the hall.

It is truly a wonderful assortment. Rods, lines, hooks, reels, artificial baits, flies, gaffs, fishing baskets, bait cans—every conceivable appliance to meet the angler's necessity, or to gratify his taste for luxuries—are set forth in bewildering variety and profusion. The exquisite finish of the rods, and the fineness and delicacy of the tackle are greatly to be admired. The Editor of this journal has a neat "basket," made up of the various specialties to which he has given the name of the "FISHING GAZETTE."

Among these is the celebrated spinner, leads, knife, pliers, pannier straps for fishing basket, and other novelties. The chief London and Nottingham makers are exceptionally well represented. Messrs. Alfred and Sons, of London, show complete anglers' outfits for all kinds of sport, "*Bell's Life*" spinners, improved winches, extra-strong salmon gut, and two splendid frames, one containing every description of artificial flies—from the gorgeous salmon-fly to the modest black hackle—and the other a complete assortment of artificial baits, specimens, &c. Messrs. Alfred also exhibit a "thermal" roach rod, for testing the temperature of the river when the fish are off the feed. Mr. Greene, of Norwich, referred to above, has an assortment of tackle, &c., of great variety, which commands deserved attention.

We have left ourselves small space to notice the aquaria which occupy a corner in the *annexe*, and which contain most of the local varieties of fish and some rarities. Lord Walsingham, Lord Henniker, and the Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society, are the principal exhibitors in this section. The specimens shown include several sorts of sticklebacks (including the rare four-spined variety), trout, English and American brook trout, golden tench and perch, turbot, and nearly all the commoner sorts. The little prisoners all look thoroughly healthy, and the whole collection makes one of the prettiest features in the exhibition. We may note that the gallery above the dais contains an admirable series of fish pictures, with contributions by Mr. Rolfe—exquisite both for form and colour—and by painters of the Dutch school. The history of fishing is also illustrated by a few works on angling, &c. We have said enough, we believe, to commend this unique exhibition to the attention and support of the country, and in a subsequent notice we shall deal with other objects of interest now unmentioned, and with the various models and essays entered for competition in an admirably-filled prize-list. We may, however, further state that the Yare Preservation Society held a gloriously successful dinner on Tuesday evening in

St. Andrew's Hall, the scene of a most hospitable reception on the previous day, when the worthy mayor (S. Grimmer, Esq.), entertained the royal party and a select number of the *élite* of the city and county.

A DAY ON THE DERBYSHIRE WYE.

A FINE morning in the autumn of last year found me on the banks of the Wye at Rowsley, just above its junction with its sister stream the Derwent, armed with fly-fishing paraphernalia, and fully prepared to do great execution amongst its finny inhabitants. I could write pages about the beauties and charms of this, my favourite and native stream, in whose clear and limpid waters I love to cast my fly; but in this brief note I have not space, and if I had, perhaps I might tire my readers' patience with the eulogies and praises I could bestow on this beautiful river. To return, however, to my original subject. I soon put my rod together, which consisted of three joints, the whole length being nine feet, and after adjusting my cast to the line, I commenced operations. The water was in pretty good condition, but the sun shone brightly, nor was there much prospect of the sky clouding over, and thus favouring my pursuit. Not a single rise did I see until the afternoon, during which time I flogged the water perseveringly; but then a slight wind arose, some welcome clouds hid the sun from view, and the trout at last began to feed, though sparingly, of the numberless flies floating on the surface of the stream. I soon basketed my first fish, a handsome trout of $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. I saw him rising in some still water, close to the bank, and threw over him a good many times before he allowed himself to be hooked and landed. Soon after this I hooked and landed three more trout of about $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. each, in the rapids, one of which fought hard for his life and liberty before I lifted him out of his native element and transferred him to my creel. By this time it was about four o'clock, and I had only two hours' more fishing before me, having to return home at six. The next two fish I captured were grayling, which I returned to the stream, although I might have lawfully retained them. However, I always think it a pity to catch grayling in the summer, and I sincerely wish the Duke of Rutland would see the necessity of setting apart say three months of the year as a close time for this scarce and pretty fish. As it is, the poor grayling are allowed to be taken all the year round on this river; though, I am glad to say, the month of April is set apart as a close time on the Derwent. This, though not much, is better than nothing, and I hope that this fish will, in future, have a close time as well as the trout. They are getting scarcer and fewer in number every year on the Wye, which is probably owing to this reason, though there certainly was a disease among them a little time ago, which committed sad havoc in their ranks.

The next fish I caught was a splendid trout, and I was very proud of its capture. I saw it rising, and threw over it about twenty times, but with no result. I was giving it up in disgust, when, just as I raised my line to move further on, I felt a tug—tug! at my line, and struck instantly. I thought at first I was fast in some obstruction in the stream, but my delusions were quickly dispelled, and I soon found out that a noble trout was fighting hard for his freedom. As I mentioned before, I use a small light rod and the finest tackle, which one must use to catch trout in Derbyshire streams, so I had hard work to prevent my quarry from breaking away altogether, and he certainly tried his hardest to do this. Now up, now down stream he dragged me, nor could I stop his first mad rushes. Then, like a log of wood he sulked at the bottom of the river, and remained motionless. His next move filled me with horror, and it was to dart straight down stream under some large branches of a tree hanging down within a few feet of the water, under which I should have to pass if I let my wilful fish have his

way, and, indeed, I had to acquiesce in his wishes if I did not want to lose him. During the next few minutes, my breast was the scene of a struggle between hope and fear, as I carefully crept under the overhanging boughs, and guided my rod past them as best I could. I reached the other side in triumph, and after a few more minutes' play I landed my fish—a splendid trout of 1 lb.—after which I sat down beside it and gloated over my handsome capture for at least five minutes. Ifancy I hear some swell south-country anglers, who are wont to catch the giant trout of Hampshire streams, pooh-poohing this simple tale of the capture of a mere pound fish as not worth the trouble of talking about, and much less of writing about. But let such as they know that Derbyshire anglers are well contented with their basket if it contain a trout of a pound weight; the fish usually running from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Minnow-fishers and bottom-fishers sometimes boast of capturing trout of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 2 lb., but those who prefer the more scientific and gentlemanly way of filling their baskets by throwing the fly (and, indeed, there is no other way permissible on the Wye), are seldom able to boast of taking larger fish than those of 1 lb.

After this little episode I lost a couple of fish through their not taking my fly eagerly enough to have it firmly fixed in their jaws, and caught a few undersized ones, which I carefully returned to their native element, sadder, if not wiser youngsters, to increase in size, and in after years, to afford better sport to some fortunate angler. Just before leaving off I caught three more decent trout, one nearly reaching $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., making a total of four brace of handsome fish, which is considered a pretty good day's sport on the Wye.

The flies I used were the blue and yellow duns, and I consider them better than any others for all times and weathers, and in any stream. Of course they must be dressed small, as the trout here are highly educated, and, moreover, very shy. Add to these the down-hooker, or, as it is sometimes called, the oak fly, and the black gnat; if he use these only, the angler will do well, and save much time and trouble.

BLUE DUN.

THE FISH OF THE TRENT, AND HOW TO CATCH THEM.

PLAIN PAPERS FOR PLAIN ANGLERS.*—No. 10.

BY THE TRENT OTTER.

THE CHUB, *continued*.

VARIOUS methods are employed for the capture of the chub; and, in the first place, I will commence with float-fishing. The rod and reel described in barbel-fishing will be just the things for chub, as also will the line; and your bottom tackle should be as fine as you like, the finer the better consistent with strength, for remember you have to deal with a very shy and cautious fish. Your tackle for bottom-fishing for chub should be about five feet long, but, of course, it will be as well to have one or two that are not so long—say about three or four feet—in case you should want to fish in water that is not so deep. Pale-blue gut, or stained of a brown colour, is, in my eye, the very best to make your tackle of, and for a float, if you can help it, never have one any larger than a goose quill, that will carry eight or ten split shots. For summer-fishing, when the water is low and bright, don't have one of your split shots less than eighteen inches from your hook. For successful chub-fishing your tackle, &c., should be as neat as possible, for it is a downright insult to the intelligence of a chub to drop a lot of big split shots and heavy leads, on coarse tackle, over his nose. Hooks may be of the following sizes: Nos. 6, 7, or 8, according to the bait you use. Chub may be ground-baited

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for beforehand, the same as I have mentioned for barbel if you like, but I don't think it pays very well, for, as a general rule, the most chub may be caught by rowing about for them—half-an-hour in a place is quite sufficient in my idea—and keep throwing a little ground-bait in as you go along, or just before you fish another place. If the water runs tolerably fast, throw your ground-bait in a dozen yards above where you are going to stand, or the stream will carry it clean out of your reach; but if the stream only glides along more slowly; you need only throw the ground bait in a yard or two above you. If you are fishing with worms, a nice lively well scoured maiden lob worm is as good as any, on a No. 6 or 7 hook; and for this bait fish as near the bottom as you can. If you notice an eddy under old roots or an overhanging bank, with a sharpish stream outside; and there should happen to be six feet of water, don't pass a place like that, but take about half-a-dozen coarse worms, and clip them up in little pieces and throw them in; and then take a nice red maiden lob, and thread it carefully on your hook, and throw in; and ten to one in about ten minutes you will have caught a brace of nice fish. I should then leave that place, but before going I should cut up and throw another half-dozen worms in; and then look for another shop and treat it just the same. Of course gentles, or scratchings can be used in the same way as worms, only when you are using gentles on the hook; throw a few gentles in, and when you are using scratchings on the hook throw scratchings in for ground bait; a few pieces at once in my idea is quite sufficient. I know of no other sort of fishing that I like so well as chub-fishing; wandering along the bank for a mile or two; drawing a brace of chub out of this hole, and another brace out of that hole. A bit of a bush, or the roots I might say, will sometimes hold a good fish or two, and ought never to be passed by. Sometimes you may drop your bait in a very unpretending looking spot, and your float has hardly time to steady before it goes down with a rush; and after a few minutes a three pounder, perhaps, lies gasping on the grass. I think August and September are the best months to use worms for chub, and September or October for scratchings; and gentles anytime, about then, for a change. Put about half-a-dozen gentles on your hook as carefully as you can, and let your bait be very near the bottom.

An old friend of mine was once fishing with some very primitive tackle. The rod was a long stick—an osier, if I recollect aright—and he had only a yard or two of line tied on the top, and a short gut tackle on the end of the line. He was fishing for roach with gentles; and the bank was very high and steep—about eight feet from the top to the water. He had been fishing some time without any success, when all at once his float went down with a bang. He at once struck, and, by the way the fish pulled, he found that it was something unusual, and as he had no reel or running tackle, he was in a bit of a fix. “Happy thought!” he at once threw the rod in the water, and let the fish tow it about for a time. This was rather a risky proceeding, but the weather being warm, he pulled off his clothes, and waded for him; and at last, after a bit of trouble, succeeded in tossing him high and dry on the bank. I myself, when roach fishing (but I must say that the chub just mentioned weighed over four pounds), have very often caught chub with gentles, but mostly at the extreme end of the swim; and if you think there is a chub about, a swim of a few yards further will very often fetch him.

Brandlings, cockspurs, and blood-worms may all be used with effect in chub-fishing, and to enable the tyro to recognise these worms, I might say that the brandling is a very nice-looking worm, marked from head to tail with alternate bars of red and yellow; they are found in old tan heaps, old manure heaps, or any old heap of decaying vegetable matter; and in the same heaps you will find

a worm of a nice pink, or rather red colour, rather short and thick; with a light-coloured knob round the middle; these are cockspurs, and the bloodworms are found in the excrement of horned cattle. They are a small worm of a deep red colour. Two, three, or four of these sort of worms, according to the size of them on your hook is a capital bait for chub, especially in the spring of the year.

(To be continued.)

HOW TO CATCH EELS.

SNIGGLING.

THIS is a mode of capturing eels which at the first blush appears wholly unworthy to be termed sport; nevertheless, those who have once practised it are ever ready to continue it, and we have known those who have, after looking upon the pursuit with contempt, become its most inveterate followers.

We cannot better describe the *modus operandi* than by copying a manuscript letter written some years ago by our friend the late Mr. Edward Jesse, then Her Majesty's keeper of the Royal parks, and an ardent angler.

In a quiet mill head or clear pond, or in any other place where there are eels, and where the ground is soft and easily seen, there are commonly to be observed upon the surface of the mud a number of round and cup-shaped holes. Now the fresh-water mussels (*Mya ovalis*), are wont to bury themselves in the mud, and will lie at the bottom of the same kind of holes, which they make by opening and then forcibly closing their large shells, and so repeatedly throwing out the water with the mud that it contains to a certain distance, until at length the latter subsides round the place and leaves a cavity in the surface. Whether this be exactly so or no, it is well known to naturalists that the same effect is produced by the bull head, who operates in a similar manner with his mouth. The holes alluded to are not made by the *Mya*, but by eels, who, after burying themselves, make them, no doubt by the same mode of proceeding as that of the bull-head.

Most certain it is, that when we see such a cavity, of about two inches or more in diameter, which appears to be fresh and evenly formed, if we are able to get close enough to it, we shall also be likely to see the lips of a large eel just barely protruding from the bottom of it, and slowly performing the process of respiration, whilst the rest of the head is invisible.

Moreover, if we carefully let down a lob-worm, and hold it so that it may gently touch its nose, the consequences will, as probably, be such that the fisher will not soon forget them; for the eel will, most likely, seize the worm, and if he does so, he will seize it like a tiger, or with such a desperate or sudden snap, and plunge away with it at the same moment so far into the mud, that if the fisher's nerves are tenderly strung, it may go hard with him for awhile; the effect in such a case being often little less than that which is produced by the bang of a pistol, when it is fired close behind a man who is alone and unconscious that such a thing is going to be done.

Consequently, when such holes abound, there arises the following method of fishing for eels, which is both scientific and exciting:—

A strong line is tied to the middle of a short and thick needle—in other words, the angler makes a “sniggling needle,” but shorter and stronger than such a needle is commonly made, because it is commonly made too long, and with much too thin a needle—and having killed a lobworm, by throwing it with sufficient force upon hard ground, and dividing it and taking the head part, into the other end of that part of it he inserts a needle, as in a case of sniggling, or so that the head of the worm may be presented to the eel. Such a bait—or suppose a minnow, though we

never tried one—the head of the needle being pointed towards the minnow's head, is let down to the holes from the end of a stiff rod, which has tied at the top a piece of cork to slightly insert the point of the needle in so that it may be easily detached.

When the worm is seized, line enough is given to let the eel run and gorge the lure. After a few minutes have expired the line is tightened, the action of which is to draw the needle across the gullet of the eel, and then it is "pull devil, pull baker," the power of the eel being exerted, to an extent, beyond belief, particularly if it has taken a course in its run which affords any roots by way of fulcrum, with the assistance of which it can the better exercise its strength. We have used the word pull on the part of the fisher, but by this must be understood a continuous strain; all the pulling for a time being done by the eel, which, when exhausted, will surrender and permit itself to be drawn out with but very little resistance.

Blain, in the last and more copious edition of the "Encyclopædia of Rural Sports," speaking of sniggling for eels, tells us it is a practice so ingenious and full of artifice, that it might reconcile the sportsman even to eel-fishing. Every boy, almost, who lives within sight of an eel river, can sniggle, which ill accords with this account of it; but let any one accompany the true eel sniggler in search of his material to the fishing-tackle shops, where the fisher is fitted to his mind with a well-contrived set of machinery, expressly adapted for this hole and corner work; let him finish by witnessing the application of it to the taking of a few eels, by a writ served on them within the recesses of their dwelling, and we will then agree that this, like every other pursuit, however trifling, can be made interesting when improved by art.

Mr. Salter, with the professional ardour of a true London angler, has entered into an elaborate description of the most improved apparatus for the purpose, which he has done with a minuteness of detail that not only evinces his own proficiency as a sniggler, but shows how much he was interested in making others equally so; and we should be robbing this excellent practical writer of his just due if we did not own that any success which has awaited upon our own eeling adventures is traceable to this source.

The more common country practice of sniggling is thus characterised: a stick a yard long with a cleft at each end, a strong needle whipped to a small whip-cord line from the eye to the middle, which, with a lob-worm stuck on the needle leaving the point to be inserted in the cleft of the stick, constitutes the simple apparatus. The art consists in putting the worm, needle and line, softly into the mouth of eel holes, which are suffered to remain until taken by the eel, when the line and hook are again reclaimed, but accompanied by the eel also. This outline forms the boyish practice we have hinted at, and we now proceed to the more improved methods pursued by the regular eel-fisher.

The sniggling-rod, instead of being one yard long, ought to be two or two and a half in length. Two joints of the hazel rod, commonly made up for the purchase of youths, form one of the best roots, being light and tough, but Salter's recommendation is two yards of stiff bamboo. To such a root, or rod, a top must be fixed; and it is essential that it must be flexible, and that it remains flexed or bent at any angle or segment desired. In the common method this is imperfectly fulfilled by means of a branch of willow or hazel, which, being first bent to the required position, is then tied by means of a cord extending from the point to the middle of the rod. An improvement is now made in this by substituting for this top half a yard of stout bell wire, which requires no tying, and can be bent and unbent at pleasure. The crack fisher, however, is often furnished with a top expressly manufactured for

this purpose by the best rod-makers from three pieces of hickory, each of five inches length, the sides of which are united to each other by two hinges, similar to those used in the making of carpenters' rules, by which they can be bent to any angle required. It must be notorious to those acquainted with London anglers that great pains are taken by them, and other piscatory amateurs of metropolitan towns, to make their tackle portable as well as effective; and if it can be hidden, that too is a greater recommendation. The sniggling apparatus, be it observed, may be readily formed on these principles. The rod may be made of two telescope joints, one of which may slide into the other, leaving room to receive the wire also, if the top be of that material. If it be the folding brass-jointed article just described, that will enter the pocket, or even the pocket-book, and the whole may then appear as a walking-stick only, and go into the bag with the other joints of an ordinary rod.

A few eels in addition to the contents of your bag are also acceptable, and often more welcomed upon reaching home than most fresh-water fish. Thus the occasional employment of the sniggle, say when other fish are not on the feed, or as an agreeable variety to a day's fishing is here ready at hand. The line, for convenience, may be held in folds in the hand or wound round a common thumb winder.

It must be obvious that the strength of the rod does not enter into our consideration, as its only duty is to guide the bait into the hole, and that when this is snatched off by the ravenous eel it is no longer required, but placed aside for the next essay. Still, there are those who would assimilate the pursuit more to the higher branches of angling, and for this purpose so contrive that, by the line passing through a ring at the top of the rod, the eel after capture may be the better played in its natural element, and lifted out rather than dragging it ingloriously ashore through weeds and other impediments which may more or less jeopardise its certain capture.

Sniggling appears to us to suggest the question, as the eel lies in its hole with its mouth uppermost, how it enters its retreat. We know that the power of an eel's tail is very great, and that being prehensile, it uses it to escape out of the closest bags made of fabric, as well as to reach the tops and sides of tubs and buckets to pull themselves over. But we have never heard it suggested that an eel enters its hole tail foremost. The only way we can account for their position is, that they lie *perdu* in either a perpendicular position beneath the surface of the soil or enter at some other opening. But if this were the case their retirement and re-appearance elsewhere would, we imagine, have been noticed; and moreover, the purchase thus gained upon the line of the fisher would be so considerably augmented as to test the best line, or drag out at times the contents of the stomach of the eel.

The way to kill the eel and to take out the needle (although the fisher should be supplied with a few, to save time in this operation) is to throw over it enough dry earth or sand to cover it—but earth we think is better, because it will more immediately absorb the moisture of the skin—which being done, it will be still, and therefore enable you to give it a crack with the butt end of your rod on its tail which at once paralyses it. It is then to have the *coup de grace* by dividing the spine at the juncture with the head, which puts all doubt at rest. The needle being forced to show itself under the fish's throat, may afterwards be drawn out by the head, together with the line to which it is tied through a small slit made in it at that part with a sharp pen-knife.

CREELE.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS

MID-THAMES.

"Will fortune never come with both hands full."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Fortune does not shine on piscators just now, nor even come with one handful of comfort to the almost despairing Thames tourists. A ray or two of sunshine did fall upon the river last week, but the cruel east and north-east wind is again upon the face of the waters, and kicksome, light-finned trout no longer flash their beauty before envious eyes, but have sunk away in dudgeon into the deepest recesses of their winter quarters. At Maidenhead some few foolish little fish have been tempted to wing their flight from their mother element, but the captors, I believe, in every case have returned them to their parent. At Marlow, Mr. Huggett, Mr. Bedford and Mr. Ritchie have been tempting beauty with glittering baits, the former gentleman being the most favoured, with four fish, but the largest was under 4 lb. At Hargrave I hear that Wm. Wyatt has spotted several thumping beauties on the feed not many miles from his comfortable hotel. Piscators should make a memorandum of this, and remember if the trout do not feed, humanity does, and to perfection at Wyatt's well-known hostelry.

THURSDAY EVENING.—The river is progressing about as usual, but the distressing attacks of wind remain unaltered. If these symptoms continue the prospects are decidedly fishy, but the advent of a little sun would change affairs immensely, and for no one more so than—MARLOW BUZZ.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

Anglers who have come for the Easter holidays to spend a few days in fishing these streams must have experienced some disappointment, as since the beautiful change we had the beginning of last week, when everything looked favourable for fishing, the wind veered once more round to that anything but friendly quarter to the angler, N.E.—very cold, accompanied with sharp frosts. These rivers have run down, and are now very low, so that until rain comes and thy wind changes the prospects for the next few days are not rosy. A great many anglers have been out during the week, but I think if all the trout that were caught were put together they would not muster many more than the number of fishermen. I do hope we may get a change within the next day or so. The barometer here is falling this afternoon.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

At Uttoxeter, Rocester, Hartington, Ilam, and in Dovedale, the Dove's banks have this week been daily lined with roadsters in pursuit of master speckle. The weather, however, has been about the severest I ever remember for mid-April. There have been abominable east winds blowing ever since Good Friday, and they have driven every fly off the water. However, some fair dishes of trout have been secured, the best one of six and a half brace, which were killed in Dovedale. The yellow dun of April and the March brown have been killing as well as anything. A roadster in Bently Brook caught three fish with the artificial minnow, weighing over 4 lb. Your readers will no doubt have heard of the death of Mr. David Foster, the well-known naturalist angler of Ashbourn. I sent you word last week, but my report may not have arrived in time. The deceased was highly respected by all who knew him. His remains have been interred in Ashbourn churchyard. The business he had for nearly fifty years carried on as a manufacturer of fishing materials will be carried on as usual by his eldest son, Mr. David Foster, junr.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

We are in the enjoyment of splendid angling weather. The river is all that can be wished. The cuckoo has been heard and "Mackerel" have at last been cried through the city, although it is some four weeks later than last year when they were first cried. They have been anxiously waited for by the fishermen, who have suffered much during the past inclement weather, owing to the lateness of their arrival; and had it not been for the long continuance of the herring with us, the distress would have been very considerable. Salmon fishing is not quite so good this week, but trout and peal are showing up in goodly quantities. Roach and dace are looking well and bright, but the gravelling are more numerous than ever; hundreds are taken daily, and supposed to be returned. Eels are more plentiful, but small lobsters and crabs, from the "Exeters" (rocks near Budleigh Satterton), are coming very fine, but prawns are still scarce. A fine otter of 16 lb. weight was taken at Salmon Pool last week, which is to be preserved and placed alongside the sturgeon taken some few years since near the same spot, at host Husson's, Salmon Pool Gardens, where Messrs. Martyn, Pearson, G. Lee and others have done so well this season. Mr. G. Lee took the first peal of the season last week, weighing 3½ lb. weight.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

Fly-fishing—trout. The river is very low and clear, and little is being done. Good Friday and Easter Monday are looked upon here as fishing days, when almost everyone who can fish takes the advantage of the holidays. Very few fish were killed, the largest basket I heard of was twenty-five, taken principally with small half-stone, blue upright, and allerbud. There is no chance of good sport until we have had rain and the wind shifted from north to south or west. Snow fell here this morning.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

There is very little doing at present either in fresh water or sea fishing; in fact there have been no catches worth reporting since Christmas, owing to so

much north-east wind, which makes this place a lee shore. All hands are busy here getting their tackle ready for bass, pout and bream fishing. We generally get fair catches of these fish commencing in the month of May; heavy catches commence in June, and last up to October. We know the fish are here, for when one can get a chance to put out, if only for an hour, we all get a few pounds of fish. All that is wanted is a south wind and fine weather, when I hope to be able to make a better report.—HENRY COMER.

Lee (Co. Cork).

With the exception of a few days, during which easterly winds prevailed, there was good sport daily during the fortnight. Mr. Barter, on Tuesday, took seven with the shrimp, and a gentleman who accompanied him got three. Among the other successful anglers were, Captain Abbot, four; H. Dale, six; Sir Augustus Warren, five; Geo. Haynes, three; D. Riordan, two; Mr. Angler, two; Dr. Taylor, one; Capt. Ducrot, one; Mr. T. Lyons, one; W. Haynes, two. Several nets belonging to poachers were seized during the past fortnight.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

These streams are low and fine, all that is wanting to give the fly-fisher a chance of taking a basket of trout is twenty-four hours warm weather and a few April showers. The few days' fine weather we got last week gave many the opportunity of trying their skill, and but few landed the spotted beauty, for the streams are as fine as can be, and the novice cannot get near the fish. Those who go angling now must be careful to keep out of sight, and throw their bait up stream, in fact keep behind the fish. Mr. Fowler landed 3½ brace weighing 6½ lb. with the early dun and spinner, Mr. Guillam caught and weighed in 3½ pound, one fish a pounder, myself bagging 2½ brace with the minnow. I saw eleven trout more, but three brace run short and got back to their holt.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries. Clonmel, (Ireland).

The fishing here was splendid all last week until Saturday when the wind again changed to the east, and since then very few salmon were taken. Mr. Stewart (20th Hussars), killed two at Molough, Paddy Huffe, one of 25 lb. at Newcastle, and Tom Russel one at Dudley's weighing 11 lb.; we have not heard that the Cahir Club had any sport. The cotmen only got 12 salmon at Clonmel last week. I did very little those few days. I saw them killing two fish together last evening, and lower down the river, at Kilsheelan, the cotmen there got seven fine salmon also in the one draw. Notwithstanding the easterly wind the trout fishing has been very good. Mr. W. Bagwell and Captain Morton killed 24 trout on Marlfield pond. Major Chambers, 22 on the stream called the Lenawn; Mr. W. Riall and Mr. Park (18th inst) two dozen on the Anner. Tom Rower has been very successful, killing large trout down the river, when he caught some white trout, which very seldom come up near Clonmel. Tim Kelcher and Tom Neil got 57 trout on the Nire. The fish on that stream seldom exceed half a pound in weight, but one of 7 lb. was got there some time ago on a night-line. On Good Friday Mr. Bradford had some good sport at Grove stream, filling the largest sized basket, and on the same stream Mr. Newman and friend killed a few dozen each of very large trout, and on the Anner Mr. Haines had some good fishing where he hooked a salmon on a small trout fly which ran out all his line, and even after breaking the top of his rod, still gave great play, but ultimately broke away. Mr. Frank Wayland killed some fine trout on the Suir, and killed one at Dudley's weighing 1 lb., which was in splendid condition. The silver black hackle hare's-car and gold wren are best flies for present fishing.—DORA.

There is a change in the wind this evening; it is inclined for the north.

Swale.

In my notes of last week I forgot to add that visitors to this stream must go well up the Dale, as the fish below Gunnerside were last season nearly exterminated by the bursting of Moss Dam. Monkey, Thwaite, or Keld should be the headquarters. The latter place is the best for sport, but the fish at present are in somewhat indifferent condition. After the glat of the stone fly (locally called May fly) they soon get into prime order. Suitable lodgings will be rather difficult to get, but the landlord of the Miners' Arms, Keld, will probably be the most likely person to apply to.—THOMAS FORD.

Waveney (Beccles).

Since writing last week the aspect of affairs has changed materially; and the water, which then was nicely clear, is now muddled and turbid. Winter has come upon us again in full force; and, as I write, the snow is falling heavily, and, with the wind in the north-east, all prospects of sport are at an end for the present. On Good Friday a great number of anglers took advantage of a nice day, and some very good takes were the result. Mr. Chase, angling in the middle of the day, took 11 lb. 5 oz. of roach; Mr. W. Gill, whilst angling with worm for perch, hooked and landed a jack of nearly 2 lb. weight, besides securing a nice basket of perch and roach; Messrs. Saul and Lee also had a nice basket of 44 roach, but they were not weighed. A great number of trailers have been out trying for pike during the Easter holidays, but with very little success. I understand, from a letter in a local paper, that liggering, although illegal, has been carried on here, and the attention of the water-bailiff has been called to the fact; so that the "gentleman" had better beware.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The Easter holiday piscators have had a very middling time of it during the week, owing to the sudden change in the weather again; all the week the weather has been bitter cold, with a piercing north-east wind and frequent snow-storms, which have quite taken the trout off the rise. We have had a very great number of anglers down here in Derbyshire from most of the manufacturing towns, trying their skill amongst the trout and grayling on both the Wye and Derwent, and their takes, as a rule, have been only a few brace. The best take was on the Derwent, last Monday, with the artificial fly—4½ brace of good-sized trout, three of the fish nearly 1 lb. a-piece. There have been a few brace of both trout and grayling killed on the Wye, between Rowsley and Bakewell. The killing flies have been the bumble claret body, furnace and spider flies. Trolling with the Derby trout-killer has been followed with fair success on the Derwent; one gentleman having two brace of good-sized trout, one of the fish weighing 2 lb. 6 oz. The worm fishers have killed very few fish during the past week. Sport on the ponds has been much better than on the river during the week, and some fine baskets of trout have been killed with both fly and bottom fishing. The killing flies for pond or brook fishing have been the bumble, red spinner and spider flies.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

My joy last week at the welcome change in the weather, which I believed had just come in time for the Easter anglers, was short-lived, for on Monday the wind had veered round into the old quarter, with a running accompaniment of sleet and hail by way of variety. On Friday I made up a fair dish of trout with minnow, but it is full early yet for that bait, and the fish come very short at it. Saturday was rather warmer, and on that day I caught ten nice fish with fly, the blue dun being the favourite fly. Sunday was a glorious day, with lots of natural flies on the water. I saw a few March browns, and any quantity of blue duns and little browns. I know my fingers itched to be at them when I saw an extra good fish sucking them down. Monday and Tuesday were awful days. I braved the elements, but after two hours of it gave up in disgust. A worse season than this has been, so far, would be difficult to conceive, only another month being left for spring fly-fishing. I expect it will be the end of May almost before the stone fly comes on the water. It is a very killing bait on the Yore, and takes the place of the green drake, which is very little known on that river. At the time of writing the water is very low and clear, and a north-east wind fit to cut you in two prevails, so that until some further change in the weather takes place it will be merely waste of time to attempt anything at fly-fishing.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

"OUR TRAWL."

List of New Works published during February and March.

- KEENE, J. HARRINGTON.—Practical Fisherman: dealing with the Natural History, the Legendary Lore, the Capture of British Freshwater Fish, and Tackle and Tackle Making. London: Bazaar Office, 1881. 480 p. il. 8vo. 10s. 6d.
- BORNE, MAX V. DEM.—Die Fischerei-Verhältnisse des Deutschen Reiches, Oesterreich-Ungarns, der Schweiz und Luxemburgs. Berlin: Stühr'sche Buchh., 1881. Part 2, 4to. 1 m. To be completed in about five parts.
- HAECKEL, E.—Das System der Medusen. (1) Theil e. Monographie der Medusen. (2) Abth. System der Acraspeden. Jena: Fischer, 1881. 4to 60 m.
- JACOBY, L.—Ausflug nach Comacchio. Triest: Dase, 1881. 16mo. 1 m.
- KLETTKE, G. M.—Die Fischerei-Gesetzgebung des Preussischen Staates. Berlin: Grosser, 1881. Part 3. 50.
- LE JOLIS, A.—(directeur de la société des sciences naturelles de Cherbourg). Liste des Algues Marines de Cherbourg. Paris: J. B. Bailliére et fils, 1881. 168 pp. 6 il. 8vo.
- MERCIER et G. HEUZE.—Les Viandes et Poissons, les Fruits et Légumes, a l'Exposition universelle internationale de 1878, à Paris. Paris: Imp. Nationale, 1881. 60 p. 8vo. Official Report of the National Jury.
- MITTHEILUNGEN aus der zoologischen Station zu Neapel, zugleich e Repertorium für Mittelmeerkunde. Leipzig: Engelmann, 1881. Vol. 2, part 3. 8 m.
- PFUNDHELLER, J.—Der oesterreichische Angelfischer, oder: die Kunste des Angeln. Wien: Manz, 1881. 140 pp. 8vo. fl. 1.
- VETTER, B.—Die Fische aus dem lithographischen Schiefer im Dresdner Museum. Cassel: Fischer, 1881. 4to. 18.
- WAGNER, Ch.—Wasser-Cultur (Teich-Wirthschaft), nach Beobachtungen u. eigenen Erfahrungen. Bremerhaven: Tienken, 1881. 8vo. 1.

NORWICH FISHERIES EXHIBITION.—Messrs. Little and Co., Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, London, have been awarded the gold medal and diploma of honour for general excellence in fishing tackle at the above exhibition.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

FISH-CULTURE AT CHERTSEY.

THE remarks of "Consistent" on this interesting subject dovetail so closely with my own experience that I trouble you with a few lines by way of illustration.

For the last five years I have been endeavouring to stock a small beck in this neighbourhood with trout. I brought the first instalment from Derbyshire in 1876, since which time I have put in fry of my own hatching as well as supplies from Mr. Capel's, of Foot's Cray, Kent. In 1879, a friend of mine also added a contingent of 60 full-grown fish, which he placed two or three miles down the stream, where the bottom is chiefly sand. Now, what do we find? Not a single trout remains on the lower reaches of the stream. They have all gone upwards to the gravelly swims in which they so much delight; and, depend upon it, if Mr. Forbes turns his trout adrift at Chertsey, as soon as the water of Father Thames wets their gills, the race for Gloucestershire will commence. Comparatively few will run the gauntlet of the many enemies on the way, and but fewer still will return to the neighbourhood in which they were hatched.

We cannot speak too highly of the commendable efforts Mr. Forbes is making, but natural laws will ever prove stronger than our hopes. I always place my fry at the fountain-head, and am gratified to find that, as I expected, the fish drop down lower as they grow in size. In this way, when the upper parts of the stream are stocked, I also hope that the lower runs will likewise be reached by the fish.

Strange though it may seem, I believe that the nearer Mr. Forbes puts his fry to the Cotswolds, the better it will prove in the long run for Chertsey.

THOMAS FORD.

Caistor, Lincolnshire.

THE CLASSIC ISIS.

THIRTY years ago the Isis and tributary streams within the City boundaries at Oxford were almost exclusively fished by the Beesleys. The "city stone" eastwards is reached by barge from Christ Church meadow, at about perhaps a third of the distance to Iffley and is placed on the Berkshire bank of the Classic Isis. A bottle of port wine is broken upon this stone on "perambulating" days. Some of the upper-class 'Varsity servants, and a few other freemen anglers never thought of trying their own city waters—they mostly repaired to certain portions of the Cherwell, in which they had permission to angle, or paid for the privilege. And there is excellent water not only at, but above Oxford, for the preservation of trout, &c. Among the numbers of pike and other common fish exhibited by the Beesleys for sale in the public market, I never saw a single trout! I knew there were trout in the water—by Osney Mill, for instance; but probably when the above well-known "freemen" family got hold of an Isis trout in their nets they had no difficulty in "placing" it at a tolerably high figure.

The Oxford anglers have, I believe, since altered that unsatisfactory state of things; and the city waters are happily no longer the monopoly of one or two netting families. From the city "stone" right away to Godstow, just beyond Port Meadow, is a fine stretch of the "freemen's" water, in every way suited for a large stock of fish. Unfortunately, Oxford is often flooded; and how any Parliamentary legislation can alleviate this state of things hereabouts it is difficult to conceive.

Don't blame the "upland" farmer for his drains,
Nor tax "the early or the latter rains."

The local anglers in these better days must know that a large number of fish get flooded out of the Isis and tributaries, and when the floods subside many fish get into the deeper ditches and the railway dykes, and these ought to be put back into the main

river. Besides, there is the Canal, affording additional water for the angler. From Sandford to Nuneham and Abingdon, good perch, &c., fishing, could always be got; and the Cherwell, too, might possibly be open here and there at a nominal charge? The crayfish in some small watercourses at Oxford run very fine and numerous, for I have myself caught as many as 250 to 300 sizeable crayfish in a single evening, say from dusk till 11 o'clock p.m.

In Worcester College gardens (how the bare mention of this delightful spot calls up sunny memories of "Commemoration" week, when so many of the youth and beauty of our land meet in the open air amidst this loved retreat!) In these gardens is a spacious lake, and it doubtless holds a lot of fish. I don't know whether any of the Fellows or Undergraduates ever angle in this water? If not, permission might possibly be got of the College authorities to net the lake for the benefit of the Isis and the city anglers. A visit to Oxford at any time is pleasant. It might be made doubly so, if the angler, after making a loving pilgrimage among the ancient and beautiful Collegiate establishments, the libraries and "schools," the Sheldonian Theatre, the Martyrs' Memorial, the Taylor Gallery, and the churches, he could repair to the Isis and ply his angle for awhile. The readers of the FISHING GAZETTE would, I feel certain, be greatly interested if any brother angler at Oxford would send a few notes as to probabilities in the way of trout and the "close season," &c., in the "city waters." The concessions made by the railway companies will enable London and other anglers to indulge in the luxury of visiting this notable city and University, and to ramble about her classic precincts.

The famous "High" hath many graceful bends,
And all that ancient Art to beauty ever lends!
Fair Italy sent forth that true "Rasonic" band,
That reared a wealth of Gothic fanes in our lov'd land.

W. F.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

AMONGST the one hundred and thirty-five London and suburban angling clubs, this new society has already attained a high and satisfactory position. With the Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., as President, a substantial committee of nine City gentlemen, Mr. J. G. Thompson as treasurer, and Mr. J. Crumplen as honorary secretary, it cannot fail to take a leading place as a representative angling society. The Committee has just issued the rules and regulations under which the Gresham Club is to be governed, its object being for the purpose of fraternal intercourse among anglers, and strictly promoting the advancement of the art of angling." The present quarters are at the City of London Larder, 19, Throgmorton Street. The subscription is one guinea per annum, the Committee having power to elect as honorary members distinguished anglers or persons who may have rendered important services relative to fish and fishing. In all competitions for gross weights the following standard is given for weights and measurement: Jack, 3 lb.; barbel, 2 lb.; Thames trout, 3 lb.; brook trout, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; roach and rudd, 4 oz.; chub, 8 oz.; bream, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; carp, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; tench, 1 lb.; perch, 6 oz.; dace, 3 oz.; gudgeon, 4 inches. In other respects the standards of the Lower and Upper Thames are to be strictly enforced. The society has become affiliated to the West Central Association so as to enjoy the advantages of privilege tickets. The members are respectfully requested to give the Committee notice of any incivility or overcharge on the part of boatmen, and a list of trustworthy men is to be kept at the Society's rooms. Arrangements are in progress by which the Society will, if possible, rent water and possess exceptional rights in other cases. The latest information as to the state of the

ivers, fishing prospects, &c., are to be posted at the Society's committee-room during the season. The Society is to possess a library of standard works on angling and kindred subjects for the use of the members. It is therefore evident from these practical arrangements the members of the Committee will not be an inactive body; that whilst encouraging angling on true and sportsmanlike principles, they intend to obtain all the privileges they can for those associated with them. There can be no doubt such a first-class society was needed in the City, and that it will embrace amongst its members some of the best London anglers, such names as Messrs. Alfred Jardine, Thomas Spreckley, John Knechtli, H. L. Rolfe, Benjamin Slater, E. Frost, J. O. Chubb, H. J. Alfred, E. Blank, T. S. Davy, F. H. Lemann, C. Bentley, R. King, &c. &c., being prominent as leading City Thames anglers, and likely to join its ranks. All must wish the Gresham Angling Society every possible success!

DESTROYING SALMON FRY.

AT the Christchurch Petty Sessions on Monday, Charles Harrison, fisherman, of Mudeford, and George Scott, fisherman, Bournemouth, were charged, under the 14th section of the Salmon Fisheries Act, with selling, and exposing for sale, the young of salmon, at Bournemouth, on the 17th March. The proceedings were taken by the Conservators of the Avon and Stour fishery district, at the instance of Mr. Thomas J. Mann, of Fulton Hall, Norfolk, who saw three fish exposed for sale in Scott's shop at Bournemouth. When questioned respecting them Scott said they were "budge," and that he bought them of Harrison as such. Mr. Trevanion, who appeared for the prosecution, explained that budge was the local name for sea-trout, and belonged to the genus salmon. The proceedings were taken in the interests of local fishermen, and not from any feeling of animosity towards them. He quoted from the fourth annual report on salmon fisheries by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, who said the fishermen in the neighbourhood of Christchurch were acting directly against their own interest, inasmuch as they destroyed large quantities of young salmon every year in nets, which they used for catching flounders. By this means, he added, they were seriously injuring their own pockets; it was as "foolish an act as slaughtering and throwing away chickens with their feathers just appearing, instead of allowing them to grow into poultry worth seven shillings a couple." Mr. Mann, in giving evidence, said he had never met with a body of men more ignorant of their best interests than the Christchurch river fishermen, who, if not checked would as surely bring themselves to poverty as the Poole fishermen did with regard to the oysters.—The magistrates fined the defendants in a nominal penalty, but cautioned them against the disastrous consequences of the practice.

THE TROUBLE THAT BIG TROUT BROUGHT.

WE were rolling along comfortably on the Mid-Wales Railway; there had been but three of us to tenant the smoking carriage for some time, and, although all strangers to each other, we had grown very chatty and companionable, but now as the train drew up and admitted a fourth, the conversation flagged—grew less and less—and finally came to a dead stop.

It might have been that we were absorbed in the contemplation of the scenery, and truly, although the writer has travelled far and wide, he knows no line of rail so fraught with beauty, no district so charming, as lies all around Llanidloes, Builth, and Rhayader.

We may well have ceased our "palaver" to gaze forth in rapt admiration upon the undulating hills, just beginning to show

pink and purple with the earliest blooms of heather, with here and there a patch of golden gorse; whilst ever and anon the grey rock comes cropping through, its stern outlines softened down by masses of waving ferns. And amidst it all runs the "devious Wye," following the line for miles. Now it is lost for awhile amidst dense, hanging woods—now it comes forth again into the open, rolling along so smoothly that the white clouds sailing lazily far overhead are mirrored on its placid current—now chafing and brawling amidst the rocks and boulders which impede its course, as if impatient at the obstruction—now rippling along, chequered with foam-flecks from the last struggle, or forming deep, dark pools, in which the merest tyro in the gentle art must long to cast his fly.

It is all very beautiful, but I do not think it was this alone which held us silent. It was rather the advent of the new-comer. And yet there was no tangible ground of offence about this personage, if we except the pair of well-worn leather cases which he carried, one in each hand; and speaking very forcibly of the traveller in the "book line."

I think this made us rather shy; for, I suppose, we all have me more than once in our lives, the very plausible individual who, no matter what the topic of conversation may be, invariably leads it round to one point.

You may be talking of Russian politics—the last amiable deeds of the Irish Land League—the High Church revival, or what not—yet still he contrives to lead up to the good fortune of the present age, an age in which literature, by the enterprise of sundry publishers—literature of the very best and most instructive kind has been placed at a nominal price within the reach of all. Whilst the nimble tongue has run over this invariable preamble, the equally nimble fingers have opened the samples; and, unless very strong-minded indeed, you find yourself committed to "Fussell's People's Educator," in two hundred parts at sevenpence a month.

He may not have been a book agent, but I am sure we put him down for that; and, on the assumption, he was favoured with a scowl from the most talkative of the party, a short, thick-set man, with a red face fringed with iron-grey hair, a portentous shirt-collar, a pompous manner, and coarse, strident voice, fond of oratorical sentences, and whom I had set down in my own mind for a country solicitor or an auctioneer and the terror of the vestry.

The new comer did not mind the frown much, as he took his seat opposite. He did not even seem to see it, and, as he proceeded to charge his pipe, I had leisure to observe him.

A small, meek man; with a general air of dejection—a poor man, undeniably. That was evident in his coat, which had seen its best days a long time ago—in his carefully-brushed hat, with the tell-tale white marks about the brim; and, most of all, in the boots, where the ravages of time set Day and Martin at defiance; and in one of them a yawning crack had been artistically treated with a splash of mud. Yet there was something about the man which spoke of a better time. He might have been a gentleman once—nay, despite the frown of fortune, might in all save wealth, be a gentleman still. His hands were clean and well-tended, and his pipe—it was merely a cheap "briar"—and he smoked exceedingly bad tobacco—was, perhaps with some reminiscence of the ease of other days, exhumed from a little bag, evidently home-manufactured from a scrap of an old macintosh coat. He had given us a mild smile on entering, and had mentioned the fact that it was a fine day; and, more shame for us, no one had responded; unless the auctioneer's grim look counted for anything. So, after this, he smoked in silence, and with the slow, gentle puff of one who gets all he can out of a pipe.

We rolled on, and, still in silence, until the stranger broke it with, "Ah! Well landed; and a nice fish too" and, following

his glance through the window, we saw an angler just transferring a speckled trout to his creel.

A trifling incident in itself, but enough to change the entire man before us. His eyes seemed to brighten, his subdued manner to vanish as he watched the fisherman until the trees shut him from view. He appeared for the nonce to forget all his troubles, and surely they were not a few. As the thought came forcibly to my mind: "Here is a born disciple of old Izaak, if ever there were one."

"I do not angle myself."

It was our friend the auctioneer who spoke; and he commenced with a loud portentous "Hem!" which I had already learned to interpret as a prelude to a few of those long polysyllables he was so fond of. "I do not angle myself. My occupations are too multifarious to afford leisure for such relaxation. But it seems to be a pleasure-bestowing pastime—an agreeable and health-giving recreation—least to be condemned, perhaps, of any field sports, and it has often occurred to me that it would be a good thing if people in general, especially the rising generation, took more interest in fishing."

"The saints forbid!"

The voice of the last comer uttered this aspiration, and in something very like a tone of horror. He had, perhaps, intended to say more; but his fervent ejaculation had brought him into such prominent notoriety that, being a shy man, he shuffled uneasily in his seat and murmured, "I beg your pardon!"

The auctioneer was not going to let him off in silence. His brow contracted in an ominous frown, and he gave one or two gulps in his throat, as though swallowing sundry lumps of indignation.

"You beg pardon, sir, and not unnaturally. But let that pass. Only, I must say, that when any one utters his opinion, for another a—a—gentleman" (he blurted out the word sorely against the grain, evidently) "to controvert it so very abruptly, and with an expression which, excuse me, savours somewhat of Papistical idolatry, seems, to say the least of it, somewhat in bad taste."

"You are quite right," answered the other, "and I apologise again. I meant no offence. I was thinking only of myself. I am passionately fond of fishing, and—and—I curse the day I ever took a rod in my hand. Fishing—successful fishing, understand me—has been my ruin. I wrecked all my prospects, brought myself to what I am, by the capture of one wretched trout. But there," and he smiled sadly—a smile sufficient to disarm all resentment, "there, I am growing egotistical. Why should I bore you with my troubles?"

"Pardon me, but, I think, in the name of our fellow-travellers, I must ask you to continue now. You have excited our curiosity, it would be unfair to refuse to gratify it.

The speaker was opposite the writer of this narrative. A very portly gentleman, say of about fifty years of age, and a commanding presence. There was an air of wealth and dignity about him which had struck me from the first. If he had proclaimed himself the owner of one of the many splendid seats on the river's banks, or of half-a-dozen of them, it would not have been surprising. But I had settled him in my mind for something connected with the Church and State, and that kind of thing—possibly a bishop travelling incognito. I am well aware that high dignitaries of the Church are not often found in the third-class smoking compartment, but there was a sort of consciousness of power about the man which seemed to dwell in each crease of his fine black broadcloth and snowy linen, and upon the very curly brim of his extra glossy hat—the evident air of one accustomed to speak and be obeyed—that rather favoured the bishop theory, and made me so loath to relinquish it, that the reader must please to let me hold this fancy in speaking of him,"

"I am sure that there must be a story behind. Will you not favour us?"

The book-agent, for such he really was, looked at the speaker with a glance which was half surprise. Perhaps it was so long since any one had taken an interest in aught belonging to himself that he suspected a jest. But the bishop's face only beamed kindness, and a grave, old-fashioned courtesy, which set the other at his ease at once.

"You are right, sir," he answered. "There is a tale, and a sad one. I fear it is not very entertaining, but, at your wish, it is yours. I will commence by asking if you think it possible that a man's destiny can take an actual concrete form? Because all my evil genius came to me in the shape of a two-pound trout."

The bishop shook his head, as one who gave up a hard conundrum. The auctioneer, only half appeased, muttered something about "hating metaphysics," and the writer kept his eye on this strange man, with some growing suspicions of his sanity.

"Well, then, let me explain," he continued. "So, to begin at the beginning, my name is Reginald Fitz-Eustace Fipps—a peculiar combination, I admit," for we could not hide a half-smile, "but I cannot help that. My respected parents are responsible for the one part, and the other rests with antiquity. Reginald Fipps is an unlucky man.

"About eight years ago, at twenty-one, I found myself very much like Job at the lowest stage of his memorable career, about as badly off as possible. A series of disasters, with which I will not bore you, had left me with a widowed mother, very little money, and no visible means of getting more.

"I had been destined for the Church, but my college career was bought to an abrupt termination, and there was an end of that. Of course, I was in love, and engaged to be married, as every woe-begone wretch always is; equally there was an end of that. Although," and his face grew more hopelessly sad; "heaven bless her! she waits for me still."

He paused a moment to steady his voice, and then went on in quick defiance of our sympathy.

"It was but little I could do. My classical education was at a discount in the jostling, money-getting world, and, bit by bit, things grew worse. There came a gleam of hope in an invitation from my mother's brother, and a confirmed bachelor, for me to visit him. I was at first inclined to refuse. I had never seen this uncle of mine. He had always held himself aloof from us, and, despite his wealth—he was very rich—had proffered us no assistance. But my mother would not hear of it. With all of a woman's hopefulness, she at once decided that this was the prelude to making me his heir, and go I must. I yielded. Perhaps the knowledge that he had a capital trout-stream on his estate near Carmarthen, had something to do with it; for I was always passionately fond of angling. At all events, I went. He received me well, and made me very welcome, and we found a genial topic at once in our mutual taste for fishing. I had not been in the house half-an-hour before he commenced showing me all his tackle, and although he had enough to stock a moderate shop, I was not slow to perceive he possessed but a small knowledge of how to use it all. However, I was wise enough to keep this to myself. Alas! that my wisdom did not suffice to also hide my own superior skill. After dinner he took me in the calm of the summer's evening to see his water, and a charming stream it certainly was. A rapid dashing brook, almost large enough to be styled a river. Full of nice rippling runs and swirling eddies. Wooded in places, but not enough so to be troublesome, with there and there a deep dark rock pool. Every yard of it, and he owned more than two miles, had its history, and he never wearied of the recital. By his own account he had done great marvels; but I did not intend to offend him, and listened

with a fair share of credulity to the most astounding angling exploits it has ever been my luck to hear. But as we wended home again approaching one spot his voice lowered to a whisper, and his step grew slow and solemn. An expression came over his face akin to that of a great picture connoisseur, as he drew aside the curtain protecting the cherished old master, or the enthusiast in china producing the rarest bit of Buen Petiro or exquisite Meissen. 'There,' said my uncle, and his hand laid on my shoulder drew me behind a sheltering bush, 'You do not see a fish like that every day.'

(To be continued.)

WORCESTER ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE seventh annual dinner of the Worcester Angling Society was held at the Bull's Head Inn, High Street, on the 8th inst. Mr. B. Smith occupied the chair, and Mr. A. E. Davis the vice-chair. The company present included Messrs. G. Dyer, E. D. Davies, J. A. Griffin, J. Hodnet, A. George, H. Tyler, A. Barrs, W. Philipps, C. Price, J. Shaw, J. Jeff, W. Roberts, T. Roberts, J. Wayne, W. Pugh, W. Prosser, W. Handley, J. Phillips, and J. R. Pool (secretary).

"The Queen" having been proposed and honoured, The Chairman gave "Success to the Worcester Angling Society." The society had now been established over seven years, and, although it had had its ups and downs since its formation, it was at present in a very satisfactory condition. The season was about to commence, and he hoped the members would pull together. He would like to see the club meetings better attended. (Hear, hear.)

The Secretary responded, and read the prize list for the past year. This was the first year he had been secretary, and since entering upon his duties he had done his best to look after the interests of the society. (Hear, hear.) With such advantages as they had in the Severn, Teme, and their various tributaries, he saw no reason why the Worcester Angling Society should not become one of the best in the country. They had at present 62 members on the books, and a good balance in hand to commence the season with.

The following was the prize list:—For the greatest aggregate weight of fish caught during the season—1st, silver cup and fishing stockings, Mr. Barrs, weight 250 lb. 3 oz.; 2nd, £1, Mr. E. D. Davies, 94 lb. 1 oz.; 3rd, 15s., Mr. A. E. Davis, 52 lb. 10½ oz.; 4th, Mr. C. Price, 29 lb. 5 oz. For the greatest aggregate weight of game fish (trout or grayling) caught during the season—1st, Mr. E. D. Davies, 69 lb. 13 oz.; 2nd, Mr. Barrs, 65 lb. 12 oz. For the best brace of trout, Mr. J. A. Griffin; 2nd, Mr. Gillham. Heaviest brace of trout caught with any other bait, a tie between Mr. E. D. Davies and Mr. A. E. Davis. For the heaviest basket of perch taken in one day—1st, Mr. Barrs, weight 21 lb. 4 oz. Heaviest pike, Mr. C. Price.

It was mentioned that the quantity of fish weighed in during the past year was very satisfactory, considering the extent of water the society had the right to fish over.

The Secretary said that some dissatisfaction existed with regard to the discontinuance of prizes for the destruction of otters. There could be no doubt that the destroying of otters was an advantage to anglers, but it was unreasonable to ask a club numbering sixty members to give prizes to an object which would benefit the 4800 anglers who took out licenses to fish last year.

The Chairman mentioned that the funds which were set aside for these prizes were now exhausted.

Mr. George referred to the fact that the club had not been assisted in this matter by either the Severn Fishery Board or other angling clubs.

Mr. H. Tyler, in proposing "The donors of prizes," said that the giving of prizes was a great incentive to anglers. He hoped the club would be able to show a better prize list next year. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. Dyer responded.

The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Health of the Chairman," observing that Mr. Smith had been president of the society ever since its formation, and the success of the club was in a great measure due to the energy he had displayed in its affairs. They all hoped he would long continue to occupy the post he had so worthily filled.

The Chairman replied, and thanked Mr. Davis for his complimentary remarks. Ever since he first became a member of the society he had done his best to keep the club together, and to increase the number of members. Although he had not weighed-in during the past season he had not been idle. He had caught 153½ brace of grayling, weighing over 200 lb.—(hear, hear)—and over 100 lb. of white fish. (Hear, hear.) He might mention that the reason he had not weighed-in as usual was that he wished to give the younger members of the club a chance of becoming prize winners. (Applause.)

The Chairman next gave the health of the late secretary, Mr. Albert George, who had for some years acted as secretary to the club, without any reward, but on account of other duties was obliged to give up the position. He had always worked hard in the interests of the society, and the members were much indebted to him for his services. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. George thanked them for the very kind manner in which they had received the toast, and said it had always been his desire to further the interests of the club, and he hoped it would long continue in its present flourishing condition. Although no longer secretary, he should continue to be a member of the club, and to look after its interests.

The Chairman announced that the officers for the ensuing year would be elected at the next club meeting, and the season would commence on the 15th inst.

"The Vice-Chairman," proposed by Mr. J. Jeff, and "The Host and Hostess," concluded the toast list, and the remainder of the evening was spent in singing and conviviality.—*Worcester Journal*.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Any.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

SINGULAR CAPTURE.

SIR,—I was fishing in the Fareham Stream, near Boarhunt, on Good Friday, and had killed two and a half brace of trout, when a moor hen flew out from some bushes near me. Giving the rod a twitch, I hooked her by the

She gave me some good play for about ten minutes, but by keeping a gentle pressure on her, I at last brought her to bank, and a friend who was with me got her out.—I am, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR.

ANOTHER CURIOUS INCIDENT.

SIR,—Mr. Wesley Warner's letter about the resurrected frog, reminds me of a somewhat similar incident. When fishing with James Rogers sen., for whiting pout—here called "Blains"—one evening last summer, Rogers hauled a fish to about mid-water, when he lost him. On examining his hook he found on it a garden snail minus the shell. When we got ashore we found on enquiry that two men had been out at the same place early in the morning, who, having no mussels, had used snails—deprived of their shells—for bait.

As the snail looked quite fresh after having done Jonah for so many hours, it seems probable that they are not so easy of digestion as they are generally supposed to be.—I am, &c.,
E. GOSLING.

Budleigh Salterton, April 11, 1880.

THE GRAND JUNCTION CANAL.

SIR,—Could you inform me through your paper whether it is really true that the West Central Association has given up the preserving of the Grand Junction Canal.—I am, &c.,
H. GREENWAY.

The Firs, Cricklewood, April 9, 1881.

[We believe the Association had to give up the idea of preserving, as the Company would not prohibit netting.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent of last week I may state that there is very good pike fishing in the Medway, at Tunbridge, which is four miles from Tunbridge Wells; that is the nearest. The Medway affords good sport and the water is directly under the auspices of the Tunbridge Angling Club.—I am, &c.,
EDWARD HOLLOMBY.

THE CLOSE SEASON.

SIR,—A number of your correspondents, Thames, Trent, and other rivers (practical anglers), are now convinced the close season (against the rods) for coarse fish, is much too long.

Your correspondent "B" makes a capital suggestion. I trust the heads of the three associations will take the hint.

I wish to point out unless anglers are able to follow their favourite pastime through March, April and May, the clubs, as well as tackle makers and others must in the end suffer; they cannot expect many anglers to attend club rooms merely for harmony or card parties. If another meeting were held it would be found a great alteration of ideas has taken place.

I, for one, feel certain a plan might be found to answer to shorten the close season, say, for instance, fish that are caught with a live bait, as jack, etc., might be fenced a month earlier than bream or roach, and no harm would be done. If it answers for trout, why not for other fish?—I am, &c.,
F. M.

"FOSTER FUND."

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 10s. from Clapham Junction, 19s. City of London, 9s. Sir Hugh Middleton, £2 11s. 6d. Good Intent (20s. given from the funds of their society, remainder subscribed by the members). Secretaries are respectfully requested to send in their collections at once.—I am, &c.,
T. HOOLE, hon. sec.
7, King's Road, Mortlake.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of 10s. 6d. from the Canonbury Angling Society, and 12s. from the Hoxton Brothers with thanks. Those secretaries who have not yet sent in their lists for the above fund will oblige by forwarding them forthwith.—I am, &c.,
R. GHURNEY.

FEEDING OF SPAWNING FISH.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent "Fish and Sportsman's Friend" referring to your correspondent Mr. William Bailly respecting "Feeding of Spawning Fish."

It was only yesterday, April 9th, that I was out fishing. The only fish I got were grayling, and they took my fly which was a "small red spinner," most freely. In about an hour I had caught four brace, but of course had to put them back as this is their spawning time.

Has Mr. Bailly ever tried fishing for grayling when they are spawning? If so I am sure he will find that this fish will bite during spawning season.—I am, &c.,
ANOTHER "FISH AND SPORTSMAN'S FRIEND."

April 10th.

FISH-HATCHING AT CHERTSEY.

SIR,—Had B.'s first letter held one quarter of the qualified statements and equivocal admissions which does that in your last issue, there would have been no occasion for me, in the cause of scientific truth, to have taken exception to its contents. The assertion so boldly made in the former, that "after many years of exertion to materially advantage the Thames by fish breeding," the worthy and enterprising Chertsey pisciculturist had, hey presto!—marvellous—attained that object, was of too extraordinary a nature to pass without surprise and protest. Indeed, so firmly therein is B. presumably assured of this stupendous achievement, that he declares emphatically that "there is nothing in the way of speculation as to this result being realised." "I am sure," he adds, again taking, figuratively, to the trowel, "that Mr. F." (I would avoid if possible

mentioning that gentleman's name) "must feel he has now arrived at perfection in fish hatching." This, I maintained, was a presumptuous assertion, as it was alone founded upon the fact that the eyes of the ova of the Thames trout were plainly visible, and the eggs looked strong. Had the writer of a leader in the *Standard* of to-day, the 19th inst., upon the opening of the Norwich Fish Exhibition been thus enlightened, he would surely not have written that "we still understand rather less of the culture of salmonidæ than about the electric light or the geography of Central Africa, and the craft is yet in its tentative or experimental stage, &c." And again, "Our nets are still very much what nets were at the time of the Pharaohs, whilst in pisciculture we have done strangely little."

I may here venture to state that our Chertsey friend, thus invested with the celestial attribute of Perfection, doubtless feels what a censure is thus cast upon his fellow labourers, and that he would be the first to reprove the flatterer, as no man is more ready to acknowledge that science is progressive, art long, and perfection unattainable, than he. But we shall see that the redundancy of superlatives in B.'s first letter was not altogether meant, although addressed, to that gentleman.

B. has obviously now learned that he had gone too far in hyperbole, although it seems, as we shall see, it was not altogether intended for the individual named, and thus present trimming may be accounted for. "Every one knows," he writes, "that there exist great risks in the raising of the fry, and great care is needful in bringing them up." While, further on, he steps more gingerly along a path of which he is so little acquainted, and says, with still more cautious reserve, "If we can only get through the period of infancy—I do not anticipate—neither will I anticipate—the difficulty of raising a goodly proportion of youthful stock." But why should B. "if" it thus? why should he even raise the ghost of anticipation having already announced perfection? and why, "if every one knows" this, did B. rest the certainty of success, inspired by perfection, upon the initial fact that the eyes of the ova were cynically winking at his credulity?

By comparing B.'s two effusions it will be observed that, since my remarks, there is no longer that tone of confidence, of certainty, and of perfection, which characterised his first prophetic outpourings. His last letter is dotted throughout with "ifs" and "hopes," and has therein this singularly speculative sentence, all speculation having been previously eschewed: "If only one-sixth of the young fry are raised." Is it possible that B. is so profoundly ignorant upon a subject upon which he hazards his pen, that he is not aware that there exist pisciculturists who would not consider they had reached perfection if they had lost 10 per cent. of ova and fry? Yet here does B. admit there may be a possibility of a sacrifice of fish-life to the extent of more than eighty out of the hundred—and yet he has no speculative doubt that perfection will not result!

But is there no personal reason for all this gushing homage in the Chertsey Fish Temple? Let us read the lines and between them:—"I have all along considered it a mistake to propagate the different species of salmonidæ which was first taken up by Mr. Frank Buckland, and at all times I have strongly advocated instead the increase of our own native fish, and particularly what is known as the Thames trout."

So, so—then it is not our esteemed friend at Chertsey that is reserved for the honour of the inception of this idea, but B.; in other words, the former is but working B.'s discovery (if it be his?), and, further on, B. alludes to "the duties in which we are engaged."

Let me here ask where and when B. has either expressed a conviction that Messrs. Francis Francis, Buckland, Ponder, Lowe, Lord, and others, were pursuing a wrong course, or, that he had "advocated the increase of our native fish, particularly what is known as the Thames trout"? As B. is, in general, his own reporter, he can have no difficulty of substantiating this claim, by a reference to time, place, and publication.—I am, &c.,
CONSISTENT.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The adjourned general meeting of the above society will take place on Friday next, April 22, 1881, at 9 p.m. Secretaries will oblige by forwarding to the general secretary the names of their members wishing to join the Anglers' Benevolent Society for the ensuing year, which will commence on May 1st.—R. GHURNEY.

April 19.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

A special meeting was held on Monday last, and it was decided that the annual dinner take place on April 26. Among the new members that were made on Thursday I have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Willoughby, late chairman of the Battersea Piscatorial Society rejoined his old club again. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for settlement of prizes and other important questions. Our two cases of beautiful bream will be on view then.—E. WILSON, sec.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner will take place on Tuesday next, 26th inst., at the club house. I have much pleasure to inform our members that our two cases of bream has just arrived, which makes a great improvement to our club room. The fish, six in number, were taken by Mr. E. Withers, at Shepperton, one fish weighing 5 lb. 13½ oz., the other five, in one case, weighing 10 lb. 14½ oz., which makes two handsome cases. Among the new members that were made last Thursday was Mr. Willoughby, late Chairman of Battersea Piscatorial Society, who rejoins us again.—E. WILSON, hon. sec.
April 19.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Our district visit took place on Thursday, April 7th, and which I am pleased to say was a complete success, the following clubs being represented:—Cambridge, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Hammersmith Club, Maylebone, Norfolk, North-Western, Waltonians, Westbourne Park, Knights of Knightsbridge, Clapham Junction, Clerkenwell Piscatorials, Alexandra, Hampstead Club. The chair was taken by Mr. Dixon, of the Golden Barbel, faced by Mr. Hoole, of the Hammersmith United. The proceedings were opened with harmony, which was continued to a late hour. Among the gentlemen who took part in the proceedings were the following:—Messrs. Dixon, Hoole, Morris, Sutton, Starr, Penny, Franklin, Burgess (who was vociferously applauded), Lumby, Toms, Roberts and friend (in a burlesque), and last, but not least, the worthy host of The Rent Day, where the

Cambridge is held, wound up the evening with "Joe in the Copper." Among others, we were glad to welcome Mr. Lerner, of the York Minster, and Mr. Galloway, of the Norfolk Arms.—VORTEX.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The series of musical evenings that have so substantially characterised the success of the Larkhall Anglers, and were inaugurated by the energetic president of the club, Mr. G. F. Spencer, were brought to a grand termination on Wednesday evening in last week, at the Larkhall, Larkhall Lane, Clapham. It was also made the occasion of presenting to those present—and the room was filled to an overflow—a copy of the annual report and balance-sheet, the publication of which is also a new feature in the history of the Society, and affording further evidence of the business-like character of the president. In the report the committee congratulate the members on the prosperity of the society during the past season, and its recent flourishing condition both in numbers and standing, no fewer than 21 new members having been enrolled. The annual subscription has been raised from twelve to sixteen shillings, and the entrance fee to ten shillings. An appreciation is accorded to the talented vocalists and instrumentalists whose distinguished and gratuitous services have enabled the worthy president to bring the musical evenings to so successful an issue. The committee invite the members to an inspection of the society's books to see how the money has been expended, although the balance-sheet details in full the various items of receipts and expenditure. The report, which is signed by Messrs. Charles Davison, Frederick Croutel, Benjamin Boyce, James W. Green, George Nicholson, F. Kerry and W. W. Westley, as members of the committee, and countersigned by Mr. W. Tucker, as honorary secretary, concludes with a renewal of their hearty good wishes on the success of the society. The balance-sheet exhibits a balance in hand of £16 19s. 6d.; since the occasion of the annual dinner when the sum of £50 was raised for prizes, the amount has been doubled, and everything therefore appears in the most prosperous condition. It only shows how courage and perseverance can be stimulated under an active and energetic president. If there is a noble and valorous leader, the committee, honorary secretary and treasurer become stimulated and more spirited in their work. The Larkhall Anglers will ever have cause to be thankful in their selection of Mr. G. F. Spencer to the office of president, and one and all must hope in perfect sincerity that he may long be spared to conduct the affairs of the society. As regards "the last musical evening," it was a grand success, and at the particular request of the president, Mr. W. H. Brougham, of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, was present on the occasion. There were also Messrs. J. M. Brougham (Piscatorial Society), B. Boyce, J. H. Morris, C. Davison, F. Croutel, J. W. Green, G. Nicholson, W. Tucker, W. Owen, J. Edmondson, F. Boyce, W. Spencer, Grumbridge, English, W. Creek (Union Hotel, Clapham), A. Creek, Watkins, Wise, Goode, Gordon-Laurie, Mallett, Burgess, G. Moore, Thoma, C. Broadlake, Silvester, &c., &c. The noble president, after transacting the ordinary business of the evening, became the musical director, and certainly Mr. J. F. Spencer feels equal for any emergency. Although there was no programme of musical arrangements, which has been customary on previous occasions, he was at no loss in making his calls. There were no delays in the response; all came cheerfully forward, and with unflinching interest the musical element was kept spiritedly up to the final close. Mr. W. H. Brougham was called upon to make some remarks about the Thames, but instead of making a speech or singing a song he entertained the audience with a scenic description of the recent conviction for fishing during the close season, commencing with the arrival of the anglers in the village at one of the Thames fishing stations, and ending with the trial scene before the magistrates, where the piscators pleaded guilty, paid the fines, and afterwards expressed their regret to the prosecutors. Mr. Brougham concluded, after giving an account of a couple of roach having survived after being imprisoned in a solid block of ice during the last heavy frost, by proposing, in highly but deservedly complimentary terms, the health of the president, to whom he felt much indebted for the thorough enjoyment of several very pleasant evenings. Mr. J. F. Spencer briefly but heartily acknowledged the toast, which, it is needless to add, was drank with great enthusiasm and with musical honours. It is impossible to give a full account of the musical portion of the proceedings, especially where all were so good. The first piece was "Turkish Patrol," which Mr. J. Hallé, of the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, performed on the piano with exquisite taste and effect. Mr. C. Broadlake displayed a sweet tenor voice to advantage in Archer's "Alice, where art thou?" and in the hearty encore which followed in "Limerick." Mr. G. Bruce, who is possessed of a capital voice, gave a tasteful rendering of "Down by the river side," and on being encored gave Loder's "Martin, the man-at-arms." Mr. Gordon-Laurie, who is a great favourite, sang several buffo songs with great success, the one of "Gracious, Good Gracious," being loudly applauded. Mr. Tucker in "The Stirrup Cup," Mr. J. Edmondson, in "The Four Jolly Smiths," and Mr. J. M. Brougham in "Jack's Yarn," were all well received. Several glees and part-songs were admirably rendered, and Mr. J. Hallé presided with his usual ability. Last, but not least, Mr. W. Spencer recited Aytoun's "Execution of Montrose" in a truly excellent manner, and with wonderful effect. His rhetorical powers are of no mean order, and his powers of elocution of a masterly character. When the closing hour arrived and "God save the Queen" gave the signal for breaking up, the large assemblage regretted so pleasant and delightful an evening had come to a termination, and that it was "the last of the season." A parting glass with the worthy host and treasurer sent all to their respective homes in the best of humour, and abundant evidence was afforded of the happy union and good brotherly feeling that exists amongst the Larkhall Anglers.—B.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of the above society was held on Wednesday evening, April 13th, at the Russell Arms, Bedford Amphill Square—Mr. Pipe in the chair. A most substantial repast was provided, after which a very enjoyable evening was spent, the harmony being contributed to by several members of this society, and by members of the Odds and Evens Society, Great Northern Brothers, and other clubs, the rendering of several of the songs being especially good. In the course of the evening the chairman distributed the prizes won by the members during the past season, and amongst them being a handsome silver cup, the gift of Mr. Castle (a member of the society), and won by Mr. J. Blenheim. The health of Mr. Castle having been proposed and drunk in champagne, a vote of thanks to the chairman who had so ably fulfilled his duties, terminated a most pleasant evening.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The meeting of the United Committees of the Angling Associations will meet at the New Forester's Hall, Clerkenwell Road, E.C., on Friday evening,

April 29, 1881, at 9 o'clock, to consider the question of the ensuing yearage and other important matters for the benefit of the London anglers.—R. GHURNEY, secretary.

April 19.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

A special meeting was held on Friday the 8th inst., P. Geen, Esq., hon president, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, it was proposed by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. West, that the Gresham Angling Society be enrolled carried unanimously. Proposed by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Star, that the St. John's Wood Piscatorial Society be enrolled; carried unanimously. Letter read from Mr. Rush of Goring, asking for remuneration for getting fish out of the ditches, near Reading, and putting them into the Thames. Letter ordered to be sent to the Reading and Bray Association, asking for further particulars. The case of wiring fish was referred to a select committee. The following gentlemen were unanimously re-elected to their respective offices, viz., Mr. Bonvoisin, chairman; Mr. Becket, vice-chairman; Mr. Hoole, secretary; Messrs. Townsend, Humphrey, and Fiddes, trustees; Messrs. Murphy, Field, Vincent, Ghurney, Welch, West, Star, and Castell, committeemen. Messrs. Giles, Fowler Noble, and Marshall were duly elected, to fill the vacancies, upon the committee, Mr. T. Osman, tiler. Messrs. Bonvoisin, Osman, and Becket, re-elected to represent the association at the meetings of the East Central Committee, and Messrs. Field and Fowler elected to fill vacancies upon same. Secretary was instructed to write to the Central Association asking them if they will appoint a committee of 12 to meet the same number from this association and also the East Central Committee in reference to the yearage be charged for the privilege tickets for coming season. Owing to the large amount of business brought forward it was impossible to get through the whole of it, so it was decided that the next meeting (May the 20th) should be a special one for the elections of auditors and other important matters. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the president and vice president for the able manner in which they had conducted the business. The following societies were represented:—Anglers' Pride, Bostonians, Bloomsbury Brothers, Cadogan, City of London, Clapham Junction, Cambridge Friendly, Cobden, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith United, King's Cross United, Metropolitan, Marylebone, Norfolk, North Western, Penge Prince of Wales, Peckham Brothers, Royal George, St. John's, Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, South London, Stanley Anglers, St. John's Wood, Trafalgar, United Marlborough Brothers, Waltonians, Westbourne Park. Mr. Ghurney representing the East Central Committee. A new list, containing the names and addresses of 125 angling societies, will be sent to those societies not represented, and it is requested that complaints be made to the secretary of the association in any case of non-delivery.

THE HUNGERFORD TROUT FISHERY.—The fly-fishing season opens on this noted water on Monday, the 2nd of May. The fishery extends for about five miles, and the "commoners" also possess certain rights of pasturage, besides the shooting of wild fowl bred within the area of their fishery. The old town of Hungerford was a well-known coaching and posting place over forty years ago. The Hungerford fishery, &c., were bestowed upon the town by John o' Gaunt. The very select club of gentlemen fly-fishers have done much to improve the fishery, without detracting anything from the ancient rights of the commoners to fish on certain days mutually agreed upon by the club and themselves. Grayling were tried here, but the experiment failed. But what freshwater fish can possibly compare with a Kennet trout?—SPOTS.

THEORY v. PRACTICE.—A Board schoolmaster the other day set up a black board, and chalked certain fishes thereon, so as to give his boys a notion of the sizes of fish. If the hopefuls went, however, to the canal side in some country towns they would soon learn the difference in fishes, and very likely hear a local sing out, "Jack! I kotched wun," and a bright dace or roach would be seen dangling on the hook like a lobe of burnished silver. Presently another hopeful would exclaim, "Bill! I got annuner! Don't they jest bite this arternoon?"—F.

ORMESBY AND ROLLESBY BROADS.—The season has fairly begun here. There has been some good sport of late both in pike and bottom fishing. A London gentleman on Saturday caught 110 fish consisting of roach, bream and perch, one perch weighing 3 lb.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1881.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE success of the Fisheries Exhibition may now be said to be established beyond dispute. During the first week nearly 15,000 persons visited the Drill Hall, and over £1,000 was taken in the shape of gate money and by the sale of visitors'

tickets. As we write, the stream of sight-seers seems to be as great as ever, and we understand that the committee have determined to extend the exhibition for one week longer than was originally intended. The local and general public will therefore have a full opportunity of inspecting this remarkable collection of objects. It is interesting to observe that all classes have been represented among the visitors. Practical fishermen from Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and devoted anglers—to whom the exhibition and its contents are a continual feast—mingle with the throng of pleasure-seekers, who come for the music and the electric light and the thousand and one curiosities and rarities of the show. The occasion, moreover, has been one of profit as well as of amusement. During the week Professor Huxley has delivered one of his charming and popular lectures, and has treated the Norwich public to a new "lay sermon" with the "Herring" for a text. Mr. E. Jex, C.C., has discussed the vexed question of the destruction of small fish through under-sized nets in an exhaustive lecture on our "Deep Sea Fisheries." Last, but not least, Mr. R. B. Sharpe, of the British Museum has described the fish-eating birds for which the local waters are famous, and which constitute a striking feature of the exhibition. Meanwhile, the jurors have not been idle, and with the exception of the prize essays, &c., the list of awards is well-nigh complete. We are glad to believe that their decisions have been satisfactory, and we congratulate them on the manner in which they have completed a very onerous task. Another word of praise is due to the secretary, Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, whose management of the affair has resulted in so complete a success, and to the unwearying efforts of the president and committee. It may be worth noting that the exhibits which were specially mentioned by us last week occupy for the most part an honourable place in the prize list. Mr. Jardine's splendid collection of stuffed fresh-water fish has won for him a prize of £15, and one of £5 for a single specimen caught by the exhibitor, and the Piscatorial Society also carry off a £15 prize and diploma. Messrs. Cole and Gunn, the local stuffers, are also extensive prize-takers, and there are several awards for single specimens of fish taken in local waters. Mr. Rolfe—foremost of modern fish-painters—obtains a gold medal for his famous picture, entitled "Fishes from Old Father Thames," and a diploma for his unequalled collection. All things considered, the angling community deserve credit for a very handsome and varied display.

Before proceeding in our notice of the exhibits at the point where we left them last week, there are one or two general features of the exhibition which deserve attention. Among the objects of interest in the *annexe* is the magnificent collection of casts of fish made by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, and taken from the South Kensington Museum. It includes some splendid casts of salmon—one of 70 lb.—salmon with ova, and, as a curiosity, an angler fish in the act of swallowing a 4 lb. bass. Close to this interesting exhibit stands a model cottage by Messrs. Ihlee and Horne, of Aldermanbury, within which is shown Balmain's luminous paint—one of the most charming of modern scientific inventions. Its virtues have already been described in these columns, and the beautiful luminous glow which it gives out in the dark is something to be seen and remembered. It was much admired by the Royal party; and Mr. Colman, M.P., and other local yachtsmen have decided to have their yachts, buoys, &c., painted after this fashion. Anglers, too, will find it to be of special service, when, as so frequently happens, the fish "come on to feed" with the twilight, and the straining eye can no longer discern the tip of the float. It is very durable, and only a small quantity is needed to produce a beautiful light. Messrs. Ihlee and Horne—who are acting as Mr. Balmain's agents—have received a silver medal for their exhibit. We must

not omit to notice what is called the A B C process for the cleansing of streams polluted by sewage, and rendering them innocuous to fish life. This is invented by Mr. W. C. Sillar, shown by the Native Guano Company (Limited), Aylesbury, and the inventors claim to have solved one of the most difficult problems of the day—viz., the purification of our rivers. The sewage is received in tanks, and, having been purified, runs directly into the river. The purification is effected by chemical agency—viz., by a mixture of blood, charcoal, clay, and salt of alumina—and the result is that a perfectly clear and innocuous stream of water is produced. The deposit is dried and sold as manure, a fact which adds, of course, to the practical value of the invention. The entire experiment has been tried on an extensive scale at Aylesbury, and has proved a striking success. The exhibitors give the best proof of the genuineness of the process by showing a number of fish living and thriving in water which consists entirely of purified sewage. They have been awarded the £20 prize given by the Mayor of Norwich for the best “process for rendering innocuous to fish-life streams polluted by sewage and chemical or other works,” and also a silver medal. We may add that the benefits of an invention of this kind would be nowhere more appreciated than at Norwich, where the destruction of fish life through the pollution of the principal stream is very great. There is no more pitiable sight than that which is often presented in the summer season, when the surface of the water is strewn with the dead bodies of the fish which stock the local waters. We cannot refrain from noticing the exquisite little silver-mounted models of lifeboats presented to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, on their marriage, by the British residents of St. Petersburg. These occupy a place on one of the central stands in the Hall, and have been the object of general admiration. Other items interesting to anglers are the models of fishing boats adapted for use on local waters, and, in another part of the exhibition, the pocket fishing and shooting boat which is exhibited by Mr. W. W. Meiter and Company, of London, and has received a bronze medal, weighs only 30 lb., can be packed into a portable compass, and is fitted with air-tight chambers which render it uninkable. It is a wonderful little contrivance, and should simplify some of the inconveniences and difficulties attending a prolonged fishing excursion.

So much for casual “notes and jottings.” We proceed now with the exhibits of fishing-tackle at the point at which we dropped them last week. We do not pretend to exhaust the list, but simply aim at selecting the most noticeable features in the display. First of all, we observe that Messrs. Alfred, of London, whose splendid show we have commended to our readers, have been awarded a gold medal for their anglers’ outfits, a £2 prize for a rod with fittings, &c., complete, for use in Norfolk and Suffolk waters, and a diploma for their artificial baits, bait-can with strainer, &c. Mr. C. J. Greene, of local fame, has also been successful in more than one direction, taking a bronze medal for his show of rods, tackle, bait, &c., and a £10 prize for a collection of tackle used in local waters. Among Mr. Green’s specialties is a rod inlaid with no less than 240 separate pieces of wood, beautifully coloured and fitted together. Messrs. C. Farlow and Company, of London, have a fine collection of flies, baits, winches and rods specially adapted for trout and salmon fishing. They also exhibit a new method of fastening the joints of a rod in place of the ordinary “hitcher.” This consists of a screw joint which never gives way with the repeated throws necessitated in fly-fishing, and is a convenience which the angler will know well how to appreciate. Messrs. Farlow’s rewards are a silver medal and diploma. Messrs. F. J. Williams and Company, who also score a silver medal and diploma, have a case containing reels, baits, weights, traces, gaffs, hooks, &c., two special features

being a new method of hook-tying, and a handy contrivance consisting of a light rod with a short butt for the pocket, and a landing-net handle carrying a similar joint. Mr. D. Slater, of Newark-on-Trent, goes in for cheapness as well as excellence, and his capital show of rods is advertised at economical prices. In addition to the ordinary exhibits, he has a novel form of rings for the rods and metal runners at the top joint. He has deservedly been awarded £10 for his collection of inland fishing tackle. The FISHING GAZETTE exhibit has received a silver medal. Messrs. Allcock, of Redditch, have a fairly-bewildering display of inland and sea tackle, shown in handsome cases; and have made an addition to the honours they have earned at Paris, Berlin, Wurtzburg, Sydney, and elsewhere, in the shape of a silver medal for “general excellence.” The “features” of this display are almost too numerous to mention. Mr. J. J. Rice, a local seller, has a neat show of the cheaper and lighter sorts of tackle, including a new registered pike hook. Messrs. G. Little and Co., of London, have a handsome collection of fishing requisites, consisting of rods, lines, flies—one case containing about 150 varieties for trout-fishing—patent phantom minnows, a large number of artificial insects, and an aluminium reel weighing only three ounces. This last is an extremely neat little invention, although it strikes us as being slightly luxurious and costly. The grand feature in Messrs. Little’s exhibit is the beautiful rod which the firm had the honour of presenting through the president of the exhibition to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales. The rod is in six joints, is mounted in gold, and is fitted with carved ivory stoppers, showing the Prince of Wales’ feathers. It was presented to the Princess in a jewel case, and accepted by her in her usual graceful fashion. As notified in our issue of last week, Messrs. Little have been rewarded with a gold medal and a diploma for their patent “phantom.” Other exhibitors in this section are Messrs. Eaton and Dellar, London, whose splendid salmon rods have gained for them a silver medal and diploma; Mr. J. E. Gold, of London, who wins a bronze medal for trout, spinning and other rods; and Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Alnwick, who show improved winch fasteners and other novelties are accredited with a silver medal and diploma. A specialty in the collection is the celebrated “Egeria” fishing basket, exhibited by Messrs. Braddell, of Belfast, which is a repository of all that the sea fisherman can require. The hand and drift lines, fitted with chop sticks, &c., are finely manufactured, and the invention will be found to be of great practical use and convenience. We must not omit to mention the exhibit of Mr. R. B. Hovell, a Norwich manufacturer, consisting of a fishing case, containing a complete set of inland fishing tackle, with—a most important addendum—a compartment for luncheon and, we presume, a corner for the brandy flask. It is a perfect marvel of compactness, and well deserves the £4 prize awarded.

We have now, we think, fully completed our task so far as the fishing tackle is concerned, and may pass on to another department of the exhibition. This is the section devoted to pisciculturists, occupying one side of the *annexe*, and forming one of the most important, as it is perhaps the most generally interesting, of the exhibition. The aquaria, which are included in this class, we have already referred to, but we have said but little of pisciculture proper, as displayed in the breeding ponds and hatching apparatus employed in cultivating the rarer and more delicate species. The department may be described as the scene of perpetual life and activity. Fish emerging from the ova, baby trout, juvenile salmon, oysters in their nurseries, and other curiosities of nature, are open to the inspection of the curious or the scientific observer. One of the most attractive sights in this department is the collection of hatching apparatus, &c., from the establishment of the Marquis of Exeter, at Stamford. It includes a hatching-box for salmon and

trout ova, models of a fish pass, spawning bed for salmon and trout, tanks containing live specimens of hybrid trout, and other features of interest. The prizes taken by Mr. Silk, the manager, are £5 and a silver medal. Mr. Oldham Chambers, the secretary, is also an exhibitor in this section, and shows what he terms a scheme for utilising a waste stream of water and turning it into a fish-culture establishment. The model of this is on a most minute and elaborate scale, and consists of a building containing engine, pump room, aquarium, &c., a stream for salmon culture, and ponds and tanks for carp, tench, and the coarser varieties of fish. Tenacres are supposed to be occupied by the establishment, and the idea is, we believe, as novel as it is ingenious. Mr. Chambers, who is a prize-taker in another class also, has been awarded a gold medal for this exhibit, which was favoured with special notice by the Royal party on Easter Monday. Mr. Chambers further shows an improved hatching-box containing several novelties, and his other exhibits display a fertility of design and readiness of adaptation which do him infinite credit. Among the other features in this department is the invention shown by Mr. R. Cail, of Newcastle, entitled "Cail's Loch Swimming Salmon Pass," the merits of which will be familiar to readers of the FISHING GAZETTE. The scheme—which is one enabling fish, when weak and laden with spawn, to swim from a low to a high level—is illustrated in an elaborate series of designs, and is carefully explained by the inventor. The fish passes by easy stages through a series of open locks, and thus experiences no appreciable fatigue. Mr. Cail has been awarded a prize of £10 for the model fish pass, and he seems to deserve the recognition. The systems of culture in use at the Howistun Fishery (Mr. J. R. Gay), and those of Mr. C. C. Capel, of Kent, have also their illustration in this part of the exhibition. Mr. J. Andrews, of Guildford, exhibits a model of his establishment in full working order, and has been justly awarded the £15 prize given by the president. Mr. Harding, of Lynn, receives a silver medal for his collection, which includes samples of mussel and oyster beds, and apparatus associated with fish culture. Oyster culture, a very important department, is further illustrated in some fine stands, the work of Messrs. Barnards, Bishop and Barnards, of Norwich, who have received a gold medal. Galvanised wire netting being employed for the nurseries, in which the oysters are comfortably ensconced. We may add that Mr. Pank, of Norwich, takes the silver medal for the aquaria, which he neatly and efficiently constructed.

THAMES TROUTING.

THE season for trout fishing in the Lower Thames has not as yet been very productive of sport, owing to the continued prevalence of an easterly wind and boisterous weather, which has been all against the feeding of the fish. If all the accounts are true which I have heard from gentlemen themselves, there are great quantities of trout in the vicinity of all the weirs. I am satisfied myself as to the accuracy of these reports, but there are those who are always inclined to cast a species of unbelief on statements which are made, even when those statements have had verification. I know of one angler who has lost two good fish. One got away after it was hooked, and the other broke the tackle, and this is by no means an isolated instance of the loss of fish. Another angler, fishing where a trout was feeding, could not tempt the fish to take his bait, although he persistently tried all he could. Only let there come a favourable change in the weather, and then the trout will exhibit their feeding capacities in all directions, but not, in all probability, with the angler's tempting bait. There are no restrictions as to any process of angling for them. There are some methods that are considered more sportsmanlike, and therefore, the rule of any angler doing as he likes cannot be interfered

with as an illegal act. Of course, there are some systems that all true anglers would condemn, but I think the worst of these have been abandoned years ago. I refer to what I denounced then as a pot-hunting practice, and what I witnessed when first I took up a position on the Thames. It was in something of this style:—In a swim where trout had been seen feeding, two anglers, at a short distance from it, anchored their punt. These anglers—if they are deserving the designation—had out four live baits on gorge tackle, with huge floats on the top of the water, and they themselves carousing in the punt, with their pipes and beer, waiting to find one of them in trouble. This can hardly be called fair angling, and I do not think there are any of our respectable Thames anglers that would be seen fishing for trout under similar circumstances. There are great objections made to the use of a lob-worm in Thames trout angling by most of our principal Thames fishers. I am not speaking of the illegality of it, as there is nothing illegal about it; it is simply a matter of opinion. The use of a live bait in the troubled waters of a weir mill cannot be resisted, and I do not think anything can be advanced against it. The practice of live-bait fishing at a weir is strikingly different to angling, or the use of it in the quiet channel. The idea of trout fishing is, that the fish being of an uncommon character, should be deservedly earned by the angler—not by a slow and lazy system, but by real hard work. Hence, there are those who would not angle for them in any other way than spinning. I may take Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, as a consistent angler in this respect. No one possesses a better or finer collection of Thames trout than he does, and every fish in his splendid museum has been caught with strong spinning tackle. There can be no doubt that trout caught in this way are more creditable than any other. Mr. Edward Lukyn, of Sunbury, has some choice specimens of the choice treasures of the Thames, and I believe most if not all, were taken spinning. The handsome trout of 12 lb. caught by Mr. Robert King at Chertsey, last year, was secured by spinning with artificial phantom minnow, and I believe this gentleman prides himself in the adoption of spinning for trout as the most sportsmanlike method. As the present season advances, with brighter and more genial weather, I trust the Thames trout-anglers will be rewarded with some noble captures. I know some who have got "trout on the brain," and are determined to keep at it throughout the season. As regards the upper waters, the efforts of the Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Thames Angling Association in throwing into the river some hundreds of good sized Wycombe trout during the past few years are producing wonderful results in that portion of the Thames. Last week, on a bitter cold day, that famous fisherman, Harry Wilder, at Maidenhead, landed two good fish, and Mr. F. H. Lemann and other notable anglers have been doing some good business since the commencement of the season.

B.

EASTER AT "THE LION," FARNINGHAM.

APPRECIATING the short but interesting articles that have from time to time appeared in your journal, giving the holiday experiences of our "brethren of the gentle art" (and which, by the way, invariably have been of northern rivers or waters), I trust I may be pardoned, being a north-countryman, if I do not give the full praise due to a south-country river which I have had the pleasure of visiting during the past week.

Having read and re-read the charming dialogue in "Dear old Father Isaac," between "Piscator" and "Viator," of the beauties of the Dove, I had a great longing, and had resolved, up to Wednesday in Easter week to spend my holiday on the banks of that immortal river; but meeting accidentally on that day, in Cheap-

side, another "chiel frae the north," was informed by him that it was too early in the season for the Derbyshire river, we arranged to visit the "Old Lion" on the Darenth, where we met for the first time three years before. So, Thursday afternoon found me *en route* for Farningham.

The distance, per London, Chatham and Dover Railway is 20½ miles, return third fare, available for four days, 3s. 2d. As the season at the "Lion" fishing opens on Good Friday, and the Darenth is so close to town, the moment I had got the tickets and ascended to the platform, I peered into every compartment on my way to a "smoking," expecting to find every passenger armed with rod, net, and creel, and was surprised in noting my fellow passengers seemed to have "other fish to fry." So I loaded and lighted my pipe and chuckled inwardly, whilst its contents were being consumed, at the thought that my friend and self would have all the river to ourselves.

The railway ride through Kent, "the garden of England," is always pleasant, but it seemed much more so to me then, as we whisked past Dulwich, Bromley, and other delightful suburbs, and I began to sniff the pure country air and to hear the even-song of the thrush and blackbird heralding the spring. Arriving at Farningham Road Station, a 'bus was waiting to convey passengers to the interesting old village, which nestles at the foot of several Kentish hills, about 2½ miles from the station. The drive from the station to the hotel (fare 6d.), is along such a charming road for scenery that it would take a far better pen than mine to describe it fitly. My friend came down by a later train, and we unpacked our tackle, and adjourned to the smoking room to talk over past exploits, and determine to do wonders by daybreak on the following morning. But, alas for human frailty! After smoking the last pipe, and taking a peep at the river by moonlight, and having a boyish race along the lane with a "Farningham boy" for umpire, the writer of these lines retired, determined to get to windward of his friend before the light; but the *air* and the *race* were too strong for him, and he remembered no more till noon on the following day, when the friend, who had never been to bed, broke into his chamber, and informed him that he was sorry for the bilious attack and *all that*, and that he had thrown the first line, and caught some 6½ brace of trout (one turning the scale with a bump at 2 lb., and the others varying from ½ lb. to 1 lb.)

Whilst writing this I have "Blue Dun's" notes of "A day on the Derbyshire Wye" before me, and I feel sure he will be glad to hear that my friend (who is known as a master of the gentle art), did more execution amongst the speckled beauties than any two on the river, and that he used the small yellow and blue duns principally on that day; but I must also, in fairness, say, that he tells me, after many years' experience on almost every fishable river in England and Scotland, he is now of the confirmed opinion that the man who changes his flies to meet the different moods of the fish on the river on which he is fishing, will have the heaviest creel at the finish.

With the kind attentions and solicitude of the host and hostess of the Lion, my indisposition passed away, and I wetted my first line this season about 5 p.m. on the Friday; and having on my stock flight—which I use on every river and at all seasons—a small blue dun, red palmer, and a black gnat. I managed between that hour and 7 p.m. to grass only two brace, the largest about ½ lb., and on Saturday morning, during a cold east wind, I took 4½ lb. brace more, three only of which were of an eatable size. Considering the earliness of the season, that I am only an amateur, and that it was "St. Lubbock's" time I did fairly well.

The Lion is picturesquely situated at the foot of Farningham Hill and woods, and the stream, winding along the fair meadows

of Kent, actually skirts the lawn of the hotel for some 200 yards, making it almost possible for a skilful artist to "catch his breakfast" out of his bed-room window. Since my last visit, three years ago, the hotel has changed hands and for the better. The present host, Mr. Scaddan, has been in the habit of catering for royal and other great personages; and I can confidently recommend any brother anglers who are looking out for quarters for the coming holidays, where good fishing, charming walks, agreeable society, and health-giving breezes may be found, to try the Old Lion at Farningham, and to place themselves under the care of the host and hostess of that, in every sense of the word, "well-found" establishment. There is a modern legend in connection with the Lion trout-fishing, and the late Mr. Phelps. The Lion was a favourite resort of that great artist, and the country labourers and others had become quite familiar with a nice-spoken, kind old gentleman, who was almost always either whipping the stream, or in friendly conversation with them as they passed to and fro to their work; but they had no idea of the talented man who was so constantly in their midst, until one of their body, on taking his wife and children to the "play in London," was struck with the voice of the leading actor, and at last, jumping up from his seat in an excited manner, exclaimed to his better-half, "Why, dang'd if it isn't the old Farningham fisherman."

The fishing rights of the hotel (free to those under its hospitable roof; 2s. 6d. per day to others, and the *fly only* being allowed) extend some three quarters of a mile, and the fish, which are plentiful, and of a bright pink colour when in perfect condition; average ¾ lb., but many are caught of 1 lb., 1½ lb. and 2 lb. weight, and the largest I have seen, now on view in the hall of the hotel, was 4 lb. 2 oz., and was captured in 1878.

Although only an amateur, I have "cast pleasant lines in many pleasant places," but none more pleasant than during my Easter holiday in the Darenth, and I returned to town determined on the first opportunity to re-visit the quaint old Kentish village.

Richmond, Surrey.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

FIRST LIST OF THE AWARDS AT THE NORWICH NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

(The awards for the essays, &c., will be published in the official list which is not complete yet.)

CLASS I.—PISCICULTURE.

In this class, embracing all the appliances in aid of pisciculture, a special prize of £25 was presented by Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., the president of the Exhibition for the best plan or model of fish culture establishment. This was obtained by Mr. Thomas Andrews, Guildford. In the same class the other prizes are as follows:—

Armitstead, J. J., Dalbeattie—Bronze medal for earthen tanks.
Cail, C. G., Newcastle—£10 for fish pass or ladder, presented by the National Fisheries Exhibition.
Capel, C. C., Fooks Cray, Kent—Silver medal for pisciculture apparatus, &c.

Chambers, W. O., Lowestoft—Gold medal for fish culture establishment, &c.

Harding, C. W., Lynn—Silver medal for fish hatching apparatus, with charcoal and shingle filter attached.

Silk, W. L. (for Marquis of Exeter)—£5 for hatching boxes and £5 for fish pass.

Spratt's patent, London—Silver medal for fish food.

CLASS II.—FISHING.

Mr. Wm. Jarvis, boatbuilder, Anstruther, is the winner of the £50 prize given by Mr. Duff, M.P., and other Scotch members. This is a beautiful model, and marked "K." He also gets a silver medal for another model marked "Y." Both are steam vessels. Another silver medal goes to Anstruther to Mr. Alexander Cunningham Sharp; and Mr. Murray, Cellardyke, gets a bronze medal for his exhibits. Messrs. Martin and Co., of the same town, get a diploma of honour. The East Coast of Fife is well represented, and the exhibitors cannot grumble. Messrs. D. Allan and Co., Leith, exhibit a very beautiful model in glass case of the steam trawler "Sea King," which gets a silver medal, while Mr. John Mackenzie, Leith, gets another.

Albert Dock Shipwright, Boatbuilding, and Mast and Blockmaking Company (Limited), Hull—Bronze medal for catcher to cutter boat.

Alfred and Son, London—Gold medal and £2 for fishing rod, line, and fittings complete, best suited for general use in Norfolk and Suffolk inland waters; and diploma for artificial baits and general excellence.

Allan and Co., shipbuilders, Leith—Silver medal for model of "Sea King," steam fishing-boat.

Allcock and Co., Redditch—Silver medal for general excellence of exhibits of fishing-rods, lines, hooks, artificial baits, &c.

Barton, C. E., Grimsby—Bronze medal for ice-breakers.

Belfast Ropework Company (Limited)—Silver medal and diploma for bolt-rope, &c.

Berthon Boat Company (Limited), Romsey, Hants—Bronze medal for portable folding fishing-boats and canoes.

Berwick Salmon Fisheries Company (Limited), Berwick-on-Tweed—Diploma for model of coble and wear shot net used at salmon fisheries in the river Tweed.

Blake, A. W., Southtown; and Blake, H. P., Leytonstone—Silver medal for design for screw steam fishing-boat, &c.

Bowman, J., "No chimney lamp and lantern" manufacturers, Huntley—Diploma for metallic buoys for herring nets.

Brancey and Son, Yarmouth—Diploma for herring fishing warps, &c.

Burwood, G. V., Lowestoft—Silver medal for model of smack.

Chaplin, Major Richard, Louth—Silver medal and diploma for models and screw propeller.

Cording, J. C. and Co., London—Silver medal for portable boats, and bronze medal for lifeboat, &c.

Crag, M. J. S., Lowestoft—£20 for collection of nets used in deep-sea fishing, presented by the National Fisheries Exhibition.

Cunningham, A., Anstruther—Silver medal for model of steam fishing-boat.

De Caux, J. W., Yarmouth—£10 for apparatus and gear, complete, for trawler; and £3 for crab and lobster trap, presented by the National Fisheries Exhibition.

Doughty, H., Lowestoft—Silver medal for picture and model of trawling smack bound to post.

Eaton and Dellar, London—Silver medal for salmon rods, &c., and diploma for cane salmon rod.

Elder, J., and Co., Glasgow—Silver medal for half-model of steam fishing craft.

Furlow, C., and Co., London—Silver medal for salmon, trout, and other rods, &c.; and diploma for salmon and trout flies.

Fellows, H., and Son, Yarmouth—Silver medal for plan of steam fishing-boat, &c.

Hardy Brothers, Alnwick—Silver medal and diploma for fastenings, solid cane rod, and knapsack-basket.

Gold, T. E., London—Bronze medal for trout spinning and other rods.

Greene, C. G., Norwich—£10 for collection of fishing implements, tackle, &c., used in Norfolk and Suffolk waters, presented by the Yare Fish Preservation and Angling Society.

Gregory, James, Birmingham—Silver medal for artificial baits in metal.

Holland, G., Failsworth, Manchester—Silver medal for artificial trout-flies.

Hornsey, J. G., and Co., London—Bronze medal for patent steel-fastened solid stock bass brooms and brushes.

Hounsell, H. E., Bridport—Diploma for fishing-nets, lines, twines, &c.

Hounsell, W., and Co., Bridport—Diploma for do.

Hovell, W. B., Norwich—£4 for light portable waterproof packet to contain set of tackle for inland angling, with compartment for luncheon, and suitable for carrying in the hand.

Jarvis, W., Anstruther, Fife—Silver medal for models and plans of steam fishing-boats.

Jex, E., London—Silver medal for model of fishing smack.

Jones, W., Scarborough—£10 for collection of sea fishing tackle (hooks and lines).

Kew, T. J., Wells, Norwich—Diploma for waterproof suit for the use of lifeboat crews and yachtsmen.

Keymer, H. J. C., Gorleston Docks—Bronze medal for bilge ejector and pump.

Little, G. and Co., London—Gold medal for fishing-rods, &c.

Mackenzie, Leith—Silver medal for model of steam fishing-boat.

Marston, R. B.—Silver medal for the FISHING GAZETTE exhibit.

Moyes, J., Cromer—Diploma for crab pot.

Peck, Sir H. W., Bart., M.P.—Silver medal for model of trawler.

Read, G. Deal—Silver medal for model of screw steamer.

Read, Stephen, Great Grimsby—Bronze medal for model of well fishing smack.

Sims, J. and Tooze, H., president and vice of Hull and Grimsby Fishing Vessel Insurance Society—£10 for model of fishing trawler, and bronze medal for internal fittings.

Slater, D., Newmarket-on-Trent—£10 for collection of inland fishing tackle, &c.; bronze medal and diploma for cheap tackle and rods.

Smithdale, T. and Sons, Norwich—Diploma for friction gear.

Smyth, Lieut. Samuel, Aldeburgh—£25 for off-shore fishing-boat, presented by Mr. Samuel Hoare, Cromer.

Steven, R. C., Berwick—Silver medal and diploma of merit for rods, reels, lines, &c.

Thompson, W., Norwich—£10 for model of angler's boat for Norfolk and Suffolk waters.

Wigley, H., Cheltenham—Silver medal for spinning bait.

Williams, F. T. and Co., London—Silver medal for rods of various descriptions, and diploma for hook-tying.

Wright, H. E., Southtown—Diploma for engine and boiler, &c., for fishing boats.

CLASS III.—SOCIAL CONDITION OF FISHERMEN.

Archibald, G., Yarmouth—Diploma for marine clocks.

Birt, J. and A., London Docks—Bronze medal for life-belt for fishermen, &c.

Bowman, J., Huntly—Diploma for lamps for fishing-boats.

Brand, J. C. and E., Yarmouth—£10 and silver medal for fishermen's apparel.

Davidson, D. and W., Aberdeen—Bronze medal for model net for salmon catching.

Brown, Rev. W. Cowell, Sheffield—Silver medal for life-saving appliances.

Chambers, W. O., Lowestoft—£15 for plan of improved fishermen's dwellings; presented by Lord Suffield.

Davies, F., and Co., opticians, London—Silver medal for scientific instruments.

Downes, Brothers, Norwich—Bronze medal for anglers' outfits.

Dyer and Robson, East Greenwich—Bronze medal for signalling and rocket apparatus.

Gray, F., and Son, London—Bronze medal or life-saving waistcoat for yachting and fishing.

Hayward, F. W., Norwich—Diploma for model of lifeboat.

Hilton, W. H., Liverpool—Diploma for patent portable refrigerators for preserving fish, and diploma for safety ship-lamp.

Holmes Marine Life Protection Association (Limited), London—Silver medal for fog alarm and rescue signals.

Hutchinson, A., and Co., London—Diploma for general exhibits of fishing boots, coats, buoys, &c.

Johnson, J. W., and Sons, Yarmouth—Silver medal for dress for lifeboat crew, and bronze medal for fishermen's outfit.

Martin and Co., Cellardyke, Fifeshire—Diploma for waterproof oil clothing, &c.

Negretti and Zambra, London—Silver medal for deep-sea thermometers.

Olsen, O. T., Grimsby—Gold medal and £10 for night-signalling system for fishing fleets, and vessels, and other exhibits.

Ross, F. and T., Hull—Diploma for fishing vessels' side and anchor lights.

Sayer Brothers, London—£25 for model of fishcuring establishment.

Softly, R. T., Yarmouth—Diploma for ditto.

Steedman and M'Alister, Glasgow—Silver medal for cork lifebuoys.

Susmoar, H. and Co., Manchester—Bronze medal for model of construction for the curing of fish.

Tooke, Charles, Lowestoft—£10 and diploma for dress of a lifeboat crew, &c.

Dauble, Amelia—Diploma for guernseys.

CLASS IV.—HISTORY OF FISHING.

Native Guano Co., Limited—£20 and silver medal for processes for rendering innocuous to fish life, streams polluted by sewage and chemical or other works. Presented by the Mayor of Norwich.

CLASS V.—GENERAL.

Blanchflower, J. C., and Sons, Yarmouth—£5 for dried, smoked, and tinned fish.

Carr, W. G., and Son, Berwick-on-Tweed—Silver medal for cod liver oil.

Cole, J. A., Norwich—£10 and bronze medal for stuffed birds and fishes.

Cormack, J., Lybster, Wick—Silver medal for barrel of pickled cod-fish.

Gunn, T. E., Norwich—£5 for collection of stuffed fish caught in Norfolk and Suffolk; gold medal and diploma.

Horsley, C. W., Fakenham—Silver medal for 9 lb. 3 oz. trout caught in the river Wensum.

Howlett, W., Newmarket—Silver medal for cases of stuffed fish.

Ihlee and Horne, London—Silver medal for model cottage.

Maconochie Brothers, Lowestoft—Silver medal for preserved fish.

Methuen, J., and Co., Leith—Bronze medal for smoked herrings.

Mitchell, J., Whitby—Bronze medal for black herrings.

Peary, W. T. L., Penzance—Diploma for marinated pilchards and kippered hake.

Radcliffe, Dick, and Co., London—Diploma for fountain.

Sayer Brothers, London—Silver medal for cured herrings, haddocks, &c.

Sharp and Murray, Cellardyke, Fifeshire—Bronze medal for pickled and red herrings.

Thorns, Frank, Norwich—Silver medal for pike in case; weight, when caught, 30 lb.

Vince, J. M., Yarmouth—Diploma for samples of smoked fish.

Watson, C., Stracey and Co., Yarmouth—Diploma for packages of cured herrings.

Woodger, J., and Sons, Yarmouth—Silver medal for kippers, &c.

Woodger, J., and Sons, Lowestoft—£5 for cured fish of various kinds.

CLASS VI.—LOAN COLLECTIONS.

Gunn, T. E., Norwich—Silver medal for group of perch and roach.

Jardine, Alfred, London—£15 for collection of stuffed freshwater fish taken in the United Kingdom, and diploma and £5 for single specimen of stuffed freshwater fish. Silver Trout Angling Club diploma.

Piscatorial Society—£15 for collection of stuffed freshwater fish taken within the United Kingdom; to be competed for by angling clubs.

Rumph, R., Wells-next-the-Sea—Diploma for model surf lifeboat.

The Board of Trade National Lifeboat Institution and the Meteorological Council received diplomas for their exhibits.

The Castle Steel and Ironworks Company, Milford Haven—Silver medal for model of steam trawler, with Griffiths' patent encased propeller.

Meiter and Co. (Limited), London—Bronze medal for pocket fishing, shooting, and pleasure boat.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Charm'd by the murmurs of the quivering shade,
O'er Isis' willow-fringed bank I stay'd."

WARTON.

I have been staying a good deal lately "O'er Isis' willow-fringed banks" in search of ideal and real trout. I have found any amount of the former—creatures of beauty from eight to sixteen pounds—but have come across very few of the realities of Thames trout. I do not doubt they exist; for in the course of my piscatorial career I have had many a tussle with a mighty one and a mity one (one of the former, 10½ lb., is glaring at me now from his palace of glass as I write), but they are few and far between, and are caught more frequently by accident than design. The weather has taken a delightful turn for the better, and the river is in the best possible spinning condition, with the water warm enough to pleasantly bathe in. From Maidenhead and Bray I have glowing accounts of present prospects, and of innumerable beauties having been observed "on the rampage." At Cookham, just to "keep time" with other fishing incidents and "movements," a boy attached to the ferry has, in trout-fishing, caught a watch, which, as I understand, there is not likely to prove an owner thereto, will become a lever without any chance of escape. At Marlow and Hambleden some nice fish are reported, as well as the feed since the sun has really shone. Thursday evening: River bright, warm, and in good trout trim. Wind in the south and west. Now or never Messrs. Troutmen for a spin in the Thames, before it is ploughed up by "youth at the helm and pleasure at the prow."—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear, a good rain would do good now. Prospects looks well for a good fishing season. I have seen a good lot of good perch to-day, and a good lot of perch spawn. Chub and roach are ripe at Goring Bridge; some good chub are to be seen there to-day, I have seen 4 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Windsor).

This cruel east wind is again stopping the trout from showing themselves, and but few anglers are trying them. At Boveney Weir, last Sunday, three good fish were hooked and lost, owing to the foul state of the place. Paice, of Eton Wick, with Mr. Lynes, of London, took a pretty little fish of 2 to 5 oz. with the "Spinner," and had another run. I was out on the 14th inst., with the Rev. Mr. Fardell, in the Maidenhead district. We saw several small fish; but beyond a little "Wycombe" of less than 1 lb., could touch nothing. This gentleman has seen several very fine fish feeding near Bray, and when the balmy evenings arrive, I shall not fail to avail myself of his kind offer to again try them, when I hope to report something better. Water in splendid trim, and every prospect of a change for the better as regards wind. Rain and warmth much needed.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

[Omitted last week.—ED.]

Coquet (Weldon Bridge).

Good Friday, owing to it being a holiday in the towns, a number of people took to the country for pleasure, some rambling about in search of wild flowers, and others in for flogging the famous old streams of Coquet. The wind from the east, cold, anything but favourable for the game. The old sportsmen arrived at the inn the night before for a good start in the morning, from 8.30 to 10 a.m. There was from 30 to 40 started from Morpeth, Newcastle, Durham, Sunderland, and Blyth. After they all got started, I walked on to the Bridge and looked up and down the river. I thought there would be more men than trout caught. About 3 o'clock the fishermen that were going south with the train returned. I was astonished to see the baskets, from 5 to 7 lb. The holders of the best baskets were Messrs. Webb, J. Ashton, T. Ashton, J. Smith, J. Jameson, A. Murray, H. Sterry (of Morpeth), Mr. Marshall (Durham), Dr. Wilson, J. Robson (Newcastle), R. Thompson (Sunderland), J. Hilton (Long Framlington), and W. Matthews (Longhersley). The largest trout weighed 1½ lb., caught by Mr. Webb, which gave good sport for about 25 minutes. Dr. Wilson killed a salmon, 4 lb., with a small March brown, very fine tackle, which gave him splendid sport for 40 minutes. Mr. Marshall (Durham) killed a trout, 18 oz., which gave him good sport for 15 minutes, with fine tackle; he dressed his own flies. Mr. J. Whales (Durham) on the 16th killed a good basket, 7 lb. He caught one trout, 2 lb. 4 oz., in Sir W. Armstrong's Swiss Lake, which gave splendid sport for about 30 minutes. Monday, the 18th, Messrs. Jenner (Newcastle), splendid creel; J. F. T. Dance, W. G. Gray (Gateshead), good basket; Mr. J. Thatcher (Sunderland), good basket.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The weather is certainly improving, but so slowly that we hardly succeed in discovering it. Blustering north-west winds have been blowing nearly all the week, and angling has proved by no means an enjoyable occupation. Still many of our rodsters are so ardent that they will go to the river, no matter what the weather may be. This has been the case this week. There have been a fair number of "splodgers" out day after day, but I can't hear that anybody has done enough to "set the Thames on fire." However, no doubt they have done the best they could, and they will probably derive satisfaction from that.

There is scarcely any fly on the water, and trout don't rise with their wonted freedom. The Derby kill devil, the universal killer, and the Windsor bee have been doing best, but the largest dish that has come to hand only amounted to 4½ brace. There are no signs of mayfly yet, and the March brown is not by any means out in its full strength. When, oh, when, shall we get a genuine genial taste of spring?—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

We have completely turned over again to the cold north-east winds which after the beautiful spring weather we have been having, has altered our fishing most confoundedly. I have no report of salmon being taken during the week, but to-day several rods are out, and as it is a trifle milder, possibly sport may be had. A few trout have been taken, but the gravelling and parr-marked fish are a great nuisance to the *bona fide* angler. They literally swarm, and will take anything, and some hundreds have been taken. Eels are coming along, but not of any size. I heard of one being taken of 2½ lb., and what they call here a "valdon" eel or silver belly, small bass and flounders, are very plentiful, and afford good sport. The river is getting very low and bright, a little rain would be very acceptable. This morning the wind was due south, with little rain, but at the present is north-north-east and cold, so I am afraid we shall get a repetition of last week's weather. Mackerel are plentiful and very fine.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

FLY-FISHING TROUT.—The river is still very low and clear. Some very fair baskets have been made within the last few dull and showery days, flies killing best, halfstone, hare's flax, and olive dun. The prospects for the coming week are not very encouraging—with rising barometer and the wind gone back to its old quarter N.W. No good sport can be expected until we have had rain enough to move the water.—WM. MUDFORD.

Medway (Tunbridge).

The water is in splendid condition, but no angling will take place before the 16th May. The chub in large quantities have gone on to the spawning beds, and a sharp look out is being kept to preserve them from the poachers, both two legged and four legged. With anything like a favourable summer, there will be some capital sport in the river.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

South of Ireland.

The water has run very low on the Lee, and the fish are dropping out of the streams into the sluggish pools. It is therefore difficult to meet fish except in the evening or very early in the morning. There have been days, however, dark and windy, that have favoured the angler, and on these days fish have been taken. Mr. George Haynes, on one of these days, landed three out of four, he hooked all on the fly, a pattern known as the goldfinch, which is said to be a killing fly upon the Bandon river. Mr. Dale took two, Mr. Barter three or four. Major Nettles last week landed the largest springer taken this year on the Lee with the rod, it weighed 24 lb., and was in capital condition. On the Blackwater there has been very good sport during the past fortnight. I have heard of several being taken between Mallow and Bellyhooly, where there are some excellent salmon fisheries. Complaints were very general throughout the season of the sport experienced in the Blackwater. No spring fish were taken or were seen in the streams. The scarcity was attributed to over-netting on the lower section of the river. There is no doubt the complaint is well founded. There are over 120 drift nets engaged upon the river between its mouth and Cappogrim. The whole river is "laced" with nets at certain stages of the tide, and the wonder is how any fish manage to reach the upper waters. The feeling upon this point is so strong that a determined effort will be made on the part of all proprietors and anglers to limit the drift netting, which has been proved to be so destructive to the interests of angling. If drift net fishing had not been abolished on the Lee, almost in its infancy, the same story would be told of that prolific river. It may interest English anglers to know that day tickets, at the rate of 5s. for each rod, are being issued, on one of the best preserves on the river Lee. The ticket is issued at the railway with the ordinary railway ticket, and the train lands the passengers within a mile of the fishing. The great advantage about the fishing is that the water is never too low nor too high upon it, and that the streams are always well stocked with salmon and peal. We are on the eve of a change. The weather is overcast, and the run of fish in the tideway is immense. Mr. Lane's men, on his fishery at Wellington Pool, this week, brought out thirty-two salmon in a haul. Boats down the river, near Blackwick and Tivoli, had sixteen in a haul, ten, and so on. A flood now would take up a lot of new fish, and there would be again a renewal of sport.—ANGLER.

Swale.

But little has yet been done on the upper reaches of the river. On Good Friday some gentlemen were over from Hawes, but owing to the cold the sport was nil. The day following, Mr. N. Cherry, one of the best local anglers, caught two brace, weighing 2 lb. On the same day I had the pleasure of taking a very handsome dish of trout from one of the North Lincolnshire streams—twelve fish weighing close on 10 lb. Three fish weighed 1½ lb. each, and none were under ½ lb. The brown drake (March brown) and light and dark woodcock were answerable for them. For about two hours the fish rose very freely, and the first swallow of the season went by, but about three o'clock the wind veered to its prevalent quarter—the east—and not another fish, to my knowledge, rose. There will be some rare sport when the weather first becomes genial, as Master Yellowsides is longing for a change of diet. The flies above-mentioned will do for some time yet to come. I cannot conclude this notice without mentioning the fact that last week I also caught a two-pounder on a stream where I placed the first batch of trout in 1876.—THOMAS FORD.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

All our Derbyshire rivers are now in most excellent condition for fly-fishing, and, despite the piercing cold north-east winds, which have been blowing great guns all the week, there have been a very many anglers out all over Derbyshire, and those anglers who have been fortunate enough to have the proper flies have killed some really fine fish—viz., both trout and grayling. Some of the fish over a pound apiece. The fish have been killed chiefly close to the banks and sides of the streams—in fact, I have found it myself a first-class plan to hit the opposite bank with goad-tail or end-fly, and then draw it gently on to the water; and if there is a speckled beauty there in waiting, I dare bet a hundred to one you rise it, and generally the fish rises there. When you adopt this mode of fly-fishing, many of the over-knowing ones will no doubt take a wrinkle from this. Sport during the week, both with the fly and minnow, has been good, 6½ brace of fine trout being killed off of the Derwent last Monday, with bumble and spider flies, besides several other dishes being

killed off of the Wye, and also off the Derwent, Chatsworth fishery. There has been some fine trout killed off of the Darley Dale Club waters, below Darley Bridge, by one of the members, trolling with the minnow. The present time is a very fair one for anyone wishing to give our Derbyshire rivers a trial, and more so if we could only have a little warm rain, which would improve fishing in all its branches, and would bring the flies out more abundantly on the waters. Sport, both on the brooks and ponds, has been very fair, both with fly and trolling with the Derby trout killer. The weather this afternoon is a very great deal calmer and warmer, with every appearance of rain falling before long. Wind getting down into the south.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich.)

The excitement consequent upon the opening of the fisheries exhibition and the wants of many strangers having to be attended to, have prevented me sending my usual reports during the past two weeks. However, owing to the prevalence of the bleak north-east wind, not many rodsters have ventured out, more especially those who are in any way susceptible to bronchial attacks. Mr. Geo. Hart, jun., of the Thorpe Old Gardens, showed a very fine catch of bream, caught close by his house on Friday last, the two largest weighing 8 lb., being exhibited in the exhibition for several days, and elicited great commendation. Messrs. Blazeby and Howard, of the E. A. P. S., also showed a fine take of roach, caught at Coldham. There were upwards of 200 fish, some amongst them scaling 1 lb. to 1½ lb. each. Mr. Walter Capon, of White Lion Street, was equally successful, at the same place a mixed lot of roach, rudd, and bream falling to his share. Another fine sample of roach, taken at Buckenham by William Day, of Norwich, were shown near the aquaria at the fisheries exhibition on Saturday last, some of the fish evidently nearing 2 lb. each in weight. A nicer lot of fish than these have very rarely been shown. Some peculiar live specimens of the four-spined stickleback are exhibited by Mr. Gunn in the exhibition, and Mr. Alfred Palmer also shows a brace of broad-nosed eel, taken in Norfolk waters, and weighing respectively 6½ lb. and 4½ lb. Many strangers have availed themselves of a day's outing on our various rivers, and have expressed themselves as being extremely satisfied. I have just heard, as I write, that the fisheries exhibition will extend a week longer than was at first proposed.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Both this river and the Wharfe continue in a very low and clear condition, and not much has been done in the way of fly-fishing on account of the high winds that have prevailed since my last report. Surely "the month of flowers" will usher in an improvement of sport, otherwise the trout season of 1881 bids fair to eclipse its predecessor, which surely was bad enough. One or two local sportsmen have told me that they have seen a few empty shells of the stone-fly creeper floating down the stream, but I have not yet seen any myself; this fact alone is amply indicative of the lateness of the season. A new angling club has lately been established at Middleham, annual subscription £1 rs., they have obtained right of fishing about 2½ miles of the Cover, an excellent tributary of the Yore. I am informed that the members intend in the autumn to erect hatching apparatus for the introduction of a larger breed of trout into the stream. They have secured the services of Mr. J. E. Miller as secretary and treasurer. This gentleman is a most enthusiastic angler, and is one of the most skilled of Yoredale fly-fishers. I feel sure that the office could not have been entrusted to better hands, and heartily wish the new club every success in their undertaking.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

In connection with the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, the Mayor and Corporation of that city have offered a prize of £20 for the best method of treating sewage, chemical, and other matter discharged into rivers, so as to render innocuous to fish life. The prize has been awarded to the Native Guano Company, Limited, of Aylesbury, by whose A. B. C. process the sewage of that town has been successfully treated for some years. The solid portion of the sewage is converted into a valuable product known as Native Guano, and the effluent water passes off into the river so free from impurity (as shown by analyses) that it is in no way injurious to fish life. At the Norwich Exhibition a number of fish are exhibited in a tank filled with the water from Aylesbury sewage, and they are evidently thriving in it. Thousands of dead salmon are now floating in the Tweed, and almost every river in the kingdom is being polluted to the destruction of fish life; but it seems that until the law compels it, nothing will be done to prevent this needless destruction of fish life. The polluted state of our rivers must have an injurious effect on the public health, and instead of being health giving agents, they are gradually becoming the seed beds of disease. When will our legislators take up this vital question?

NORWICH FISHERIES EXHIBITION.—The silver medal and diploma of honour has been awarded to Mr. William Howlett, of Newmarket, for excellence in preserving fish. Amongst the specimens shown were the trout, carp, chub, perch, dace, and rudd, most of them taken from the river Lark by Mr. Howlett.

The Mechi Fund was started on the death of the late owner of Tiptree Hall, with the view of making a suitable provision for Mrs. Mechi and her daughters, through the instrumentality of the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Leicester, Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Mr. James Caird, C.B., and other influential friends of the deceased gentleman, and now reaches £4400. In order, however, to secure an income to Mrs. Mechi of not less than £200 a year an additional £700 is required, and this sum the committee are endeavouring to raise by a further appeal to the general public. Before the termination of Mr. Mechi's avocations circumstances connected with the failure of a bank of which he was a principal director, and to reimburse the creditors of which he voluntarily relinquished a large fortune, had obliged him to resign his aldermanic gown and the honour of the mayoralty in the following year. These incidents in his life, added to the great philanthropic work he carried through in founding and establishing the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, now one of the wealthiest and most important charities in the United Kingdom, will, we doubt not, when they are brought to the knowledge of his countrymen, speedily operate in procuring the comparatively small sum still required in the interests of his widow and family, especially when it is remembered that their present destitute position is in a large degree owing to Mr. Mechi's long and zealous attention to matters of public concern. The Marquis of Huntly, chairman of the fund, and the hon. secretary, Mr. C. B. Shaw, will be glad to receive and acknowledge contributions addressed to them at 26, Charles Street, St. James's, London, S.W.

MINNOW FISHING IN CLEAR WATER.

A GOOD many anglers, fly-fishers particularly, are apt to think that minnow-fishing is coarse and anything but an artistic manner of capturing trout, but I shall endeavour to show that it is one of the most artistic and delightful modes of fishing. I refer entirely to angling when the water is low and clear.

It is a well-known fact that trout, during summer, become surfeited with flies, and are keenly on the look out for anything else, particularly worms and minnows; and in the evening large trout may be observed cruising about the shallow water searching for minnows and loaches and chasing them to the edge. Then is the time for the minnow fisher.

I will now describe the tackle I prefer. A rod about 12 feet long, stiff, strong, and light; silk and hair reel line, with tapered end; trace of the finest picked drawn gut, about 9 feet long, with two small swivels about 3 feet apart, the lower one about one foot from the minnow, with three or four No. 6 split shot. A McKensie worm hook for the body and No. 4 sneck bend for lip hook, tied about half-an-inch apart. The minnow should not exceed an inch and half in length. I prefer them a little over an inch, but, as it is difficult to obtain them always the proper size, a little allowance in size of tackle is necessary. The best minnows have silvery bellies, those which are spawning in the streams being almost worthless for the purpose.

In baiting, the large hook should be passed down the inside of the minnow and out at the side, a short distance from the tail, curving it slightly so as to cause it to spin; the hook may be allowed to protrude freely. The lip hook should be passed through the jaws from the top, closing the mouth.

When the water is low and clear, trout are to be found sheltered behind every large stone, beneath roots, overhanging banks, and even in the open stream, and in such places you must try for them, and my advice is neglect no place where a trout may lie. Some of the best are often caught in places where there is scarcely sufficient depth of water to cover them.

Fish up stream, and selecting a likely haunt—say behind a stone—throw the minnow gently, so as not to disturb the water, about a yard above, and then draw it down as quickly as possible. Be careful to stir nothing but the arm, as after the fish has left his position he will follow even until the minnow touches the gravel, frequently making rushes at it, then dropping back until, as I suppose, seeing it about to escape, he will seize it. Give him a little time, and then strike. Often they seize it when passing, and, in that case, generally hook themselves. Throw up stream and partly across, and spin rapidly down; it cannot be too fast if you keep the minnow in the water. Keep well out of sight—a single glimpse of you and the trout will return to his haunt not to be tempted again for some time.

Minnows may often be caught in pools by laying a landing net on the bottom, holding firmly by the handle, and allowing them to swim over it, then lifting quickly out. I have sometimes caught twenty at one haul in this way.

I have tried to explain this fascinating sport, and can only say, having fished considerably with fly, May-fly, worm and minnow, that minnow-fishing in clear water is to my mind the grandest.

SPLIT SHOT.

A FINE THAMES TROUT.

MR. J. TEMPLE, the artist, looked in just now to say that a trout of 10 lb. had been taken at 12 o'clock this morning at Teddington Weir by Mr. Charlton Adams, out with Stephens. Mr. Adams took the fish spinning. It is rumoured that the weir water holds some aldermanic fish, who could have "shown the way" to this ten pounder—if they had felt inclined.

FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACTS, 1878.

THE first prosecution in Leeds under the above Acts was instituted at the Leeds Police Court on Thursday, the 14th inst., by the Leeds Rockingham Angling Society.—Mr. T. Newby, fishmonger, Boar Lane, Leeds, was summoned by Mr. C. Hogg, a member of the above society, for having unlawfully exposed for sale certain freshwater fish during the close season, contrary to the 11th sec., cap. 39, of the Freshwater Fisheries Acts, 1878. The facts were that, on the 8th inst., Mr. Hogg saw four pike exposed on the defendant's slab, and, accompanied by Mr. Newhouse, another member of the society, enquired the price, which they were informed was 1s. per pound. Legal proceedings were at once commenced, and Mr. Warren, of the firm of Messrs. Ford and Warren, appeared in support of the information. He quoted the 4th subsection of the 11th section of the Act, which is as follows, "If any person during this close season buys, sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession for sale, any freshwater fish he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings." Mr. Fernes, for the defence, contended that pike are not freshwater fish within the meaning of the Acts, and subjected Mr. Hogg and Mr. Atkinson to a severe cross-examination to try and prove this fish to be migratory. Mr. Bruce, the stipendiary, however, convicted, and fined the defendant 5s. and costs.—Mr. Warren asked for the mitigated penalty, as the proceedings were merely taken as a warning to offenders, but in future the full amount will be pressed for, both under this and any other section of the Acts. (Fancy trying to prove that pike are migratory and go to the sea like salmon and eels! Not a bad line that, Mr. Fernes, even for a lawyer.—ED. F. G.)

CASTRATING CARP.

A CELEBRATED American fish culturist (Mr. Fred. Mather, of *Forest and Stream*, N.Y.), wrote some time ago inquiring if I knew the above operation could be performed with satisfactory results. He is inclined to believe it to be a fishy myth, not having been able to ascertain data of a reliable character even in the home of the carp—Germany.

I know it can be done, for I have done it; but with what after result, except that the fish did not seem much upset by the operation, I cannot say.

Of course he knows about the operation performed by a Mr. Tull to Sir Hans Sloane and afterwards George IV. It was, if I mistake not, reported in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, about the same time. I further find the following in a very rare and interesting brochure entitled "A Treatise on Fish-ponds," by J. Hoare (1870), "If you want salmon and trout for the table, it saves time to provide a stock of live trout two years old, and salmon (grilse) about the same age. These should be castrated before being put into the ponds, and if well fed will grow prodigiously and increase in weight, in some instances to 20 lb. in two years. Fish properly treated thus fatten quickly, are of superior flavour, and in season all the year round. By adopting the latter course you save two years, which would be otherwise occupied in growing the fish from the egg." I am afraid that the words I have italicised must be taken *cum grano*, &c. Eh! Mr. Mather?

Do herons attract fish?—Mr. Faulkner may be right in his idea that herons attract fish, but I confess I am quite unable to verify this, I have very patiently watched herons fishing, times out of number and have never noticed that they are any quicker in the succession of captures than the casual passing by of a fish within reach would warrant. They certainly do not shake themselves, either, to get rid of the blue powder referred to. Certainly, they possess a most horrible smell, but it is not out of character, nor, in fact, at times at all dissimilar to, that of other fish-eating birds, such as the dab-chick and grebe, or even wild duck in certain quarters.

The attractions of the "ancient and fish-like smell" of the heron has been said and vaunted, however, often enough before by old and imperfectly-informed writers. So, indeed, has *man's* fat and *mummy* powdered, and oil of *vipers*, and oil of worms, gum ivy, and a whole pharmacopœia of other detestable stinks.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

OWING to the failure of the late proprietor of Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, this Society, for the last few weeks has been without a Clubroom; but, with the well-known liberality of Mr. F. C. Hatfield, he has given the Committee all the necessary accommodation at the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, to hold their meetings and the transaction of business, by the gratuitous use of two good rooms. The hotel in Covent Garden having now changed hands, the Committee have been able to make fresh arrangements with the new proprietors, and upon more liberal terms. The hotel has been refurnished and decorated; and, in addition to the Clubroom, the small room which is attached to it has been fitted with rails and pegs for hats and coats, and a fixed and lower tariff has been drawn up, and all articles supplied will be guaranteed to be of the best quality. The Society re-occupied their old Clubroom on Monday evening last, when a general meeting of the members was called to sanction the action of the Committee in reference to their entering into a new agreement with the present manager. Mr. R. S. Fanning was voted into the chair, and there were present:—Messrs. F. G. Pearce, James Lander, H. Gray, Alfred Jardine, H. L. Rolfe, T. R. Sachs, T. Gillatt, J. Knechtli, James Pattison, G. Watts, A. Benningfield, W. H. Brougham, F. H. Lemann, F. C. Hatfield, B. Perelli-Rocco, W. J. Wilkinson, M. H. Blaney, W. B. Addington, G. Hammack, H. J. Alfred, Thomas Huggett, W. G. Skinner, W. A. Crump, E. Russell, T. C. Harrison, Col. Crauford, W. H. Corfield, C. P. Wheatstone, J. G. Andrews, S. Handford, E. Blake, S. G. Bate, T. Sparrow, T. J. Head, &c., &c. The meeting fully expressed its approval of the new arrangements, which were considered most satisfactory, there being a reduction of £10 a year in the rent, in addition to other concessions, and the manager, Mr. James Bass, had offered to give all the facilities he could to make the members comfortable. A cordial vote of thanks, after Mr. Pattison's lucid explanation of the arrangements, was accorded to the Committee, and a special vote of thanks was given to Mr. F. C. Hatfield for his kind courtesy and liberality in affording the Society shelter during the time it has been without a room, which Mr. Hatfield, amidst the most favourable recognition, briefly acknowledged. A good portion of the evening was occupied in reports of the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, and the prominent position of the Piscatorial Society and its members in it. We are the more pleased at this, inasmuch as we were the means of inducing the Society, and also Mr. Jardine, to exhibit. The Society had decided not to exhibit, but we fortunately were able to impress Mr. Thomas Huggett and Mr. Jardine with the importance of the exhibition, and the absolute necessity of the Society's supporting it, and they used their influence with the desired effect, and dispelled the fears of the members that the treasures of the Society would be smashed if sent on such a journey. Not only has the Society obtained the prize for a Club collection of specimen fish, but Mr. Alfred Jardine, one of its members, had gained the other prize for a private collection, and another prize for the best case. Mr. H. L. Rolfe, another member, had secured the gold medal for fish-paintings and so on. It was felt the Society had merited great congratulation, and had placed itself in a national position. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK RIVERS AND BROADS.

THE Great Eastern Railway Company, acting on the suggestion made by our correspondent "B.," in reference to affording facilities for the London anglers to visit these Broads, has most liberally granted the privilege of giving return tickets to Yarmouth and Lowestoft, after the 1st of May, from Friday until Monday, both days inclusive, at the exceedingly low rate of ten shillings, and fortnightly tickets at fifteen shillings. There can be no doubt that this liberality will be thoroughly appreciated by the anglers, and affords substantial evidence of the desire of the Great Eastern management to afford every facility to the large body of London piscators to practise their favourite sport even at so great a distance from their homes. Since this announcement has been made, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, on behalf of the Central Association, of which he is the founder, has had an interview with the General Manager (Mr. W. Birt) in reference to further concessions to the members of angling clubs, and, after thoroughly going into the question, he has since received a reply granting the privilege of return tickets to Wroxham, from the Friday until the Monday, at ten shillings, but only to those holding tickets of any of the three associations. Mr. Hatfield endeavoured to get the time increased to one week, but at present this will not be granted, as the company will gain by the experience of the value attached to the present concessions, as to the desirability of giving the increased period. Great credit is due to Mr. F. C. Hatfield in so promptly securing the additional privilege he has done, and all may be regarded as a great and important advance of a liberal recognition of the anglers' desire to visit the immense fish farms of Norfolk and Suffolk by the Great Eastern Railway.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" AT THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

WE are glad to learn that the FISHING GAZETTE has been awarded a silver medal at the Norwich Exhibition. We hope to publish shortly the Prize Essays on the "Salmon Disease" and "The Best Code of Rules for Management of an Angling Club," for which we gave prizes; but the jurors have not yet finished their work, and many prizes are still unawarded.

MESSRS. S. ALLCOCK AND CO. AT THE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

WE are glad to hear that the great Redditch firm has received the highest award for fishing goods at the Melbourne Exhibition.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIRE D HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands, invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

NOTES OF OBSERVATIONS OF INJURIOUS INSECTS. REPORT, 1880. London: W. Swan Sonnenschein and Allen.

THE above is last year's report of observations systematically undertaken by a considerable number of interested observers for the purpose of collecting trustworthy data of insect life, and the most efficacious preventatives. Considering the character of the work, and the generally-acknowledged difficulty of dealing satisfactorily with large masses of isolated facts, it must be said that Miss E. A. Ormerod, the compiler of this report, has done her work fairly well. Few of the insects described and illustrated here are such as fishes are known to relish. One of them, however, the large white cabbage butterfly (*Pieris Brassicae*), when denuded of its wings and delicately flavoured with aniseed, camphor, and just a suspicion of heron oil, will infallibly lure the least greedy chub to destruction. So, at least, an old German angling book informs us, but our authority goes no further. With the exception of a nearly universal plague of Daddy Longlegs' grubs, last year's returns show, generally speaking, a moderate amount of insect injury to crops. It is also satisfactory to note the general results of the observations of the year, as showing a tendency to corroborate the views of our leading agriculturists. These are that time and money are more profitably employed in promoting vigorous growth of vegetable crops by means of generous and special modes of cultivation applied to the soil, than in attempting to exterminate the destructive insects themselves.

THE DETERIORATION OF OYSTERS AND TRAWL FISHERIES OF ENGLAND: ITS CAUSE AND REMEDY. By J. P. HORE and EDWARD JEX. 1880. London: Elliot Stock.

THE first part of this book is by Mr. Hore, who treats the subject of the lamentable scarcity of oysters and the steady decline of our oyster fisheries. Up to a certain point, to which we shall presently allude, he does this in an eminently agreeable and interesting manner, and his pages well deserve attentive and careful perusal. Some of the historical evidence he brings to bear on his case, extracted from the series of printed State papers relating to domestic affairs, and from MSS. preserved in the Public Record Office, will be novel to most readers. It is certainly very valuable and curious, besides being strikingly suggestive. Mr. Hore attributes the deterioration of our public dredging-grounds solely to overdredging, annihilation of parent stocks, absence of effectual close time, and legal impediments in the way of artificial culture. To most persons unaware of the exceeding intricacy of the question, this statement of the case will appear tolerably self-evident, plausible, and conclusive. But in the face of the evidence brought out by the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Oyster Fisheries in 1876, it would be rash in the extreme to settle the question offhand at Mr. Hore's or anybody else's invitation. The fact is, our knowledge of the oyster, its flavour excepted, is still too scanty to permit indulgence in any but the vaguest of generalisations. When we consider that the mere deflection, or increased velocity of a subaqueous current is sufficient to exterminate an oyster-bed, by cutting off an accustomed food supply held in watery suspension, or by overwhelming it with inorganic matter, it is evident the last word on the subject of oyster cultivation or preservation cannot be spoken yet awhile; certainly not before we are better acquainted than we are at present with the working of tides and currents. We regret it is out of our power to reproduce some of the quaint historical details with which Mr. Hore has ornamented his argument, for these constitute the chief merit of his book. Indeed, so long as he confines himself to retailing the documentary history of his subject, he will find few to challenge his views and many to thank

hin for his painstaking labour. But when he adopts the tone in which his fifth and last chapter is conceived, he must not wonder if some readers should doubt his fitness to deal with the matter at all, and regret a display of mingled petulance and prejudice.

The remainder of the volume is filled by Mr. Jex's polemical treatment of a no less important subject than the above—namely, the alleged Deterioration of Trawl Fisheries. Consisting mainly of letters that have done service in the columns of several of our contemporaries, the pages now before us contain too much of what is known as "talking for'ard and back" to make them pleasant or profitable reading. In face of the fact that supply and demand have very little to do with the maintenance of high prices at Billingsgate, not much dependence can be placed on the exactness of Mr. Jex's figures. So far as they apply to prices below which no salesman like Mr. Jex would care to see them fall, they are probably accurate enough, but so far as they bear on the main issue, seen from a national and not a purely metropolitan point of view, they are valueless. His vigorous protest against the capture and sale of undersized fish is commendable enough.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. D.—Of course the heaviest fish must take the prize if it is a prize for the heaviest.

NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

SIR,—I have pleasure in informing you the Committee have complied with the request of several exhibitors and others interested in this Exhibition to keep it open another week, namely, until Saturday, May 7th.—I am, &c.,
W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS, Hon. Sec.

Fisheries Exhibition Building,
Norwich, 25th April, 1881.

THE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

SIR,—Having some time since sent a case of guns, &c., to the Melbourne Exhibition, I have just had the satisfaction of receiving a telegram announcing that my patent hammerless gun, "The Edinburgh," has been placed first by the jurors; and the first prize has also been awarded to my fishing-rods, flies, and tackle.

If you will be good enough to notice this in your own manner in the first issue of your paper, you will much oblige.—I am, &c.,

JAMES MACNAUGHTON.

Gun and Rifle Manufactory, and Fishing-tackle Warehouse,
26, Hanover Street, Edinburgh, 26th April, 1881.

FISHING AT WINCHESTER.

SIR,—To whom should one apply for tickets to fish in the vicinity of Winchester? Is there any book which gives descriptions of the river and streams in England, Germany, or Switzerland, suitable for fly-fishers?—I am, &c.,

L. J.

[We only know Mr. Hammond's water at Winchester, but understand other tackle shops there also let day or week tickets. Get the "Angler's Diary," published at the Field Office, Strand, price 1s. 6d.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR RIPON.

SIR,—I shall be obliged if any of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE could give me some particulars of the trout fishing at Tanfield, near Ripon. Is the fishing free, or is there an association; and if there is, the charge to visitors, and where may the tickets be had?—I am, &c.,

MAY FLY.

FISHING IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me whether there is any fishing to be had at either Harlington, Flitwick or Ampthill, in Bedfordshire, and, if so, where? Also whether it is good, bad or indifferent. I notice our privilege tickets extend to those stations, and therefore presume there must be angling of some description near. I have asked a friendly "native," but he does not know of any.—I am, &c.,
23rd April, 1881.

LEX.

THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—A few days ago I had a trout weighing 8 lb. 2 oz., and on opening it found in the stomach three perch and two dace, the five fish weighing over 8 oz. The last one he had swallowed was bitten severely, but the others were scarcely touched. I write this letter in hopes Mr. Harrington Keene, or any other gentleman learned in piscatorial matters, will kindly inform me, through your columns, if such an example of gorging has come under their experience in connection with trout. All I can say is that I have been an ardent follower of old Izaak Walton for the last fifteen years, and have never known a similar case. Apologising for trespassing on your valuable space.—I am, &c.,

H. G. BROOKE.

15, Fenchurch Street London, E. C., 28th April, 1881.

TROUT IN MILL-PONDS.

SIR,—I had last year, and have again this year, the opportunity of fishing for trout in a large mill pond, and I observed that the fish rose only in the evening, and then only for a short time.

Will you kindly inform me, through your "Answers to Correspondents" column, whether an expert "fly-fisher (I am the merest novice myself), would be able to capture the fish at any other period of the day; also whether it is a rule that fish begin to rise later in the year in pools than in streams. I have scarcely seen a rise on the pool in question this year yet, although I know that a considerable number of trout have been taken in the streams in the neighbourhood.—I am, &c.,
J. E. B.

Redditch, April 21.

[If there are bushes round the mill pond, and the water is shallow, you may pick up a fish here and there even if they are not rising; also by fishing the most likely parts when there is a curl on the water from a breeze. If the water is all deep you won't get fish unless they are on the look-out for flies and near the surface.—ED.]

AN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT.

SIR,—Under the above heading I read your correspondent's, "A. Wellesley Warner's," account as to what had happened to an acquaintance of his whilst trout-fishing in private water. It is possible I might not have troubled you with this communication had I not noticed your footnote thereto.

Allow me to recite a parallel case.

Whilst trout-fishing in a nice water after a flood, in the river Vennat (a tributary to the Eden), Westmoreland, in the spring of 1850, I landed a trout over half a pound, and I noticed the tail of a fish protruding from the side of the trout's mouth, which proved to be a large "miller's thumb," half swallowed. I thought it extraordinary at the time that a trout should take a small fly under such circumstances; but, still more remarkable, the fly was hooked in the back of the small fish. I have often related the affair to others. It is quite possible the trout might have been hooked in the first instance, and at the last moment the hold may have given way, and the hook transfixed itself in the smaller fish; or it might have thought (fish have brains) its prey was trying to escape and so held on—or again, the large head of the "miller's thumb" may have so stuck in the throat and teeth of the trout as to prevent its expulsion. Anyway, the incident occurred as I have related, and in vouching for its truth I may say that I am not easily crammed by angler's stories—no more than yourself—nor their theories either, for that matter.—I am, &c.,
Southport, April 19th.

J. T. HORSLEY.

MESSRS. LITTLE AND CO. AND THE PRINCESS.

SIR,—I desire to inform you, in case it should escape the notice of your reporter at the National Fisheries Exhibition, that H.R.H. the Princess of Wales was graciously pleased to accept a gold-mounted fishing rod of our manufacture, from the president. Both the Prince and Princess complimented me on the superiority of its manufacture, the presentation having taken place in the picture gallery.—I am, &c.,
15, Fetter Lane, E.C. April 21.

G. LITTLE.

THE WOOLWICH PISCATORIALS.

SIR,—The Central return visit will take place on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at the above club at the Cricketers' Arms, Sand Street, near the dockyard station and Charlton Pier. Anglers wishing to view the Royal Arsenal are requested to be at the above club house by 1 p.m. H. J. BELSTEAD, Secretary.

PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR,—The two Committees, one from the West Central Association and one from the East Central Committee, will meet to discuss the yearage upon the new privilege tickets at the Forester's Hall, Clerkenwell Road, on Friday, the 29th April, 1881. The Central Association was invited by the two other bodies to meet also, but they have decided upon rs. amongst themselves, so decline.

I would respectfully suggest that secretaries should begin collecting names of those members who intend taking tickets for the coming season. I will shortly send a list to each society, enrolled upon the association, with full instructions and rules bearing upon the subject. I would point out, the sooner I get the list the sooner members will be able to get their tickets. If instructions are sent to me in reference to change of secretary, his address, or club house, I will insert the information in my circulars for the coming season.

I have great pleasure in announcing the following concessions gained for the London anglers, viz. :—

Great Eastern Railway.—From Liverpool Street and St. Pancras Stations to Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	
27 6	20 0	15 0	Available for fourteen days.
20 0	15 0	10 0	Friday or Saturday till Monday.

We have also obtained reductions in last year's fares to several stations upon the London and North Western Railway, additional concessions upon the Great Western Railway, and also the Midland Railway, see the new list of angler's fares.

I am given to understand that we have to thank our old and esteemed friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham, as being the means of gaining the concessions for us to Yarmouth and Lowestoft.—I am, &c.,
T. HOOLE, Hon. Sec. W.C.A.L. and P.A.S.

SALMON DISEASE IN THE TWEED.

SIR,—I notice that the fungus in the Tweed is much the same this year as it has been five or six years back. I was out fishing on Monday last, and I noticed a great many trout with the disease upon the vigg fin. But disease upon the salmon has assumed a different aspect—instead of large trellis of fungus, the whole back becomes as white as a paper leaf. The floods last month brought up a good few grilse. Disease affected the rowners first, and at the present time there are scores of them lying dead, and I say that it is an outrage upon a discerning community. The commissioners of the Tweed ought to be brought before their betters for allowing pollution of the waters to go on by the contaminating influences of stinking fish. They should be all taken out and buried; but the commissioners, it seems, do as they like.—I am, &c.,
J. A.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—Amounts received by me up to the 22nd April, 1881:—Royal George, £1 1s.; Mr. Geen, £1; Westbourne Park, £1 1s.; Social Brothers, £1 2s.; Bloomsbury Brothers, 6s.; Acon, 10s.; Norfolk, 10s. 6d.; Kenningtonian, 6s. 6d.; Silver Trout, 10s.; South London, 10s.; Waltonians, 16s.; Metropolitan, 6s.; Prince of Wales, 13s. 6d.; Penge, 10s.; Hampstead, 16s. 3d.; United Brothers, 7s.; Hammersmith United, 17s.; Mrs. Williams, fishing tackle manufacturer, 10s.; Mr. T. Spreckley, 5s.; Stepney, 6s.; Coblen, 3s. 6d.; Marylebone, 14s. 6d.; Duke of Norfolk, 10s. 6d.; Bo-torian, 10s. 6d.; Clapham Junction, 10s.; Cadogan, £1 1s.; City of London, 19s.; Good Intent, £2 11s. 6d.; Sir Hugh Middleton, 9s.

I beg to request most respectfully that secretaries holding collections for the above fund will please forward them to me at once, as date for closing is a long time overdue.

I thank those ladies and gentlemen sincerely who have so liberally subscribed towards the widow and children of one who, when alive, did so much for the London anglers.—I am, &c., J. HOOLE, hon. sec.

PRIVATE PIKE-FISHING.—THE BAIT QUESTION—AND RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

SIR,—The article under the above heading which appeared in your issue of April 9th, signed with the single letter "B." contains a number of statements to which I cannot—and, I think, with me, the great bulk of your numerous readers cannot—help taking exception. Nearly all of us will recognise under the above initial one who holds a high position in the piscatorial world, and is generally esteemed and respected on account of his exertions on behalf of the angling brotherhood; but the above great qualities—to which I hasten to pay my tribute of praise—do not prevent him, in common with the rest of frail mortals, from falling occasionally into grave error, which we should not shrink from pointing out, lest it be laid to our charge that we sympathise with and uphold them by our silence. Therefore, Mr. Editor, I will, without further preamble or apology, at once launch into the subject of my letter.

Mr. B. is, of course, perfectly legally free to go jack-fishing on the 31st of March in a private water. It is a matter which concerns only the owner and himself; but when he publishes the fact, and tries to justify it, it becomes quite another matter.

I have never, in all my experience, seen jack so late as the 31st of March in what a sportsman would call condition, though I have frequently seen them far too advanced in many cases to be legitimate spoil by the end of February; and this season only it was my misfortune to see several exhibited a few days before the 14th of March which had actually spawned.

Had Mr. B. wanted a few fish for dissection, vivisection, propagation, or even as food for some huge beast or bird, we might have admitted the scientific purposes. As it is, he fails entirely in showing that the cause of science would have been furthered by such capture of gravid jack on 31st March.

I am not prepared to go the length of saying that fish in all waters are equally forward, but I maintain that, in ninety-five cases out of one hundred, they are far too forward to be taken by the 14th of March; and that, by the 31st, they are full to bursting, and in many cases have actually deposited their spawn. I am not, of course, speaking of those waters in the northern part of England of which I have no practical knowledge, and where, doubtless, the fish are not so forward as their kindred in the south. Mr. B. speaks of his wanting to acquire practical experience. This is a very poor excuse, indeed, and one which could scarce be admitted as valid, except on a plea that a poor excuse is better than none at all; but, unfortunately for even this shadow of an excuse, and with strange inconsistency, Mr. B. further on speaks of the fish he saw about a month before at the Piscatorial Society's room (from this same water) as being "as full of spawn as possible." Poor Mr. B.! Having made one fatal mistake by this admission, he makes, if anything, a more serious one still by advocating the course he does in the next few lines: "Still, there may be waters where the jack during March are always in good condition."

Then, with all the vast store of experience I know, and the majority of your readers who recognise him know, he possesses, he makes still another fatal admission. He "knows of at least one such water," and then, on the strength of this one place, and of the exceedingly small percentage of others where it is possible jack may be in good condition during March, and the owners are willing to admit a few friends to angle during that period, he would have us so seriously mutilate the one great valuable clause in the Freshwater Fisheries Act, viz., the one absolutely prohibiting the sale or possession for sale of freshwater fish during the close season, as to render it quite worthless. The licence arrangement would not do at all. It would offer an inducement to prowling netting vagabonds once more to hang about the waters when the fish are on the shallows and helpless. And supposing the dealer holding a licence to be ever so careful, what a discriminating man it would require to judge whether the ultimate destiny of the six dozen large baits ordered by Mr. Moses would be that, after swimming about in their native element for a little while, they would find their final resting place in hungry pikes' maws; or that whether, after swimming about for some time in olive oil over a nice fire, they would find themselves finally at rest in the appreciative inner man and woman of Mr. and Mrs. Moses.

So Mr. B. thinks the tackle-dealers deem it a hardship to be prevented from selling fresh-water fish during the close season. Well, here again he is entirely wrong—live baits are at all times to the dealers (in London, at all events) a regular *bête noir*. There are some things on which he says his profits are already very small; but personally I know at least three most respectable tradesmen who have repeatedly told me that, leaving out minnows, they positively are losers at the year's end by the sale of live fish; and I readily believe it, as I have myself seen over 150 fine dead dace, with a fair sprinkling of roach fished out of tanks constructed expressly for them, and so arranged as to keep up a constant flow of water—the result of a few hours' muggy weather. Hot weather and frost are enemies to live-bait keepers. Then, only too often, the dealer must take the baits, wanted or not, brought to him by the catcher; or else, when he is being wired and written to by customers for so many dozen of lively dace, these gentry will, figuratively speaking, put their thumbs into their noses and spread their fingers out. If Mr. B. likes I will forward him the name of one tackle-dealer who offers to give £5 to any association or individual who will be instrumental in getting a law passed entirely prohibiting the sale of live baits. Of course, such a thing is impossible; but the offer is far more conclusively in favour of the statement, I have made them any argument I could adduce. If, then, the dealer has at all times a dislike for these kittle-cattle, how much would not such a reasonable objection be intensified at a time when it is next to impossible to carry any distance or keep for any time alive, freshwater fish—viz., during the spring and early summer months,

March, April, May, and part of June, when they either have just spawned or are about to do so, and this solely, be it remembered, for the convenience of the select few above referred to, who have the privilege of angling in the exceptional waters where fish are backwards, or in Norfolk and Suffolk where even now towards the end of April, we read, anglers'—save the mark!—are live baiting, trailing, &c.,—why don't they tell the truth? liggering (trimmer fishing)—out the poor gravid or spent fish in large numbers.

With regard to minnows for trout-fishing, I don't know how these little fish, if captured, would live during this and the next two months; but I think that, seeing the comparatively limited number of trout fishers who use live minnows, the danger of having professional trout catchers about the water would not be compensated for by the convenience to these gentlemen, who, be it remembered, are not themselves debarred from catching a few for actual use as I have myself done, and frequently seen others do, in the Thames, Lea, and Grand Junction Canal. This question of live bait is such an important one, that with your permission, Mr. Editor, I will refer to it again at some future time when I propose showing what a terrible depletor of our waters in every sense this artistic live baiting is—far more so than any other three or four causes put together, not excepting the much maligned and misrepresented gross-weight system. Mr. B. speaks of the tackle shops being provided with live baits during the fence season from private waters. Surely, Mr. B. is joking?

The question of approaching that most liberal of all companies, the Great Eastern, with a view of obtaining concessions to some additional stations is now under consideration, but I don't for one moment think the question of Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Norwich, will be brought forward, or, if brought forward, seriously entertained. Let the following figures speak for themselves. Yarmouth is 121 miles from London; the journey to or from occupies, on the average, nearly five hours, sometimes more, and the single fare at which, as in all cases, most probably if granted, the concession tickets would be issued, is 12s. 7d., third class. Norwich is 126 miles, the average time of journey over 4 hours, single fare, *via* Ely, 10s. 10d.; *via* Colchester, 12s. Lowestoft—much the same as the two above—in many, if not in most cases, a second railway journey from the above centres has to be undertaken to reach the Broads, and, unless I am misinformed, a boat must nearly always be hired before they can be fished. But even if all these very great reasons against asking for a concession which, even if granted, would, I feel sure, be but little used by the thousands of working-men anglers who, form the great bulk of club men affiliated to the associations, did not exist, the very reasons Mr. B. gives for asking for such would set us against the idea—viz., "That it would supply opportunity of unlimited sport (*sic*) to thousands of London anglers, especially at a time when all our metropolitan rivers are closed against them."

Oh! Mr. B., that's too bad. You know the London angling societies and their members—there are but two or three—who allow the taking of fish during the close season, and even these are reconsidering the question, or who would tolerate the exhibiting of fish during such time, while there are several who would expel a member for so doing, and whose rules provide for such an unwished eventuality.

Please, Mr. B., don't do it again. Go fishing in private waters during the close season if you must, but don't impute any such desire to men who are, above all things, sportsmen, and would scorn the desire you impute to them as they would that of doing a dishonest action.—Yours, &c.,

LEO. BONVOISIN.

EELS.

THE mystery has at last been solved. No more "animated horse-hairs," and all the suppositious nonsense about the origin of the eel in estuaries or in fresh water river, stream or pond! That most interesting communication on the generation of eels contained in the FISHING GAZETTE of March 12, will necessitate an alteration in many a standard work on natural history, &c. Gilbert White puzzled himself over the eel, and hinted that "the threads sometimes discovered in eels were perhaps their young." But he was speaking of freshwater-bred eels, and not those bred in the estuaries of tidal rivers, though the generation must come alike from ova? Are eels fish, now?

There are four British species of eel, viz., the sharp-nosed, the broad-nosed, the snig and the grig (*vide* the Rev. J. G. Wood). Hampshire streams abound with eels—far less in size than the Kennet silver-bellied eels, and even Pope has sung the praises of the latter. Eels seem to be everywhere in fresh water; even the rushy water-cuttings on either side of the Great Eastern Railway about Tottenham and Lea Bridge, contain small eels. I once saw an elderly man fishing in the said cutting. He had caught one little eel; but although the bird were singing, and the scent of the new-made hay was wafted far away from the higher ground, and wild flowers grew almost under the fisherman's feet, nothing would take his rapt attention off his float! The Thames freshwater eel will sometimes—in summer, mostly—come out of the river on to the grass. A fisherman living at Sonning some years back assured me that he had himself seen eels very early in the morning in the act of wriggling back into the water on his approach. It must have been a very "early bird" to have found the outlying "lobs" before the Messrs. Slimy! The present head gardener to Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., M.P., told me that on one occasion, some few years since, he himself found a swan some little distance from a lake, with a large eel in its mouth. The bird, in struggling with the eel, which was too large for its gullet, killed itself and the eel too! Thus the "early bird" sometimes comes to grief. Conger eel is not to be compared with his freshwater cousin for eating, and the latter is excellent whether stewed, fried, boiled, or put into a pie.

SPOTS.

CORRECTION.—A printer's error occurred in the last line but one of the article on the "Classic Isis" last week. It should obviously read "Masonic" bands that Italy set forth to build so many of our ancient and beautiful parish and abbey churches that adorn England even at the present day.

MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CLUB REPORTS.

THE CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this flourishing society took place on the evening of the 13th inst., at Mr. Chandler's, The Rent Day, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, Mr. Osmon presiding, and Mr. Greene occupying the vice-chair. Some forty members and friends sat down, among those present were the chairman and vice-chairman of the West Central Association (Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett). The host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. Chandler) provided an excellent dinner for their guests, and it was served in their usual capital style. They had evidently spared no expense to provide an abundance of good things for the occasion. After the removal of the cloth the Chairman gave the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family." This and several other toasts having been given the Chairman proceeded to distribute the prizes, the principal winners of which were Messrs. Welch, Townsend, Warsop, Wilson, Bryant, Dobell, Gower, Wright, &c., after which the remaining portion of the evening was devoted to harmony, several capital songs being sung, everyone being thoroughly satisfied with the evening's entertainment. The total gross weight of fish taken during the season was 713 lb.—W. SUTTON.

April 25.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of this society took place on Thursday the 21st, at the society's house, the Hope, Bird Street, Kennington. Mr. S. Hayward occupied the chair, being faced by Mr. R. Wood, hon. sec., and proved in every way a complete success. The handsome and liberal manner in which it was placed upon the table reflected great credit upon the host, Mr. W. Whiffen, and was deserving of the compliments that were paid him during the evening. One of the appropriate features of the occasion was the appearance of some very large and handsome salmon on the table. On the cloth being removed, the chairman proposed the "The Queen," which was duly honoured. The Secretary then proposed the toast of the evening, accompanying it with appropriate remarks, which was heartily responded to. Able speeches followed, with the usual drinking of healths, &c., by Messrs. F. Paine, G. Johnson, J. Godfrey, E. Sparrow, the chairman and secretary, and several other gentlemen. Then followed a most liberal contribution of prizes to the society by members and friends. These proceedings terminating, harmony commenced, and some capital songs, ably rendered; most prominent were Messrs. Hulford, Paine, Smith, Hopkin, Johnson, Sparrow, and Daws, the evening terminating in a convivial and satisfactory manner.—R. W.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The West Central No. 2 District visit took place at the above society on Monday, 25th inst., and proved a success, the following clubs being represented: the Amicable Brothers, City of London, Metropolitan, Norton Folgate, Sir Hugh Myddleton, St. John's, West Central, Hearts of Oak, Bostonians, Hampstead Brothers, Albert, Hoxton Brothers, Alexandra, Stepney, and Never Frets. The roll being called at 11 p.m. by the district officer, Mr. Thorley, there were some capital songs given by the following gentlemen: Mr. Maybury, Mr. G. Birch, Mr. Roberts, Mr. W. H. Beckett, Messrs. Thorley, Raynor, Feacham, Hallam, Hall, &c. Mr. R. Ghurney, advocating the Anglers' Benevolent Society, was received very cordially, and a most pleasant evening was spent.—R. MURPHY.

April 26, 1881.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke and Alderman R. N. Fowler, M.P., have accepted the post of Vice-Presidents of this Society, the monthly meeting of which will be held at Throgmorton Chambers, Throgmorton Street, Bank, E.C., on the evening of Thursday next. As this will practically be the first meeting of the society, a large attendance is anticipated, and some new members will be elected. The chair will be taken at 7 o'clock.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The annual dinner of the above Club will take place at the "Builders' Arms," (close to the stations, Hammersmith), on Thursday evening, May 5th. P. Geen, Esq., will preside, supported by several well-known anglers. Tickets, 3s. each, may be obtained from the hon. sec., 37, King street, Hammersmith. Dinner will be on the table at 8 p.m. sharp. Intending visitors are requested to note the address of this old-established club, as another society held in the vicinity has arranged for a dinner the same evening.—VORTEX.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The third annual dinner of this society took place on the 27th, at the "St. Paul's," Westmoreland Road, Walworth. Sixty members and their friends sat down to partake of the good things provided by Mr. and Mrs. C. Bansback, the worthy host and hostess. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs. Beckett, Boalch, Clarke, Duck, senr. and junr.; Plumley, senr. and junr.; Whitby, J. P. Weldon. Linstead, &c., &c. On the removal of the cloth, Mr. Duck, senr., was appointed to the chair, through the absence of Dr. Carpenter; and Mr. Beckett likewise had to take office on behalf of Dr. Maples, who was "conspicuous by his absence," through professional duties. The usual toasts having been proposed and responded to by various gentlemen, Mr. J. P. Weldon responding on behalf of the Press in his well-known and interesting manner. Mr. Whitby, the secretary, stated the condition of the society, which was in a most flourishing condition, considering that it had only been in existence about four years. The gross weight of fish taken during the season of 1880 was 634 lbs., and the value of the prizes competed for during the same time amounted to nearly £70. Mr. Pugh takes the first gross weight, Mr. Beckett second, Dr. Carpenter third. Next came Mr. Medway and Mr. Francis, &c. The prizes will be distributed on some evening appointed by the committee. He (Mr. Whitby) was very happy to state that the following prizes have been promised, to be distributed as the committee might see fit for the next season:—Dr. Carpenter, £5 5s.; Mr. Pugh, £5 5s.; Bansback, £5 5s.; Langlois, £3 3s.; Beckett, £3 3s.; Mr. Linstead, £2 2s.; Mr. Murray, £2 2s.; A Friend, £2 2s.; J. P. W., £2 2s.; Mr. Peters, £1 10s.; Mr. White, £2 2s.; Mr. Howard, £1 1s.; Mr. Cridland, £1 1s.; Mr. Whitby, senr., £1 1s.; Mr. Clarke, £1 1s.; Mr. Norris, £1 1s.; Mr. Jousiffe, £1 1s.; Mr. Walters, £1 1s.; Mr. Humphries, £2 2s.; Mr. Satchiffe, £1 1s.; Moore,

£1 1s.; Boalch, £1 1s.; Whitby, £1 1s.; Cain, 10s. 6d.; W. Varney, 10s. 6d.; "Pixie," a volume of the FISHING GAZETTE; and the committee would be happy to receive as many more. The rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, both vocal and instrumental. The gentlemen contributing to the harmony were Messrs. J. P. Weldon, Giles, Varney, Beckett, Boalch, and many others. Daylight having dawned, brought the entertainment to a close; and all good people went home to bed, of which luxury very little fell to the share of
PIXIE.

April 29, 1881.

THE TUNBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

On Wednesday last the Tunbridge Angling Club had a most enjoyable outing at Oxon Hoath Park, West Peckham. Sir Francis Geary, Bart., had very generously allowed the society to drag the lake in his park, for the purpose of procuring stock fish to put in the Medway. The nets were supplied by Messrs. Ground and Son, and the whole of the arrangements were left in the hands of E. Greenwood, Esq., of Hilden Cottage, who carried them out in a way which met with the entire approval of the members, and about the same time reflected credit on himself. A merry party assembled at the club house, the Bull Hotel, High Street, at nine o'clock in the morning, and after pipes had been lighted a start was made. The weather was just the thing for such an excursion; the sun shone brightly, and the country between Tunbridge and West Peckham being at this time of the year very beautiful, the drive was greatly enjoyed. Amongst those present in the park were Sir Francis Geary, Bart., W. N. M. Geary, Esq., R. A. Dallas Beeching, Esq., and Mr. T. Elliott (Tunbridge Wells), W. Kirby, H. Crundwell and W. Wyde (Southborough), Dr. Lawrence, W. W. Rodger, Esq., Messrs. C. Davidson (Larkhall Anglers), G. and T. Woollett, F. Abbot, W. A. Kirby, W. Epsoun, F. Pine, W. Davies, C. Payne, W. Roser, H. Bidwell, J. Waite, R. Lipscombe, &c. Mr. Greenwood held the net in the water, and quite ready for action, and the first draw brought to grass about 15 brace of splendid carp; well fed-fish, bright in colour, and weighing on an average quite four pounds each. Those present—most of them ardent anglers—were delighted, and one of them observed that the carp would prove "real jam" to some of the Tunbridge anglers who insist on fishing with tight lines. In addition to the carp there were a large number of rudd and roach, some half a bushel. After a second haul, which brought to shore some dozen brace more carp, and a second consignment of roach and rudd, an adjournment was made for luncheon, which was served under a fine old oak in the park. A large quantity of good things had been provided, and after hearty justice had been done to them, and also to some good "nut brown" work was commenced again, and the other portion of the lake was drawn, but the only result was some three brace of carp, but a nice lot of roach. The order was then given to strike and turn away for home, but W. Wallace Rodger, Esq., who was present, generously offered to allow the society to drag three ponds in Hadlow Castle Park. This was of course too good to refuse, and a move was made for the ponds in question. Two of these, said to contain some splendid carp, were too foul to drag, and it was therefore determined to leave them till the weather gets warmer, when other means will be taken to get at the scaly gentlemen. The third pond, which is situate on the lawn, was, however, drawn, and about a bushel of roach secured as well as one perch—a perfect picture, which, on being put upon the scales, was announced to be no less than three pounds. He was by general consent restored to the water in which he had grown so well. As it was by this time getting on for evening, a move was made for Tunbridge; and on arrival the take of the day, consisting of some two hundredweight of carp, and a couple of bushels of roach and rudd, were consigned to the river, in the strictly preserved waters of the society near the Powder Mill Lock. The day proved a most enjoyable one, and the result will doubtless afford good sport to many a disciple of the gentle craft.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

A meeting was held by the members of the above Society on the 22nd, Mr. Fox presiding, and it was decided that the challenge given by the Surrey Piscatorial, to play a friendly game at cricket, on May 16th, be accepted, and Mr. Boalch was authorised to procure the necessary articles for the game. Mr. Fox will present to the winning Society a ball, and Mr. Beckett, T. A. P. S., will also present a set of stumps. The following gentlemen will represent the Walworth Waltonians:—Messrs. H. Dale, Delehaye, Piolaine, G. Taylor, Howard, jun., Fox, Weatherhead, Boalch, Beale, Cain, Green, and several other members have also given in their names as a reserve. The prize presented to the Society by Madame Piolaine came to hand on the 22nd, and called forth numerous adjectives and exclamations as to its beauty and usefulness. This prize was competed for at Pulborough, and won by Mr. F. Grigg, Sept. 13, 1880, and consists of a coffee and tea pot, sugar basin, and milk jug, and salver.—PIXIE.

April 25.

LARGE RECOVERY OF STRAY THAMES FISH.—The heading up of the roach, which is much earlier this year, always takes up a large quantity into a side stream near the back weir at Hampton Court, where their progress becomes arrested, and it has become the annual duty of the Thames Angling Preservation Society to take them out and put them into the main stream in order to ensure their safety. This important work was done on Tuesday last, under the personal superintendence of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, and occupied a considerable portion of the day, as the water, though not very extensive, is difficult to drag. The result was the recovery of forty large pails full of fine roach—there could not have been less than four thousand good fish, weighing at least 12 cwt. Amongst those present assisting in the work were Messrs. F. H. Lemann, H. J. Alfred, W. H. Brougham, A. Allison, T. Abbott, Manners, L. Gow, J. C. Chubb, Johnson, &c.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1881.

THE TROUBLE THAT BIG TROUT BROUGHT.

(Continued from page 202.)

THE grey of the evening was on the waters, and the trees cast a dark shadow where the current grew still and deep beneath an overhanging rock. But even in the gloom my experienced eye could yet discern a darker spot, more like a black bar in the

water—only the black bar had a tail moving lazily from side to side, and that tail was part and parcel of a splendid trout.

"A good two pounds, if he is an ounce," was muttered in my ear. "There! He rose. Did you see that?"

"Did I see it? Rather, and heard it too. A distinct sudden 'flop'—and the big circles sailed slowly away from a fine rise.

"That is a fish!" I said, with an excitement equal to his own. "Uncle, why don't you catch him?"

"Catch him?" and my uncle's face smiled a superior and pitying wisdom. "I have been trying for him ever since the Spring. Ah! my boy, when you have fished so long as I have, you will know a fellow like that is not so easily killed."

"It is to be done, nevertheless," I murmured, half to myself.

"No doubt, by you;" and this uncle of mine made no effort to conceal the sneer. "But I am not so clever. I have tried for that fish dozens of times, I am always trying for him. I have hooked him twice, and twice—in a tone of sad remembrance—'twice has he broken me. But you are so very skilful that I fear his time has come now. Of course the difficulties of the place are nothing to you."

"They were, indeed, a great deal to me, as they might be to anyone else. It was undeniably a hard spot. But my uncle had cast a doubt on my abilities, and in all the conceit of youth, forgetting the possible consequences of glorifying myself at his expense, I resolved to have that trout. Well, gentlemen, I was up very early the next morning, and wended my way up the stream. I had prepared a cast of flies over night, and fishing my way along, I was rewarded with sundry good fish. In truth my uncle had by no means overrated his property, and in very little time I had basketed three brace. They were all of a good size; but this was not enough. I had set my heart on the patriarch, and have him I must. Carefully I dried my flies as I approached the spot, and then paused for a calm review of the situation. It was a nasty place, what one of the deadliest old poachers I ever knew, and to whom I am indebted for many a wrinkle, would have characterised as 'cruel unkind pitch.' The trees grew down, with a gap between them, for twenty yards on either hand, and a few paces from these, leaving just a path, a ledge of rock, jutting far out of the ground, ran like a wall parallel with the water. This was bad enough, but further to complicate matters, from the granite rising again on the far side, a withered old mountain ash bent forth over the pool—a mere stump, but provided with half a dozen straggling old arms, which seemed stretching forth on purpose to arrest the line. However, I was there, so was Master Trout, and evidently in the mood for an early breakfast. I crawled along to get near, for without getting near there was no hope, and then I discovered that the ground, because not bad enough without, was boggy. First on my hands and knees, and then quite flat, I screwed along. If you have never tried it, you can have no idea of the peculiar sensations to be derived from crawling on your stomach through a bog. The damp, first striking that portion of your anatomy, does not seem so bad. It comes with a sort of refreshing chill, a kind of stimulating titillation, like being tickled. But after a while a sense of rather uncomfortable wetness supervenes, followed by a stinging creeping sensation, as though sundry denizens of the morass, frogs and what not, had found their way within your clothing, and were wriggling out with icy claws. Well, I bore this manfully, and made my first 'cast.' The flies were on the water, that is all I can say for it. They came down with such a decided 'flop' that I knew at once it was hopeless, and looked to see my friend hurry away. But no! he had not been alarmed. He was evidently a trout of much experience, and being satisfied

in his own mind that these were artificial flies, regarded their splashing introduction to himself—so very different from the gentle flight of the real insect as a natural sequence. At all events, he watched them float just over his nose, and then past him perfectly unmoved. I daresay you think me absurd, but I tell you that fish possessed a speaking countenance—a face capable of expressing the various emotions which moved his inner consciousness, and the predominant one now was a sort of good-humoured irony, as one saying: ‘Yes, an artificial fly, and neatly tied, too. It is surprising, the pitch of perfection some of these tackle-makers have attained since the days I was a-troutling. A very fair imitation, indeed, of the real thing. Quite good enough to deceive the innocence of youth. But as for me, I am too old to be taken in in that way.’ Doubtless I might have had him with a worm; there was no chance to spin a minnow; and either would have been ignoble, to say nothing of being strictly forbidden, for my uncle allowed nothing but the fly even to himself. At all events, my first essay was a failure, and I went home to breakfast rather crestfallen, but not beaten. No! I would have him yet, and my resolve grew stronger as my uncle, scanning the contents of my creel, observed with quiet sarcasm, that he ‘supposed I had not tried for the big one yet.’

“Well, gentlemen, to make a long story short, I tried my best morning after morning. I had grown so accustomed now to crawling along in the bog that I was getting simply to regard it as a second edition of my morning tub. My clothes had been done for from the first, so it did not matter so much now; but a week passed by, and another after that, and still the patriarch was there.

“I tried for him each morning—my uncle did the same, scaring him sorely every afternoon. Each day he was growing more shy, each day my case more hopeless. But now, viewing the situation more closely, revolving every expedient almost in my despair, I was seized with a sudden inspiration, and, you may be sure, lost no time in putting it into execution. The period was particularly favourable, for my uncle, whose presence might have interfered with it, was on the jury at Carmarthen; and my plan was simply this. As I before explained, leaning from the far side, and overhanging Mr. Trout’s hold, was a ledge of rock; and on this, despite many difficulties from intervening foliage, I contrived to land the cast. I then pulled very gently. To my delight, the ‘dropper’—an August dun—came clear away, while the ‘leader,’ or, rather, large red palmer, just in the way I wanted, took a slight grip of a bit of moss. Of course, to do this, I had to stand in full view of the water, and at the first glimpse my friend dashed away without scruple. But I was glad of this, being so convinced of that trout’s preternatural acuteness that I gave him credit, should he see it, of understanding the whole plot. Then I unreeled the line, passing it round bushes and trees with the greatest care not to get it entangled, or to draw the hook from its frail hold, until I held the end all clear, and something like twenty yards from the pool, and then I made it fast to the bank, and so left it for all that day and night. The next morning I was there again. Everything was undisturbed, and a cautious peep revealed my shy acquaintance. Now for it. Now for the great essay. With a beating heart, again the line was joined to the winch, and now, so had I calculated, a gentle twitch ought to slide the fly from the rock and drop it, light as down, on his very nose. All seemed right. It came away—it fell! No, it did not! a detested branch of that confounded old mountain ash arrested and held it fast. I pulled. It would not come. Harder and harder yet, and then it released itself with a jerk and a spring, which landed it in the boughs far overhead. There was no help for it, and the blessings which I heaped on that old stump were no assistance. All my

trouble had to be taken over again, and I took it. Once more I baited my trap, and waited the next day to spring it. I was getting savage now, and more than ever I would have that fish. I did not go near the stream until noon. My uncle was still with his jury. I had it all to myself, and took a morning’s rest as a precaution against the impending struggle. And so, after luncheon, I entered the lists with this champion for the last time—for his hour was come! I twitched on the line. It came away, just a few inches, and then took hold of a nettle. Was this to be a repetition of yesterday? It seemed so at first. But no. The nettle gave way, tore away, and ‘Oh, yes!’ I exclaimed, ‘my usual good luck!’ as the fly fell into the water, in company with half a dozen leaves. My usual luck! It was grand luck. That did the business, and took him off his guard. He might have mistrusted that palmer under other circumstances, but here he was, and with a reason for it. Here were the very leaves off which he had fallen, and in less time than I can tell it, came a big splash, an awful tug, and then—chaos. I can give no other name to what followed. That trout was here, there, and everywhere.—So was I. So was the rod; until the end came, and found us all three together on the bank at last.”

“And your uncle, what did he say? He could not sneer at your skill, after all.”

It was the auctioneer who spoke. He had feigned no interest at first; but the tale, or rather the earnest way in which it was told, and that, alas! the writer cannot reproduce, proved too much for him.

“What did he say? Oh! quite enough. The capture of that wretched trout cost me a fortune.

“I was met at the door by his old housekeeper. She read my success in my face, and her own grew equally delighted. This woman had not liked me from the first. In fact, although very civil, she yet contrived to make me understand that I was an intruder. But she had taken much interest in my efforts, and urged me day after day not to give it up. Her motive was revealed all in due season; idiot that I was, not to understand it then. Well, my uncle came home. I could not have chosen a more unlucky time to display my fish, or a more irritating mood than my vanity forced upon me—an assumption of carelessness, as if two pounders were an everyday occurrence with me. He had come back angry from his jury. Naturally a man would, who, being wise enough to hold an opinion different from the remaining eleven, had failed to bring them to his way of thinking. However, he kept his temper in to begin with, and inquired how I had done the business. I told him, and then his smothered ire burst forth. He had wanted to take that fish himself, and could not tolerate my success.

“‘You call that fly-fishing,’ he cried. ‘I call that poaching, and you a meansneak. Of course, I could have had him that way, or by means of a dozen similar tricks.’

“‘You would never have had him,’ I answered, in my haste, ‘not if you had fished for him all your life.’

“‘Then I would have gone without him,’ he stormed. ‘I fish fairly, I do. And people who cannot do the same, I am glad to be rid of. Do you understand me?’

“‘I am afraid I do,’ I was commencing humbly, but he cut me short, and pointed to the door.

“‘I will speak, that there shall be no mistake,’ he yelled. ‘I asked you here for company in my old age; I want to adopt you to make you my heir. But I find you far too much for me. I could not be comfortable with one so immensely clever. Go, and take your fish with you.’

“I went, and the speckled cause of my evil destiny, propelled by a vigorous hand, came flying after me. The housekeeper, evidently listening at the door, picked it up, with a happy smile.

" 'I will pack it for you,' she said, 'in some nettles. It is a nice fish to take home.'

"I was going to burst out myself—had it on my lips to consign the two-pounder to a place where his proper cooking would be a matter of seconds; but thought better of it, and so carried it away with me. It was all I had to show for my visit to my uncle, all I was likely to have.

"In six months he died, and left everything to his housekeeper. That is my story, gentlemen. I ought to be very fond of trout-fishing, eh?"

"Yet I can see that you are," said the bishop. He had been thinking for a few moments, and now spoke with a sort of determination in his genial face. "As fond of it as ever. Would you like a few days' good sport?"

"Yes! beyond all things; and No! for I have no time."

"That might be managed. Now listen. Like your uncle, I have some miles of a good water, and also, like him, am a duffer at fishing. I am not ashamed to confess it, for I have been engaged in the boot trade all my life in London," (Alas! for the bishop theory, it vanished at this), "but now am retired, and have a place a few miles from Aberystwith. I am on my way there now, and I ask you to come with me, and show me, if you can, how to fish."

There was a momentary struggle in the stranger's mind, and then he shook his head sadly. For duty was under the seat, packed up snugly in those leather cases—not so tightly, however, but that it could whisper in his ear.

The bishop (I must call him so), read his face, and his own grew more kind, if that could be.

"Now, look here. I ask no favour, and a few pounds are no great object to me. Say how many of your books you would reckon to dispose of in a week, and debit just so many to me. Now, will you come?"

I could not stay for the end, I had reached my own destination at Glan Dovey, and so, hoping for both their sakes that the bishop would have his way, I left them.

This is not all, although I might stop here; leaving the narrative one of those unfinished episodes such as so frequently occur, to those who travel much. It chanced, however, that some few years after, when the writer was, rod in hand, on a wild stream under Cader Idris, that another fisherman, accompanied by a lady, made his appearance. I did not take much heed of him, as he passed me with just a courteous salute, further than to notice that he had the bearing of one who knew what he was about, and although clad in rough sporting costume, to guess at his clerical calling by the white band encircling his neck. But towards the close of the day, we met again, and now he was alone, and looking troubled and perplexed, as he approached.

"I beg your pardon," he said, lifting his hat; and I saw that, although quite young, his hair had many a silver streak. "But I am going to ask you a great favour, for which this lonely spot must plead my excuse. My wife has sprained her ankle so badly that she cannot walk. I am not a giant, as you see, and it is two miles to the nearest hamlet. Will you assist me to get her there?"

Of course I would. I put up my tackle as I walked with him, and then we made, by crossing our hands together, what I think the children call a "king coach," and so bore the lady to Llanvihangel. She was only a light weight, and we got over the ground very well; and when we reached our destination, where a donkey-cart could be procured, her thanks, in a refined and gentle voice, were a sufficient reward; although I had lost the best hour of the day. All the time I had been puzzling over where I had met the husband before, but now he himself solved the problem.

"You do not remember me?" he said, smiling.

"I do, and yet I don't," I replied; "for I am sure this is not our first meeting."

"Forgive my egotism in deeming the tale worth a second thought. But did you ever hear of Reginald Fitz-Eustace Fipps, who had an evil genius in the shape of a big trout?"

In a twinkling it all came back—the tale told in the train—its unfortunate wind-up—and I was face to face with the seedy traveller of that day, but seedy no longer, and without those suggestive leather cases.

"Ah! It is you," I exclaimed, as we shook hands. "I remember now, but I should scarcely have known——" and here I pulled up short on the brink of a rude remark.

"Me in my altered circumstances," he supplemented, quietly. "No, I have much to be thankful for since then. I found a good friend that day."

My thoughts flew back in a moment to the fancied dignity of the Church, and found utterance in:

"You mean the Bishop?"

"Bishop!"

"I beg your pardon. He looked so good, so benevolent, that I fancied——"

"He was good," he answered, gravely; "and very good to me. I owe all I have to that retired London bootmaker."

"And so he died and left you his——"

"No, he is still alive, thank goodness!" he interrupted; "and long may he live to be a friend to the unfortunate. He took a liking to me, found me the means to pursue my studies for the Church, and his purse procured me the living, which I hold near here. Not a gift. He is too much a gentleman to place me under such an obligation. I am paying him in my own time. I am married—married to her who trusted me so fondly, waited for me so long. I am the happiest man in Wales to-day, and can afford to no longer regret that I caught that big trout. Will you dine with me this evening?"

DAVID FOSTER, OF ASHBOURNE.

IN MEMORIAM.

DAVID FOSTER, the famous angler-naturalist, now deceased was born in the year 1815, shortly after the great struggle at Waterloo. His birthplace was Burton-on-Trent, which was at that time a town of some eight or ten thousand inhabitants. The beautiful river, with its shoals of different varieties of fish, was the all absorbing attraction even in his early youthful days. His small figure became well known to the old fishermen and water-keepers who gained their livelihood upon its banks and bosom. Many a day did he spend in their company when he should have been at school. With him his piscatorial propensities seemed to expand, and every leisure hour was devoted to the close observation of the habits and haunts of fish. At the age of fourteen, however, his parents thought fit to procure him constant employment, he was accordingly placed in the surgery of a local surgeon. Preferring, however, to mix physic for fish, he deserted his post after a very short service indeed. His disgraceful conduct was, however, reprov'd by his parents, who next placed him in the shop of a confectioner, but the sweets here speedily turned to bitters when fishing was found to be out of the question. Several more trades were afterwards tried, but with similar results. Finally he was apprenticed to a jeweller, when he suddenly decamped, his parents not knowing his whereabouts for more than two years, and when at last discovered he was found amongst the fish-hook manufacturers at Redditch (the world's mart for fishing goods of every considerable description). Here he was in the employment of the late Mr. Allcock, father of the present head of the firm of Allcock and Co., to whom has been

awarded all the exhibition honours for many years past. Whilst here he originated several improvements in fishing tackle, which were worked out by the firm. During the fishing season he was in the habit of making excursions, which were limited only by the state of the exchequer. This course of life was continued for some years, during which time he had fished the most frequented reaches in England and Wales. The Dove, however, appears to have been his favourite stream for fly-fishing—its beauteous swims, eddies and streams have filled with rapture the souls of famous fishermen in days gone by.

After spending an entire summer upon its banks, he finally settled down permanently at Ashbourne, a few miles from the world-renowned dale which takes its name from the river. Here he dwelt up to the time of his death. More than forty long years has he been the mentor to whom the fly-fishers of the Midlands were accustomed to look for instruction.

Many long rambling excursions, both north and south, have been made at intervals during this period, nature being the book which formed his constant and never-wearying study. A born naturalist, he would converse for hours upon his favourite topic, viz., the lives, habits, and customs of insects, the various stages of the existence of the little winged creatures, their metamorphoses at regular periods were well known to him from long personal observation. Mr. Foster has left MMS. containing ample original matter for such a work as would be readily deemed a really valuable acquisition to angling literature. This it is proposed to publish by subscription in due time.

As the FISHING GAZETTE of June 28, 1878, affirms, Mr. Foster was the originator of several important improvements in fishing tackle, of which the following are the most important. In 1843 the eight-plait waterproof line, now in use throughout the world; in 1849, a machine for drawing or refining gut, which is a practice now resorted to everywhere; improvement in rails, rods, flies, and in short every individual branch of the anglers' equipage. The last few years of his life were devoted almost wholly to angling and to the perfecting of the fisherman's implements; and the new "acme" lines which have been so strongly recommended by the leading British and continental sporting journals since their introduction last fall, are in part fruits of his late exertion.

A rod upon an entirely new and original principle was completed when he was called suddenly away. The business has for some years past been managed by Mr. Foster's eldest sons, who will, of course, see that their father's last, and we believe his most important, inventions will be in due time brought out.

STOCKING THE THAMES WITH TROUT.

THE rearing-pond at Sunbury, in which were a number of trout that had been placed there over two years ago from the nursery of Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, was cleaned out for the purpose of putting the contents into the Thames on Friday last, April 29th. There were a number of gentlemen present to take part in the operations and the disposal of the fish, amongst whom were Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, F. G. Pearce, W. H. Brougham, John Knechtli, W. A. Crump, Arthur Benington, G. F. Spencer, F. H. Lemann, C. P. Wheatstone, H. J. Alfred, F. W. White, Leonard Gow, J. H. Morris, James Temple, Manners, &c., &c. The water having been lowered, the land-nets were in requisition, and the fish had to be taken out oddly. It was a somewhat difficult task, owing to the sharpness of the fish in evading their capture, and it took some four or five hours before the pond and ditches were cleared of their living occupants. The scene at times was somewhat exciting, and the result was above general expectation—the grand total representing 258 good, handsome fish, some measuring nearly nine inches in length.

The last winter destroyed a great quantity of fish, when the stock was frozen in, and in other ways there has been unavoidable loss. The fish were distributed in equal quantities between Kingston and Chertsey, those below Sunbury being turned in by Messrs. H. J. Alfred and W. A. Crump, and above by Messrs. F. W. White and James Temple. The Sunbury contingent were put in by Mr. Thomas Spreckley, close to the residence of Mr. E. Lukyn. It has been one of the most important days, as associated with the art of fish-culture, and now the place is undergoing a thorough clearing out, and with some necessary alteration to receive the fry of the real Thames trout, which are, at present, in the fish-house at Chertsey Bridge, and all will wish success to them during the period of rearing throughout the next two or three years. Thanks to Mr. James Forbes for what he is doing for the sole benefit of Thames anglers.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE MAIDENHEAD, COOKHAM AND BRAY THAMES ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THIS association occupies the most prominent position over all the other preservation societies in the Upper Thames, and carries on its work with indomitable energy and perseverance. In the matter of trout it has greatly distinguished itself by the introduction of considerable quantities year by year of fish varying in size from 2 lb. to 4 lb. each, and this last year it has turned in nearly 400 spotted beauties, several weighing 5 lb. and 6 lb. each. These fish are known as the Wycombe trout, and there could not possibly be a better one for the Thames, as they are not likely to stray away, which would doubtless be the case with the ordinary brook trout. Although a considerable sum of money has been expended, the committee consider it has been money well spent; and this is the opinion of one and all. The position of the association on the river is one of the prettiest portions of the Thames, and it is well supported by the proprietors of the various handsome mansions which adorn the banks. His Grace the Duke of Westminster, the noble owner of Cliveden, is the president. Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P., of Taplow Court, is not only one of its vice-presidents but takes personal interest in the success of the association, and for the last three occasions has presided at the annual dinner. There are others, such as Lord Boston, Earl Grosvenor, Viscount Stormont, Sir Roger Palmer, Mr. C. C. Ellis, and Mr. V. W. B. Van de Weyer, who are liberal supporters and vice-presidents of the association. The offices of the association are at Skindle's Hotel, Maidenhead Bridge, one of the most famous and best patronised hotels on the banks of the Upper Thames. Most of the London members set apart the day of the annual dinner to be entirely appropriated as a holiday, and one of them—Mr. B. Perelli-Rocco—annually entertains a few of his friends to an Italian luncheon, which, on this occasion, was put down as "asparagus and Italian roast," at his comfortable and hospitable snugery at Bray, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The hour of five o'clock was set down for the commencement of the dinner and covers were laid for forty guests in the Guard's Room, which is only separated from the river by a pleasant grass lawn and most appropriate for an angler's feed. The visitors began gradually to arrive, and Mr. Hoare, the intelligent proprietor of the hostelry, with his staff of waiters, was actively diligent in preparing for the scene which was to follow. There was a capital menu placed for each visitor, and on being scanned over previous to the dinner was unanimously voted as very satisfactory. Shortly after the time fixed Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P., took up his position as Chairman, and he was quickly supported by Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, T. B. Sharpe, J. H. Clark, Captain Styan, Captain Haynes, Captain Sawyer, W. H. Brougham, A. Sharpe, J. D. Oakley, B. Perelli-Rocco, F. H. Lemann, C. P. Wheatstone,

P. Geen, W. Morris, R. A. Wood, E. Gardiner, J. P. Wheeldon, &c., &c. Under the personal superintendence of Mr. Hoare the excellent dinner was quickly served up, and as each variety was produced there was a general expression of approval—the cooking was first-rate. The waiting was excellent, the wines were of the choicest vintages, and the favourable opinions which were thus bestowed on the proprietor, were richly and thoroughly deserved. As there was no delay in the service of the dinner—and it takes sometime to do justice to about twenty items on the menu—the business portion of the evening soon commenced, and the order to “smoke” from the presidential chair was cheerfully obeyed. Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P., in the opening loyal toast, referred in very graceful terms to the great national loss the country had sustained in the death of Lord Beaconsfield, who was endeared to our beloved Queen, and, apart from politics, held the highest position in every Englishman’s heart. He noticed, in connection with this toast, the sympathy of the Prince of Wales to the sport of angling by supporting the proposition of Mr. Birkbeck for National Fisheries Exhibition and volunteering to open the same, which he had altogether carried out. He had, therefore, great pleasure in asking those present to drink the healths of “the Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales,” which was most loyally responded to. The next toast, “Success to the Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Thames Angling Association,” was given by the Chairman in a practical and excellent speech, alluding most forcibly to the dangerous speed of steam launches, by those who interfered with the sport of the anglers—the evils arising from having too many swans on the river, and the necessity of protecting the undersized fish. The society was doing a good work, and there was no necessity of detailing what it had done, and the state of its financial position, as they were given in the report which had been presented to each of those present. Captain Styan proposed “the kindred Association,” expatiating largely on the success of their own Association, and in its sympathy with the one at Windsor. He regarded the work done by Mr. Spreckley and Mr. Brougham, in the Thames Angling Preservation Society, of an important character, and also by Mr. Butler with the Reading Association, and Mr. Geen of the West Central Association. The toast was replied to by those gentlemen, Mr. Spreckley referring to the recent conviction under the Fresh Water Fisheries Act, as one of great importance, showing there is no difficulty of any one enforcing it during the close season. The other toasts were the usual ones on these occasions, and when brought to a termination the evening was regarded as having been pleasantly spent, and the Association going on prosperously. Previous to the dinner, the annual meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. T. B. Sharpe, who is a devoted friend of the Society. Mr. J. H. Clarke, a valuable member of the Committee, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. G. Day, acting as secretary. The business was of a formal character. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone was elected on the Committee, and the balance sheet exhibited the sum of £43 10s. 10d. in the hands of the treasurer. A vote of thanks to Mr. T. B. Sharpe ended the proceedings.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond’s Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond’s Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson’s Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

RARE AND CURIOUS FISHES OF DEVON.

BLUE SHARK.

(Continued from page 185.)

<i>Squalus glaucus</i>	Linnaeus.
” ”	Gray, Catalogue British Museum, p. 125.
<i>Carcharias glaucus</i>	Cuvier.
” ”	Fleming, British Animals, p. 167.
” ”	Jenyns.
” ”	Yarrell, British Fishes, 2nd edition, vol. ii., p. 498.

THE blue shark, according to Couch, vol. i., p. 28, is a restless, wandering fish, which migrates to our coasts in summer, and is even found at that time to stray so far north as the Orkney Islands, but it leaves us again on the approach of winter; and if, with the commentators on the Halicution of the poet Oppian, we are to believe this fish the “glaucus” of Elian, the season when it abounds with us is the time when it has disappeared from the seas of Italy. I have known it thrown on shore in Cornwall so early as the first week in March, but it is rarely seen before the month of June, when its arrival is made known by the injuries it inflicts on the nets and lines of the fishermen.

Mr. Buckland, in his familiar History of British Fishes, p. 220, states, “The blue shark is an inhabitant of the Mediterranean, and is the species frequently seen following vessels. It migrates annually to our shores, during the pilchard and herring season, and is met with most frequently on the coasts of Devonshire and Cornwall. The whole of the upper parts are a slate blue, the under side nearly white, and it mostly attains in length six or seven feet.”

Mr. E. Parfitt, in his Fauna of Devon, part ii., p. 42, says, “Mr. Reading informs me that a specimen was taken off Plymouth;” and Mr. Yarrell says, “More frequently on the Devonshire and Cornish coasts than on any other part of the British Islands.” A small specimen was taken off Start Point, July 4th, 1871, and sent to Mr. Gosden, fishsalesman, Exeter, a cast of which was made for the Albert Museum. A half-grown specimen, as mentioned by Bellamy, was taken in June, 1839, at Plymouth.

This specimen was sent me by Mr. J. Lemon, jun., of Teignmouth, and was cast for the Albert Museum by Mr. F. P. Perkins. At this date a fine crab shell, covered with oysters, was also presented to the Museum, which I received from Torbay.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

A KERNELLESS NUT TREE.—Fair Rosamond was confined in the monastery at Godstow, near Oxford, and the local tradition is that in consequence of the ill-usage towards the unfortunate lady, a nut-tree growing amidst the above ruins produced nuts without kernels. I don’t, of course, believe it. Filberts are nothing like so much cultivated in Kent as formerly, cobnuts are grown instead, many of which are plucked green and sold to the dyers.—F.

GREGORY’S SPINNING BAITS.—“The Gregory,” the “Flexible Cleopatra,” the “Oxford,” and the “Colorado,” pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory’s registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name “Gregory” is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years’ experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaits, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCA, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My business in the State
Made me a looker on."—SHAKESPEARE.

I have simply nothing to report in the way of sport from the Upper Thames. The river is in grand trim for trout work, and spinning men cannot do better than at once try their hand before the rush of pleasure-folk spoils the sport.—"MARLOW BUZZ."

Thames (Halliford).

The weather has now taken a turn for the better, and the river is in good condition for trout; the fish are now showing up more freely; all that is wanting is customers to come and catch them before the weeds grow too high. The takes during the week are as follows;—J. Benham, Esq., fishing with me took a trout of four lb.; G. Palmer, Esq., fishing with me to-day took a trout of 6 lb. 12 oz., and lost another beauty.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Windsor).

Water is slightly discoloured after the recent showers we have had in the Thames Valley, but unless weather is more balmy very little will be done with these mysterious Thames trout; up to the present all the big fish refuse to patronise the surface. Should we get a decided change some of them will come to grief; as it is, what was once the "Merry month of May," undoubtedly so far more like the "ugly month of March." A small fish between 3 and 4 lb. was had on Sunday last by a stranger at Boveney, and the Rev. Fardell, at Bray, has had a brace, but only to return; he has been having runs with splendid fellows, but all of them managed to cheat him. From his taking a good many jack lately, up to 11 lb., on gut tackle, it would appear Bray is well up in the matter of jack, and if only let alone till about August some good sport might be had in those waters.—R. B. BAMBRIDGE.

Thames (Teddington).

Clear sharp stream, and good order for trout fishing. A gentleman by the name of Mr. Adams was fishing on the weir and caught a trout weighing 9 lb. $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and several have been seen, and one is supposed to be about 12 lb.; one was hooked with a fly and broke away; the one that was caught was on April 29.—J. T. BALDWIN.

Coquet (Cumberland).

On the 27th and 28th April, W. E. Lawson and C. Lawson, of Longhirst Hall, had splendid sport. On the 29th, J. Stott and T. Stott, of Bethal Barns, killed each a good creel. On the 30th, the Hon. C. A. Parsons killed good creel; R. F. Laing and J. D. Milburn came in on the 2nd May (but the river was flooded and not fishable till 4th), and killed each good creel; F. Milburn arrived on the 4th, killed a splendid creel. Since the flood the trout are in good condition. If the weather continues fine there will be splendid sport.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Fish have been rising well this week and the river has continued in rare order for the fly. They have been a lot of good takes, and anglers might have done even better had they not been troubled with an immense quantity of flies on the water. Upon the clear mountain streams of Derbyshire the modern notion of using one lot of flies throughout the entire season from March to October is not found to answer. The hare's ear and yellow may prove a killing artificial in Scotland all the year round, as also may the coch-y-bondhu in Wales, but these flies are often rejected by our knowing English trout of the Midland and Northern shires. Daily experience shows that a knowledge of entomology is requisite in order to ensure success on the Dove and kindred rivers, and to meet this I am glad to welcome the recent book published by Mr. Ford, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, on the subject. It is a book in season and of the right sort, and ought to be on the table of every rodster in the kingdom. The flies which have killed best during this week are the bumble or tassell fly, the March brown and the Turkey brown. The last-named has accounted for the largest dish—one of six brace—taken near Birdsgrove. Four and a-half brace have also come from Mayfield with the same lure, and there have been no end of dishes of three brace and more with the March brown and the bumble.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather during the past week has been truly spring, with a slight touch of proverbial April, the showers not being wanting; at the same time they have not been lasting, but the surrounding country shows unmistakably the good already done with what little we have had. The glorious sunshine and the genial south and south-westerly winds have brought out myriads of various kinds of flies, upon which the few speckled beauties have been glutted, and the anglers' creels have not been so well filled with the real (*salmo fario*) article. But the "*salmo salmulus*" are so very plentiful that numbers are daily taken, and are spoken of as trout in conversation, but I have not seen many shown. I wish we could speak of trout here as they can on the Torridge, of which I enclose a short report. Salmon on the lower waters, are getting more plentiful, viz., the net fishermen are doing much better. Some splendid salmon, bass, pollack, shad, and flounders have been taken in the estuary, also a few eels, lobsters, and crabs from the rocks called the Exeters are coming very fine. Prawns have not yet made an appearance.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river continues low and clear, and very few fish are being taken, with small blue upright, aller bud and olive dun. There will be no good sport until we have had rain to raise the water.—WM. MUDDFORD.

Suir and its Tributaries. Clonmel, (Ireland).

We had a little rain on Sunday, which brought down a nice flush, and coloured the water, but did not rise it perceptibly, so that the salmon fishing has not been much improved since my last report. On the upper waters we hear of but two fish being killed by Thomas Philan, of Kilmanahan, on Lord Donoughmore's waters—one at Newcastle and the other at Knocklofty, below Clonmel, which is always best when the water is at its lowest, there have been a good many fish killed, scarcely any day proving a blank. Dudley's (being free) and the Bridge stream (partly preserved), also Poulakerri (preserved), being the last stand. Messrs. N. F. Hutchins, Richard O. Donnell, also James O'Donnoghue, Tim Russell, and Ned Buttlar, had each their share of fish, and what seems curious, all the fish were the same weight, namely, 12 lb. each. One fish only differed in weight, being 14 lb., killed by Tim Russell in Dudley's on Saturday. The cotmen at Clonmel only got three last week, as the water ran so low. Price per lb. 1s. 6d. The trout-fishing of the Suir was at a standstill. Owing to the eel fry running, on which the trout feed, I refuse to look at a fly. Still, on the tributaries, some good sport was had. Dr. Hewson got 17 at Glenary; Mr. Bradford 19 half-pounders at Grove; while Tim Fletcher and friend got 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. small trout on Sunday. The best flies are wrens and black hackles.—DORA.

Torridge.

I wish the river Exe would but afford us one fiftieth part of the sport obtained on the Torridge. For some weeks past the news has been wafted far and near of the wonderful catches and heavy creels made at that portion of the river near Woodford Bridge, which is distant from Holsworthy seven miles; but by dropping a postcard to the proprietor, Mr. Blake Woodford Bridge Hotel, Brandiscorner, will secure a trap, at any hour, at the station, at whose hostelry numerous disciples have taken up their abode for the Easter holidays, after taking the bait, or hints, I have thrown them from time to time on this splendid trout-fishing moorland stream. Many thanks have I also received from successful strangers, and still the report is most encouraging. Creels of from two to three dozen in half as many days; and Mr. Puddicombe, of scholastic fame in this city (Exeter), informs me that he took no less than three dozen and ten trout in two days, followed up by double figures day after day during his stay. Beside fishing, there are some beautiful drives and picturesque scenery and bracing air, and for angling tourists who would wish for good sport, free from pot-hunting sportsmen, Woodford Bridge for me, who can commence his luring little game within half a minute of the hotel in free water. Numbers of salmon have taken the trout flies, and of splendid condition.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Exeter.

P.S.—A gentleman from the Clifton College, Bristol, took forty-seven trout of fine size and quality in one day's fishing. The same gentleman has taken several baskets of three dozen and thereabouts per diem.—F. G.

Waveney (Beccles).

The river is now in as good order as the most ardent angler can desire, and should the weather remain as favourable as it is at present, the fishing prospects could not be better. On Monday and Tuesday last the wind veered round to the N.E., but it has once more returned to the S.W., and is now quite mild and genial. There have been since, I wrote last, a large number of what even we consider good takes of roach, two or three hours' fishing producing from 7 to 12, and in one case 15 lb. of roach. Mr. Borrett, on Monday morning last took thirty good roach, but were not weighed. Pike and perch have now finished spawning here, and I think that roach will this year be much earlier than usual, as they are getting very forward now, and appear to be working up to the upper reaches of the river and into the weedy shallows in readiness for spawning.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather during the past week has been very rough and blustering with north east and west winds prevailing nearly the whole time, which has made angling anything but an enjoyable occupation; but still, with all these drawbacks, there have been many anglers out on most of our Derbyshire streams, and their takes, as a rule, have been very fair considering the disadvantages they have had to put up with from the weather. Five and a half brace of nice sized trout were killed off of the Derwent last Monday with bumble and spider flies, there were also baskets from three to six brace per angler killed off of the Wye and also off the Rowsley water during the week. The Derby trout killer has been the death of some handsome dishes of good-sized trout off of the Derwent during the week. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have only killed a few fish during the week, with worms for bait. They are anxiously waiting for the ant eggs coming in, which will be in about another ten or twelve days, then good sport is generally had for about a fortnight, as trout are particularly fond of ant eggs. I am truly sorry to say that the grayling have that fearful disease prevailing amongst them again, both on the Wye and on the Derwent. I have seen a number of them on both these rivers, both dead and dying. Sport, both in the ponds and brooks has been first-class. One gentleman writes me that he killed 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ brace of good trout, fishing from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., every fish being killed by my little gold spinner; and the same afternoon (last Saturday) there were more than 26 brace more trout killed on the same ponds by the same kind of flies. I have also received another letter from another gentleman who has been killing a great quantity of trout with the small green green drake, spider, and dyed hackle flies, with gold twist—the green drake killing the most fish. The night line party have taken a few trout and eels out of the deeps with lob-worms for bait. I heard the cuckoo and the landrail or corn-crake for the first time this year on the 1st of this month.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yare (Norwich).

Since my last report, affairs respecting angling have taken quite a turn. The wind and the weather generally have been extremely favourable, in fact, almost all that an angler could wish for. Numerous reports of good takes have come to hand almost every day, and in some respects the samples shown have been exceedingly fine. The East Anglian Club had a scratch match, at Coldham Hall, on Thursday, April 28. Ten members entered for it, the entire number showing up. The day was gloriously fine, and the fish were well on the feed. The entire catch of the ten members weighed 5 stone, and would probably have very much exceeded that had they not been disturbed by one of the largest sea-going tugs towing some vessels to Yarmouth. These craft do a deal of harm,

not only in spoiling the sport of the anglers, but also the amount of surf they make with the paddle-wheels washes away the banks of the river to a great extent. The names of the competitors who obtained prizes are as follows:—First, Mr. Geo. Hart, 16 lb. 8 oz.; second, Mr. Geo. Cubitt, 13 lb. 8 oz.; third, Mr. A. Palmer, 9 lb. 8 oz.; fourth, Mr. Geo. Webb, 7 lb. 4 oz.; fifth, Mr. R. Palmer, 6 lb. 8 oz.; sixth, Mr. W. Hick, 6 lb. 2 oz. The majority of the fish taken were roach, the rest being a species of hybrids, varying in weight from 4 oz. to 15 oz. each. I wish just to add that W. Miles, Esq., of Birmingham, who is a member of the Bordsley Waltonians, and who was on a visit to the Fisheries Exhibition, accompanied the members on their outing, and fished with them during the entire day. He likewise informed me that a more beautiful take he had very rarely, if ever, witnessed. G. C. Davies, Esq., of the Yare Preservation Society, was also present at the weighing-in, and expressed himself delighted with the show of fish. He also said this was truly a "Norfolk scene," the picturesqueness of the spot adding much to the effect. I am pleased to be able to report this week that Mr. Alfred Palmer, secretary to the club, obtained a "diploma of honour" for his exhibit of two live broad-nosed eels at the Fisheries Exhibition.—**ANGLER.**

P.S.—I had quite forgotten to say the fish taken in the match were exhibited in the Fisheries Exhibition on Friday, and were very much admired.

Yore (Yorkshire).

A great number of anglers have been out during the past week, but none of their baskets have been very heavy; the blue dun has been the favourite fly, and the march brown has also been accountable for a few fish. I have also been informed that a brace or two of trout have been taken with the creeper, but it is not well on the water yet. This wind still keeps in a cold quarter for the time of the year, and the river has run down to almost its summer level.—**FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.**

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

LOCH TAY.—On the Kenmore reserved water Mr. Gow, the Earl of Braedallbane's keeper, killed, on Thursday, a salmon weighing 25 lb.

THE TAY.—On the Strath Tay waters heavy baskets of trout were got last week with fly, a number of the trout weighing over 2 lb. each, the favourite lure being a dirty-yellow bodied, woodcock winged, and red hackled fly. The salmon lies are still very unproductive, as the river is running too low. On the Pitnacree Pool, Mr. Hugh Mackenzie, Maskellyn House, Aberfeldy, killed on Friday a lively fish weighing 14 lb.

LOCHLEVEN.—Some very fine sport was got on Lochleven on Saturday. The weather was cloudy, with a fine steady easterly wind and rain in the afternoon. The following were the reports from the boats engaged:—Mr. Miller, Edinburgh, seven trout, 8 lb.; Mr. Rhind, Edinburgh, seventeen trout, 13½ lb.; Mr. Gibson, Glasgow, six trout, 7 lb.; Mr. Usher, Edinburgh, eighteen trout, 14 lb.; Mr. Currie, Edinburgh, twenty trout, 13 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. D. W. Scott, Duddingstone, fourteen trout, 13½ lb.; Mr. Tod, twelve trout, 10 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Wilson, Moffatt, ten trout, 8 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Knox, Cambas, nine trout, 7 lb.; Mr. Gordon, seventeen trout, 15 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Dickson, Glasgow, thirteen trout, 14 lb.; Dr. Winchester and Mr. Cornillon, eighteen trout, 19½ lb. Splendid sport was got by Mr. Townsend, of Glasgow, who brought in the best basket of the season—forty-six trout, weighing 43 lb.; Mr. Wood, Leith, had twenty-six trout 23 lb. and Mr. Wallace and Mr. Anld, Glasgow, twenty-four trout, 24 lb.

THE TWEED—KELSO.—During the past week salmon anglers have not had any sport on the Teed, but a few trout anglers have been fairly successful on some casts. In the Kelso district, the baskets have been exceedingly small, but in the neighbourhood of St. Boswells better sport has been obtained. On Wednesday, a large number of anglers were out, and on Maxton water, James Blake, Kelso, killed nine trout, which weighed about 14½ lb.; and John Rule, Kelso, had about 8 lb. In the Bemersyde water, on the same day, Mr. George Turnbull had 10 lb.; Mr. John Steel, 8½ lb.; and Mr. J. Allan had also a fair basket. On Saturday several dead and dying salmon affected with the fungus disease were observed at different parts of both Tweed and Teviot. Yesterday the Tweed and its tributaries were slightly affected by the heavy rains of Saturday night and yesterday, and should the streams continue to increase in volume, good sport may be looked for.

THE BLACKADDER.—Fishing at this fine trouting stream opened on April 1st, and it has during the month been practised by those who like the sport. The takes have, however, been very poor, as the water is now so small, and the weather has been bitterly cold. The spring competition of the Greenlaw Fishing Club took place on Saturday, and the following were among the highest weights, which, it may be mentioned, were the lowest ever given in the history of the club:—1, Mr. Leitch, 4 lb. 8½ oz.; 2, G. Renton, 3 lb. 2½ oz.; 3, J. Moscret, 2 lb. 3 oz.; 4, J. Foster, 2 lb. ½ oz.—*Scotsman*.

BAKED BREAM.—The Devonshire people have an excellent mode of rendering sea bream a tasty dish. Take a couple of good-sized fish, scale and clean; then stuff the bream full of veal stuffing; place in the dish some milk, with certain pats of butter laid upon the fish; then put a thin crust of paste round the sides only of the baking platter or dish, and clap into the oven. I know of no way to equal this. Some persons place a few potatoes in the dish among the milk.—**SPOTS.**

A "MIXED" PERFUME.—Some years before the Messrs. Suttons', of Reading, had achieved cosmopolitan renown, it was customary to place, in summer time, a lot of beautiful flowers, "all a-growin', all a-blowin'," in front of their shop in the Market-place. But the perfume got rather "mixed" when the Cocks's were a-brewing their sauce, if a south-easterly wind happened to be "blowin'" too! Now, I don't know anything about the successors of the John and Charles Cocks of five-and-thirty years ago, but if either of those gentlemen had been now alive, we should certainly hear of but one sauce from Reading, and that one would be "Cocks'".—**AULD LANG SYNE.**

SPORT AT LAKE CONON, ALGLESEY, DURING THE PAST WEEK.—On April 26th, Mr. Jones, Holyhead, had three trout weighing 2½ lb.; Mr. Owens, nine; Canon Jones, seven; Mr. Edwards, nine. On the 27th Mr. Edwards, Holyhead, and friend, took twelve (some very fine trout); Canon Jones, nine (he lost a three-pounder while spinning); Mr. W. Hughes, four (weighing 2½ lb.); Mr. Owens, four. On the 29th Mr. W. Hughes, while fishing from the shore, took fifteen, weighing about 4 lb. They were all taken with either a minnow or fly. The weather was everything that could be desired, and after this rain much better sport is anticipated.—**M. H.**

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE present week, which is the last of the exhibition, has been almost entirely devoted to the "popular" element. The price of admission has been sixpence, and a large number of special fishermen's and workmen's tickets have also been issued. The results must have more than realised the expectations of the committee. The attendances in the daytime have been very large, while in the evening the exhibition has been fairly thronged with visitors from all parts of the county and district. The Great Eastern Railway Company, with their usual enterprise, issued direct tickets to the exhibition from London, Lowestoft, Yarmouth and other places, and the public have been quick to avail themselves of the advantages offered. It may be mentioned that on Monday nearly 4000 persons obtained admission, while on the following day between 2000 and 3000 excursionists arrived from Yarmouth and Lowestoft and Cromer—the great fishing districts of the county of Norfolk. Meanwhile preparations have been made for bringing the affair to a fitting conclusion on Saturday next. The Duke of Edinburgh has been unable to accept the invitation of the President to distribute the prizes and awards, but he has, through Colonel Colville, written a letter expressing his deep interest in the objects of the exhibition. In his absence Earl Ducie, the Chairman of the Commissioners, will preside at the ceremony, which will take place at twelve o'clock, the prices of admission being half-a-crown. The Sheriff of Norwich will then entertain the committee and a select company at luncheon, and by the close of the day the Fisheries Exhibition of 1881 will be a thing of the past. No word of ours is needed to emphasise the complete success of the affair. The committee have already been overwhelmed with thanks and congratulations, and the triumph they have achieved is a guarantee that the exhibition will not be the last of its kind. The angling and fishing interests have been substantially benefitted and encouraged, the progress of science and invention has been abundantly illustrated, and the inhabitants of the eastern counties have been provided during the past three weeks with a very pleasant form of entertainment. Nothing more can well be said, and nothing like as much can have been expected by the promoters of the undertaking.

We have promised to give our readers some account of the departments associated with the marine fisheries, and illustrating the social condition of the fisherman. As they are subjects not strictly on the line of the *FISHING GAZETTE*, a brief and compendious sketch will be all that is necessary. First of all, however, a few general features may be noted as possessing a passing interest. It may be mentioned that Mr. Moreley brought the series of scientific lectures to a conclusion with an additional account of deep-sea dredging. Mr. Moreley acted as naturalist to the *Challenger* in her recent expedition, and was able to illustrate his lecture by a series of excellent designs. He described some of the luminous fish and polyps which had been brought up in the nets. One of these was the representative of the angler fish—the skull of which is to be found in the exhibition—and which possessed a phosphorescent lure for attracting its prey. It is worth noting that among the recent additions to the exhibition has been a splendid specimen of the Swiss lake trout, weighing about 6 lb., which has just been captured at Trowse Mills, near Norwich, and proves to be one of the original stock placed in the river by Mr. Colman, M.P. Its present *habitat* is in one of the Marquis of Exeter's tanks, where it has for companions two specimens of *salmo ferox* and *salmo fario*. In addition to the fishing and shooting boats mentioned last week, we may refer to the exhibit of the Berthon Boat Company, who show a handy portable boat, fitted with air-tight compartments and exceedingly roomy; Messrs. Cording's portable boats; and the quaint coracle in use on Welsh rivers—a survival from very

ancient times. Mr. Loynes' model of a fishing boat, to be employed in excursions on the broads, is a very ingenious affair, being fitted with a tarpaulin and supplied with bedding, cooking apparatus, &c. Mr. Loynes fixes the price at £18, an extremely moderate demand. Messrs. Downes, of Norwich, have obtained a bronze medal for anglers' outfits, which are shown on fully dressed figures, their specialty being the "Norfolk Fishing Suit." We come now to the classes referred to above. Among the most scientific, if not the most interesting of the exhibits, is the invention entitled, "Knott's Patent Refrigerating Car," for preserving fish during long journeys by rail or otherwise. It is such a marvellous example of skilful adaptation as really deserves a notice to itself. Mr. Knott has observed the deterioration which fish undergo by freezing, and he has therefore patented a process by which a constant stream of pure cold air is secured without unduly lowering the temperature. Mr. Knott has adapted his invention for use on trawlers, &c., and he trusts to be able to introduce it thoroughly to the public. He has been awarded the £20 prize given for the best refrigerating van, and has received further recognition from the jurors. The Lifeboat Section, which may next be taken, is a very full and attractive one, especially to the local public and the dwellers on the eastern coast. The first exhibit which claims our notice is that of the National Lifeboat Institution, which, in the space outside the Exhibition, shows a specimen of its celebrated self-righting boat, with gear and fittings complete. It also exhibits models of the same class of vessels—including the two exquisite designs mentioned last week—the models of an improved fishing-boat with covered deck, for use on the Scotch coast; models of various styles of boathouses; a wreck chart of the United Kingdom, for use for showing the lighthouses and the precise spots where wrecks have occurred, and other objects of interest. It is altogether a grand exhibition, and testifies to the splendid work in which the Institution is engaged. A model of the Yarmouth lifeboat—which is not self-righting, but has, nevertheless, done good service—is also shown, and also a design for a new lifeboat possessing great power of self-righting, by W. Hayward, of Norwich, for which he has received a diploma. Next in importance comes the Trinity House collection, which consists of models of the old Eddystone and the Wolf Rock Lighthouses, a fine model of a lighter off the Goodwin Sands, and designs showing the various lights, signals, buoys, &c., employed in warning the mariner of the dangers that beset him, and guiding him safely to port. Life-saving apparatus in great variety, including rockets, storm signals, &c., is also shown; but we have no space to note the heavy features associated with this part of the exhibition. We pass now to the grand display of objects specially connected with our marine fisheries, including models of trawlers, trawling apparatus, drift nets, &c., although here again a brief summary will be all that our space and the interests of our readers will permit. The grand feature is, no doubt, the magnificent collection of models of trawlers, many of which are unequalled for finish and delicacy of workmanship. An invention, however, which claims a word of special notice, is the improved trawling apparatus, shown by Mr. J. W. De Caux, of Yarmouth, which has obtained (in addition to the prize at the Berlin Exhibition) an award of £100 and a diploma. The special advantages of this apparatus have been estimated by Mr. De Caux as follow:—1. It goes upon wheels which roll over, and are not dragged through, the ground. 2. The trawl-beam can be carried at any height from the ground, and it is fixed to, or unfixed from, the wheels, without difficulty or danger. 3. The ground-rope is fitted with rollers, to facilitate its progress over the ground. 4. Inside the net a smaller net is fixed so as to form a funnel to prevent the escape of fish. 5. The cod end of the net is made so that when fishing the meshes are kept

widely open "to allow immature fish and refuse to escape therefrom." 6. At pleasure the net can be disconnected from the trawl-beam at the bottom of the sea, and can be shut up and brought to the surface separately from the trawl-beam. 7. Rollers are placed between the stanchions of the vessel for the bridles and trawl-rope to work over. 8. This apparatus works more easily and more readily than any other trawling gear. 9. In calm weather it fishes when vessels fitted with the ordinary trawling gear are virtually at anchor. 10. In breezy weather only about half the ordinary quantity of canvas is required, and the crew of the vessel, therefore, is saved great trouble and risk. 11. It saves nearly half the ordinary wear and tear of canvas and rope. Coming to the models we are at once attracted by the splendid and costly specimen of a trawler with several improvements exhibited by the Castle Steel and Iron Works Company, Milford Haven, which has been awarded a silver medal, and would doubtless have carried away the palm from every other exhibit had it not been of somewhat too luxurious a character. Mr. W. Jarvis, of Anstruther, has been awarded the special £50 prize offered by Scotch members and others for the best model of a steam fishing-vessel for the North-east coast or long-line fishery. A very complete and handsome specimen of a trawler with her nets, rigging, gear, &c., elaborately shown, is to be accredited to Messrs. Sims and H. Tooze, of the Hull and Grimsby Fishing Vessels Insurance Society. This has been awarded a £10 prize and a bronze medal. Mr. Jeckells, of Lowestoft, has two interesting exhibits, one showing a trawler taking in her nets, and the other being a representation of the formidable "devil" itself, attached to a Dutch trawler and placed so as to sever the nets of an English vessel that is going hard by. We forbear to make the usual reference to this exhibit. Mr. Burwood, of Lowestoft, has a handsome glass case, including models of two Lowestoft trawlers at work on the open sea, their nets, &c., being clearly shown in the water beneath. This ingenious piece of mechanism was much admired by the Royal party, and the exhibitor has been awarded a silver medal. This class also includes models of Deal lugger, gentlemen's pleasure and fishing boats, which we have already noticed, and other minor features, having an interest of their own. There is another department of the exhibition devoted to fish products, &c., in which the far-famed Yarmouth bloater plays a conspicuous part. Models of fishermen's cottages (for which the Secretary, W. Oldham Chambers, Esq., takes a prize) and models of fish-curing establishments have also a position among the exhibits, although they scarcely come within the range of the FISHING GAZETTE. One special feature we find ourselves once more unable to notice, and that is the essays, for which some very handsome prizes are offered.

The awards of the judges have not yet been given in, and will probably not be declared till Saturday. We must therefore reserve them for a brief final notice. The supplementing awards, which were not given in last week's issue are as follows:—

GOLD MEDAL.

Barnard, Bishop, and Barnards, and diploma for Oyster Culture Pond

SILVER MEDALS.

Byram Littlewood, Huddersfield; Elijah Farrow, Lower Sherringham, for Model of Lugger and Lifeboat, cut out with a knife.

G. Read, Deal, for system of Signalling.

W. B. Hovell, Norwich.

R. B. Marston, proprietor of FISHING GAZETTE, for Fish Baits, &c.

F. T. Moore, Liverpool, for "Angler" Fish Head.

BRONZE MEDALS.

David Houghton, Norwich, for 14 lb. Carp.

John Loynes, Norwich, for Fishing Boat for the Broads, &c.

DIPLOMAS OF HONOUR.

Mr. Silk, Pisciculturist to the Marquis of Exeter.

W. Blakey, Norwich, for Foster and Greenhill's Fire Extinguisher.

A. H. Palmer, for Broad-nosed Eel.

R. R. B. Norman, Yarmouth, for 4 lb. Perch.

J. B. Pearce, Norwich, for Barbel.

Edward Nichols, Norwich, for Roach's Teeth.

J. B. Petre, Esq., Westwick-house.

T. R. Sachs, for Stuffed Fish.

Waveney and Oulton Fisheries Protection Society, ditto.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

IS SNARING PIKE ILLEGAL?

SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly give me some information on the above subject, as I witnessed a case last Thursday at Brundall, near Norwich, where a man was hunting the dykes and outlets the whole of the day armed with a formidable-looking weapon 'yclept a snare, which, upon close inspection, I found to be a sort of hurdle-stake with a copper-wire noose attached at the end. Thinking I should do some good, I remonstrated with him, but was quickly told to mind my own business, and informed that the fish were as much his property as they were mine—he evidently mistaking my object, thinking, no doubt, as I had a rod and line in my hand, that I wanted to have the sport to all my own way.

Upon inquiring in the village, I was informed that it was the custom to get the fish in this way, more especially at this time of the year, when they take the opportunity of getting up these dykes to deposit their spawn. I, therefore, hope to hear that it is only the "custom" of these "clodhoppers" to destroy fish in this way, and not to be classed amongst the sport of your genuine angler. Apologising for thus troubling you,—I am, &c.,

A TRUE DISCIPLE OF IZAAK WALTON.

FISHING AT FARNINGHAM.

SIR,—In your issue of to-day "An Old Subscriber" relates how he grassed two brace of trout at Farningham at Easter, "the largest about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb." On the fishing tickets it is expressly stated that no trout under $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is to be taken, and it does not seem to me to be just to those who comply strictly with this regulation if others do not, as I am quite sure is often the case. It seems to me that it would be much better to make the limit $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and if anyone is seen with a fish of smaller size that he should not be permitted again to fish in the water, and that to enforce this the basket should sometimes be examined, as on the Exe and other rivers. The "Old Subscriber" also states that on a subsequent day he took 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ brace, "three only of which were of an eatable size." As a trout of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. is a nice fish for the table the "Old Subscriber" must have taken something very small, and it is much to be hoped that he returned his captures to their native element.—I am, &c.,

April 30.

A WANDEERING ANGLER.

FISHING AT USK.

SIR,—Noticing "J. E. B.'s" letter, it was only last year that I was fishing in the streams in Monmouthshire. I was stopping at Usk. The first night I took a shilling license, which gave me permission to fish the streams. I started at about 6 o'clock p.m. (this was about the end of May). I caught nothing till I got to a sort of "mill pond" (I mean the water was broad and quite still), where the fish were rising all over it. This was about 7 o'clock. I got several rises, but caught nothing, till, about 8 o'clock, when it was getting dusk, I put on a large bright coloured fly, and from that time till dark I kept catching fish. The trout all run small in the streams (or brooks as they are called). I went the next day about 2 o'clock, expecting to catch another basket full, but to my disappointment and surprise I found there wasn't a fish moving. So I went on up the stream to the running water, where I caught several. About the same time as the previous night I came back to the pool and found they had just begun to rise, first one then another, till it was nothing but splashes. I caught several, but found they rose very badly as far as hooking them went.—I am, &c.,

FISHING IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—There is nothing of note in the neighbourhood of Harlington, Flitwick and Ampthill, in Beds. What fishing there is consists of a few ponds in private occupation, the best of which, at Tingrith and Woburn, would require some influence to fish. The nearest river is the Tod, which runs by Clophill and Shefford. The local proprietors will give occasional permits.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS FORD.

FISHING NEAR RIPON.]

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, "May Fly's" inquiry in last Saturday's FISHING GAZETTE, on the above subject, I beg to inform him that the fishing at Tanfield is in the hands of the landlord of the Bruce Arms, who

grants permission to fish to anglers staying at his house. I am afraid, however, that "May Fly" would be disappointed with the trout fishing here, as grayling predominate, and in my opinion have seriously affected it. Hawes is a good station on the Yore for trout fishing, so also is Lower Bridge. There is a club established at the former place, weekly tickets issued to strangers on payment of 10s. Should "May Fly" require any further information on the subject I shall be most happy to furnish it on receipt of a private letter, which may be sent to me through the Editor of this paper,—I am, &c.,

FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

PRIVATE PIKE FISHING—THE BAIT QUESTION—AND RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

SIR,—In my letter on the above, which appeared in last issue of your valuable paper, the words "professional trout catchers" should have read bait catchers; and the words "trailing, live-baiting, &c."—why don't they tell the truth? liggering," should have been printed trailing, live-baiting, and—why don't they tell the truth?—liggering. In haste.—Yours, &c.,

153, Regent Street, W., May 2, 1881.

LEO BONVOISIN.

GENERIC CHARACTER OF AMERICAN FISH.

SIR,—Would some brother reader oblige by giving the generic character and order of the following fish:—Blue fish, weak fish, puff fish, cow fish, sailor's choice, groupers, mangrove snappers, jew fish, gar-pike, spade fish, catfish, toad fish, frog fish, and sheepheads. They are frequently in American journals, and also as being for sale in the American fish markets. I have looked through "Chambers' Encyclo." and also "Nicholson's," but cannot find any fish bearing the above names. By giving the above information will much oblige a number of friends and subscribers and also

PIXIE.

May 4.

A GRAYLING QUERY.

SIR,—In your issue of April 23rd, an article by "Blue Dun" is published in which the following sentence appears:—"The next two fish I captured were grayling, which I returned to the stream, although I might have lawfully retained them." I should be glad if "Blue Dun" will explain how he could have lawfully retained them.—I am, &c.,

G. S.

Leeds, May 2.

PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR,—In your issue of 15th January, Mr. Johnson, general secretary to the Amalgamated Society of Manchester and District, threw out a suggestion that all the London and Provincial societies should test the feelings of their members, in view of a general application to the various railway companies for an extension of the time allowed, now limited to three days (inclusive), which, as far as Northern anglers are concerned, is of little practical use; for, if they desire to go any distance, the time spent on the journey absorbs fully one-third of the time, so that, where they can so arrange it, they find it more convenient to go by the ordinary trip trains which run at certain seasons, where the time for return allowed is either six or twenty-nine days. And it was to do away with this inconsistency that Mr. Johnson's letter was sent, to endeavour, by the aid of the Southern and Midland societies, to obtain for all, that which the Amalgamated Society alone had failed to obtain.

At the quarterly meeting, on 9th April last, it was a surprise to many delegates to learn that no reply had been received, and I must say that this has been increased on reading that the Central Association of London has taken isolated action to obtain a concession on a particular line to a given district, which, by a general application, might have universally applied to all the different lines and fishing districts.

Mr. Bonvoisin has issued his protest; but he is consistent, for his chief contention is against angling during the close season, and incidentally against the distance and rate; but, whilst sympathising with him to a certain extent on the first, it is a subject for fair discussion as to the injury done by legitimate angling, and not so much my object just now as the extension of time. And now action has been taken by the Central Association, I trust other associations and societies will take the matter up, but act on the suggestion of either Mr. Hoole or of the Bolton anglers. The latter advise a general petition to the different railway companies to grant an extension of time to all fishing stations (over thirty or forty miles) on their lines. This, if done through any given centre, will have a greater prospect of success than by the isolated application of a single association, however powerful it may be.

Mr. Bonvoisin refers to the distance and time occupied in travelling, but we northerners, who fish the Vonnew, are much worse off than our southern brethren, for if we desire to spend the week end at the river side, and leave Manchester at noon, generally reach our destination from 8.10 to 8.50, taking from seven to eight hours on a journey of about eighty miles. Owing to the religious scruples of the Welsh people, some do not fish on Sunday, or, if they do, surreptitiously; and on Monday we have to leave at 2 o'clock, and may reach Manchester again at 7.40 or 9.45, according to the route we favour. Thus we get a day and a half, or half a day, according to the scruples of the angler.

We have no fault to find with the rates charged, as they are very liberal; and if the railway companies could be induced to grant the extension, it would cause numbers to go a distance, where they are now content to try nearer home.

The companies complain that persons professing to be anglers have taken advantage and made business the chief business of their journey; but it they would take the name and number of his travelling card, the society of which he was a member would be bound to take action, and not only prosecute but also expel him. It is the old story—all the flock are ruined by one black sheep.

Trusting to see the subject fully discussed.—I am, &c.

W. R. R.

Manchester, May 3.

CONCESSIONS TO ANGLERS (?).

SIR,—In your issue of the 30th ult., Mr. T. Hoole tells your readers he "is given to understand that we have to thank Mr. W. H. Brougham as being the means of gaining the concessions for us to Yarmouth and Lowestoft."

I take it there is some egregious mistake here, as I hold a time-table of the Great Eastern Railway, just issued, which concedes to the public in general, and not to anglers in particular, the special reduction of fares quoted by Mr.

Hoole as accredited only to the angling fraternity. To Mr. Birt, the present manager of the line, we owe this, and to no other.—I am, Sir, &c.,

A CADGER.

A LARGE LEA TROUT.

SIR,—While fishing last Monday, the 2nd inst., at Dobbs' Weir (Fish and Eels) I had the good fortune to capture a fine trout, weighing 4 lb. 2 oz.—I am, Sir, &c.

H. BROOKWELL.

CLUB REPORTS.

THE BERESFORD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members and friends of this society sat down to their annual dinner for the season of 1880-81 at their club-house, the Grove House Tavern, Camberwell Grove, on Wednesday, 27th April. The worthy host of the Grove House Tavern, Mr. Searle, provided a capital repast; and, by his personal endeavours, made everything pass off in a most comfortable and pleasant manner. There can be no doubt about the fact that this annual dinner of the "Beresfords" was a great success. About 40 members and friends were present during the evening. W. H. Beckett, Esq., the vice-chairman of the West Central Association, was invited to take the chair, and he filled that position admirably. The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. G. D. Whitaker, the respected chairman of the Beresford Angling Society. The toast list was a short one, and, on the cloth being cleared, Mr. Beckett rose to propose, "Success to the Beresford Angling Society," and said he need not assure the company present that he was glad to find himself with them again, for amongst the company were several old friends. It was the second occasion on which he had occupied the position he did as their chairman that evening. Reviewing the position of the Beresford Angling Society, he said that the society had flourished from the hour of its birth. It was not now a large society, but he had watched its progress, and he attributed its success to the good feeling which seemed to exist between the members. He could say that he had never met a more gentlemanly class of men than the members of this society were. The Beresford was, in fact, a model club, and so he had always spoken of it to many who were strangers to the company present. No doubt, the position of the society was due in a great measure to the able management of Mr. Whitaker, and to the untiring endeavours of their hard-working secretary, Mr. Poulton.—Mr. Beckett then referred to the sport of the past season, which he said had been a very bad one, in fact he hardly called it a season at all, and although the gross weight of this society for the season had been about 100 lb. less than the previous year, yet he considered their doings would compare favourably with that stronger clubs. From the statement laid before him he said it appeared that Mr. Sames, with 100 lb. 2 oz., had won the first club prize for the heaviest gross weight of all fish, Mr. Plummer the second, and Mr. Whitaker the third. Mr. Sames had also won two other season prizes for the heaviest chub over 1 lb. and for the greatest weight of jack respectively; he had also won a tankard for his take of fish on the last day of the season. Mr. Whitaker had also won two other prizes, and Messrs. Wilkes, Baylis, Wright and Frie were the other prize winners. Mr. Beckett concluded his remarks by proposing "Success to the Beresford Angling Society," and the toast was enthusiastically responded to by the members and friends present. Mr. Whitaker replied to the toast, and after referring to his experience of thirty years as an angler, said he had always endeavoured to promote the interests of this society in a proper manner. He thanked Mr. Beckett for his kind remarks, and he also thanked the members for enabling him to get the society into such a position, it was only by the goodwill and unanimity of the members that it had become what it was. He said that the Beresford was a little sociable, quiet club, and so he trusted it would remain; but if anyone would join them with the same sentiments they would welcome him. Unanimity was the great thing in an angling society, they relied principally on that, and their endeavours were most ably assisted by their hardworking secretary, Mr. Poulton, in whom, as a secretary, Mr. Whitaker said he never knew a better, and he was sure he was only stating the feelings of the members in saying so. Mr. Poulton very briefly acknowledged the kind remarks of Mr. Whitaker, and assured the members that it always afforded him much pleasure to be of service to them. At a later period of the evening Mr. Poulton's health was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Whitaker, rising again, said, "Gentlemen, fill your glasses. I have a little toast to propose, although not a little one in another sense; for I ask you to drink the health of one of the best and most energetic working anglers in London. I am sure I am only doing Mr. Beckett, our Chairman here this evening, justice in saying so, for he is on almost every committee which has for its object anything to benefit us anglers. He is treasurer of this, and chairman or committeeman of that. His position as vice-chairman of the West Central Association, and on the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, is enough to recommend him to our notice, were it not that we know full well his many good qualities. I repeat, gentlemen, that in Mr. Beckett we have one of the most genuine and hard-working anglers in London; and a more appropriate chairman at a meeting like this we could not have had. Gentlemen, I ask you to drink Mr. Beckett's health, and I will couple with that toast 'Success to the West Central Association.'" It is needless to say that this speech was heartily applauded, and Mr. Beckett's health was drunk with musical honours, and in such a way as could leave him little room to doubt the sincerity of the respect shown him. Mr. Beckett responded, and thanked the company sincerely and seriously for the manner in which they had drunk his health. There was one thing, he continued, to which he could lay claim, and that was that he had always done his best for angling generally. He had had to work hard, but he did not mind that, if he was to do anything in a good cause, and he asked the support of all present for the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the interest of which Mr. Beckett has very much at heart. He referred at length to the good work this Benevolent Society had done, and would if funds would allow. He said that the names of the recipients of the bounty of this society were not published, for that here charity was to do good without parading the particular person benefited before the public. Mr. Beckett said he considered the course the committee adopted in that respect was the proper one, but if any person wished to be satisfied as to what good had been done by the Benevolent Society, let that person apply to him, and he would give particulars of many cases in which the society had been of the greatest service. Mr. Beckett explained that certain privileges recently granted on the Midland Railway were available to all societies connected with the three associations, and not to those connected with one in particular. In proposing the health of the Vice-Chairman (Mr. Whitaker) Mr. Beckett said the toast

required very few words from him to commend it, for that all who knew Mr. Whitaker, either as a man or as an angler, the subject carried its own recommendation. Mr. Whitaker's health was drunk with musical honours. The toast of the Visitors was coupled with the name of Mr. Morris, the host of the headquarters of the South London Angling Society, from which society the Beresford was an offshoot, in consequence of a split in the camp some years ago; but Mr. Baylis, a worthy member of the Beresfords and an old member of the South London, as also were Messrs. Whitaker, Poulton and Plummer, showed that there was no illfeeling between the two societies, for in proposing a toast, "Success to the South London Angling Society," Mr. Baylis referred to the old club in a kindly manner, and he was glad to see that some of their old friends in the South London were present that evening. Mr. Baylis also referred to the respect he and the other old members always entertained for Mr. Morris, and was glad to welcome him to the Beresford. A gentleman from the Minim Glee Society very kindly attended and entertained the company with the piano. After some capital harmony from Mr. Tozer, Mr. Daughters, Mr. Cox, Mr. Leveridge, Mr. Priestnal, and others, the company separated at a late hour; but if the special license had allowed Mr. Serle to consult the wished of the company, he would not have seen the last of them much before daylight appeared. Mr. Serle's health, by the way, was drunk most cordially and with musical honours.

May 5.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening last the members of the above club sat down to their annual dinner at the club-house, the Lord Ranelagh. The chair was taken by Mr. E. Withers, who was faced by Mr. John Innes. In spite of the absence of several members there was a very fair muster, the actual number sitting down to dinner being thirty. In addition to the dinner placed upon the table by the host, Mr. Innes generously forwarded a splendid salmon weighing about 18 lb., a dish of luscious trout, and a consignment of eels and lobsters for the delectation of members on this occasion, who showed a keen appreciation of the favour done by giving to the fish a *quid pro quo* in the form of a "bite" for a "bite." After the removal of the cloth the number of the company was augmented by the advent of several members who were unable to reach the club in time to sit down to dinner. All glasses being charged, and the "fragrant weed" having been ignited by the devotees of St. Nicotine, the chairman proceeded (after a few prefatory and appropriate remarks) to distribute the numerous prizes to the successful competitors, who proved to be Messrs. Innes, Valentine, Smith, Blunden, Wakeford, Sutters, and Maslin. The vice-chairman then congratulated the chairman upon his success, and proceeded to present him with the numerous prizes won by him during the season. The chairman then in a few well chosen words proposed the health of the vice-chairman, Mr. Innes, and tendered on behalf of the members his thanks for the kindness displayed by him in "weighing-in" such splendid fish for their mutual enjoyment. The toast having been cordially drunk, accompanied by musical honours, Mr. Innes responded. The chairman then proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Clapham Junction Angling Society." In the course of his remarks he made some peculiarly happy allusions to the healthful and enjoyable hours to be derived from making fishing their pastime. He also took a cursory and retrospective glance at the past and present position of the club, and said that there could be no doubt that there was already a nucleus of a first-rate club, and if members would individually make self-help their motto, the club would very speedily be the first and best in the vicinity. The toast was received with considerable acclamation and was heartily drunk. The health of the visitors was then proposed by the chairman, coupled with the name of Mr. George Rosewell, of Shepperton, who briefly responded. Following this, a selection of songs, interspersed with recitations, were given by various members of the company, and no little part of the success of the evening was due to Mr. Shepherd's capital rendering of one of Beethoven's symphonies on the "zither," which was deservedly encored; and last, though by no means least, mention must be made of the great pleasure experienced by the company in listening to the really marvellous performance on the violin by Master Townshend, aged five years. This little fellow is a perfect prodigy of musical precocity, and the way in which he played a selection from "Il Trovatore" was really wonderful, his bowing being excellent, and the precision and verve with which he played a few rather florid passages provoked a genuine storm of applause. There is little doubt that this little fellow will be very favourably heard of before long. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion by Mr. Valentine proposing the health of the Chairman and thanking him for the admirable manner in which he had fulfilled his duties. The chairman briefly responded, and the company separated after chanting "Auld lang Syne."

THE DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society held their annual dinner last Tuesday, May 3rd, when a great number of members sat down to a most enjoyable banquet, served in good style by the host, Mr. Hepburn. The secretary stated that the society was in a most satisfactory state, and the number of members steadily increasing. Mr. Ghurney, of the East Central Committee, in reply to the usual toast, said he was very pleased to see the society in such a flourishing condition. The evening was finished with excellent harmony by Messrs. Anderson, Midson, Malby, Legge, Claydon, Kidd and others.—S. MALBY, sen.

May 5.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIALS.

The usual monthly meeting took place at the club house, the Great Eastern Wine Vaults, on Tuesday evening last. Mr. W. G. Capon occupied the chair, Mr. C. S. Fowler the vice. There was a very large number of members present, the business being to arrange for the first match of the season, and also to elect a secretary in the place of Mr. Nockolds, resigned. After some discussion, Mr. A. Palmer was duly proposed as secretary for the coming season, and elected unanimously. It was then proposed to inform Mr. Nockolds of the proceedings, also asking him to hand in the books, and to show a statement of accounts for the past year. A scratch match was then arranged by a few members, a full report of which is given elsewhere. The remainder of the evening was then devoted to toasts and sentiments, foremost among them being "Success to the National Fisheries Exhibition."—ANGLER.

P.S.—The Rev. W. B. Matthews honoured the club with his presence during the evening.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING CLUB.

The return visit to the Hampstead Angling Club took place at the club-house, Cock and Crown, High Street, and was a great success. Upon the roll

being called at 11 p.m., the following clubs were present: Bostonians, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Cornwall, Marylebone, North Western, Prince of Wales, Good Intent, City of London, Cavendish, and Hearts of Oak. During the evening some excellent songs were given by Messrs. H. Hamilton, Ekworth, Shackell, Rosser, Maybury, Amo, Leeland, Sargent and others.—T. J. BEDALL, Sec.

THE ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The anniversary dinner of the above society took place on Friday, the 29th of April, at the headquarters, the Albion, Rodney Road, Walworth. About thirty gentlemen sat down to partake of the good things provided (which, like good wine, "requires no bush") for them by Mr. T. Hughes. Mr. George Hockley presided, assisted by Mr. W. Canton. On the removal of the cloth, the proposing of healths and the giving of toasts took place. Success to the "Royal Piscatorials," you may bet your "bottom piece," was not forgotten. Mr. Francis Dale, the secretary, then read the results of the past season's sport, and the names of the gentlemen who had won prizes during the same time. Mr. T. Hughes takes £1 1s. for each of the following fish:—Pike, 22 lb.; roach, 2 lb. 6 oz.; dace, 12 oz.; grayling, 1 lb. 12 oz.. He also takes £9 9s. for the gross weight of fish taken during each of the following months—August, September, October, November and December, 1880; £1 1s. falls to him for the gross taken from February 20 to March 15, 1881; £1 11s. 6d. also comes to him for three other prizes. Mr. G. Hockley comes next. He is entitled to £7 17s. 6d. and a barbel rod, for gross weight taken on August 19, 1880, and second gross from August 16, to September 16, 1880; also for the largest chub. Following close behind him comes that well-known gentleman, Mr. G. Lee, who is knock-off with £6 6s. for the largest pike, and second gross weight taken during September, October, and December. Mr. W. Canton is fair heel and toe with the above-mentioned gentleman, he having £6 6s., a time-piece, and a fishing-coat, to carry; "not much trouble in that," I hear some one say. The next on the list is Mr. H. Smithers, who is started on his way rejoicing with £1 2s., two boxes of cigars, twelve silk handkerchiefs, and a ton of coals. Number six is the well-known W. Randall, who is entitled to three prizes, amounting to the same number of guineas. Last, though not least, comes that persevering gentleman and honorary secretary, Mr. F. J. Dale, who was penalised to carry £11 os. 6d., a hamper of spirits, and a case of champagne. The gross weight of fish taken by members during the season amounted to 930 lb. This brought the proceedings of the last year to a close. Prizes for next season was now the standing order of the evening. Three gentlemen set the ball rolling by giving £5 5s. each; fourteen immediately kept it up by giving £2 2s. each then followed six with £1 1s. each, and six with 10s. 6d. each. Several boxes of cigars and hampers of spirits were thrown in as ground-bait. A gentleman gave twelve silk handkerchiefs as a prize to be given to the member who went out fishing the greatest number of times and caught the lowest weight of fish during the season. The same gentleman will also give a handsome dressing-case to be competed for by the members in a handicap competition. The correspondent of a contemporary who, a short time ago, stated that he had a big commission on two gentlemen that he named, against two gentlemen, members of this society, might be able to invest on this occasion if he tried, I thought, on hearing this prize being given. Time now approached when the best of friends must part, and also brought to a close as glorious an evening's amusement of eating, drinking, laughing, talking, singing, and joking, as anybody would wish to have.—"PIXIE."

SOCIAL BROTHERS' ANGLING CLUB.

On the 27th ultimo, the second annual dinner of the above club, was held at the Prince Regent, Dulwich Road, Herne Hill, Mr. Lockyear being chairman, and having Mr. Underdown as his *vis-a-vis*. The viands supplied by the able hands of Mr. Hyde, of Tulse Hill, were of the most *recherche* description, abundant in quantity, undeniable as to quality, and put on the table in a manner most appetising and enjoyable. The wines and other refreshments were supplied by Mr. Monk, the host and treasurer of the club, and proved worthy of the caterer and the occasion. The floral decorations supplied by Mr. Lambert, and themselves being prizes won by Mr. Monk, graced the well-supplied and elegantly-appointed table, whilst round the room were hung trophies of the piscatorial art, all the result of the energy and successful work of the members of the club. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal toast was given by the chairman, and responded to by the singing of the National Anthem. The chairman then gave, in a few appropriate words, "The Social Brothers' Angling Club," acknowledged by Mr. Goubot, in very feeling and graceful terms, expressing the intense interest that he had already taken, and would ever continue to take in the welfare of the Club, whose remarks we were glad to notice, were received with every sign of approbation by the members.

The President and Vice-President given by Mr. Pavey, was duly responded to by Messrs. Lockyear and Underdown, the former in nice appointed words, and the latter replied, in answer to the earnest wish of all the members. The Chairman then gave "The Committee and Officers," replied to by Mr. Pavey, who, in the course of his speech, sketched the club's successful career and future prospects. We were glad to learn that even though comparatively a young society, yet it has not only been able fully to pay its way, but has a balance in hand, after paying all expenses, that it numbers some twenty to thirty efficient and honorary members, that its prospects in every respect are bright and satisfactory. Having, in a few graceful and well-chosen sentences, paid a tribute to the kindness and liberality of those gentlemen who contributed the prizes to the several competitors, and given a *resume* of the working of the society. Mr. Pavey sat down amidst the enthusiastic plaudits of the assembled company.

Mr. Pavey was followed by Mr. John Flynn, a member of the committee, whose sympathetic and kindly remarks were thoroughly appreciated by all present. The next toast, "The Honorary Members and Visitors" was given by Mr. Monk, who, in the course of his speech, said that the honorary members were the backbone of all clubs, and passed an eulogium on the visitors present who assisted to enhance the pleasure of the proceedings. He also referred to the absent members, Messrs. Lambert and Stewart, the latter of whom should have sung the "Gipsy's Tent," but whose absence he deplored, through that gentleman's indisposition. This toast was responded to by Mr. Brocklehurst, in a characteristic speech. This ended the first part of the programme, which during the toasts had been agreeably interspersed with songs by Messrs. Monk, H. Hancock, Hall, and Underdown. The presentation of the prizes by Mr. Harris, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Nugent, was the next feature, to each recipient this gentleman addressed a few appropriate, kindly, and well-chosen words. The prizes were numerous, and, in many

instances, costly, embracing among their number, vases, cups, a handsome cabinet, a superior suit of clothes, and many others of interest and value. When we say that the amount of fish taken in the season by thirteen members only was nearly a quarter of a ton, and that the prize takers were so numerous, their names being Messrs. Monk, Freeman, Briscoe, Goubot, Valler, Bromhead, Lockyear, Irons, and John Flynn, it will be seen how indefatigable and hard-working the members of the club have proved themselves to be. All the aforesaid gentlemen made suitable replies, in acknowledgment of their prizes. The next toast, "Mr. Harris" proposed by Mr. R. Luff, in very flattering terms, was responded to by Mr. Harris, whose rising was the signal for so spontaneous and hearty an outburst of genuine feeling and applause as cannot but have most highly gratified that very genial and deservedly popular favourite, and whose reply was equal in feeling and warmth to the pleasure with which the toast was given, and the evident gratification with which it was received. The presentation of a special acknowledgment of Mr. Pavey's services, placed in the hands of Mr. Goubot, must not be passed over. For, to the great interest shown in its working, to his unwearied attention to duty and his genial manner, is very largely due to the success of the society. In replying, Mr. Pavey, who evidently was moved by this unexpected mark of the favour and love of the members, sincerely expressed his thanks for the honour conferred on him, and augured a still more successful season in time to come. The next toast, "The Press" given by Mr. H. Hancock, in eloquent terms, was responded to in the absence of one of its regular members by a gentleman well-known to the company present, who, in a few eloquent and glowing sentences, well received and appropriately paid a fitting tribute to the power of the Press. The next toast proposed by Mr. Pavey, was to "Mr. Hyde," to whose care and attention we have already drawn notice, and which was responded to by Mr. Hyde, in fitting terms. The last toast was "The Ladies," given by Mr. Monk, and responded to, in a singularly happy speech, by Mr. Hayward. During the second part of the programme the proceedings were enlivened by songs from Messrs. H. and G. Hancock and R. Luff, Messrs. Monk, John Flynn and Irons, and recitations from Messrs. Brocklehurst and James Flynn. We must not omit to mention the very great pleasure which the clever pianist, Mr. Field, gave, as an admirable accompanist to the songs, and which was pre-eminently shown in his solos, beautifully executed and well received. If a capitally arranged programme, a *recherche* dinner, a good and genial company, and effervescing and contagious good-humour on the part of everybody present, are able in themselves to constitute sufficient enjoyment, and to combine to render an evening, both pleasant and memorable, we are confident that the presence of each one of those elements in that Wednesday's gathering must have ensured the most complete and brilliant success.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society has removed to the Crown Tavern, Mayfield Road, Dalston, where they have a most excellent club room, and where communications may be addressed. A meeting will be held on Thursday evening, May 12, to transact important business. Gentlemen desirous of enrolling themselves as members will please attend on that evening.—THOS. GRETION, secretary.

May 3.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The annual meeting took place on Monday evening, May 2, Mr. S. Morgan in the chair. It was decided that the yearage shall be 1s. as before. The Sociable Brothers Angling Society, held at the Alliance Coffee Tavern, Bethnal Green Road. I herewith enclose the lists of fares and stations on the Midland Railway. The next general return visit of the United London Anglers will be paid to the Hoxton Brothers Angling Society, on Monday next, May 9, at the Jane Shore, High Street, Shoreditch.—R. GHURNEY.

May 3.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Third class return fishing tickets are issued to members on presentation of their card of membership, from Kentish Town, St. Pancras, and Moorgate Street, to the following stations at the fares shown.

	Kentish Town.	St. Pancras.	Moorgate Street.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Elstree..	1 2	1 3	1 6
Radlett ..	1 5	1 7	1 10
St. Albans ..	1 11	2 1	2 3
Harpenden ..	2 5	2 7	2 9
Chiltern Green ..	2 8	2 10	3 1
Leagrave ..	3 3	3 5	3 8
Harlington ..	3 9	3 11	4 1
Flitwick ..	4 1	4 2	4 4
Amptill ..	4 2	4 4	4 7
Bedford ..	5 0	5 0	5 4
Oakley ..	5 4	5 4	5 8
Sharnbrook ..	5 9	5 9	6 1

Available for return on the day of issue or either of the two following days.

The committee having directed me to make an application to the Metropolitan Railway for an earlier train on Sunday mornings, I beg to inform you that the general manager has, in the most generous manner, forwarded me several copies for the distribution amongst the clubs, one of which I have great pleasure in sending herewith for publication, another great privilege to London anglers.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

May 5th, 1881.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

Times of running additional earlier trains on Sundays from the following stations to Paddington:—

Time of departure from each station:—Aldgate, 7.42 a.m.; Bishopsgate, 7.44; Moorgate Street, 7.46; Aldersgate Street, 7.49; Farringdon Street, 7.51; King's Cross, 7.54; Gower Street, 7.58; Portland Road, 8.0; Baker Street, 8.3; Edgware Road, 8.6; Praed Street (arrival), 8.9; Paddington (G.W.) dep., 8.30; Westbourne Park, dep., 8.33; Windsor, arr., 9.50; Taplow, 9.39; Maidenhead, 9.45; Cookham, 9.56; Bourne End, 10.3; Great Marlow, 10.15.

3rd May, 1881.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

A list, with full particulars in reference to the new privilege tickets, has been sent to every society—addressed to club-house—enrolled upon the Association.

Secretaries will greatly oblige by sending it to me filled in with names and addresses of members requiring the tickets for the coming season. If not possible to send full list, send part, and I will, upon application, send a new form.—J. HOOLE, Hon. Sec.
7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W.
May 7, 1881.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

BULL-HEADS BURROWING IN MUD.

"CREEL" says ("Sniggling," in a recent issue), speaking of the burrowing of the mussel,—“Whether this be so or no, it is well known to naturalists that the same effect is produced by the bull-head, who operates in a similar manner.” Confessedly this statement originated with that second Gilbert White, Jesse (author of *Anglers' Rambles*, &c.); and this fact notwithstanding, I am constrained to deny that the bull-head of our fresh-water does burrow in the mud. They will do so under stones, and even into fine gravel mixed with mud, but the very nature of their breathing apparatus precludes their remaining comfortably buried in mud as eels do. By the bye, has “Creel” noticed how incontinently cannibalistic the bull-head is?

HOW EELS ENTER THEIR HIDING-PLACES.

“Creel” seems to doubt that eels enter their holes tail foremost. I can affirm that they usually do so, probably owing to the fact that the tail is furnished with some curiously delicate and complete nerves of perception. The barb at the mouth of an eel seems only rudimentary, and the tail is, therefore, correspondingly more sensitive.

SIR HENRY WOTTEN AND DALRAVIUS.

Sir Henry Wotton, Provost of Eton (whom my readers may remember was a most enthusiastic disciple of Walton), writing to Sir Thomas Wentworth, says—“I did promise you, when we were last merry at Medley's, a piece of rural philosophy—Dalraivius, the book *de piscinis* which I now send you—having borrowed it of Mr. Hall, one of our bursers. . . . One thing may appear strange to you, that a Bohemian gentleman therein named should in one year, gather *duodecies sesterium* out of his ponds, which, resolved into our money, I take to be about £6000 sterling, and that, for aught I conceive, only by carp and pike—so I understand his *cyprinos* and his *lucios*.” Thus the venerable Provost. What a comment this extract is upon the supineness of English water-owners in the matter of coarse fish culture!

FISH-CULTURE IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

It appears that the Queens of Ancient Egypt were the chief fish-culturists of that mighty Empire, inasmuch as that the revenues derived from the fisheries were the exclusive pin-money of these Royal dames. Diodorus gives the total revenue accruing from this source to one Queen as £70,000 per year.

FISH-HATCHING AT CHERTSEY.

I don't quite see why “Consistent” should be so sharp with “B.” over Mr. Forbes' operations. We are all of us rather inclined to make the wish father the thought; and though his report is certainly *colour de rose*, there is much to be said in unqualified praise of Mr. Forbes' example in the matter of Thames trout culture. “B.” does not, if I am not very much mistaken, pretend to know much about the science of fish-breeding, and has only chronicled in a good-humoured, genial way, the apparent results of praiseworthy efforts at Chertsey. If there were any fundamental errors of precise statement, and “B.” were to assume himself an authority on trout-culture, “Consistent” would be quite right in his strictures. As it is, is it not like punching a man who never had any intention to offend? I think so.

I am not very sure that Mr. Forbes' idea as to stocking the extreme head of a river is not capable of exception in *re* Thames trout. We do not, as a matter of fact, find that trout are either very much more numerous nor larger in the highest reaches of the river than in localities such as Shepperton, Chertsey, Laleham, Penton Hook, Staines, Old Windsor and Windsor. I am quite inclined to think, judging from what I have seen of the stay-at-home nature of the trout, that, after the natural upward migration for spawning purposes, the fish invariably drops down again to its old *habitat*. If this be so, Chertsey and its neighbourhood will doubtless be benefited by the turning in of not fry, but good sizeable fish.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

LORD BEACONSFIELD'S LOVE OF FLOWERS.—It is worth mentioning even here that the late Lord Beaconsfield possesses simple but correct tastes. His lordship loved the modest primroses that flowed at Hughenden; and readers of “Lothair” will remember how the author puts it into the mouth of St. Aldegard about his preference for cabbage roses, sweet peas, and wallflowers—that was his idea of a garden. Garden parties he also thought to be inane and most unenjoyable.—F.

HAREFIELD VALLEY FISHERY—CARP FOR THE COLNE.—During the last summer, it being intimated that the carp in the artificial basins of the Horticultural Gardens at South Kensington were growing sickly from the absence of aquatic vegetation and their great increase, I made an application to the council to be permitted to thin their ranks, and transfer the fish thus removed to that portion of the Grand Junction Canal, under the presumed protection of the West London Anglers' Association. The directors of the Grand Junction Canal having, however, granted permission to the purveyors of live fish to the Zoological Gardens to net that portion of the canal, the association, after trying the validity of such permission, and failed at no little cost, gave up any attempt to hold the water against such powerful odds. Under these circumstances 300 carp, the greater part in full spawn, were transferred by Mr. R. Edon, of the South-Kensington Fish Museum, to the Colne at Harefield, into which picturesque portion of that river they were introduced, in the presence of Mr. Neave, the lessee, a few of the members, and the keepers of the fishery. The fish, which fully averaged 2 lb. each, were safely carried in damp moss, and did not appear to have suffered in any respect by the journey.—GREVILLE F.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1881.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

Auspicious opening, a great success, and an imposing closing ceremony—these constitute the full record of the National Fisheries Exhibition. Disappointed of the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, in consequence of the assassination of his

Imperial father-in-law, Earl Ducie, Chairman of the Commissioners, presided on Saturday, the last day of the exhibition, and distributed the medals and diplomas awarded by the jurors. His lordship was supported by two of his brother commissioners, Mr. Calcraft and Mr. Spencer Walpole, his Grace the Duke of St. Albans, and the usual *posse* of local dignities and celebrities. The occasion was in every respect a successful one. The noble chairman in his opening remarks paid a handsome compliment to the president and committee, and a graceful tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Frank Buckland. He showed, moreover, a practical acquaintance with the contents of the exhibition, and verified Mr. Birkbeck's reference to him as one of the best amateur sea fishermen in the country. The speech-making was soon over, and the remainder of the ceremony was of a formal character. There was a tremendous prize-list to go through, including the awards for the essays which had not been publicly declared. All things, however, have their end, and in due time the last medal and the last diploma had passed through the hands of the chairman, the vote of thanks had been moved by the Mayor of Norwich and seconded by the Duke of St. Albans, and the "fashionable assembly" had dispersed. Then came the public to take a parting glance at the show, and by nine o'clock in the evening all was over. The Fisheries Exhibition of 1881 is now a thing of the past, and the soul of the angler and the fisherman had to console itself with the prospect of a similar gathering in 1882. The choice of localities has, we believe, fallen on Edinburgh, and a more fitting selection could not have been made. The new exhibition will, doubtless, have "features" and "characteristics" of its own, and will illustrate, more especially, the finer and more attractive portions of the anglers' art. But it can scarcely be more successful or more popular than the one which has just closed, and with which the name of Norwich will be identified. We are glad to believe that the latter will leave some considerable merits behind it. The cause of the fisherman has been generously advocated and substantially advanced. New methods of fishing and specialties in fishing-tackle have been brought before the notice of the public. A good deal of useful information has been imparted, and nature has been made to yield up some of her pleasantest and choicest secrets. These are results of which any city may be proud, and the Government will have no reason to repent the direct and the indirect patronage they have given to the undertaking. It is worth noticing that the popular interest increased immensely during the last week, the numbers of admissions on the Thursday and Friday being 6,000 and 7,000 respectively. During the whole three weeks no less than 70,000 persons were admitted to the Drill Hall, and the Committee have been able to place a very handsome surplus to their credit. All things considered the awards of the judges have given satisfaction. In only one case has any unpleasant dispute arisen between exhibitors, and with this exception the affair ended as harmoniously as it begun. The "stranger and sojourner" must have met with many a kind friend and genial host in the old city, and the angler who has had a peep at the beautiful river scenery, or dropped a line in the Yare or the Wroxham and Oulton Broads, will have been fully repaid for his trouble.

At the conclusion of the ceremony in the Hall, the Commissioners and the Committee were entertained most pleasantly at luncheon by the Sheriff of Norwich, and in the evening a meeting of those interested in the fishing industry was held to consider the much-debated question of lights on fishing vessels. The chair was taken by Mr. Sims, of Hull, who was supported by a numerous company of boatowners and others. The subject discussed was the new regulations proposed by the Board of Trade in regard to the carrying of red and white lights, and some very strong opinions were expressed on the matter. The general feeling was that the

new regulations were dangerous and impracticable, that the fishermen themselves would not adopt them, and that a return would have to be made to the older and simpler system of carrying a white light at the masthead. It must have been a relief to some of the gentlemen to learn that the President of the Board of Trade had consented to receive a deputation, and that he was presumably open to a change of conviction. Another gathering, which will be somewhat more interesting to readers of the *FISHING GAZETTE*, took place at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday evening. This was the farewell dinner to the exhibitors—a pleasant wind-up to as successful a public movement as has ever been initiated. About 60 gentlemen accepted the invitation, and those assembled well represented the various interests associated with the exhibition. Good anglers are ever good company, and we need scarcely add that the proceedings were harmony itself. Some capital angling songs were sung, and the speeches were thoroughly in keeping with the occasion. The High Sheriff of Norfolk (G. D. Berney, Esq.), presided, the vice-chair being filled by A. G. Jardine, Esq., the prince of pike-fishermen. The High Sheriff, in proposing the toast of the "Exhibitors," complimented the Committee on the talent and industry they had displayed in carrying the affair to a successful issue. As to the exhibitors their intelligence had been only equalled by their courtesy, and the willingness with which they had explained to visitors various objects of interest. The public had thoroughly appreciated their unselfish conduct in staying a week beyond the stipulated time, and he personally thanked them for the pleasure they had afforded him during his visits to the Exhibition. He coupled with the toast the names of Messrs. Jardine, Horsey, Page, and Eldon. Mr. Jardine made a neat reply, speaking as an old and enthusiastic angler. He had heard of the antiquities of Norwich, and the wealth of its surrounding waters; but he had never seen anything to equal the fine specimens of pike, bream, roach, and rudd, that had been shown as the products of the broads and rivers of the district. The fraternity of anglers in London, who numbered about 80,000, would be pleased to learn how well Norwich had received the metropolitan contingent. He thanked the company for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast. Mr. Horsey, as a trade exhibitor, acknowledged the kindness he had experienced during his stay in Norwich, and paid a high compliment to the Hon. Sec. (W. Oldham Chambers, Esq.). Mr. Page, who represents the Aylesbury Sewage Company, referred to the process, already noticed in these columns, for purifying rivers polluted by sewage and preserving the fish-life they contained. He also added his testimony as to the excellence of the arrangements, and the courtesy with which they had been carried out. Mr. Edon also replied, and touched appropriately on the lamented death of Mr. Frank Buckland. The next toast—that of the "President" (Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P.)—was proposed by the vice-chairman, and received with all the heartiness it deserved. Mr. Birkbeck's great services to the exhibition were heartily recognised, and the only matter for regret was that he could not attend to bid his numerous guests farewell. Mr. J. W. De Caux—a successful exhibitor and essayist—of Yarmouth, gave the "Health of Mr. C. L. Buxton," the chairman of the Finance and Executive Committees, and Mr. Buxton suitably responded. Mr. Sandford, of Cromer, proposed "The Gold Medallists," the chief of whom was the Duke of Edinburgh, who showed the exquisite models of life-boats referred to in a former issue. With this toast Mr. Sandford coupled the name of Mr. H. L. Rolfe, who in reply gave a pledge to paint a fish-picture for Mr. Chambers in return for the unlimited work and worry he had undergone. The other toasts were of a complimentary nature, those of the "High Sheriff," and the "Secretary" being especially honoured. Mr. Chambers made a

modest reply, and apologised, quite unnecessarily, for shortcomings which had never been observed. The healths of the Jurors and the Press were heartily received, the representative of the *FISHING GAZETTE* replying for the latter, and the Ladies came in for the recognition which good sportsmen should always accord them. Altogether the occasion was one to be remembered by those who shared in it, and who thus commemorated the close of the Fisheries Exhibition of 1881.

We have given our readers as full and suggestive an account of the exhibition and its features of interest as our space will allow. We have only to add that we did not aim at covering the whole of the vast extent occupied. If we have succeeded in throwing some light on those productions which have a special attraction for the angling community we shall be more than satisfied. It is necessary to add in conclusion that interesting and valuable as the exhibition has proved, it has been by no means exhaustive in character. We look upon it as a promise of something even greater in the future. In regard to one point, we are unable to gratify the curiosity of our readers. The prize essays are not public property, and we cannot, therefore, give them an insight into their contents. A request will be made to the authors to permit of their publication, and, if this is acceded to, we may expect a valuable addition to the literature of fish, fishing, and fish culture.

The following is the list of awards in this department:—

Essay on the Acclimatisation and Cross-breeding of Fish; prize, £10, W. Oldham Chambers, Lowestoft.

Essay on Pisciculture as a Source of National Wealth, prize, £20, W. Anderson Smith, Ledaig, Argyshire, N.B. Bronze medal, James Conolly, 84, Harbour Street, Ramsgate.

Angling Associations, the Best Code of Rules for their Management in a Sportsmanlike Manner; prize, salmon rod and book of 12 dozen flies, given by R. B. Marston, Editor and Proprietor of the *FISHING GAZETTE*, Henry Bradfield, Gaywood Road, King's Lynn.

Essay on Oyster Breeding; prize, £15, W. Anderson Smith, Ledaig, Argyshire.

Essay on the Utilisation of Localities generally Suitable for the Cultivation of Oysters, withheld, no merit.

Essay on the Utilisation of Localities in Norfolk and Suffolk suitable for the Cultivation of Mussels and other Shell Fish (essay marked C and essay marked E equal); prize £12 10s. each, T. C. Wilcocks, of the Field, 4, Caer Badden Terrace, Plymouth, and C. W. Harding, King's Lynn.

Essay on the Artificial Propagation of Andromous Fish, other than the Salmon, and the Restocking the Tidal Waters of our large Rivers Artificially with Smelts, &c.; prize, £10, C. W. Harding, King's Lynn.

Essay on Salmon Disease, its Nature, Causes, and Possible Remedies, prize; £10, Sir James Maitland, given by R. B. Marston, of the *FISHING GAZETTE*. (Recommended by the jurors to be printed.)

Essay on the Parasitic and other Diseases in Fish other than Salmon, no competition.

Essay on the Principle upon which the Legislation on the Fisheries of the Country should be based, and is it desirable that Boards of Conservators should have the Management of all the Fisheries in the Country, with power to impose Licenses; first prize £50, withheld; second prize, £25, Essay marked "Free Trade," J. W. De Caux, Great Yarmouth.

Essay on the Migration and Spawning of Sea Fish, especially Soles, Turbot, Plaice, and other Flat Fish.—Prize not yet awarded.

Essay, accompanied by Maps, showing localities where Mussel Beds can be established, and how existing Mussel Beds can be best cultivated and protected so as to afford an increased supply of Mussels and Bait for the Long Line Fisheries; £30 on special prize list, of which only £15 was awarded, J. C. Wilcocks, 4, Caer Badden Terrace, Plymouth.

Essay on the Causes of the Migration of Salmon from Sea to River, as Influenced especially by Height of Water, Temperature, or other Atmospheric Conditions.—Withdrawn, no competition.

Essays on the Natural History and Habits of the Herring, with Suggestions for the Improvement of the Fisheries of the same in the United Kingdom, to be considered as a Source of National Wealth.—Prize £50, William Watt, 9, Albery Road, Aberdeen.

Essay on the Herring Net, showing the best Mesh for the Capture of the Matured Fish, and Means for making the Use of such Mesh compulsory in Great Britain and other Nations Fishing in the same Waters.—Prize £21, J. W. De Caux, Yarmouth; silver medal, C. W. Morris, Harbour View, Lowestoft; bronze medal, G. Findley, fisherman, Whitehills, Banff, N.B.

The following awards were made for essays for which no special prizes were awarded:—

Mr. Laughrin, Polperro, Cornwall, silver medal, for essay on the Food of Cod and other Fish.

Essay marked "Qui docet discit," diploma, for essay on the Salmon and its enemies.

John L. Cook, silver medal, for a History of Trawl Fishermen and their Condition Afloat.

In conclusion, our readers will be glad to learn that gold medals have been awarded to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, to the Board of Trade, and the National Lifeboat Institution, for their exhibits, and that diplomas have been granted to many gentlemen who have taken a leading part in starting and managing the Exhibition, as an official recognition of the value of their services.

EEL-FISHING.

No. II.

EEL-SPEARING.

BLAIN does not say much upon eel-spear-
ing, but what he does is far from tending to remove it from the category of manly pursuits. He tells us it is practised by many persons for pleasure even, although to be half-way up the legs and thighs in ooze and mud would not appear delectable in the eyes of the highly-polished angler. We, however, knew a very keen angler, who would leave off throwing his fly in the midst of tolerable sport, to undertake to spear some eels for the miller, from whose running ponds he used to extract largely of trout, perch, roach and dace, but which amusement he readily abandoned for eel-spear-
ing. To the surprise of everyone who witnessed his exertions, now upon the brook feeders, almost knee-deep in the morass, he plunged in his eel spear, and so doing, ever and anon was heard a lusty hurrah, and next was seen, spear uplifted, and bearing sometimes one and sometimes two eels fast clenched between the iron jaws of the instrument, but writhing and struggling to free themselves from a grasp too firm to give way to their exertions. Extraordinary as it may appear, on one occasion, when striking deep into the side of the bank, which circumvalated the water, he felt a more violent and momentary struggle than usual—he had struck an otter in its couch, and so disabled him as to make his destruction inevitable, much to the miller's satisfaction, who had long been a serious loser in his poultry, and who had in vain attempted to discover how his losses were effected, more particularly in his ducks, the young of which were continually missing.

It may here be observed that there exists great doubts whether the loss of poultry, game, &c., is traceable to the otter, which is essentially a fish feeder, and which, in the present case, with so well-stocked a larder close by of his natural food, was not, we think, likely to turn his attention to feathers. How much more reasonable to have attributed the loss of the miller's ducklings to the pike, a fish that is known to have a toothsome relish for this savoury food!

Mr. Edward N. Murta, in 1866, contributed an able article upon our subject to Pennel's Fishing Gossip, which will be found likewise to contain many essays of piscatorial interest from the pens of Frank Buckland, Thomas Tod Stoddart, Greville Fennell, Jonathan Couch, Thomas Westwood, Alexander Russel, and other names distinguished in angling literature.

Mr. Murta descants in high terms of praise upon eel-spear-
ing, which, as he pursued it during broad daylight, he terms "sun spear-
ing." He tells us that ever since he was able to cast a rod single-handed, he has been of opinion that any pursuit which enlarges the sphere of our innocent enjoyments is so much added to the stock of human happiness. If the subject of our juvenile philosophy brings us into closer communion with nature, and opens a wide field for the observation and study of her works, the novelty is so much the more worthy of acceptance and encouragement of all the objects of our restless desires. Her treasures are alone inexhaustible, never tire, and leave no sting behind. Both mind and body, on the contrary, become invigorated by contact with her wonders, just as the fabled athlete acquired fresh strength as

often as he touched his mother earth. All field sports more or less fulfilled the conditions of his early postulate, but none more fully or agreeably than fishing in its various forms. Numerous as these are, and well adapted to all ages and grades of life, he avows that he has long been smitten with the ambition of adding another to the number; hence the essay upon eel-spear-
ing to which his name is attached.

The popular estimate of eels, we are sorry to say, is at par with the prevailing sentiments respecting the barbarous weapon with which they are too often tormented. The naturalists, from whom one might expect fair play, are hardly less unjust. They all continued the formidable name of *Anguilla* in their systems, as if they really believed that eels had anything to do with serpents, or that they were included in the malediction pronounced upon the latter.

When learned men thus perpetuate calumnies, no wonder ignorance follows suit, and dubs, or rather daubs the poor thing with the slang synonym of "snig," which they ought to know is the outcast of the family. His unworthy fate would seem to pursue him to the last. He is thrown amongst burning embers to reduce his fat, skinned alive, broiled, fried, or stewed, and otherwise maltreated, even before it has been ascertained that the vital spark has fled.

Our writer is somewhat hard upon that class of eels who frequent any waters but the most clear and pellucid, and therefore gives his preference to the spear-
ing of the great lake eel; the more, we opine, because the waters of such have the quality to permit his seeing through their profundity to the very pebbles at the bottom, and therefore permit his directing his weapon with surer aim than do disturbed estuaries, in which the eel-fisher plunges his spear here, there, and everywhere at random. Such a lake he would have at least four or five miles long, "as the crow flies," its sides rock and shingle, and its bottom, for the most part, marl, silt, or sand. If a few nice bits of bog break the uniformity of the shore, just to keep the eels warm and comfortable during the long winter nights, it is so much the better. Of the lake eel itself, its back is of a dark olive, which distinguishes the whole of the race, the sides shading off through a pleasant azure grey, into a pure white on his abdominal regions—indeed, a veritable silver eel. His nose bears a resemblance to a duck's bill, a feature which characterises a different variety of the species. On the contrary, his physiognomy is prepossessing, and wholly free from the sinister expression of the snig. His size is generally greater than that of the river kind, growing sometimes to eight and nine pounds. But these weights are exceptional, and not often obtained. From three to five pound would give a more correct approximation of his general weight. For his superior size and beauty he is generally indebted to the localities in which he is found. There no dearth of his natural element cramps his development, or vitiates his tastes by impurities. A mass of water, boundless, perhaps, in extent, to eel intelligence, affords him unlimited scope for exercise, and supplies him with an inexhaustible store of wholesome nutriment. Responsive to the dignity and fostering impulse of local circumstance, he becomes the type, the model representative of his "order." In this state of perfect equality with his more light-prized and organised companions of the lake, he has left popular notions of the economy of eel-life far behind. As he flashes in brightness and power through the crystal element, the common observer would scarcely recognise relationship or similitude to the semi-amphibious snigs of the manor ponds. Like them, however, he hibernates, for in his highest condition he is still true to the instincts of his race. But what a difference between the slimy, sulphuretted ooze in which they hide their diminished heads, and the pure silt and vegetable fibre beds in which their "silver" relative takes up his winter quarters, with pearly shells for his pillow, and the white surge of the lake breaking in music over his

head! Sometimes in spring, according to the temperature of the season, he shakes off his winter lethargy, takes to roam once more through his wide domain. But to descend into a more practical atmosphere.

The instruments for this phase of eel-spearing are a small boat and a spear specially constructed for the purpose. Besides skill in these agents, a knowledge of swimming, or in lieu thereof, a "good conscience" is most desirable. Persons who may never have had occasion to test practically the value of the latter gift may, perhaps, inquire its connection with our pursuit. The reply is simply that drowning is a contingency quite within the capability of an awkward practitioner. In the event of such a sub-mergency, as Mrs. Malaprop might possibly say, either of the accomplishments indicated would, of course, be invaluable. The tyro, therefore, had better look to it; we are not further responsible for untoward results.

The metal part of the lake-eel spear is thus constructed:—Into a small flat bar of best Swedish iron 12 inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick, 12 teeth of best spring or sheer steel 3 inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in diameter in the shank, double barbed, and carefully pointed as the best fish-hook, are welded, riveted, or, better, screwed, as the latter admits of a new tooth being easily added, in the event of one being broken or damaged. To the upper side or edge of the bar carrying the teeth described, a light socket for receiving the handle is attached by one or other of the processes indicated for fixing the "comb" or teeth. The latter, in addition, should be carefully tempered, and the whole *blacked* by one or other of the receipts of which each workman has his own favourite. The handle may be formed of any light, stiff, bearing wood. Red deal, free from knots, answers the purpose well. The length should not be less than 16 or 17 feet, and the greatest diameter not more than about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It should be well finished on the bench, and tapered up to the top to about an inch in thickness, when it is terminated by a short bracket or handle turned on the lathe. A coat or two of copal varnish will serve the double purpose of keeping out the damp and giving it a finished appearance. The stem of the bamboo, as handles, might solve the problem of reducing the specific gravity of the weapon sufficient to enable it to float, in the event of its escaping from the hands of the operator.

Any small boat (always excepting punts), well up in the bows to enable the spearsman to stand upright over the cut-water without sinking it too deep in the pool, will answer the purpose. Should it be deficient in this quality, a boulder or two placed astern will help to right the balance. Though the craft is chiefly impelled by the spear alone in the act of looking for the game, a pair of short, handy oars, are indispensable companions. The thorough management of a boat is too obvious a necessity in this amusement to be insisted on here; for though water may be a very pleasant playmate, it is not always safe to trust too far. Observing that there may be risks of immersion, the novice may possibly ask "What kind of dress would be suited to the occasion?" the obvious reply to which would, of course, be "a bathing dress." But he must not be put off with this ambiguous answer. We would recommend a Garibaldi suit for the purpose. The free-and-easy style of costume of the great guerilla will oppose the least possible resistance to the use of the thews and sinews in air or water.

The best season is between the first of June and the middle of July; then the eel, like Curran's emancipated slave, "walks abroad in his own majesty," and displays himself in all his length and strength to the admiring eyes of those who know where to look for him. For this purpose the eel-hunter must be wide awake, and up early. If the tyro lies abed "till the sun burns a hole in the blanket," as Pat has it, or waits till breakfast bell, he had bet-

ter forego the pleasures of this amusement. We are apt to make contrasts between money-grubbing and the pursuits of the country, yet we cannot help thinking there is a principle within us which finds something to admire in the prime of the year—wild scenery and the hopeful hour of the dawn, the cream of the day—quite as much as in a heavy balance sheet or the higher quotation of "scrip."

An absolute calm and cloudless sky must lend their aid to the undertaking. If the leaves of the aspen (*Populus tremula*), of which we are told—incorrectly, of course—"woeman's tongues are made," or the purple spikelets of the quaking grass (*Brisa media*), from which we brush the dew as we descend to the lake, show the slightest movement, the water will scarcely be found in a proper state for our work. Presuming, however, that there exists perfect repose, and the surface of the lake is as unruffled as angels' tempers, and we are on the face of one of those waters best suited for our sport to be found in the midland counties of Ireland, which present shallow shores and extensive flats, covered by not more than ten or fifteen feet of water, we may seize our spear and show how eels are won.

One of the first things Mr. Murta would point out to the novice on crossing his oars, taking the spear in his hands, and standing forward in the bow of the dingy, is the extraordinary distinctness with which all objects are seen at the bottom. This is so remarkable, that Murta is tempted to correct the great chemist, Cavendish's, formula for the composition of water, and prove that, besides hydrogen and oxygen, sunbeams form a very large proportion of its elements.

(To be continued.)

WERE THEY TROUT, OR GRAYLING, OR CONTRABAND?

AN amusing, and at the same time a very instructing, case illustrating the uncertainty of prosecutions in connection with the Fresh Water Fisheries Act has just turned up in the North of Yorkshire. It seems, the other day, the Pickering bench of magistrates had the case of a John Harper before them, who had been summoned by Superintendent Spence, of the Pickering police for taking fresh water fish in contradiction to the provisions of the Act known as the Mundella Act. The defendant was a Pickering man. To prove his case the superintendent called a witness who swore he saw the defendant on the bank of the Pickering beck, with a long pole in his hand, at the end of which was what appeared to be a hook. With this instrument he was drawing out fish from the river. This was on the morning of Good Friday last. The superintendent next called a police-constable who, in his evidence, swore that on the same day he met the defendant in Pickering, and he found that he had in his pocket four small fish, one of which he examined, and pronounced it to be a grayling. This the defendant strongly denied, and told the magistrate the fish were trout. He had laid night lines in the river for the purpose of taking trout, and when seen by the previous witness he was engaged in taking them up. He was quite positive they were trout, and he claimed to be let off, inasmuch as the Act made an exemption in favour of trout. After a discussion as to whether the fish were really trout or grayling, the chairman decided to dismiss the charge, believing the fact that they were grayling was not sufficiently proved. At the same time he thought well to warn the defendant that had the fish been proved to have been grayling, he should have been bound to have convicted him, the penalty for which was a fine not exceeding 40s. and costs.

John Harper evidently had a narrow escape. In the interests of anglers it would be well to point out how easy it would be in a similar case to gain a conviction by the aid of a little scientific

evidence, and also how necessary it is to consider such an element before bringing a prosecution forward. Such a feat would have been put beyond dispute by the evidence of an expert, for instance. Surely there would not be wanting anglers in Pickering who would have been able to have proved that the fish was a grayling or a trout as the case might be; that would be a simple and easy matter for almost any one. But here, let us say, was the unscientific evidence of the policeman, who might perhaps be thought to be able to tell a bullfinch from a bulltrout, but at the same time might be a little doubtful of the exact distinctions between a trout and a grayling, against the positive assertion of a man who evidently knew something about fishing and fish because he had admitted that he had been setting night lines to catch trout. Looking at the case as it stands, there will perhaps not be quite so much wonder in the common mind that he got off than would appear at first sight. But it is most important that in all such-like cases it is well to consider the necessity of bringing forward scientific evidence sooner than allow a case to fall to the ground as this has done, and because of the possibility of something also being behind it.

And there is another view which this case presents which it would be well to call attention to. That is, What was John Harper doing setting night lines at all? It does not appear that he was setting them for any other purpose than to catch fish, and as to what he was going to do with his fish, even if they were trout, does not appear. Possibly, what he was stating, was right after all; but seeing we have to imagine it, we will have done with John Harper, and refer to a practice which is just now causing a good deal of righteous indignation in several resorts of anglers other than Pickering. In very many places it is known the angler for trout, grayling, pike, or any other fish, if he is unfortunate, has little difficulty in securing a supply of the fish he is after to take home with him to gladden the hearts of himself and his friends, if he is so minded. In some places indeed these little pleasures are dangled provokingly even before his very eyes. In a weak moment, alas! he too often gives way to temptation, and unsuspectingly becomes the dupe of the very scoundrel who is doing his best to rob him of his sport. It is sad to think that it is so, and sadder still to find that even the obliging hosts of the snug little hostels we so delight in should, behind our backs, connive at these misdoings in order to seem to us so obliging, and so on. It is time a protest were made against this sort of thing. It is no use naming one locality over another. About many of the more fashionable trout waters the angler may note an idle set of loafers. In some cases they form quite an enigma for his contemplative moments. But few, we fear, suspect his real character. The loafer of whom we speak is ready to show you all the noted swims in the river; tell you of all the latest secrets as to the most recent *locale* of the big fish; show you all the newest novelties in the way of "artificials" exactly fitted for the day, the month, or the water; and put you up to the hundred and one little things you seem to want to know. After a hard and unsuccessful day he will come flatteringly and tell you of So-and-So, a friend of his, who has been extremely lucky in another place, not always mentioned, and who would let you have a few, "just to make up a little basket, you know," for a small consideration; "for he is a hard-working man, you know!" and more after the same fashion. This bait is far more likely to be taken by the angler than the angler's by the fish, in four cases out of five; and thus the itinerant and unsuspecting fisherman is pestered, and thus the angling scoundrel plies his illicit trade and thrives on it. He becomes a noted character in some cases and even gets into the company of noted men; but, as a rule, he is wary, and avoids the older brethren of the craft. He is more in favour with the younger ones, who are more inclined for help and open for assistance;

and, on the whole, he is soon pronounced a hearty good fellow. Strange you never see his friend. He fetches you the fish, or brings them to your inn the next morning, but you know not where they come from. Watch him home, and you will see he has nets and night-lines, and gaffs and spears, and all the paraphernalia of the fish poacher about him. He cares not for rods and lines, and flies and floats. It is fish he wants, and he gets them, almost as sure as the day comes round; and if the supply is not equal to the demand, he goes to his friend, and not till. And his friend is such another as himself. Day in and day out it is the same. A good season is a famine to him, a bad one a harvest. The more fish he catches, the fewer will be left for the angler that has come miles upon miles to fish in the waters he knows so well. He keeps up the celebrity of the place by his oily tongue, and he deludes his victim into the idea that it is Dame Fortune that has been cruel to him. He flatters him with the notion that he is clever, and all because by that means he will become his more pliant victim. But all this is easily seen through if one were disposed to look. It is an evil, and in our opinion one easily stopped. If anglers would make a rule never to buy fish, and never to eat any but what is of their own taking and never ask any advice, but act on their own knowledge as to baits, and streams and fish, they would not only be more successful in the long run, but the riverside crimp would soon find his avocation gone; he would transfer his operations to a more congenial clime—he would have to work—and the prospects of the angler would improve. And even a raid might be made on him and his class. Watch him, and you will soon find him with contraband fish. Do your duty by him, but see you make no mistake in placing your case on a sound footing. The close times give you every chance. A close time for one kind, whilst an exemption for the other exists, tends to improve it; for, on the whole, you are more sure of a conviction. In setting night-lines and nets and in poaching generally others are laid, hold of than those originally intended. But this riverside crimp is no sportsman. He is not the man to put back. He is not above a foul fish for his own consumption, or even one out of season. And more, he is inclined to take all he gets for fear of injured fish leading to the suspicion that something is wrong. He retains all he catches, as a rule; and where that is the case, and the contraband fish is found on him, or in his possession, his conviction and harassment is easy, if not his entire extirpation.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

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GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"I well despair, and be at enmity
With cozening hope."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Very much trouting has been attempted during the past week, but no trout of calibre have been tempted to leave their aqueous home. I have several reports of fingerlings being had here and there in the upper waters, the greater portion too small to be retained. From Bourne End, I glean that Mr. Garside out with Mr. J. White on one occasion lately took three trout weighing respectively 4 lb. 14 oz., 2½ lb. and 1½ lb., and that Messrs. Taylor and Fillion had two decent trout, the fish being shown at that comfortable piscatorial den, the Railway Tavern, Bourne End, on the evening of capture. At Marlow and Medmenham, some decent spotted beauties have been described on the feed. Near Reading, on Tuesday, Mr. Davis, of Earley, killed a bitch otter which weighed 15 lb., the usual reward of £1 was paid to the fortunate shooter by Mr. Butler, the hon. sec. of the Reading Angling Association. On Thursday a young dog otter was trapped by Sheppard, of Maple, Durham, who states that since Christmas he has found the remains of upwards of 100 good fish, evidently destroyed by these aquarian poachers.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River as bright as "Old Tom," and fish as wary as "Old Nick." Wind N.E. MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Windsor).

Water in beautiful condition, but these big fish refuse to play about, doubtless owing to cold nights and general temperature of water. If warm evenings became the order, there would be a goodly show of the spotted beauties, but up to the present they are very loth to move, and still more so to go at the most tempting bait. A brace of little fish under 2 lb. have been had—one just below Windsor Bridge—but, so far, the season has been the worst I ever remember. A good many fish have been pricked, some of them large. Last Sunday, Lumsden, at Surly Hall, treated one to a mouthful which he will not forget in a hurry. Not having been favoured this season with many runs, he doubtless put the steam on on this occasion, forgetting the use of the very fine tackle which I notice he always uses. In the Windsor weir stream, that excellent local fisherman, James Cray, has been showing his patron fish at a distance, but closer acquaintance was denied, the wily ones living to fight another day. He tells me there are some beauties in this stream, and a capital show of chub this season; and as it was always a capital water for both fly and long corking, it doubtless will keep up its reputation this next season.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Coquet (Northumberland).

Mr. Webb and Mr. Jemmerson, Morpeth, killed a splendid creel of trout: Messrs. Gillespie, Morpeth, killed each a splendid lot. Mr. Fryar and Mr. Farnear, Longhurst, each had good creels from the 9th to the 11th. The river is very small, and the wind from the east.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The wind has again got into the east, bringing frosty nights and chilly days, nipping the maturity of insect life, and causing the fish to lie dormant upon the bottom of lake, river, and stream. The steady breeze which has now prevailed for some days has caused the angler in these parts much fruitless exertion, though in the middle of the day there have been some nice takes with the fly. The Turkey brown, a fly of the large brown species, and a small dun (the iron blue) have been the most successful both up stream and down. Some four or five days since some good fish were taken with the brandling worm ("bush fighting"), a local appellation for up stream fishing with the worm at the extremity of a fly-cast, which is drawn across stream to and fro by the rodster who generally uses waders. The May fly or drake seldom or never appears in Derbyshire before the first week or so in June. A few odd stragglers, however, are beginning already to appear in Dove Dale, where this fly is invariably abundant.—THE SLODGER.

Eden (Carlisle).

The water is clear and low. The weather is very fine, but cold east winds, which are very unfavourable for fishing. On the 7th inst. Mr. James Bone, Parham Beck, killed 41 trout, and seven other gentlemen on the same ground killed from two to seven fish each. Mr. David Bone, Carlisle, killed eight trout. There has been very little sport in the rivers as yet. The lakes have been yielding better sport than the streams.—THOMAS PARKINS.

Exe (Exeter).

Fishing in the river, with fly, minnow, or worm, unless under special circumstances, we get some rain, or a fresher down, is pretty well all over, until such changes take place. The spring fishing, on the whole, has been moderately good. Salmon, of good size, and in excellent condition. Trout, although not numerous, have been of more than average size than for the same period of the past few years. Lampreys, just now, are very plentiful; some fine ones came to bank last week, but they are not sought after with any particular zest; few persons apparently actually know the delicious dish they make; they are easily taken, in the salmon pool portion of the river, as they find their way up as far as the foot of the apron of the weir, and, in some instances, affix themselves on the weir, choosing the rapid portion of the stream, although there is no depth of water actually passing over that portion, and they are taken by placing a stocking-foot over the hand to keep them from slipping therefrom when handled. Salmon in the lower waters are about the average, but although they are taken within two miles of the city, the price will not bear comparison to the London markets, being from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. in excess of London

prices. Lobsters and crabs plentiful. No prawns yet. Some beautiful specimens of the "Conner" or "Ballan lorassi" have been taken in the estuary, with some very fine bass and bream. Weather very hot. Thermometer, maximum 118°, minimum 56°. Wind due north; not the slightest sign of rain; sky cloudless.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is extremely low and clear, and will be so as long as this bright weather continues, and the wind in the same quarter as at present—N.E. Fish sport only in the evening at dusk. A few have been taken with Half-kingdon, yellow May dun, and ostrich palmer. At the petty sessions held at the Town Hall to-day, before the Mayor (E. M. Winton), J. Lane and J. D. Fraser, Esqrs., S. Forward and W. Whitter were charged with illegally fishing in the Exe, at Loughborough, with a net. The case was proved by T. Copp. Fined 10s. each and costs.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe.

There have been some fair catches of trout taken this week by anglers from the streams running between Ilfracombe and Barnstaple. The fish are in excellent condition, and average about four to the lb. Salmon fishermen from the Taw and Torridge report very fair catches of salmon taken by the seine or drag net, these fish are in excellent condition and run over the average size. There have also been some fair catches of sea fish taken since the fine weather set in, weight from 20 to 40 lb. per boat per tide of tamlyn cod, whiting, pout, &c. There are a few bass to be seen in the mornings and evenings off the headlands, but no catch of any importance has come under my notice. I saw a fine octopus this week taken by a fisherman, who kept it alive for a day or two in a bucket of sea water. These fish are to be met with among the rocks at low tide in summer. If anyone interested in the public aquariums would wish to have an octopus or any of the squid tribe, or a consignment of sea animals suited for the aquarium, will communicate with me and direct how to pack them, &c., I can supply them during the summer.—HENRY COMER.

South of Ireland.

Angling for the moment has been abandoned. The period has been reached which marks the interval between the spring and the peal fishing, and the rod has been cast aside for the cricket bat and other enjoyable pastimes. The water has become so low, and the weather so bright and warm, that even trout-fishing has been relegated to the list of out-of-season amusements. Deep-sea fishing will now probably take its place; and already I perceive that the patrons of sea-fishing are preparing their gear and their boats. The poachers, availing themselves of the low condition of the river, have already commenced operations, but arrangements have been made to thwart their machinations by the system of night reliefs on the particular parts of the river. A few nights ago—last Saturday night, I believe—four well-known poachers proceeded to Macroom, and were there joined by a band of reckless and daring fellows. They carried nets with them and other impedimenta known only to the poaching art, and made a descent upon a pool which is well known to be full of fish. They found, however, that their movements were watched by the bailiffs, and they sheared off to some other place. The bailiff lost sight of them, but in the morning two gentlemen, anglers, were proceeding in the direction of the river when they met the four city poachers returning with their spoil. The moment the poachers observed who were approaching, they decamped across the fields, and exciting chase followed, resulting in the capture of one, who carried a bag. On examination the bag was found to contain the ropes of a net and only two salmon. A prosecution will not lie on the case, but at all events the poachers have got such a harassing over the matter, that they are not likely again to trouble that quarter. Once the poacher finds "the game is not worth the candle," he will not be likely to try it again. An exciting chase after an otter a few Sundays ago deserves to be mentioned. Some men from Macroom, who were engaged in rat-hunting on the banks of the Lee, put out a large otter, hot pursuit followed, the otter taking to the river closely followed by a pack of terriers. An angler from Macroom was engaged in fishing further down, and he joined in the sport. Seeing a favourable opportunity, the angler could not resist the temptation, which the otter swimming gracefully under water, presented and utilising his gaff, had the animal soon on the bank. Wringing with pain it snapped at the handle, and doubtless would have seized his captor, but for the precaution of keeping it well away until the dogs came up, and after a fierce encounter despatched the ambitious brute. ANGLER.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel, (Ireland).

The weather continues very warm during the day, with fine nights, but pretty cold, with a little easterly wind, so that, as we have had no rain since, we have had very little fishing. Thomas Phelan, Kilmanahan, got one on Wednesday; next day Dr. Cook got a small one of 7 lb. at Newcastle; on Friday Ned Butler got one of 10 lb. at Dudley's; and on Saturday Mr. R. H. Hutchings got one at Poulakerry; he also got another on Monday at Dudley's weighing 14 lb. The Clonmel cotmen only got four last week. Lower down the river they were more successful, getting about six each day. The trout fishing has been very bad since last I wrote. The evening fishing is not quite in yet. However, the only time a few trout have been caught was during the evening, when there is a rise before sunset. We want a nice flood to rise the river and bring up some fish. The brown rail is the best fly at present.—DORA.

Swale.

A start has at length been made upon this icelebrated stream. Mr. Barker, of Grinton Lodge, was out for a short time on three several occasions last week, and bagged twenty-five, nineteen, and twenty-four trout, all with the fly. They fell to the brown drake (March brown), early brown, crimson brown, and Barker's fancy. This result is very gratifying, as it proves that the bursting of Moss Dam was not quite so destructive last year as reported. Mr. M. Cherry also secured higher up the dale fourteen, eighteen, and twenty-nine fish, whilst other anglers had good takes. In my report of a fortnight ago I said that Muker, Thwaite, or Keld might be selected as headquarters by visitors. Your compositor, to the amusement of the knowing ones, rendered the first word "Monkey." Fancy some stranger, rod in hand, asking the natives the way to Monkey. It would be too good; and you may depend upon it the inhabitants would not fail to reply to the casual somewhat as follows:—"Monkey, sir, did you say? Why, we never saw one wild until your arrival." This calls to mind a parallel circumstance which occurred twenty years ago. A Londoner, in green kids, and with silver-mounted cane, &c., was walking with a friend of mine close to the place in question. It was evening: a buxom maiden was milking a bob-tailed cow. This was too good for Master Cockney, so he let fire with a roaring laugh—"Hey, Betty, how's this? Whoever saw a lass milking a bob-tailed cow before?" The milkmaid quickly replied at once—

"It's like thee, sir." "Why, how's that?" said the gent. "'Taint all thar." Now, when a person is hardly *compos mentis*, in the south we say "He has lost a button;" or "He has a slate off." In the Yorkshire dales the expression is "He ain't all thar" (there). Our readers will at once see that it was a case of diamond cut diamond.—THOMAS FORD.

Waveney (Beccles).

The river is in capital condition for the anglers, and if the wind would but keep away from the east it would now be very pleasant rambling by the river-side rod in hand. Some capital takes of roach have been had lately, notably by Messrs. Gill and Upcraft, on Sunday last, who obtained about thirty pounds of roach, several of them weighing over $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. On Saturday, the Caxton Angling Club had their first competition for the season. As nearly all the members of this club are employed until past noon on Saturdays, the competitions are necessarily of short duration, three hours being the limit on Saturday last. The highest weights were:—C. Chase, 8 lb. 3 oz.; F. Ulph, 7 lb. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; G. Holland, 4 lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; W. Peachey, 2 lb. 13 oz.; C. Bumstead, 1 lb. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and G. Pye, 1 lb. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The takes were composed entirely of roach, the heaviest fly weighing 12 oz., for which a prize was awarded to Mr. Chase. Roach are this week commencing spawning, and are earlier than they have been for several years.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

All our Derbyshire rivers are now in most excellent condition for fly-fishing, and sport during the week has been very good of an evening from 4 to 7 p.m., and some really good catches have been made, chiefly off the Derwent. It is very little use fly-fishing in the middle of the day while the sun is out so bright. The fish feels the heat in the evening, and the killing places have been the rough parts of the streams. The bumble still keeps the best killing fly of the lot used; this fly has done wonders this season; in fact, it has beaten everything that has been used on any of our streams. The only secret there is in this fly is to get the proper hackle and body, and the right size of the fly. There are hundreds of bumbles made now that I would not fish with myself; in fact, we have very few professionals who know the proper colour to put in the flies. It is a very great mistake for gentlemen anglers coming down to Derbyshire to fish these rivers to be ruled or guided by the water keepers; as the keepers, in most cases, generally tell you you are using the wrong flies, on purpose for you to buy some flies off them. Now, take my advice, and when you get your flies from a practical maker, or fisherman, give them a trial before you believe everything that the keepers tell you respecting flies. Bumbles, red ribbed with gold twist, and spider flies, have all killed fish during the past week; baskets from 3 to 7 brace per angler have been made off the Derwent of an evening. The gravel bed, or spider fly, is just making its appearance on the Derwent. I recommend the following way—wren tail hackle, hare's ear dubbing upon yellow silk, on No. 2 Kendal hook. Another way—woodcock's hackle, lead-coloured silk body, made long; woodcock's quill-feather wings, black hackle legs, body hare's ear upon orange-coloured silk. We may expect to see the yellow dun out shortly. Many anglers prefer it made from honey dun hackle, with floss silk, dyed with crab-tree bark and alum. Full body on No. 2 Kendal hook. I always use dotterel feathers myself when I can get them, with a dirty yellow or Esterhazy body. This is the most difficult fly we have to imitate. Sport on the ponds still continued to be good, especially of an evening. Bumble, golden spinner, and sand flies are killers. The tight-line party at Matlock Bath has killed some eels during the week on their lines, with worms for baits.—G. J. EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yare (Norwich).

Many strangers have availed themselves of the fine weather of the past week, to visit our various fishing waters, in and around Norwich, and several splendid catches have been shown in the Fisheries Exhibition the last few days, amongst them was a magnificent display of roach taken from the Wareney, some of the fish weighing 2 lb. each; also a nice basket of bream taken near St. Benet's Abbey, on the Bure, by a member of the Champion Angling Club, and a member of the East Anglian Club. A magnificent perch was also shown on Saturday, taken by Mr. Cooper, of King Street, evidently weighing 3 lb. This fine specimen was captured at Horning. Several gentlemen anglers from London have tried their luck on the river behind the new mills, and have been fortunate in securing some nice catches. On this same stream also was exhibited last week one of Mr. C. W. Meiter's, of Gracechurch Street, London, portable fishing punts, which obtained a medal at the late Fisheries Exhibition, the trial elicited much commendation, and proved that these boats would be extremely useful and splendidly adapted for our broads and rivers, for angling and other purposes. This boat, when not in use, may be folded up, and carried with ease. It is also fitted on either side with air chambers, so as to make it perfectly safe, and capsizing seems to be an impossibility. A boat weighing 42 lb. is capable of sustaining 42 stones weight.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Summer weather has come upon us at length, the last three days having been more like July than May; in consequence a great number of anglers have turned out, but little has been done, except in the evenings, owing to the brilliancy of the sun. I expect that by the middle of next week the creeper of the stone fly will be strong upon the water, but I fear that a heavy flood that came down the Yore after I sent my last week's report will have washed a good many away. During this flood a few nice dishes of trout were caught with both minnow and worm, and no doubt the few salmon kelt that remained in the river from last autumn took advantage of it to return to the sea; as regards flies, I do not think that anything better can be used than the March brown, yellow dun, sand fly and spider fly, with the red spinner in the evening.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

TROUT FISHING IN THE WHARFE AND AIRE.—The heavy rains of Wednesday and Thursday last week caused anglers' prospects to look brighter than they have for some time past, and great numbers of trout fishers availed themselves of the "fresh" in the Wharfe on the Friday and Saturday following, when some magnificent baskets were made, one of the heaviest falling to the lot of a Skipton gentleman. In the Aire we hear of one or two good takes—chiefly with the minnow—but the sport was not as good as in the Wharfe, although there was abundance of water of a good colour. Good sport in the latter stream is not to be confidently anticipated till the bed of the river has had a more thorough cleansing than it received from the rains of last week.—*Craven Herald*.

FISHING IN ANGLESEY.

PUBLISHERS of angling guides invariably give out the above fishing as of "no importance." It may appear presumptuous to contradict the stereotyped assertion, but I make bold to do so. From my own experience, and the greater experience of my acquaintances, the above fishing is not only as good, but undoubtedly better than many other counties of Wales. And for the following reasons:—

I. The waters being little known are little fished, consequently the trout have the private seclusion of preserved waters.

II. The climate of Anglesey being milder than many counties of Wales, the flies appear sooner and stay later, and as fish thrive best on flies it follows they are in good condition through the season.

III. The working classes take not the slightest interest in trout-fishing, a fishing-rod being as strange to them as a gun. How different to their brethren of Carnarvonshire! who, in a regular file, incessantly whip the waters till the fish are shy and difficult to be caught.

IV. River-poaching, except when the salmon run up, is unknown, another great point in favour of the fish and the fisherman. And even the salmon-spearing, owing to the renewed vigilance of the police, cannot be carried on with impunity in the future.

V. For the above reasons combined, the trout run up to an extraordinarily heavy size.

The rivers of Anglesey are Crygyl Ffraw, Cefuin, Braint, and Alaw, and the lakes Frogwyd, Coron, and Maelog. They fall far below other waters of other Welsh counties in size, and surrounding scenery; but for fishing "pure and simple" they compare most favourably. For the present, I beg to draw the attention of my angling brethren, kindred souls! to Lake Maelog, situated one mile from Tycroes Station, and seven from Holyhead. It is in close proximity to the sea, and travellers on the Chester and Holyhead line are often struck with its singular beauty. Nestled between two craggy eminences of an oval shape, one mile long by three in circumference, its sudden appearance, in contrast with the uniformity of the surrounding country, is very striking, but the view is transitory. To enjoy its beauty, its exhilarating air, and keen sport, the angler must take a boat, and there in perfect tranquillity, broken only by the sweet accents of a maid calling her kine, or by the whistling of the iron horse (it persistently intrudes into the loveliest scenes of nature), will he realise the highest happiness of the gentle art. This lake is reputed to contain the best trout in North Wales. Without attempting to decide a nice and difficult question, I know from the experience of myself and far more distinguished anglers, that its trout are excellent for sport and for culinary purposes, and run up to a large size. Two years ago, one of the most experienced anglers in the kingdom (and who often contributes to the *FISHING GAZETTE*), was spinning a large minnow with very strong tackle, which were repeatedly broken; the trout, he was certain, weighed from 5 to 7 lb. The rod was held by the inexperienced hand of a lady, which may account for the trying dissolution of partnership. In company with the Messrs. Williams, Aberffraw (about the best anglers in the island), we have often taken heavy baskets with a Totness, when gentlemen with other delusions were sent empty away. I must here remark that the weeds this year are more flourishing than usual, rendering spinning very troublesome. Calling at the hotel adjoining, on April 16th, I found that a gentleman caught 18 trout on the 11th, 19 on the 12th, and 23 on the 13th. Mr. Heywood, jun., Bangor, took one with a fly weighing 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and Mr. Adkins took 22 in one pool in the adjoining river. Mr. R. D. Williams Aberffraw took a kelt weighing 6 lb. and a dozen nice trout in the river, while a gentleman whose

name I forget took some fine fish in the lake with a fly. Maelog takes its name from St. Maelog ap Caw Cawlyd, who flourished in the 7th century, and who built the church and perpetuated his name in the parish. In the vicinity are *Chromlechau*, Druidical altars, especially attractive to the antiquarian. What a change in the surrounding scenery since the time Suetonius Paulinus penetrated the thick forests, and struck consternation and death into the camp of the fanatical priests! At these very altars, once enshrouded in trees, now as naked as the errors of the ceremonies performed upon them, what human and animal blood has been spilt in vain! What towns, palaces, and villages have been erased! (for here the Royalty of Wales resided for centuries), and what life and bustle has for ever ceased, and been succeeded by unromantic inactivity! I have gone a long way from my subject, but trust the extraneous remarks are legitimate, as an angler should know the sanctity of the ground he often treads upon.

W. HUGHES.

May 2, 1881.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY AND ANGLING FACILITIES.

THE Great Eastern Railway management is certainly giving the most material assurance of its desire to please its best customers—the passenger public. Another substantial evidence of this praiseworthy anxiety is now before us in a *brochure*, which may be considered quite a novel style of time table, especially issued for the benefit of visitors to the East Coast watering-places, the scale of fares tabulated in which commences with the first of this month, and is intended, as far as we can learn, to keep in effect the whole of the present year. In the watering-places are included Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Hunstanton, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Harwich and Dovercourt, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Clacton-on-Sea. The Friday or Saturday till Monday third class tickets are issued for Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer and Southwold at 10s.; those for Hunstanton and Aldeburgh, at 9s. 6d., and those for Felixstowe, Dovercourt, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Clacton-on-Sea, at 7s. 6d. Fortnightly and monthly tickets are granted in relative proportion. A list of the train service for May and June is appended, and a slight sketch of each of the places of resort is given as a guide to the visitor, together with their individual population according to the last census returns of 1861. There are other important concessions, amongst which are the permission, by a percentage upon the original fare, to extend the time of sojourn, with the privilege of breaking the journey at certain stations *en route*. Saloon carriages and invalid carriages—the latter to convey the sick or ailing from house to house without change of vehicle, in the same manner as a private carriage, it being placed upon a railway truck, the horses meeting the train by telegraph at any required station. Added to this, a similar pleasurable convenience may be secured by private parties, who, upon expressing their wish before starting, will find roomy and well-appointed omnibuses to meet them, capable of carrying six persons inside and two outside, with luggage at the low tariff of 1s. per mile including the driver.

This is a grand step in the right direction, which we feel assured both the public and the Great Eastern will profit by. The minimum railway fare has not yet been found, but every advance towards it ought to be hailed with grateful satisfaction by those for whose interest any advancing experiment towards such a consummation is hazarded. As far as the facilities here given to all classes, anglers included, the FISHING GAZETTE ought to feel indebted; and although we admit that the *brochure* in question, light and unburdened with advertisements as it is, must prove a great boon, we are greedy

enough to wish there had been embraced in it some allusion to the angling to be met with at the several stations named,

We will, however, endeavour to supplement this in general terms. A knowledge of the aquatic resources of Yarmouth and Lowestoft, both for sea and inland fishing, are obtainable at any shop where tackle is supplied. A short run along the Norwich line gives four or five well-known fishing stations on the Yare. Another line carries you into the very heart of the nest of broads; a third puts you down close to the river Bure; and a fourth joins Yarmouth sands on to other of these extensive sheets of water. A few pence carries the angler from Lowestoft to Mutford Bridge on the Oulton Broad and river Waveney, which magnificent expanse of water he will get a view of from the window of his carriage near Carlton Colville, and of that of the true angler's home, the Wherry Hotel, where Mr. Mason or Bedford, Ansdale, or any of his staff of experienced fishermen, will see that he has the best chance of sport which the neighbourhood can afford.

There is little of inland fishing at Southwold, excepting unless leave can be got to angle in the two small broads close to the coast at Bentacre, belonging to Sir Edward Gooch, Bart., or the landowner's permission to wet a line in the little streamlet which runs across the Lowestoft road, and from which we have taken heavy bags of fine roach, bream and eels.

At Felixstowe, which is on the opposite side of the mouth of the Ipswich river, Orwell, there is a lake very well populated with pike and bream, the property of Colonel Tomlin, M.P., to which access is rarely denied to the respectable applicant. The usual fish which frequent our estuaries may be taken in the tidal district of the Orwell; and the pretty little Gippin, above and close to Ipswich, reachable by steamer or rail, will amply repay the use of tackle. Apply at Dorling's Hotel, Walton-on-the-Naze, for information respecting roach, rudd, and tench-fishing near there.

Baits for freshwater fishing are not readily procurable in the eastern counties, excepting at Norwich, but live shrimps are plentiful, the largest of which, perhaps, in England are to be obtained at Southwold, where, by the bye, at the Southwold Arms at the entrance of the town, Mackenzie, the honest Highland landlord, can, we believe, put the visitor on to the waters we have spoken of as situated at Bentacre.

G. F.

THE PRESERVATION OF FISH BY GLACIALINE, AT THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, NORWICH, 1881.—SILVER MEDAL AWARDED.

A PERUSAL of the official returns of the quantities of fish and other articles of food that are annually condemned as unfit for human consumption, would astonish, if not appal, most persons. During the past ten years many million pounds of fish have been seized by the authorities and condemned, but how many more million pounds have been, not only offered, but sold in a semi-putrescent condition it is difficult to estimate. And it seems to us quite certain that there are far heavier losses in transit by boat and rail, as well as in the household, after purchase, that can never be computed.

It is quite clear that anything which promises to minimize this great loss of valuable food, is worthy the serious attention of all those who wish for an abundant and cheap supply of fish.

Passing leisurely through the avenues of the *annexe* of the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, we were attracted to the Stand of the Antitropic Company, who exhibited their patent Glacialine, and fish preserved by its means.

We noticed on their stand a slab with fine specimens of salmon, turbot, cod, brill, plaice, soles, and smelts. With the exception

of the smelts these had all been gutted. Upon inquiry we found that these fish had lain exposed to the varying temperatures and conditions of the atmosphere of the Exhibition building for twelve days. Notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions (handling of exhibitors, &c.), under which the fish had been subjected they were in perfect condition on the twelfth day. The salmon and smelts looked especially beautiful. The scales on these fish glistened quite as brilliantly as if they had just been taken out of the water.

While we were at the stand a man asked one of the exhibitors:

"How long have those smelts been here?"

"Twelve days, sir!" was the answer.

"Twelve days! I'll take my solemn davey these 'ere smelts were caught yesterday," said he.

"But I can bring you conclusive proofs, sir, that they have been here twelve days and have never been removed."

"Proof or no proof, I don't care. I've 'andled smelts for a matter of fifty years, and I'll swear these 'ere smelts were caught yesterday."

Nothing could have demonstrated the excellent outward condition of the fish better than this fishmonger's observations. However a more crucial test remained, viz., that of eating the fish. The jurors ordered a salmon and sole to be sent to the Grapes Hotel (the nearest hotel to the Exhibition) where they were cooked and served up to lunch. These gentlemen expressed themselves perfectly astonished, for not only was the natural colour of the tissues perfectly preserved when cooked and served up, but the flavour was almost full and unimpaired.

We understand that Glacialine has been extensively used during the past five years in the dairy, larder and ship's cabin with great success, and that its sale has enormously increased every year. We have examined the testimonials which the Antitropic Company publish in their pamphlets, and find among the host of witnesses some distinguished names in science and medicine; others from among the aristocracy, clergy and gentry as well as those of practical men, who have demonstrated the utility of Glacialine in their various businesses by the perfect preservation of milk, cream, butter, eggs and meat; but have only observed one relating to the keeping of fish. The results of the severe trial it has undergone at the Fisheries Exhibition, however, demonstrates clearly its value to the dealer in and consumer of this most perishable of animal foods, and we believe that never was prize more honourably won than the silver medal awarded to the exhibitors.

We will now point out a few valuable purposes which this compound can serve to the angler. For the preservation of dace, minnows, &c., all that is required is to make a solution of the Glacialine in water in the proportion of 1 in 18 by weight; and keep the fish immersed in the fluid. This will serve to keep bait in perfect appearance for a week or two, and if, say, 10 per cent. of methylated spirit be added to the solution, we are informed they can be preserved intact without change of colour for months or years.

When the angler is far away from home—say his *dulce domum* is in London—and he is fishing north of the Tweed, in Cumberland, Wales, or in the extreme south, he is desirous of sending home examples of his cunning skill. At present he is afraid to do so, naturally fearing that what is bright and lovely to look at when fresh caught from lake or stream, may be odious in every sense of the word when it reaches its destination.

No such fears need now disturb the enthusiastic or contemplative angler. By always carrying a canister or packet of Glacialine in his wallet he can send his trout, salmon, or other trophies any reasonable distance, feeling perfectly secure that when they arrive

at home their appearance will be such as to cause no doubt about transferring them to the frying-pan or other culinary apparatus.

The method of preserving is as follows:—Dissolve a packet or canister in a gallon of water, and allow the fish to remain in the solution twenty minutes. They can then be relied on to keep perfectly fresh and unchanged for four to six days in transit, without gutting.

We were very glad to hear that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, while at the Exhibition, interested himself in Glacialine, and ordered a canister to be sent to his carriage. Also to learn that several yachtsmen, for whose purposes we can imagine nothing of greater utility, laid in a stock. To the members of our yacht clubs the testimony of Lord Clanwilliam's steward, who has used Glacialine on board H.M.S. *Inconstant* in the tropics with gratifying success, will appeal more powerfully than any words of ours.

THE SCOTTISH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association, which held its first meeting in the beginning of the present year, has been doing good work since. There have been two well-attended meetings of the Council of the Association, and a list of carefully-prepared queries has been sent round to the chief constables of the various Scotch counties, the returns to which contain a most valuable body of information with regard to the salmon fisheries in Scotland. At the second meeting of Council, Sir J. E. Alexander read a paper giving an account of a visit which he had lately paid to Hawick in order to see certain means which have recently been taken for the purpose of counteracting the manifold manufacturing pollutions which have so long contaminated the Teviot. Sir J. R. Gibson-Maitland contributed a list of the various establishments existing in Scotland for the artificial propagation of trout and salmon; and Mr. Archibald Young read a summary which he had drawn up of the returns sent in to the Association by the chief constables of the Scotch counties, a short notice of which may prove acceptable to those interested in the work of the Association.

It appears that, in seven Scotch counties, salmon have forsaken rivers that used formerly to be frequented by them. These counties are Ayr, Forfar, Fife, Linlithgow, Mid-Lothian, Renfrew, and Stirling. With regard to the streams in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, the Almond and the Avon were formerly salmon rivers, but have long ceased to be so, no salmon having been caught in either for thirty years, owing to the pollution of the water of both by coal and ironstone pits, shale oil factories, paper and lint mills, and other public works. Both rivers, too, are obstructed by dams, several of which have been heightened since they were originally constructed, and all of which are without fish passes. Salmon used to go up the Almond to spawn; but a lofty perpendicular weir thrown across the river, near the village of Cramond, now effectually prevents them from ascending. Owing to legal proceedings taken against some of the polluters, the water, both of the Almond and of the Avon, is somewhat purer now than it used to be, and a few grilse and sea-trout have been seen in the Avon within the last twelve months. The Avon is tidal water for about two miles from the Firth of Forth. It used to be one of the best rivers in Scotland for grilse and sea-trout. But the mills erected on its banks and on those of its tributaries have exterminated or driven them away, and only a few burn trout remain. All the returns tell the same tale—that of rivers once containing salmon but now rendered salmonless owing to pollutions and obstructions, arising, on one hand, from the encroachments of manufacturers, and, on the other, from the supineness of riparian owners.

The returns sent in in answer to the query whether proper ar-

rangements are made for securing the observance of the annual and weekly close times, and the other provisions of the salmon Fishery Acts of 1862 and 1868, for the protection of salmon, give an affirmative answer with regard to 14 counties. But from returns made to the queries relating to District Boards, it appears that there are no district boards in the following counties—namely, Dumbarton, Kinross, Fife, Mid-Lothian, Caithness, Renfrew, and Ross and Cromarty. Yet the last-named county has no fewer than 32 salmon rivers on the mainland and in the Hebrides; and, in the great county of Argyle, with at least 30 salmon rivers, there is only one district board. The result of the returns is, that there are only 22 district boards in Scotland; or, if we add the rivers of which the Duke of Sutherland is proprietor, and to which his factors act as district board clerks, 37. Then there are in addition, the Tweed Commissioners, the Esk and Liddle Angling Association, and the Associated Proprietors of the river Doon. But, allowing for all these, the important fact still remains that considerably more than half the fishery districts in Scotland are without boards, and, consequently, without any official means of enforcing the observance of the Salmon Fishery Acts. The temptation on lessees of fishings in these districts—several of them remote and thinly inhabited—to infringe the Acts, especially in the case of sea-fishing by fixed nets, is immense; and we cannot wonder if it is sometimes yielded to.

The last query addressed to the chief constables related to the powers of the Scotch Commissioners, and was as follows:—"Would you approve of giving to the Scotch Salmon Fishery Commissioners the same powers as those possessed by the Inspectors of Salmon Fisheries in England and Ireland, of making annual inspections of the fisheries, and reports thereupon to the Secretary of State?" There is a gratifying unanimity of opinion in the answers to this question; for though a few of the chief constables give no answer, 19 answer clearly and strongly in the affirmative; and the counties from which these 19 affirmative answers come are the counties which contain the principal salmon rivers in Scotland.

At the last meeting of the Council of the Association a strong opinion was expressed that if the Fisheries Exhibition, the holding of which in 1882 has been suggested in our columns, is to be held at all, it should be held in Edinburgh and not in Glasgow, Edinburgh being not only the capital of the country, but the natural centre of the fishings of the east coast, which are three times as valuable as those of the west coast. At this meeting, a list of queries was determined upon to be sent round to angling clubs and associations, in order to ascertain particulars with regard to them, and their views about an annual close time for trout, and various other points connected with our fresh-water fisheries.—*Scotsman*.

WEST LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

THERE are few of the London and suburban clubs that have made greater advance in the piscatorial world than the "West London," the headquarters of which are at the Windsor Castle, King Street, West Hammersmith; and there can be no matter of surprise about this, possessing as it does so genial and active a president as Mr. H. Jacques, assisted in his efforts with so valuable and energetic a treasurer as Mr. M. J. Butler, and so useful and painstaking an honorary secretary as Mr. C. R. Stock. They are, in fact, the very foundation of the society, and who have gathered around them in the short space of twelve months over eighty true followers of the famous Isaac Walton, amongst whom the greatest unity and good-fellowship prevails. Fortunate, indeed, were the founders of this excellent society on finding so commodious and handsome a club-room as the one they now occupy, and with so good a proprietor as Mr. G. Gilbert, who evidenced his interest in the welfare of the club by contributing a donation of five pounds. The first anniversary dinner took place on Thursday evening, May 5th, at the Windsor Castle, Mr. H. Jacques taking his position as chairman, and Mr. W. H. Tremaine in the vice-chair. There was an attendance of between seventy and eighty gentlemen, amongst whom were Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, C. P. Wheatstone, F. C. Hatfield, E. Hickinbotham (of the Thames Angling Preservation Society); Messrs. A. Allison, J.

Chamberlain, W. Haydon, E. Walker, H. N. Hewitt, G. Brixton, W. E. F. Hall, A. H. Phillips, G. Tuxford, Pacey, Cox, W. L. Keane, &c., &c. After the dinner was over, the chairman proposed "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," in a thoroughly loyal and patriotic manner, which was most loyally responded to, and succeeded by the National Anthem, led on by Mr. Bull. The next toast was "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society," the chairman eulogising the character of its work and expressing his opinion that that it was doing a vast amount of good. In coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Thomas Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham, he said every angler was largely indebted to them for their praiseworthy efforts in the protection and preservation of the Thames.—Mr. Thomas Spreckley, in responding to the toast said he thought the time had now come when their work and their doings should speak for themselves as the best test of what they did was right. On the question of private rights he spoke at some length, and he thought where there was no claim to such rights the voices of the 135 angling clubs should be raised, and they would be heard; and as Sir Henry Peek, Mr. Buxton, and others, had got to the public the common right of roads, so would intelligent assemblies like the present, if they were united, recover those pathways on the Thames which were now threatened to be kept from them. In defence of this principle he read a quotation from Lord Derby. Mr. Spreckley then referred to the number of convictions the society had sustained in the past year, and as their cases were not brought before the magistrates upon weak grounds, they had secured the entire confidence of every magisterial bench in their portion of the Thames. He then noticed the efforts that was being made to abolish netting as low down as Kew Bridge, which met with warm approval, and of the success of the society in recovering, only a week ago, no less than 4000 fine roach, and obtaining 258 fine trout out of the rearing pond at Sunbury. In conclusion, Mr. Spreckley expressed the pleasure he felt in informing the meeting of the election of their friend Mr F. C. Hatfield as a member of the committee of his society, and the representative of the Central Association, in conjunction with Mr. Geen, of the West Central, and Mr. R. Ghurney, of the Central Committee. As a supporter of free trade he was certain the election of these gentlemen was a move in the right direction. He thanked the West Londoners for inviting him there that evening, and he was sure the publication of their balance-sheet in such satisfactory detail would gather around the club all the popularity and success it so well deserved.—Mr. W. H. Brougham felt after Mr. Spreckley's eloquent address there was not much left for him to speak about, but there was one subject on which he was inclined to offer a few observations—it was in reference to the supply of fish in the Lower Thames. It had been remarked by an able writer that the river was in a state of piscine insolvency, but he felt the remarks did not belong at least to their portion, as he could assure them such was not the case in the "City waters." Take, for instance, the dace, which were caught most in the tideway. The last season had been an unusually good one, and one of the local fishermen wrote in these words to one of the fishing papers:—"I have been a fisherman at Richmond for twelve years, and I never had a better season." And he could tell them the dace had gone up in greater shoals than ever. There was, therefore, no insolvency amongst the dace. As regards the roach they had already headed up in unusually large quantities. He had been at the netting of the ditch at Hampton Court every year for the last fifteen years, and he had never seen so many or such splendid fish as there had been taken out of it this year. There was, therefore, no insolvency amongst the roach. The capture of barbel last season was certainly below the average, but it was not on account of their scarcity. He remembered about twelve years ago these fish went off for two or three years, and some barbel fishers who were then subscribers to the Society withdrew their subscriptions because "the barbel had left the river." His old friend, the late Mr. G. T. Parson, of Laleham, at that time maintained the barbel were still in the river, and he could see them like stones at the bottom, in a kind of "Rip Van Winkle" sleep. If any of those present would go trout fishing to Hampton Court just now they would catch barbel of 8 lb., 9 lb., and 10 lb. each, three and four in the day. He could not, therefore, believe there was any insolvency amongst the barbel. In reference to jack and perch, the last was not certainly a test season, through floods and frosts, which prevented any attempt being made to catch them; but the trout anglers now were hooking five and six good jack in the day. And so on with other fish, and considering the tons that had been put in the river from Kew Gardens and other places the Lower Thames anglers need be under no fear at present of insolvency amongst the finny tribe. In the able speech of the chairman as to the want of more general recognition of the Thames Angling Preservation Society amongst the angling clubs, he was pleased to tell them that the number had been increased in the last twelve months from eight to over thirty, but even that was small compared with the large number of London angling clubs who fished the Thames.—Mr. H. Jacques gave the toast of the evening, "Success to the West London Angling Club," and congratulated the members on its great success; it had exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and all must feel highly satisfied that it had become established on so sound a basis. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm. The balance sheet showed that the receipts in subscriptions and donations amounted to £60 4s., and that after the payment of expenses in furnishing—the purchase of a prize medal of eight guineas—the sum of £9 19s. 6d. in club prizes, a contribution of five guineas to the T.A.P.S., there remained a balance at the bank of £17 1s. 9d., the assets being altogether valued at £40 14s. 6d. The prize winners were as follows:—Mr. M. J. Butler, four prizes amounting to £5 2s. 6d., including a

silver cub of £2 10s.; Mr. E. Matthews, three prizes, making three guineas; Mr. J. Pank, three prizes, two guineas; Mr. W. Herbert and Mr. E. Pemell, one prize each of half-a-guinea; and Mr. E. J. Turner, two prizes, value one guinea. A testimonial was presented to Mr. C. R. Stock for his valuable services as honorary secretary. The Apollo Glee Club contributed a choice selection of glees, and an enjoyable evening with some additional toasts and songs was pleasantly spent. The nucleus of a fish museum has been formed by two cases of jack, and altogether there is every prospect that the West London Angling Club will go on prospering and to prosper.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TYRO.—Greenheart or hickory is the best wood; 15s. to 20s. is a fair price. We don't know what the socket of a fly rod is, but it may mean the fitting to hold the winch. The spear screws into the butt, and is used to stick the rod in the ground when not in use for the moment, to prevent its being trodden on. Write to Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Felton Street, Alnwick, for particulars of the Coquet fishing. It is free at Weldon Bridge, or only a very small charge is made.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the committee to inform you that the yearage for privilege tickets during the coming season (commencing Thursday, the 16th of June, 1881) will be 1s. each member, and 2d. for a transfer. Will you kindly fill up this form and send it to me as soon as possible before the above-named date, then I shall be able to let you have the new tickets in time for the opening day? I beg to call your attention to the fact that the Association allows one month's credit from date of order.

Please note.—All tickets ordered must be paid for, unless returned to me within fourteen days after issue. We forward all orders postage paid. Wishing you all a prosperous season, I am, &c., T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

P.S.—Please say how many leather cases you will require. Lettered in gold, 6½d. each, post free.

A copy of the above has been sent to each society enrolled with the Association. Secretaries are requested to report non-delivery of the same, when another shall be forwarded. An adjourned special meeting will be held on Friday, the 20th inst., for the election of auditors, and other important business. Delegates are specially requested to attend. I shall send all communications addressed to the society's house during the coming season, unless otherwise instructed. A new list of fares will be issued with each ticket applied for. The list contains the fares and names of all stations to which concessions have been granted the London anglers. I am happy to say we have now no less than seventy-five angling societies enrolled upon our books, being many more than half the total number of societies in London.—I am, &c.,

7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W. T. HOOLE, hon. sec.

GRAYLING ON THE WYE.

SIR,—In answer to the letter of your correspondent, "G. S.," I beg to reply that, since there is no close time set apart for grayling on the Wye, anglers may keep them all the year round.—I am, &c. BLUE DUN.

May 7, 1881.
[They come under the Freshwater Fisheries Act all the same.—Ed.]

NEW ANGLING SOCIETIES.

SIR,—Notice to gentlemen about to form angling societies.—I will forward copies of club rules, association rules, lists of existing societies, and full particulars concerning any of the above, post free, upon application.—I am, &c., T. HOOLE, hon. sec., W. C. A. L. & P. A. S.

7, King's Road, Mortlake, S.W.

DESTRUCTION OF FISH.

SIR,—From the tenour of the Mundella Act (Freshwater Fisheries) one would be apt to believe that it was passed to protect fish in all streams, whether large or small; but from recent observations that belief has been dispelled, for I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that fishing (so-called, but it is not, for the merest tyro can catch them now) is carried on in our neighbourhood, and not the slightest notice is taken by the police; in fact, they will stand by and look on, and ask "What sport?" Now if the Act is to do any good, why are not the police instructed to summon persons who openly defy the law and moral decency? Surely something should be done, as remonstrance on the part of the club members is unheeded. By inserting the above you will oblige yours truly, Deptford, May 10, 1881. AN UNITED BROTHER.

THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—I have read with some interest the letters of "B." with the remarks they have drawn forth from "Consistent" and Mr. Keen; and although willing to admit I have not sufficient ability to take any decided view, I would respectfully point out what is to me a strong objection to the likelihood of "B's," sanguine expectations of the multiplication of Thames trout in the river being realised by artificial propagation. "B." admits that all the endeavours hitherto to benefit the Thames have been abortive, yet these attempts were zealously undertaken by men thoroughly conversant with the subject. "B." however, now states in effect, without any reservation, that the introduction of young Thames trout will remedy all this, and fully compensate for past failures. But here he stops, disappointing us by not telling us why or how he arrives at this conclusion. We have been assured, and the impression appears to admit of little doubt, that one of the principal causes of failure up to the present time has been the destruction of the fry by predatory fish, in which category are not the Thames trout included? Is there, then, I would ask, anything in the character of the Thames trout that induces "B." to believe that they are less voracious than their congeners—more merciful in their disposi-

tion, discriminating in their diet, or any other circumstance likely to induce them to spare the youthful strangers. If otherwise, I do not see why Nature should be so reversed, and a miracle enlisted in their favour to gratify the desires of man, however beneficial the longed-for consummation might prove.

This is, sir, I trust a reasonable question adapted to your columns, and if "B." can show incontestably that Thames trout have no cannibalistic propensities, or can amicably consort with the youth of their species, it may prove no invaluable addition to the natural history of salmonidae. No other conviction can induce a sensible person to cherish the idle notion, that even waiting for two years can result in the success predicted.—I am, &c.,

COMMON SENSE.

[We think "B." was somewhat too sanguine, but are certain that the more young Thames trout are put into the river the better will the trout fishing become—it is only a question of supply. We wish more power to Mr. Forbes, and that there were others like him.—ED.]

AMERICAN FISH.

SIR,—I can help "Pixie" to some of the scientific names of the fish he alludes to.

"Blue Fish."—*Temnodon*. (Family *Scomberoides*).

"Weak Fish."—*Otolithus regalis*. (Fam. *Scienoides*).

"Gar Pike."—Name applied to both *Scomber esox* and the alligator gar, *Lepisosteus*; the former a sea, the latter a freshwater, fish.

"Toad Fish" and "Frog Fish."—*Lophius piscatorius*. (Fam. *Pediculated Pectoralis*).

"Cat Fish."—*Silurus*. (Fam. *Siluridae*). Several species; as in England, the skate is, I believe, called sometimes cat fish.

"Sheepshead."—*Sargus Ovis*. (Fam. *Sparsides*).

The "Jew fish" is found in the Lagoons in the South; about a year since there was an article on it in the FISHING GAZETTE.

The "Grouper" and "Snapper" are well known and esteemed fish in most seas adjoining the tropics. I cannot recall the scientific names of these last three, but will look them up in the course of the week. Those given above are according to Cuvier's classification.—I am, &c., E. GOSLING.

Budleigh Salterton, May 7, 1881.

SIR,—In answer to "Pixie's" enquiry respecting American fish, he will find a description of them, the family to which they belong, their mode of capture, &c., &c., in a book published by Harper and Brothers, Franklin Square, New York (doubtless they have a London agency), entitled "Fishing in American Waters," by Genio Scott.

In it is thus described, "the Weakfish, or Squeteague, is probably a family of the *Clupea* genus."

Of the Bluefish, it says:—"Professor Mitchell has given to this fish, which affords more sport with the troll than any other, the classical name *Temnodon saltator*. The first from temno, to cut in pieces, probably indicating its sharp teeth; and the last signifying a pantomime dancer, doubtless with reference to its leaping or skipping; but, as if these names are not sufficiently descriptive, he adds those of *Scomber plumbeus*, or leaden mackerel."

"The Sheepshead is a celebrated dinner fish, and seldom ranges higher than from ten to fifteen pounds, its mouth is paved throughout with square teeth of flat surface, like eighth-inch square mosaic, but rather larger at the outer edge of the jaw, where its even teeth resemble those of a sheep, from which it is supposed its name is derived. It is called by De Kay *Sparus ovis*."

I think many of the names quoted in the markets are not quite correct, and fish are called by different names in different districts, and by the fishermen. For instance, the Tautog is the name of an American fish along the coast of New England; but along the shores of Long Island and New Jersey it is called Blackfish.

The Garfish (*Belone vulgaris*), is of the pike family.

Catfish family.—1st, brown catfish, *Pimelodus pullus*; 2nd, common catfish, or horned trout, *Pimelodus catus*.—I am, &c., JOSEPH MAAS.

Belsize Road.

SNARING AND SPEARING PIKE.

SIR,—A correspondent asks, "Is snaring pike illegal," and quotes an instance under his own observation at Brundall. Here on the Bure they use a far more deadly weapon in the shape of a huge spear, ostensibly for eels but really for pike. There is scarcely a ditch in this district that has not been well speared. I have had the pike offered me for sale, and have seen the men at work often, so am quite certain about it.—I am, &c.,

Cottihall, by Norwich.

ANOTHER DISCIPLE.

KING'S LYNN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—The Committee of the King's Lynn Angling Association were very much gratified to hear that our worthy secretary was successful in gaining the prize you gave at the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich. Mr. H. Bradfield is a thorough fisherman; it is chiefly through his perseverance that we started our association a few months ago, and we are happy to say it is favourably received and patronised.—I am, &c.,

May 11th, 1881.

FRED LUDBY, One of the Committee.

MARYLEBONE ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—Would you be so kind as to insert in your paper that the next visit of No. 1 District of West Central Association will take place on Monday, 15th of May, at the above house, when we shall be pleased to meet as many of our brother anglers as we can make it convenient to attend. W. F. PEARSE.

May 7th.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—The handsome oil painting in massive gilt frame—Subject: Freshwater Fish—now on view at the Empress of Russia, St. John's Street Road, Clerkenwell. The drawing for the above picture will not take place till Wednesday, June 29th.—I am, &c., J. CABORN, sec.

May 9th.

QUIET FISHING WANTED.

SIR,—Will you kindly tell me of a moderately* quiet spot—subscription or otherwise—within a short direct ride from Victoria, where I could get a few hours' bottom fishing on Saturday afternoons?—I am, &c., PIMLICO.

* Free from pleasure boats, &c.

FISHING NEAR RIPON.

SIR,—Will you correct a printer's error which occurred in my letter in last week's issue on the above subject. "Predonderate" should be preponderate, and "Lower Bridge" should read Cover Bridge.—I am, &c.,
34, Woodsley Road, Leeds. FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

CLUB REPORTS.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 8th the first trout was weighed in this society this season by Mr. P. Meur. Several members have been contesting for the honour that fell to the share of that gentleman on Sunday evening, but in vain. No trout could they catch, try what they would—minnows, flies, lobs, and all other kinds of baits.—Trout managed to keep out of the way of the majority of G. B.'s. Bravo! Mr. P. Meur, show the lads how to catch trout, as well as roach, perch, jack, and other kinds of fish possible, then they might be able to find out where *Thames grayling* are to be found. The following letter has been received by Mr. H. West, secretary *pro tem.*, from Mr. C. Whitehead, informing him of the death of his brother, Mr. G. Whitehead, an old member of this society:—"Dear Sir,—I am sorry to inform you that my brother, Mr. G. Whitehead, died on Sunday, the 8th, a little before six in the evening. He was unconscious over sixty hours before he died. He will be buried at Finchley on Saturday next, May 14, in the afternoon. I should be glad to see some of his brother members there if possible. I am yours respectfully,—C. WHITEHEAD."

May 11.

PIXIE.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first general meeting of this newly-formed society was held on Thursday evening at the City of London Larder, Throgmorton Street, when there was a large attendance, under the presidency of Mr. S. C. Harding. The hon. sec. (Mr. T. Crumplen) said the committee had experienced much difficulty in securing suitable water, but had at last received an offer from Mr. Godfrey of 2½ miles at Thorney Broad, West Drayton, for £15 a year. The river Ivor, which flowed into it, contained some fine trout, and in the other portions of the stream were good roach, chub and dace, and also excellent bottom fishing. The proprietor reserved to himself the right to allow individual anglers to fish in the water by ticket. Altogether, and in the absence of anything better, he thought it would be desirable to secure this water, and he moved a resolution to that effect. Mr. S. G. Bennett seconded the proposition. Mr. Jardine said in Thorney Broad the roach ran very large, as also did chub. In the season, upon the shallows, they could get superb sport with dace and chub with the fly. They were a very sporting fish, played hard, and it required an adept in the art of throwing the fly to make a basket. The Ivor held some capital trout, thanks to the restrictions placed on Sunday fishing, and the closeness of fence time. They did not allow spinning or worms, but a man who could throw a fly was almost sure of a brace and a half of fine trout. As, however, the club already numbered over 100 members, he questioned whether they should make any other than a temporary arrangement. He urged going further afield, and spoke of excellent fishing at Byfleet, Weybridge, Ripley and elsewhere. They should forage about for new swims, and not waste time over fished-out waters. There were mines of wealth in many of the quiet little eddies not yet tried. After a discussion the resolution was carried, and the committee were empowered to enter upon preliminary negotiations for some water at Tottenham, in the occupation of Mr. Ford. Several new members were enrolled, and it was stated that the prospects of the young society are very cheering.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The annual dinner of this society took place at the Builders' Arms, Hammersmith, on Thursday, May 5th, and may be pronounced a decided success, upwards of seventy members and friends sitting down to a most enjoyable repast, to which ample justice was done. Mr. Geen, of Hill View, Addlestone, and president of the West Central Association, presided in his usual genial manner, and was ably supported by Mr. Henry Toms, chairman of the society. After the cloth was removed the list of prize-winners was announced, among whom the following gentlemen figure prominently: Messrs. Pitts, Walters, Hobden, Peachey, Mackness, Arnold, Aldridge, &c. Then followed the usual toasts and songs given by the members and friends. The following vocalists deserve special mention: Messrs. Brooke, Penney, Burgess, Bacchus, Trafford, Humphreys, jun., and Howe. An interesting ceremony took place during the evening as Mr. Hoole's infant son and heir was toasted in champagne to the evident pleasure of all present. Prizes for the forthcoming season were promised to the amount of twenty guineas, and the company separated at two o'clock, a.m. (the house having a special licence) all apparently well satisfied. Among the visitors were Messrs. Bonvoisin, Gaunt, Humphries, &c.—VORTEX.

TONBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

The monthly meeting of this club was held at the Bull Hotel on Monday evening under the presidency of R. A. Dallas Beeching, Esq., of Tunbridge Wells. The secretary formally reported that the carp, roach, and rudd received from Oxon Heath and Hadlow Castle had been placed in the river, and votes of thanks were passed to Sir Francis Geary, Bart., and W. W. Rodger, Esq., for their kind present of fish. The water bailiff reported that the chub were nearly finished spawning, and were getting back into deep water, and that numerous lampreys had been seen in the upper waters.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

11th May, 1881.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS, CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The general return visit in connection with this committee took place on Monday evening, at the Hoxton Brothers', the Jane Shore, High Street, Shore-ditch, and resulted in a crowded meeting. Mr. A. Abrahams, secretary of the East London Angling Society, now held at the Bell, Gracechurch Street, E.C., acted as chairman, faced by Mr. T. Feecham, of the Metropolitan Angling Society, in the vice-chair. The following clubs were represented:—Amicable Brothers, Alliance, Amicable Waltonians, Brothers Well Met, Hoxton Brothers, Great Northern Brothers, Golden Barbel, City of London, Odds and Evens, Sir Hugh Myddleton, Convivial, Izaak Walton, Good Intent, Norton Folgate, Hearts of Oak, Woolwich Brothers, Prince of Wales, Eustonian, Canonbury, East London, Little Independent, Bermondsey

Brothers, Stoke Newington, Burdett, Bridgwater Brothers, Metropolitan, Bostonian, Never Frets, and the Piscatorial. Some excellent singing and readings, by members of the various societies, including Mr. W. Randall and Mr. T. Charlton, of the Britannia Theatre. The next return visit will be paid to the Great Northern Brothers, due notice of which will be given by the secretary.—R. GHURNEY.

May 10.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The eighth annual dinner of the above society took place at the headquarters the St. Paul's, Westmoreland Road, Walworth, on Wednesday the 11th, president, Mr. Evans, assisted by Mr. J. S. Weatherhead. The stewards were Messrs. Fox, Bayley, Grigg and Sutcliffe. Forty members and their friends sat down to test the quality of the articles that were provided for the occasion by Mr. and Miss Bansback, with the kind assistance of Messrs. Sutcliffe and Bansback. The test gave the greatest satisfaction to all present, among whom were Dr. Carpenter, Messrs. Beckett, S.P.A.S., Schwartz, Renault, Dabarré, Blake, W. Taylor, G. Taylor, Brown, Winter, Gold, Delehaye, Varney, &c. The walls of the clubroom were neatly decorated with grayling, pike, perch, bream, roach, chub and dace, some of the piscatorial trophies of the late Mr. I. Burnham, Messrs. Boalch, Bayley, Piolaine, and several other well-known gentlemen. Fine art was not forgotten, Mr. Evans supplying, among others, a large portrait in oil colours of the worthy host, Mr. C. Bansback, and the floral display that graced the tables came from Messrs. Boalch and Co. The cloth having been removed, Mr. Evans proposed the health of the Queen, together with the Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces, which were both responded to in right loyal manner; after which Mr. Evans sang "Tom Bowling." Mr. Weatherhead next proposed "Success to the Walworth Waltonians," coupling with it the father of the society, Mr. H. Bayley. He also spoke about the benefits that were derived from angling societies, viz., the creating of preservation societies, the means of travelling at reduced prices on nearly all railways, to different parts of the country, and also the resuscitation of that very old science that was so well known to those ancient fathers—the monks of old, viz., the science of breeding and the rearing of fish. England does not possess many gentlemen who are so well versed in that science as was the late Mr. F. Buckland, Mr. Forbes, and a few other gentlemen who have done their best to restock our rivers with fish for the purpose of food and sport. This was responded to and success to the society drank in bumpers. Mr. W. Taylor sang "The Flag at Half-Mast High." Mr. H. Bayley, in responding, stated that there were 27 prizewinners for the 80 prizes given during the last season; and, as a proof that the penalising of winners, as had been done during the past season, viz., 3 lb. for a £3 3s. prize, 2 lb. for a £2 2s., and 1 lb. for a £1 1s. prize, had not prevented some of the members getting prizes, as it was stated it would do at the commencement of the season, as the list of winners showed that some of the members had succeeded in winning 6, 8, 10 and 12 prizes in spite of all penalties. All prizes will be distributed on Friday next, May 21st, at which distribution all members and their friends are requested to attend. The vocal abilities of the following gentlemen added much pleasure to the amusement of the evening—Mr. W. Taylor, Mr. Cain, Mr. Bayley, Dixon, Fox, M. Dubarré and Mr. Lane, who presided at the pianoforte. The following prizes have been promised for next season by the undermentioned gentlemen. Mr. Schwartz, £10 10s.; Mr. Renault, a diamond ring; Dr. Carpenter, a silver watch; Messrs. Bansback, £3 3s.; J. Collins, £3 3s.; Evans, £2 2s.; Brown, £3 3s.; Mrs. Coleman, £1 1s.; Piolaine, £1 11s. 6d.; Cridland, £1 1s.; Peters, £1 1s.; Boalch, £2 2s.; Gold, 10s. 6d.; Beckett, half ton of coals; Bayley, £1 1s.; Fox, £1 1s.; Grigg, side of bacon; Walters, £1 1s.; Harris, leg of mutton; Richardson, £1 1s.; Weatherhead, £2 2s.; Hunt, £2 2s.; Spencer, 10s. 6d.; Beale, £1 1s.; Vicary, £1 1s.; G. Taylor, 10s. 6d.; W. Taylor, box of cigars, meerschaum pipe and ½ lb. of best smoking mixture; Sutcliffe, £2 2s.; Delehaye, £1 1s.; Blake, half dozen of wine; Butt, £1 1s.; Dubarré, 10s. 6d.; Haliday, 10s. 6d.; Towers, £1 5s.; Mr. Rayner, gold scarf pin; Fox, gold scarf pin, for the smallest weight taken during the season; Mr. Irons, £1 1s. I got as far as this when I saw daylight appearing in the east. I thought it was time I departed, as all have to do who are known as the—PIXIES.

May 14.

WOOLWICH INVICTA ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this society took place on Tuesday, the 3rd, at the Society house, Golden Marine, Francis Street. Mr. C. W. Jones occupied the chair, being faced by Mr. G. Pycroft, and proved in every way a complete success. The handsome and liberal manner in which it was placed upon the table reflected great credit upon the host, Mr. W. Davies, and was deserving of the compliments that were paid him during the evening. On the cloth being removed the chairman proposed "The Queen," which was duly honoured. Mr. C. Howlett then proposed the toast of the evening, which was responded to by the Secretary, Mr. C. Foster accompanying it with appropriate remarks, which was heartily responded to. "The Visitors" was responded to in an able manner by Mr. H. J. Belstead, secretary Woolwich Piscatorials. Mr. C. Hatfield responding for Central Association, stated the Association was in a most flourishing condition, and he hoped unity of the above would long continue. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs. Hatfield, Wood, Kage, Lomax, Weaver, Hallem, Howlett, Swaisland, Walker, &c. Mr. Wood kindly distributed the prizes to the following members: Messrs. Jones, Foster, Pycroft, Percy, Meddock, Knight, Walker, J. Clark, J. W. Clark. We have great pleasure to state that upwards of £17 for prizes have been promised for the next season. The rest of the evening was spent in harmony, assisted by Messrs. Meddock and Foster, with piano and violin. Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Vice terminating the evening in a convivial satisfactory manner.—C. FOSTER.

May 5.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

A MONSTER PIKE.—One day last week a monster pike was captured at the west end of Loch Vennachar. It weighed 32½ lb. The head has been preserved for stuffing.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1881.

"HORTON'S CREEK."

A COMPARISON.

THROUGH one of the lovely vales of Hertfordshire flows a stream that in our boyhood's days was famous for its fine trout. Seldom fished, they were bold and of good size. Times

and again have we watched them at the foot of some tail-race, or above the weir. The stream ran along the valley for miles through fine estates, taking its course under noble beeches, oaks and maples; through smooth, grassy park lands, under stone bridges, or single plank footbridges a few inches above the water.

Sometimes running out wide and, without any noise, again narrowing into a brawling, purling brook, tumbling into ripples over its pebbly bottom; sometimes its waters were dammed up to furnish power to an old-fashioned flour and grist mill; again it ran on through quiet meadows, or skirting the edge of an old graveyard, whose grand old church had in its belfry a sweet chime of bells. Blessed memories! How often can we in fancy hear old "Rosseau," "Mariners," or "Sicilian Vespers," ring out in the evening air! How often do we, when sitting down to an organ, find our fingers striking the grand chords of these long-remembered tunes! They come to us as a dream, while the memories of "those evening bells" crowd upon us—but to my stream.

It ran along through rich pasture lands until it was scarce two feet wide. Here a pond was made, and a primitive sheep-washing basin. Everywhere along its banks was it pleasant, its waters were cool and inviting; everywhere along it could beautiful trout be seen—in the ripples, in the quiet, deeper water of the mill-pond under the stone bridges, in the deeper shadows of the maples—even up in the sheep-pond could young trout fry be seen.

Very often in the wider reaches of the stream have we seen a fisherman trying to drop a fly on the farther side, where in a weedy channel, a big trout lay hiding, rising once in a while to suck in some fly that the shifting breezes had driven down on the water. How often have we determined to practise this gentle art until we could "cast the fly." What an exultant moment that when the gentleman gave us the landing-net, and bade us exercise due care in handling the fish. Those days live green in our memories though twenty years have passed since that time, and we have fished in other lands; yet the inspiration caught beside that little stream remains with us to-day, and we love trout as of old. We have learned to cast the fly, and have fished noble rivers and taken trout in abundance. We delight in the finest tackle one can obtain, and claim some knowledge in using it.

We want to introduce your readers to another trout creek, that is so interlaced and overgrown with fallen trees that it is a difficult matter to find five feet of clear water. A more uninviting place you could not find, yet there are trout in abundance. Flies cannot be used here, so put them up into your book. We said in a former letter it is the custom to fish down stream! We intend doing so. For four summers we have fished this creek, and know its peculiarities: so, instead of starting from its mouth and walking up through the brush—truly a difficult task—we take the road and walk about a mile, then plunge in through the forest for the river bank. We are fortunate in coming to this point, so at once rig up the tackle. Our worms are fresh and in good condition despite the 400 miles ride, for we brought them from Chicago. Worms cannot be found for many miles from this place. So, putting on a bright red worm and a heavy sinker, we climb out on a log lying across the creek; we drop our bait into a fork formed by the spreading branches. A gentle sideways motion, and we feel a sharp tug, but can see nothing; yet our nerves are tingling—these jerks mean trout! It comes again, a quick but gentle strike, and a twelve-ounce trout is making a big fuss at his end of the line. Take him in gently and drop him into your creel, there are some more of them there. Try along under the log further into the stream. Ah! he's backing out! See the bronzed back and mottled sides; look at the red-tipped ventral fins vibrating; all his suspicions are aroused at that squirming thing. A light forward movement of the right foot and body causes the log to tremble. He detects it; sheers back a little

more, catching a glimpse of you. A flash of brown and red, and he's gone. A beauty too! It's no use trying there any more. Creep in shore, crawl-fish fashion, and try lower down stream.

You find a big hemlock that lies across the creek. Gently, now drop your bait in close down. That's a hole in there! Whew! that's a big fellow. Try him again. Ah! he feels the steel enter his soul. Careful now,—you can't use a landing net here. Take off your fishing hat, slip it under him as you lift him. What a beauty, though!—fourteen inches long, if he's an inch! Slip him into your creel, there's more in that hole. A few minutes' patiently handling your rod, and another comes out—not so large; still, a good one. Try once again—still another. Drop your hook in close to that tree below you. So! You lost him, did you? Try again; you have him this time!

We must do some rough climbing here. The high winds have swept through here some time in a broad swath, piling trees one on top of another for fifty feet wide, so we take down our rod and climb up over trees ten feet from the ground; mixed up in a confused heap and broken like pipe-stems—trees a foot in diameter. After climbing, slipping, and considerable tumbling, we reach the ground again. We rig up our tackle and drop the bait into a triangle formed by trees falling across each other. We can see trout here. There's one hungry fellow moving. By Jove! he jumps for it clean out of the water, and took the bait, too. Hurry! Put on another worm. A little cautious this time, that fellow means business. I guess he's an old hand that's been to school. He wants it, yet is holding off. Pshaw! there's a little wretch of a fingerling in there. See him making a dash for the bait while the big one stands off a little. Something bit then. The moment it reaches the surface we find we have hooked the fingerling, he's a fierce biter for a youngster. We gently unhook him and pitch him into the creek again to wait until we come another year. We put on a ventral fin as described in a previous letter. Our big trout is quietly hiding in this hole, so, dropping the bait slowly to the surface of the water, just sinking it, then moving it to and fro. Ah! he's got it; but we count him ours, in spite of his vigorous fighting, so carefully gather him in.

A little further down stream we lose three or four in succession. Our hook has blunted from sticking into logs so much, we put on a new one and the fun commences. We have fifteen nice trout in our basket when we come to a big log extending clear across the creek with only just the top out of the water, and very slippery from the fungus growth hanging to its sides. We drop our bait down close to the bank under the roots, it sinks about a foot when it is taken by a good trout, we drop in again further along the log and get another, then we miss two or three. We creep out further, trusting to the over-hanging branches to steady ourself. There is a big tail visible just beyond our reach. We stretch out to the utmost and drop in just above him, he strikes for it almost as soon as it touches the water, we hook him, but he's not coming in, but fights like a good fellow. We attempt to lead him out into clearer water, hanging heaving to the branch over-head. Vain hope! Snap! it goes. Our feet slip out from beneath us, and in a moment we are up to the waist, the water pouring into our pants, into the watch-pocket, and into a roll of greenbacks. Our rod and line had hung in the submerged branches of the hemlock. We felt we were sinking—for there's no bottom in this creek, but a soft black ooze—so, clinging to the tree and brush, we pulled up from the mud and swung astride the log. Recovering our rod, we found the trout gone and the hook caught on a snag, while we were cold and muddy.

We broke our leader in trying to release the hook, so putting on a new one and a fresh bait we tried again down stream. By this time our teeth were chattering, a cold chill ran up our spinal column. Great Caesar! isn't that water cold. Though mid July

the sun does not penetrate some places in this stream; after taking a couple more we counted tails and found we had nineteen trout in our basket. We at once determined to make for our stopping-place and change our clothes. A few minutes' hard pushing and climbing over logs and brush we are in the road again tramping for home, steaming hot under the mid-day sun. A change of clothing, a trout dinner, an unlimited amount of chaffing from the good wife and our kind friends about jumping in to put salt on the tails of trout, then we are ready for an afternoon's boat ride on the beautiful bay.

As the sun was sinking behind the tall tree tops we put our fly-book into our pocket. Slipping on a pair of wading boots, we determined to try our hand with a fly-rod. The creek empties into Pine Lake a few hundred yards from the house, over a sand bar, so, rigging up a cast of flies, we waded in. Our tail fly was a grizzly king, the dropper—a professor. A few casts reveal the fact that trout are laying there in plenty. They rise to the fly but do not take it. After whipping some time we notice a fly floating on the current—a dusky brown, locally named a “Miller's Moth.” We stopped casting to watch it. Ah! there's a sight; just below where we have been casting, a dozen trout fairly leaped from the water for the fly.

We instantly changed our cast—putting on a single orvis “White Miller”—for a tail fly, and laid out about 30 feet of line. The moment the fly touched the water it fairly boiled. Twenty trout must have broken water for it. We hooked one and brought him in. The evening breeze was just coming up with a southing moan that indicated a sharp gale. At present it only ruffled the water and favoured the catching of trout, except as it came sucking around the point into the bay, right into our face, making it difficult to cast a long line. Yet from that time, so long as we could see where our fly dropped, we would hook and bring in trout, losing many in our excitement, and snapping off flies. When darkness drove us indoors we had about 40 as handsome trout as we ever wish to see.

This was our last day's fishing. That night a fierce north-west gale came up, and as our time had nearly expired we sadly packed our fishing tackle, and bade our friends a regretful “Good bye.” Such are samples of days spent on these northern trout streams while you can intersperse your fishing days with a delightful sail or rowing on a lake nineteen miles long and four wide, with your family or other friends.

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Chicago, U.S.A., April 4, 1881.

REMINISCENCES OF AN OLD FISHERMAN.

BY COL. F. G. SKINNER.

WE have a dear friend, who shall be nameless—because in the way of field sports, in every branch of which he pretends to great skill, he is in fact a most pretentious humbug: One day when he accompanied us on a trouting expedition to a tributary of the Rappahannock, in the mountains of Virginia, he pretended to be very much disgusted with our use of grasshoppers and worms as bait, and denounced us as a mere pot-hunter. Arrived at the stream, we took different directions, he up and we down stream; he with his book of flies, we with our “wurrums” and “hoppers.” We had not been long separated when the thought occurred to us that our friend was humbugging us in some way, because the stream was so narrow and over-arched with shrubbery and trees as to render it impossible to cast a fly. So laying down our rod, we stepped stealthily up stream, and, as we anticipated, caught him *in flagrante delicto*, bobbing with a worm with which he had secretly provided himself before we left home. The following is a capital story told by L. B. Proctor in *Bench*

and Bar, of Judge Fitzhugh—who, by the way, is of Virginian stock, and is no such fly-casting Pharisee as our unnamed friend :

Judge Fitzhugh's favourite amusement was trout-fishing. His nice appreciation of the piscatorial art gave him the name of "The Walton of Western New York." While fishing he always used the fly; there are many who still remember his skilful manner of throwing it. He entertained the most sovereign contempt for any other mode of capturing trout—the aristocrat of the brook, as he termed that fish. One day, when on a fishing excursion, he met a fisherman whose well-filled basket proved his success.

"You have a fine basket of trout there," said the judge.

"Yes, sir, but I should have caught more, only my bait gave out," said the man.

"Bait! bait! What, are you one of those fellows that kill a quart of angle worms or a peck of grubs to catch one fish? One of these fellows who can't appreciate the nature of a trout any more than an ape can literature?" said the judge.

"I mean to say that I caught these fish with angle worms for my bait, and I'd like to know what that is to you?" said the man.

"Don't you know that it is unmanly and vulgar to fish for trout in that way? I would as soon eat carrion as a trout caught with a hook baited with angle-worms," said Fitzhugh.

"Who the deuce are you that goes about telling folks what they must fish with? Maybe you haven't read the Declaration of Independence," said the fisherman.

"I am a gentleman, sir, and you are not. A man can't be a gentleman that fishes for trout with angle-worms."

"Is it any of your business what a man fishes with? You talk as though you owned all the fish in this country. You don't, though. I've a great mind to throw you into the creek, but you are such an ugly-looking cuss you'd scare all the fish out of it. I should like to thrash my cow-yard with you," said the man, in a towering passion.

"Attempt any violence upon me, and I'll make live bait of you in a minute. I tell you it is my business what a man fishes with. It is the business of all civilised and Christianised people. Fishing with angle-worms degenerates trout to a common sucker—a crab—it baffles science; it teaches that splendid fish the habits of a common bull-head, that any idiot can catch. Fishing with a fly is a fair game between a man and a trout; it gives them both a chance to exercise their skill."

"What odds does it make how you catch a trout if you only get him? I catch fish because I like to eat them," said the man.

"That's because you are nothing but a cannibal. Fishing with a fly is a fair game between the man and a trout; it gives them both a chance to exercise their skill. A trout darting for a fly reminds me of the swoop of an eagle; there is something daring and brilliant in his movements; he charges on his prey like a hero, and if caught he dies gallantly, not sucking a stinking angle-worm like a hungry lubber," said the judge.

"See here, what's your name! By golly, you talk well. I'd like to hear that over again. Tell a fellow your name."

"My name is Fitzhugh—a name I have never disgraced, and never shall until I am caught in the flunkey business of catching trout with angle-worms."

"Are you Judge Fitzhugh, the man that can catch trout, with a buncombe fly on his hook, where there ain't any, just as well as he can where there's plenty of them?"

"They call me Judge Fitzhugh."

"Well, I'd half a mind to thrash you just now, you was so confounded sassy. They say you are the sassiest man in the world,

and I believe it. Those shaggy eyebrows and those great black eyes, and that black hair—well, I guess I don't want to get hold of you, so let's be friends. Judge, do you think I could learn to catch a trout with a fly?"

"Yes," said the Judge, amused at the man's manner and words, "go with me and I will give you a lesson." They were soon by the side of one of those beautiful streams in Northern Steuben, that in those days swarmed with the finest trout. Soon Fitzhugh's line went whizzing through the air, the swift-winged fly alighting on the water fully thirty feet distant. The next moment a splendid trout lay panting on the grass. The man watched the skillfully-thrown line with its darting insect, now alighting over the edge of a swift-whirling eddy, now skipping over bright ripples, now floating on the smooth current, then gyrating near a shelving rock like a "strong swimmer in his agony," tempting the silly tenant of the brook to spring at the glittering bait, to find himself caught, full surely, by the fatal snare.

The man lingered until Fitzhugh's basket was nearly filled, then, with admiration glowing on his face, exclaimed: "Judge, that's a big game between you and those trout—a pretty one, too—there's science in it. Blame me if you don't get the best of it, though, every time. Maybe they'll be too smart for me at that game; but I've done with angle-worms hereafter. Angle-worms be hanged, if I never catch another trout. I'll try my hand at the fly next time I fish. Good bye, judge," and the man's form was soon lost in the deep forest.

Some time during the ensuing winter, Judge Fitzhugh received two splendid saddles of venison from some person unknown, neatly packed in a box. On removing the cover of a paper was discovered, on which was written the following:

"From the fellow that don't fish with angle-worms any more, but goes it strong on the fly. This meat is for your first lesson with that article."—*Chicago Field*.

THE SECRET OUT AT LAST!

IF Mr. Thomas Ford's deductions, founded upon actual experiments (as stated lately in FISHING GAZETTE) be correct no wonder that Thames trout, or at least fish of good size and weight, should always be so comparatively scarce. A few trout have been caught this season near Maidenhead, and it has been surmised they might very likely have been Marlow fish; but it reads somewhat disheartening, if not even romantic, to reflect that trout artificially "cultivated" at Chertsey had better be turned into the river among "the Cotswolds!" Somebody, however, must benefit by the turning in of trout in any river. I should, if I were myself a Chertsey-bred trout, yearn to be off and away from, the rush of the steam-launches and the splashing and dashing, and the lumbering barges, and the rowing boats, and the hundreds of pike, and shoals of perch, and the (occasional) netting poachers, to rest awhile in the quieter gravelly waters at Cookham, or Maidenhead. Gaining strength and growing into a decent, respectable fish, I would push on again and rest at Reading awhile—then on and on for Pangbourne and Goring, and away for the (in summertime) continuously clear waters to the Bensons, and Nuneham and to Oxford; and, thence with luck, ascend to the very "Cotswolds" themselves and make my respectful bow. Putting this and that together, I would return to select my permanent home in the Upper Waters—anywhere, anywhere west of Maidenhead Bridge!

No wonder that Pangbourne and its very trouty neighbourhood had always been favourite trysting spots for the Thames trout-angler. Who, or what respectable trout would willingly live in the "troubled waters" of "Mid" or "Upper" Thames, if he could possibly work his way gradually to the calmer "sweet waters"

beyond. Really, Mr. Thomas Ford seems to have knocked the fish-hatching business into a "cocked hat" in so far as there exists much hope for increasing Thames or other trout in that especial portion of our dear old river hitherto considered by London and suburban trout-fishers and spinners as their own favourite water.

Sixty full grown fish that a friend of Mr. Thomas Ford's had placed in the small "beck" (stream) in Lincolnshire, two or three miles down the stream; other (small fry) had been placed in the same water, and yet another lot (of fry) from Mr. Capel's, of Foot's Cray, Kent, and still there is not now a single trout in the lower reaches—namely Mr. Ford's water! Somebody, I repeat, must get these trout by and by. The above facts seem, at first sight, to be most astonishing; and yet the migration of fish nearer and still nearer to the river's head or source appears to be natural enough. How many, again, of the Marlow-bred fish will ever fall to the Marlow anglers in their own local reach? The same question might also be asked about the Reading-bred trout, and the problem of their return to Reading after their Hegira to the land, of the Stonebrash, of fleecy sheep, and of new-made blankets bleaching in the summer's sunshine in the green pastures! And what would be the odds against a Chertsey-bred or Reading-bred trout getting ultimately back to Chertsey or Reading respectively to tell his wondrous tale of travel to and from "the Cotswolds!" Fifty to one? Eh? Or one out of every fifty! But what is most singular of all is that trout other than the native fish should be actuated by the same instinct of seeking, in Mr. Ford's Derbyshire stream for instance, the upper gravelly waters. Was the lack of flies and other food on the sand, one cause? Or was migration, the chief or all-pervading instinct for the foreign or Kent-bred fish to follow the lead of the natives and of the sixty large migratory fish? It would really appear that the motto of all the "spotted beauties" was "Upward and Onwards!" Mr. Ford's very interesting communication must set a lot of people thinking, supported as it is in part by "Consistent's" letter. But could not Mr. Forbes mark his fish, and the Marlow and the Reading trout-hatchers also mark their fish on turning them into the Thames? If this were done, some reliable data might be arrived at a year or two hence as to the whereabouts of the trout when some of them are ultimately captured. The subject is replete with deep interest and concern to all anglers. But wherever large pike and perch abound as in the Thames, very many trout will get destroyed. They know this well enough at Hungerford, where only aristocratic beauties are permitted to occupy the waters.

Happy the trout that, in mountain tributary, or "beck," or village streamlet, are "born to blush unseen," save by the loving eyes of the local fly-fishers in the squire's son, or the vicar's, or the doctor's, and such-like favoured few; but nobler far is the lot of those bonny trout who, braving all dangers among stone walls and floods and such like, have in their best days settled down permanently in some quiet Thames-side weir or pool, and their bigger brethren of the Kennett in favourite "Trouty Tails," or shady swims—each and all enjoying life with zest and the good things that a bountiful Providence had provided for them, until the citizen-angler shall come in turn with his varied temptations, and when the iron had entered into their souls to fight for liberty; but when all was lost (save honour) to know that their fame would be enshrined in the annals of Sport, and themselves immortalised in—plaster and paint!

A PILGRIM FRY-ER.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal books. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

RANDOM CASTS;

OR,

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF "AN OLD ROD."

(No. I.)

IN submitting to the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE the following extracts from my note-book I must be allowed to say, by way of introduction, that if they contain nothing that is new, they, at all events, will contain nothing but what is true. They will, for the most part, consist of records of angling incidents which have occurred to myself; and, where this is not the case, of incidents the truth of which I can vouch for. If the perusal of these notes should afford any amusement or instruction to my readers I shall be more than repaid for any trouble I have had in writing them out; for the very trouble has been a pleasure to me, as it enabled me, now that I am, to a great extent, "laid on the shelf," to recall many of the most pleasant hours of the past, and to "fight my battles o'er again." This much by way of introduction; and now for my sketches, the first of which I shall call

MY FIRST SALMON.

In a book which I had some time ago, the following passage occurs:—"Men who, having gone through the ordeal, can speak with weighty experience of it, tell me solemnly that the very most nervous and anxious period of a gentleman's existence is when he asks a lady to marry him." Now I doubt, nay, I deny this. Nervous and anxious the period is, I freely admit—most nervous, most anxious! *Experto crede!* Yet there is "a period" (if one may use the expression) even more nervous and more anxious which occurs, not to all, but to some men, and which can occur but once, to wit, the hooking and killing of the "first salmon." Numbers of anglers have given to the world the record of the capture of their "first salmon"; let me add my story to the rest—and here let me add, *en parenthese*, that, since that time, I have killed with the rod over two thousand salmon, and that none of these, nay, hardly all put together, have created in me as much anxiety and excitement as that one "first fish." And now for its history. Many years ago, in fact long enough ago "for young men to grow grey, and for old men to wither and die," I went to stay in the West of Ireland, with a relation, for snipe shooting; which in those days, and in that part of the country, was very good, as I, myself, killed in two consecutive morning's shooting (*i.e.*, shooting from about ten o'clock to half-past one each day) 63½ couple. Whilst staying with him I met a gentleman from the County Galway who, discovering that I was rather "mad" on the subject of angling, and possessing some of the best salmon and white trout fishing in Ireland, asked me to come over again in the summer to stay with him, and try the salmon fishing. Need I say that I accepted his invitation with great delight, my one ambition being to kill a salmon!

It so chanced that I was only able to get away from other engagements for the first three weeks or so in May (about the very worst time in the whole season for that part of the world). Well, I set off from Yorkshire full of hope, and haunted by visions of terrific struggles with, and brilliant victories over, gigantic salmon, &c., and in due course arrived with my friend Captain J. at — Castle. Alas! when, after my journey of near 500 miles by rail and sea, and then a drive on an "outside car" of about another 50 miles we reached our destination—one of the most, if not the most hospitable of Irish houses (and this is saying a great deal)—we found, to our grievous disappointment, I may almost say despair, the river almost dry! No rain—a very singular thing in that part of the country—had fallen for nearly

two months, and so no fish had been able to run up the river. We were therefore reduced to fishing for "brown" (or common) trout (*salmo fario*), of which there was any quantity in the river and neighbouring lakes, but to fish for which was considered extremely "infra dig;" boating, sketching, pic-nic-ing, and flirting with a lot of pretty girls—daughters, nieces and friends of our host.

So the time passed, and passed not unpleasantly. I had travelled more than 500 miles to kill a salmon, and the time I could spare was so nearly expired that I was obliged to return to England almost at once. The very afternoon before my departure the rain began, and when it rains in Connaught it does rain! Before night the river had risen nearly 2 feet, and gave the salmon and white trout (*salmo trutta*) a chance of passing the weir, &c., at its mouth. Next morning, my fishing attendant, "Mick," came to my bed-room about half-past 4 o'clock, and told me he had seen two or three salmon rising at "the Captain's Point" (a favourite salmon pool in the river). Full of ambition to kill "a fish" as salmon only were designated, and knowing that, for that season at all events, it was my last chance, I jumped out of bed, dressed by "telegraph," and in a little over half an hour was at the pool where Mick had seen the fish. I put up a fly, which he said would "coax them," soaked my casting line for a few minutes, tried it to see that it was all sound (a precaution, let me impress upon all anglers, of the utmost importance), and then made a cast, not with any idea of trying for a fish, but just to see if the casting line was pretty straight. To my intense surprise—I may almost say to my horror—the instant my fly touched the water there was a "boil" at it. I saw the back and tail of a fish break the water; my line tightened, instinctively I struck, and found myself "fast" in my first salmon! Words cannot express my sensation! A thrill, half pleasure, half pain, seemed to run through my backbone from end to end! My heart almost stopped beating for a few moments, and then began to beat as if it would jump out of my breast! To me, for the time, the whole world was that salmon, or that salmon was the whole world (I can't tell which). But why attempt to describe what is indescribable! "Whiz" went the reel, out ran the line, as my fish, on feeling the hook, rushed across the river, there some thirty or forty yards wide. I knew not what to do! I had read reports of salmon fishers having to give their fish scores and scores of yards of line; of their having to run up and down the rocky and rugged banks of a river for miles; of their having to spend hours in tiring out their prey; and I believed those reports then. I don't believe them now. I had gathered from the experience of salmon fishers that "the rush" of a salmon must never be checked, and most careful was I not to check the rushes of mine. Every time my fish showed the slightest inclination to run out line, I gave him all, aye, more than he wanted. I let him do what he liked. I am sure that for every yard of line I ought to have given that fish I gave him ten! I am convinced, from subsequent experience, that I ought to have killed him in less than ten minutes; and yet I spent a good hour of mingled hope and fear before I ventured to drag my now completely exhausted quarry to the side of the river, and Mick gaffed for me my first salmon, a fish of only about 8 lb. I sent him as a present to a very dear friend; but I believe that had I followed "the bent of my inclination" I should have carried that fish about with me the whole day; had him to bed with me at night; and then have had him stuffed in a glass case so that I might constantly look on "my first salmon."

AN OLD ROD.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

THE NORWICH EXHIBITION.

IN addition to the awards given at the Norwich Exhibition, Messrs. Allcock and Co., of the Standard Works, Redditch, have had a special award of a gold medal and special diploma for sea and river hooks, swivels, &c., and for improvements and inventions of the same articles.

THE "BELL'S LIFE" SPINNER.

MR. R. B. BAMBRIDGE, of 74, and 75, High Street, Eton-on-Thames, has recently improved this artificial bait of his make, and it looks now just as neat and nice as a trout could wish.

Mr. Bambridge guarantees that "its opening action is perfect" (it spins from tail only); and as he is an old hand at killing Thames trout by spinning, he may be relied on to know what "perfection" in spinning means.

A YEAR OF LIFEBOAT WORK.

IN recounting briefly the annual work of the National Lifeboat Institution, we may mention that the Institution has now been in existence fifty-seven years, and that at no period since its foundation has it more entirely possessed the confidence of the public than now; and its need was never more strikingly exemplified than during the past twelve months, more especially in the fierce gales and blinding snowstorms of January last on our eastern coast, which witnessed some of the most daring exploits of our lifeboatmen that have ever been recorded—exploits which not only testified to their humanity and courage, but to their wonderful physical endurance. In evidence of the same, it will suffice to state that on several occasions during those storms the lifeboats' crews were at sea from fifteen to twenty-four hours, and in one instance for twenty-six hours, exposed to the full fury of the storm, in the bitterest cold, in some cases without food throughout those long hours, and with their clothes stiffened with ice. Shortly afterwards His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserves, was kind enough to present the medals and votes of thanks awarded by the Institution to the crews of the Ramsgate Harbour lifeboat and steamer, in acknowledgment of their bravery and long exposure, on the 5th and 6th of January last, in rescuing the survivors of the crew of the barque *Indian Chief*, wrecked on the Long Sands.

Again, the perilous character of the lifeboat work is at once realised by the fact that in accomplishing it eighteen noble fellows perished during the storms of last winter from the lifeboats. Towards the maintenance of the widows and orphans of the brave men the Institution subscribed £1,800, to be added to the local contributions raised on their behalf.

Twelve new lifeboats were sent to the following stations last year: Co. Durham, Whitburn; Yorkshire, Saltburn; Kent, Kingsgate; Sussex, Hastings; Cornwall, Sennen Cove; Cardiganshire, Aberystwith; Ayrshire, Ardrossan; Aberdeenshire, Fraserburgh; Louth, Giles's Quay; Waterford, Tramore and Ardmore; and Cork, Ballycotton. Five other boats are about to be forwarded to Wells, Norfolk; Rye, Sussex; Braunton, North Devon; St. Anne's, Lancashire; and Newcastle, County Down.

The Lifeboats of the Institution were the means of saving five hundred and seventy-seven lives during the past year from wrecked or endangered vessels, most of them under perilous circumstances, when ordinary boats could not with safety have been employed. The services of the Lifeboats of the Institution during each month of the year were as follows:—January, 13 launches, 8 lives and 2 vessels saved; February, 34 launches, 81 lives and 4 vessels; March, 17 launches, 46 lives and 2 vessels; April, 13 launches, 13 lives and 1 vessel; May, June, and July, 17 launches, 46 lives and 3 vessels; August, 12 launches, 13 lives; September, 17 launches, 50 lives; October, 61 launches, 137 lives and 7 vessels; November, 39 launches, 120 lives and 5 vessels; December, 22 launches, 63 lives and 3 vessels. Total number of lifeboat launches during the year, 245; lives saved, 577; and vessels saved, 27. In addition to these lifeboat services, 120 lives were saved from shipwreck by shore-boats and other means, making a total of 697 lives preserved in 1880, for which honorary or pecuniary rewards were made by the Institution. There were voted last year one gold, six silver medals and clasps, fifteen votes of thanks inscribed on vellum, and £4287 in cash, for saving these lives. Happily, 430 lives were also saved last year by means of the rocket apparatus belonging to the Board of Trade, which is worked so efficiently by the Coastguard and the Rocket Volunteer Brigades. The number of lives saved since the establishment of the Institution to the end of the year 1880, either by its lifeboats or by special exertions for which it has granted rewards, is 27,603. In view of facts like these the Lifeboat Institution cannot fail to maintain its hold on the support of the British public.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish
Cut with her golden oars the silver stream
And greedily devour the treacherous bait."
—SHAKESPEARE.

THE late and still continuing rains have done the Thames an immensity of good in the way of freshening up, for it had become very low, bright and stale, and fish of calibre declined to be tempted with any bait, whether natural or fearfully and wonderfully made artificial ones—even the FISHING GAZETTE spinner did not seem to be in it, no matter how deftly manipulated. Matters will now, I trust, take a turn for the better, as I hear from most of the likely stations that trout are on the feed—some decent ones having succumbed within the past few days. At Maidenhead and Marlow some nine fish have been had within a week, but the heaviest fish does not much go over 3 lb. At Temple, last evening (Wednesday), Mr. Low, out with Coster, after being worried with three chub and a jack, landed a pretty little fish, which scaled 2½ lb. At Hambleden, a gentleman out with a Henley fisherman was, after toiling and spinning some time, rewarded with a beauty of 4 lb. At Henley, no trout have lately been had, the great attraction at present being the enormous quantity of chub and barbel which are to be seen working into the new pool at Marsh lock, hundreds of people daily watching the moving mass of *finny-uns*. Wind, S.W. —MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order now for trout a little freshened up by the rain. Prospects looks well for the coming season; barbel and chub are np here very thick; barbel up to 12 lb. are to be seen from Goring Bridge any day; a trout was taken here on Saturday 3 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in a very bad state now, as is always the case at this season of the year, with the grasswater and the fish spawn. I am very sorry to report that I saw a man throwing in a lot of filth and mud in the river at one of the best harbours we have got in our water. I spoke to him, but he took no notice of me. Such filth as he was putting in the river would kill full-sized fish, let alone small fry, as the water is alive with them at this spot. I have written to the Thames Conservancy to ask them to do all in their power to stop this injury to the spawning of the fish, and I think it should be marked by every true angler to stop all in his power the injury which might be caused to the fish, as they afford us good sport and pastime. There has only been one trout taken in our waters at present with the bait. Last Sunday there were three taken by hand at Kidd Mill at Isleworth. The largest was 5½ lb. They started the mill on, and the fish were either worked out of the hole or came through the mill.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Windsor).

At last I have the pleasure of reporting the demise of a brace of Thames trout, the whereabouts of which I have given in the GAZETTE at various times. One of them, taken at Boveney, proved to be a rare old stager, and doubtless has cheated many a good angler; as on examining his mouth the point of the lower jaw fitted, when closed, into a well-made socket, so to speak, in the upper, which must have taken years to form, and would in a measure account for his bad condition. His weight was 7½ lb. and ought to have gone 14 lb., length 2 feet 4 inches. From this you can imagine what sort of fish he was, especially when I say that the same fisherman, Richard Gray, took one two years back, only 17 inches long, that went 7½ lb. The other, taken just below Victoria Bridge, by his brother, James Gray, the well-known fisherman here, was a good fish, but ought to have been 2 lb. heavier, he, however, was close on 8 lb., measured 2 feet 2 inches. This fish has been hooked several times, but last Tuesday morning, with a strong ripple on, found him extra hungry, and the hook, which was only a single No. 6 Kendal, in lip of a lively bleak, was fairly embedded in his gullet. The handsomest fish of the week was a 2½ lb. fish taken spinning in the Windsor Weir on Monday evening, by James Gray, and was as pretty a little fish as I have ever seen. At Monkey Island I hear a nice fish has been had close on 8 lb., besides a smaller one; and below, at Magna Charta Island, Clifford, Esq., has been putting steel into a bouncer of about 8 lb. The water has been very low and bright, but as I said last week was worth trying, and now that we have had some good showers I quite expect something big will happen next week, especially if the sun comes on as it did a few days back, which will bring the fish up to the weirs and give the weir fishermen a chance. At present I think but very few fish are in the weirs, and should be looked for in the open. Lumsden has been having a run of very bad luck, getting two runs in one morning this week, one being a clinker, weight and whereabouts I must not mention, as he tells me he means having him yet.—R. B. BAMBRIDGE.

Bure (Norfolk.)

The genial weather and the long days are beginning to draw our anglers out a longer distance from home than they have lately been, most of them having been quite contented to stop as near the city as possible; indeed, during the past few weeks, they have been amply rewarded by so doing, as the roach-fishing has been exceptionally good, and many are the fine takes which have been shown at the various clubs and elsewhere. But roach-fishing may now be considered at an end for some time, as they are all busy spawning. We must, therefore, leave them and forage about for something larger; and, to accomplish this, we must go in another direction to what we have hitherto been. We

will, then, give Thorpe, Coldhams, and the neighbouring waters a short rest, and pay the river Bure, or, as we call it, the "North River," a few visits. Such was the determination of two members of the East Anglian Association last week, who, after deciding upon South Walsham (near the famed and historical St. Benet's Abbey), as their trying place, left the club house at 6.30 a.m.; and, after a pleasant ride of about eleven miles and a row down the "old dyke," were soon hard at it, and, although having to contend with a rather blustering north-east wind, they returned home and exhibited one of the finest catches of silver bream that has been shown for many a long day, not one fish weighed less than 1½ lb., the largest fish, 3 lb. 9 oz., being taken by quite a young angler (in experience), Mr. W. A. Campling, and which fish, being a splendid specimen of the silver bream, is now in the hands of Mr. Gunn, naturalist, for the purpose of being preserved. The entire catch weighed about 3½ stones, and caused quite a commotion during the time they were on view at the club house. Undoubtedly, should the weather prove fine, many other like results will be chronicled.—ANGLER.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The water is in splendid order for fishing for trout, dace, chub and perch. If weather continues fine there is every prospect of good sport. Messrs. Lester and Hoblin Schradre have been among the trout, each taking one; Mr. Hoblin taking the largest, 6 lb. Mr. T. Hawkins last night took one trout, 4 lb., and Mr. Burgher some good dace, and another angler some good perch, the largest 2½ lb. Our roach will be up to spawn in a few days.—E. GODFREY.

Coquet (Northumberland).

Owing to a change in the weather the rivers was flooded on Sunday, and on Monday the river was in good condition. T. Bowlin, Esq., New Hampton, killed a splendid dish of trout, the largest 1½ lb., and about ten o'clock the river came down again, and was flooded up to Wednesday, when in a good condition for minnows.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

There is nothing much to report this week respecting trout-fishing on the Dove. We have not had a great number of anglers out, owing to the cold and strong north-west wind and rains. The best dish I can hear of is one of five brace, which were captured in Dovedale. The Turkey brown proved the executant. The May fly is coming out very fitfully; the unsettled weather no doubt keeps it back. It will not be well on the water before the middle of June, if even then. The river is now in grand condition, the rains having freshened up the water capitally.—THE SPLODGER.

Eden (Carlisle).

The river is flooded, and the water muddy. The weather is fine, with rather boisterous wind. Should the weather continue fine, we may expect good fly-fishing in the course of a day or two. On the 14th inst., Mr. John Robinson, Cargo, killed two sea trout with the fly. This being all the sport I have heard of coming to the rod this week, but there have been some heavy takes of salmon and sea trout with the nets.—THOMAS PARKINS.

Exe (Tiverton).

Owing to the recent heavy rains the river is very thick and unfit for fishing; if no more rain it will be fishable to-morrow or Saturday; should it continue to rain, and so keep the river in flood, we shall get some salmon up. A good many trout are being taken in the tributaries with the worm and minnow, which is prohibited in the Association waters. Wind south-west, barometer falling.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

North Lincolnshire.

I was out on the 7th inst., on the Laceby stream, and bagged a nice dish of thirty trout, all with the fly. My cast was made up of the following:—Brown drake (march brown), freckled dun and Ford's favourite, which three flies killed about equally well. With a view to improve the fishing hereabouts, I have this week, in connection with a friend, turned adrift about 10,000 trout fry. May they increase, multiply and replenish the waters is the fervent wish of—THOMAS FORD.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

These streams are in good order for angling, though the bottom fishers cry out for more rain. There is no doubt twenty-four hours rainfall would liven it up for the use of the worm and gentle. But the sportsman who takes his fly-rod and a good assortment of flies to the river side, and lands half a dozen brace of trout, has the real taste of what angling is. I shall name these for the present month:—The stone fly, May fly, red spinner, whirling blue, black gnat, and the peacock palmer. As the rivers are fine use fine gut and small flies, and take care not to approach the stream where you intend fishing unless you are low down. Do not stand upon the bank, but wade if you can. Some few trout have been landed this week, but it is no easy matter to kill a basket of trout just now.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries. Clonmel (Ireland).

We have had the much wished for rain at last. It began on Saturday, and has continued more or less every day since. The river, in consequence, is slightly flooded and very much coloured, and we hear reports of a fresh run of salmon, great quantities of which were taken by the nets below Clonmel; none, however, up to the present, have fallen to the rods, the water being rather too coloured for fly-fishing, but as it is clearing we expect it to be fit on about Friday. The trout-fishing has been greatly improved by the rain, and great sport was had on the different streams about. The Tar, the Anner, the Lernaun, the Clodiagh, and the Nire, each contributed their share. Mr. Harrison, Captain Dixon, Major Chalmers, Mr. Park, and several others were amongst the most successful. The evening fishing is nearly on, when the different coloured rail flies are best. The rise does not last long, and generally stops at night-fall. The best flies for day fishing at present are black hackles, such as the hawthorn fly and black midge. The spider wrens are also favourites.—DORA.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had a good deal of heavy rain at the beginning of the week, which caused both the above rivers to have nice little flushes on Wednesday. This rise of water will benefit all kinds of fishing; sport, both with the fly and bottom, has been first class. The latter end of last week F. C. Arkwright, Esq., got 14 brace in one day, and the next day he took 8½ brace of trout. Every fish was killed on the Wye, and with my claret bumble; and several other gentlemen have had some first-class baskets off of both river with bumble, dun, little red and spider flies, the bumble killing the most fish. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have done exceedingly well during the week with both worms and ant eggs for baits, and baskets from 4 to 12½ brace per angler have been

made, and some very fine trout amongst them. A clergyman from Darley got a trout 2 lb. 3 oz. with worm for bait. The largest and best fish have been taken in the deep at Matlock Bath. The tight line party at Matlock Bath have taken a few trout and eels during this flush with large lob worms for baits. Several otters have been heard in the Derwent, between Matlock Bridge and Whatstandwell during the last week. The disease is still prevailing amongst the grayling on both these rivers. There is no appearance of any May flies or green drakes on these rivers yet. Sport on the brooks and ponds has been first-class with both top and bottom, and some excellent baskets have been killed. Fishing prospects first-class on all the Derbyshire rivers.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Stalkholms, Matlock Bath.

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scotsman*.)

LOCHLEVEN—DUNDEE (WALTON) CLUB COMPETITION.—This club held their first competition for the season on Saturday. The weather still continued unsettled, a blustering west wind blowing. There were eight boats engaged, with fifteen competitors, whose aggregate baskets contained 37 trout, weighing 38 lb. 14 oz. Only twelve of the competitors weighed. The following gentlemen were found to have gained the prizes:—1, Mr. R. Gow, 6 trout, 8 lb. 3 oz.; 2, Mr. G. Caird, 4 trout, 6 lb.; 3, Mr. Cargill, 5 trout, 5 lb. 14½ oz. The heaviest trout was killed by Mr. Caird, and weighed 2 lb. 8 oz. Private parties reported the following:—Mr. D. Ireland, Dundee, 11 trout, 12½ lb.; Mr. D. Ross, Al'oa, 10 trout, 11 lb.; Messrs. Arthur and Macgregor had 6 trout, 5½ lb. Several other boats reported four and five trout each. Mr. Townsend, of Glasgow, reported a splendid basket containing 26 trout, 26 lb.

MOY.—At Moy, Badenock, on the 13th inst., Mr. M. L. Van Gruisen, of Liverpool, caught 10 lb. trout in an hour and a half.

LOCH LUBNAIG.—On Thursday, Mr. Buchanan, Ruinacraig, caught on this Loch three dozen trout, weighing 14 lb., the heaviest one weighing 2 lb., and on Friday a salmon, which weighed 17 lb.

THE SPEY.—During the past week the river has been in capital trim for anglers, but notwithstanding the sport was poor. On the Carron section of the river, Mr. Wordie landed three salmon, weighing 8, 9, and 10 lb. On Tulchan water on Thursday, Sir George Chetwode landed one salmon.

DENNY AND DUNIPACE CLUB.—The first competition for the season under the auspices of this club took place on the river Endrick, near Fintry, on Saturday, and brought out a considerable number of competitors. Trout were reported scarce and the water light, consequently the baskets were small. The prize-takers were:—1, Mr. Charles Robertson, who also gained special for heaviest trout; 2, Robert Shearer; 3, William Henderson; 4, Thos. Tough; 5, John Morrison; 6, James Kerr.

LOCH TAY.—On the Killin Hotel water the takes were—14th May, Mr. Russell Earp, London, two salmon, 18 and 21 lb.; on the reserved water at Killin Mr. F. McDonald, Salisbury, one salmon, 19 lb.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.—IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Members holding privilege tickets are informed that the authorities of the railways considering it necessary that the tickets should be changed, the new tickets to be submitted will come into operation on Thursday, June 16, 1881. Instructions to secretaries: Secretaries are requested to send the names and addresses in full of members requiring the new privilege tickets to the secretary of the Central Committee as soon as possible, and all tickets applied for will be ready for delivery at the Central Committee room on Tuesday, June 7th, 1881, from nine till eleven o'clock. It is to be understood that all tickets applied for will be charged, as no deduction can be made from the list of tickets made out. The charge for new cards and yearage will be 1s. The present "drab" tickets will be cancelled on Wednesday, June 15, and the new tickets "cerise," come into operation on Thursday, June 16th, 1881. Tickets will be forwarded by post on application. N.B.—The committee in soliciting the support and patronage of angling societies, beg to inform them that the whole of the cost of the preservation of the river Lea, an annual subscription to the Thames Angling Preservation Society and other institutions, for the benefit of the London anglers, are paid from this Association. Members of all clubs that have been enrolled on this committee, are entitled to their privilege tickets without any extra enrollment fee. Tickets on the Midland Railway are now issued from Moorgate Street, St. Pancras, and Kentish Town. Add to list on Great Western Railway, Windsor and Moulsoford, and on Midland Railway, St. Albans and Bedford. Great Eastern tickets to anglers are granted to Yarmouth and Lowestoft for four days at 10s. for the return journey, also to Wroxham at the same fare on production of members' privilege tickets.—R. G. GHURNEY, Secretary.
10, Baches Street, Charles Street, Hoxton, N.

IMPORTANT CONVICTION UNDER THE FRESH WATER FISHERIES ACT.—It is not generally known that proprietors or occupiers of land through which any stream passes have the power of enforcing the Act against all persons during this close season of fishing or attempting to fish by lawful or unlawful means. The Thames Angling Preservation Society has made a grand example this week in this respect, and the result will be followed without doubt in the issue of summonses against offenders without the necessity of the assistance of the society where the water is out of its general jurisdiction, but at the same time the keepers have orders to assist in obtaining summonses where it may be desired by the proprietors. The case referred to was heard at Sunbury on Monday last, the society having taken out a summons against a man named Henry Dabney for wiring jack in some water on land in the occupation of Mr. Rane, the stream being connected with the Colne at one end and running into the Thames at another. It was situated some distance from both rivers, and Mr. Hickson Briggs prosecuted on behalf of the Thames Preservation Angling Society. The Bench, after hearing the case, fined the offender in the sum of 40s., including costs. The result gave so much satisfaction to a number of land proprietors who were present, and who had streams running through where wiring was going on to a great extent, determined upon seeking the protection of the Fisheries Act without further delay. This act on the part of the Thames Angling Preservation Society will be the means of saving hundreds and thousands of jack which go up these streams during the close season.

ANGLING IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

I HAVE lately made a flying visit to some portions of Lincolnshire, to ascertain whether the operations of the Fresh Water Fishery Act of 1878 have been carried on in those districts, and I am glad to report a general expression of approval has been accorded to its working. At one of the Great Northern side stations, between Peterborough and Grantham, I found one of the porters was an adept in the angling art, and he assured me the effect of the Act upon roach fishing was proving of a very beneficial character. He is evidently a great enthusiast in angling, and gave me some illustrative notions of his skill in fishing, which appeared to be the result of practical experience. When he found out who I was, and that my life was devoted to his favourite pastime, he conversed with me up to the time of the arrival of the train; and having about twenty minutes to wait, I related to him some of our work in connection with Thames fishing; and when I told him of the recovery of over four thousand good roach, he was in perfect raptures, assuring me how delighted he would have been to have witnessed such a sight, and of putting them back again into the metropolitan stream. He told me of his method of striking roach, and he had a very illustrative manner of expressing himself. As soon as he recognised a bite, he struck the wrist of the hand which held the rod with his other hand with a force sufficient to lip-hook the fish, and he was invariably successful, contending it had a superiority over the ordinary or common mode. There was a peculiarity about it which, I am afraid, would not gain great favour amongst our Thames roach fishers; but giving him the benefit of experience, he would not be far wrong, if, indeed, he was wrong at all. I have always an idea that a good angler makes a good servant, and in this respect, as far as he was concerned, I gleaned from my friends that he was always civil and obliging. In my rounds, I came in contact with a country rector, who is fairly well up in angling, and especially amongst the trout; and I hope, one of these days, he will give me an account of some of his doings in the Lincolnshire streams.

But the practical character of my visit in anticipation of the general angling season, which begins on the sixteenth of the next month, was to find out, as I have said before, the effects of the Fishery Act in its legislation in the country; and without specifying particular places, I may say generally that it has found favour even amongst those who at the first were opposed to it. They take the same view as the railway porter I have previously referred to, and I will use his own language. He said, "If you catch a roach when it is in spawn it is not that single fish you destroy, but a thousand inside it, and if you kill another, there goes another thousand, and so on." And his argument was practical and right. It is the principle we want all to teach, and undoubtedly this man, whenever he has a chance, inculcates it to every angler he becomes associated with. His teaching will find acceptability amongst all true disciples of the rod; and, in teaching them, he will, no doubt, cause the teaching of others. It is this that is doing so much good on the Thames by the members of the London angling clubs, who are now taught by the Central Associations to regard the seasons and sizes of fish. I put in an appearance at Sleaford, and regretted no action had as yet been taken to resuscitate the old association, but there was a strong feeling in favour of it, and the respected agent of the Marquis of Bristol was quite prepared to give every facility. Like most other things, it only wanted a leader, and some one who would well work the office of secretary. The Sleacan, indeed, be made a good trout stream, and I was asked the question whether it was possible to do so. I hope on the next occasion of my visit—for this was only one of a few hours—I may have an opportunity of seeing several anglers

who I know are ready to do their part in the work, and endeavour to stimulate them all into action, and practically carry out the ideas I gave in the FISHING GAZETTE in the autumn of last year.

B.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF FISH AND FISHERIES. (PART VI.) REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1878. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880.

SINCE the first establishment of the United States Fish and Fisheries Commission, in 1871, its record, as contained in the successive volumes of its reports, is nothing more or less than a continuous history of successes. Its original object, as authorised by law of Congress, was an investigation into the causes of the alleged decrease of the fishes of the sea coast and lakes, and the recommendation of measures for their restoration. Not long after, however, it found itself compelled to enlarge its sphere of operations, and, by undertaking the propagation and culture of desirable food fishes, to give practical proof of the value of its scientifically conducted ichthyological researches. Under the able direction of Professor Spencer F. Baird, whilom assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Fish Commission has since performed work of very high character in every one of its many departments. Its labours are now watched with jealous admiration by all manner of men in all countries, no small number of whom could testify to its constant courtesy and readiness to impart every information in its power. It is also no small achievement of the Commission to have raised up and fostered the well sustained and progressive interest in its doings that is now day by day being shown by the nation. But it has besides performed the far greater feat of maintaining favour in the sight even of Congressmen, who, if reports speak truthfully, have very little claim to represent either the best interests or the highest intelligence and culture of the nation. However, be this as it may, it must be conceded that Congress has always shown itself prepared to appropriate large sums for Fish Commission purposes. Beginning in 1871, with the modest appropriation of £1,600, rising to £10,000, and £15,000 in succeeding years, in 1879 the amount reached £31,200. In 1880, a preliminary appropriation of £25,000 was awarded to the Commission, and doubtless supplemental estimates will be met with equal readiness. In addition to these figures, no less than £165,000 has already been expended by minor Fish Commissions, under the separate control of individual State Legislatures. Still it is possible and quite justifiable to view the conspicuous generosity of Congress towards the central Fish Commission, in some less pleasing light than that cast by pure disinterestedness or desire for the advancement of science. For many and various are the disguises and shapes that political log-rolling assumes, and into this category the above specified instance of Congressional openhandedness very perceptibly falls. In proof of this, it is only necessary to remember that one object of the Commission, and in the eyes of Congress perhaps its most important one, is to secure statistics for the proper treatment of international questions connected with the common use, by Canada and the United States, of the waters of the North Atlantic. Unfortunately, however, the ingrained obliquity of moral perception, upon which Congress unblushingly prides itself, renders proper treatment and final settlement of international questions impossible. This much at least every impartial critic will readily admit, who has studied the history of the Fortune Bay and other fishery disputes that have from time to time arisen between the British and United States Governments. Until more equitable sentiments prevail in Congress, the utmost

we can do is to look forward hopefully to the fulfilment of the time foreshadowed by the Commissioner in the concluding paragraph of his report. Referring to the successful issue of the experiments conducted by the Commission in the artificial culture of useful sea-fishes, he finishes thus:—

“We have at our command the means of so improving and increasing the American fisheries as to obviate the necessity in the future of asking a participation in the inshore fisheries of the British Provinces, and thus enable us to dispense with fishery treaties or fishery relations of any kind with the British or other Governments.”

May that happy day soon come, and the Fish Commission ever prosper! is a sentiment that will strike a responsive chord in the breast of every true Briton and Canadian.

The figures cited above almost suffice to show the present extended scale of piscicultural operations in America, but should farther proof be required, it is only necessary to point to the most recent of the appliances placed at the disposal of the Commission. This is nothing less than a splendidly-appointed steamship, named the *Fishhawk*, which, having been specially built to meet the requirements of the Commission, is a model of what such a vessel should be. Her size is 484 tons, and she is provided with every useful appliance that the ingenuity of man has devised or found necessary in prosecuting scientific researches at sea. Perfectly equipped as she is, both as regards her executive and scientific crews, it will not be for want of means if the *Fishhawk* fails to add largely to our present knowledge of practical ichthyology.

The present report, the sixth volume of the series, although relating to the eighth year of the existence of the Commission, is intended to include an account of its labours during 1878, and so far as these concern the propagation of salmon, during a part of 1879. The report falls into two parts—inquiry and propagation of food fishes. The former includes the history, condition, and statistics of the great fisheries, and the proper method of prosecuting them; the latter gives the history of the measures taken to actually increase the supply of desirable fishes in particular waters, either by artificial propagation, or by transfer from other localities or both combined. Among many important suggestions for the improvement of old fisheries and the development of new ones, it is noteworthy that the introduction of beam-trawling is here strongly recommended. Curiously enough this system, as well as that of catching cod by means of gill-nets, as practised in Norwegian fisheries, is unknown in America. The adoption of this last method is particularly advocated as a means of relieving fishermen of one of their greatest embarrassments, namely that of procuring bait. Professor Baird's advocacy of the beam trawl shows him also no believer in the damage which the use of this instrument is alleged to produce. The acknowledged depletion of the finny inhabitants in coast-waters he attributes to very different causes. According to him,

“The most plausible solution of the problem is to be found in the very close relationships between the so-called anadromous fishes and those permanently resident in the ocean. The anadromous species are represented by the salmon, the shad, the fresh-water herring, or alewife, and some other kinds, which, although spending the greater part of their life in the ocean, periodically enter the fresh waters in greater or less numbers, and ascend as high as they can for the purpose of finding suitable places wherein to deposit their spawn. This done, the parent returns, leaving the young to follow. . . . It is not thought that either the parent fish or the young go to any great distance from the mouths of the rivers, and it is believed that the fish born in one stream never think of entering any other than that in which they first made their appearance. Bearing in mind the countless myriads of these fishes formerly entering our rivers, and noting the extent to which they are preyed upon by the more rapacious inhabitants of the sea, we may understand why such multitudes of the larger fish formerly approached the shores in pursuit until deterred by the increasing shoalness or freshness of the water. Even then, however, they would remain near the shore, lying in wait for the parents and their young returning in such vast quantities during the later months of the year. In all probability these constituted a chief inducement to the movement of the predacious fish to the coast in such numbers during the spring and summer. In autumn and winter the sea-herring and the fish of the cod family visit the shores for quite another purpose,

namely, to deposit their eggs. But from whatever motive, the fact remains, that years ago throughout the twelve months an ample supply of the finest fishes was within the reach of every one, so that a fisherman, with a small hand-line and an open boat, was able to support his family without any difficulty. Now, with the continued reduction of the salmon, shad, &c., the summer fisheries have dwindled and nearly disappeared, leaving only those of winter, with its inclement weather, to furnish occupation to the fisherman, and compelling him, in the most dangerous season of the year, to prosecute his work in expensive vessels, and exposed to perils and privations of a terrible character. Assuming, then, that the chief agency in the decrease of the ocean-shore fisheries has been the reduction in the number of the anadromous fish, *i.e.*, those passing up from the ocean into the fresh waters to spawn.

we need not follow the Commissioner's words any further, or repeat his enumeration of the causes that have led to that reduction. Our knowledge of the effects produced by pollution of rivers and artificial obstruction of their channels is unfortunately too complete to warrant additional demonstration of fact. Although Professor Baird's report touches many subjects on which we long to dwell, and contains many striking passages we should like to quote, we cannot stay to do so at this moment. As it is, his contribution fills little above a twentieth part of the bulky volume, exceeding a thousand pages, now before us, and we still have to consider the large number of highly valuable appendices contained within its boards. First and foremost amongst these should be singled out two admirable illustrated monographs on the Marine Isopoda and the Pycnogonida of New England and adjacent waters. The first-mentioned animals being an order of crustacea, the second, a group of articulated organisms occupying a position between the crustacea and the arachnida in our zoological system. The authors of these monographs, Mr. Oscar Harger and Mr. Edmund B. Wilson, have certainly spared neither time nor trouble in making their work complete. The full index and valuable list of authorities provided by them will alone support proof and carry conviction of this. A report on the shore cod-fisheries of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, by Mr. R. E. Earll, will be found very pleasant reading, even by those lacking a pisciculturist's enthusiasm. The same remark replies to some translated reports and articles on sea-fisheries, emanating from Norwegian, Swedish, and German sources. These include a "Report on the American Fisheries," by Mr. Frederick M. Wallem; "The Salt Water Fisheries of Bohuslän," by Mr. Axel Vilhelm Ljungman; and another by the same author, entitled, "The Great Bohuslän Herring Fisheries." This last is specially valuable as an historical account of these renowned fisheries, from early ages upwards. Two articles on the subject of deep-sea research, the first by Professor G. O. Sars, on the Norwegian deep-sea expedition of 1878, and the second by Professor G. Karsten, on the scientific investigation of the Baltic and German Ocean, will well repay perusal. A paper by Baron de la Valette St. George, entitled "The Enemies of Fish," which was read before the German Fishery Association in 1879, gives an astounding list of the perils that fishes encounter. It is sad, though, to see the beautiful and brilliant kingfisher singled out for special condemnation. Mr. C. G. Atkins contributes a paper on "Cheap Fixtures for the Hatching of Salmon," which intending pisciculturists should not fail to study. These last would also do well to read Mr. Robert A. Pope's account of the introduction and culture of the carp in California. The profits derived from carp-culture are very considerable in Germany. In one district alone, that of Lower Lusatia, an annual carp fair takes place every autumn, when upwards of 400 tons weight of carp changes hands at very remunerative prices to the breeders. In Bohemia, also, considerable attention is paid to aquiculture in combination with agriculture. In this country, all the conditions necessary to success in this particular branch of industry are to hand, but no one seems inclined to avail himself of them. Surely, in these days of agricultural depression, when large amounts of

unemployed capital are seeking permanent investment in this kingdom, it might have been supposed that promoters of joint-stock companies would, ere now, have turned their attention to this promising outlet for capital. But no; hitherto all their intellect and business capacity has been mainly absorbed in promoting companies for the manufacture of scrap-leather jam, spurious mocha, cabbage tobacco, and similar indelectable superfluities!

In conclusion, as we part from this report, we may say that, like its predecessors, it deserves the warmest praise that can possibly be bestowed upon it. To those persons who are interested in practical ichthyology, it will be an indispensable work of reference; while to those who are merely anxious to increase their general knowledge of a very large subject, it will afford much pleasant as well as profitable reading.

THE ESSAY ON THE BEST RULES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANGLING CLUBS.

WE hope to have the pleasure of printing Mr. Henry Bradfield's Essay—which won our prize at Norwich—on the above subject next week.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

RARE AND CURIOUS FISHES OF DEVON. PORBEAGLE SHARK.

(Continued from page 221).

<i>Squalus cornubicus</i>	Turton's Linnæus.
<i>Lamna</i>	Cuvier.
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Rafinesque.
„ <i>cornubicus</i>	Gray's Cat. British Museum.
<i>Longnax</i>	Lacepede.
„	Risso.
<i>Lamna cornubica</i>	Fleming, British Anl., p. 168.
„ „	Jenyn's Manual, p. 500.
„ „	Yarrell's British Fishes. Vol. iii., p. 515.
„ „	Donovon.

COUCH informs us, in vol. i., page 41, of his British Fishes that the Porbeagle Shark is a common visitor on the western coasts in the summer, and not unfrequently it wanders along the eastern borders of England, and even of Scotland. An instance has been known of its having been taken even in the Orkney Islands, and, according to Risso, it is an article of food in the Mediterranean, and he goes so far as to say that, as such, it is much esteemed. This is a piece of luxury to which our fishermen and the public have not yet attained; and consequently with us it is only used as manure. It usually proceeds in small scattered companies, preying on pilchards and herrings, and other small fishes that abound. The teeth, which present a formidable array of spears, are less formed for cutting than for seizing and holding their prey, which, therefore, it appears to swallow whole. I have also found, in one instance, the remains of three good sized hake in the stomach.

Mr. Buckland's History of British Fishes, page 225, states: The porbeagle is said to be a common visitor on the western coast in summer, and not unfrequently it wanders along the eastern borders of England and even of Scotland—(but nothing is said of the southern portion of England). In September, 1867, Mr. Gerard, articulator to the British Museum, informed Mr. Buckland he had a porbeagle measuring eight feet six inches, which was caught off Margate in a mackerel net, and in March, 1870, one was taken at Wick, seven and a half feet in length.

Mr. Parfitt, in his Fauna of Devon for 1876, page 41, writes that the porbeagle is *rare*, but taken on the south coast; at the same time he gives us no example, but states Mr. Reading knew of two

or three specimens taken on the north coast at Clovelly, in 1871, and "on April 27th, 1836," Mr. Bellamy says "a specimen was taken, which measured eight feet in length, and contained five young ones.

It was in November, 1870, that I received my example from Torbay; this was also sent me by my friend, Mr. A. Banfield. It measured five feet four inches; the remains of several fine whittings were found in its stomach, thus showing, with the hake above mentioned, they are great destroyers of numerous kinds of fish, besides herrings and pilchards. This porbeagle appeared a great curiosity here (Exeter), and as I could not hear of any one having seen a porbeagle before, coupled with Mr. Parfitt's statement, viz., that it was *rare*, and having heard of only one being taken since, in 1874, I may conclude by saying that it is by no means common on the southern coast. This fish, when dressed, is by no means bad eating, if cut out very short, and shredded abroad in uniform size pieces, similar to the large claws of a crab. The only peculiarity at all noticeable was the sweet flavour, making it appear as if the cook had made a mistake, and administered an over abundance of sugar, instead of salt to the liquor in which it was boiled.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

UNITY AMONG ANGLERS.

THE cynic might perhaps smile at the number of excellent and well-patronised "spreads," in addition to the more humble, though not less jovial and hearty, meetings that have taken place among many of the Metropolitan and other Angling Clubs. Unity is indeed the watchword. No doubt an angler might enjoy fair sport who isolates himself from his brother fishermen; but, as things go in this sublunary workaday world, he who joins a society or club will have a better chance of sport than the isolated one, assuming both to belong to a similar station in society, and of equal intelligence, because the club organisation is best suited for excursions into the country for sport, where sport is more likely to be obtained. All the older members, however, will do well to set an example of moderation in public-house club rooms. The offering of prizes creates a wholesome stimulus to enterprise and excellence in the "gentle art," apart from the lessons to be learnt by the river-side, especially in summer and autumn. A bishop once went angling, and on his return he was asked if he had caught any fish. "No," said he, "but I have *found a sermon!*" Comment is superfluous.

SPOTS.

UP-STREAM WORM-FISHING FOR TROUT.

WE strongly advise our fly-fishing friends who may find the water too low and bright for fly-fishing, to try fly-fishing with the worm. Use a twelve-foot trout fly rod, two yards of gut collar and a Stewart worm tackle, have a supply of worms from two to three inches long; any bright lively worms will do, but we prefer the marsh or perch worm (dark red colour, flat tail). Wade up stream, and, using a line a foot or so longer than the rod, throw the worm boldly up stream by an over-hand movement as in fly-fishing, so that it drops with a flop about twenty-five feet in front of you near the edge of the current, behind stones, and in all like trout-feeding places. As soon as it reaches the water let it come down of itself, merely drawing your rod back over your shoulder ready for another throw, and making about six or eight such throws in a minute. It is far the deadliest way of fishing with the worm, and is quite sportsmanlike. You can fish the edges of the long deep pools in this way very successfully; often, especially, if there is a breeze on the water.

"OUR TRAWL."

List of books on Ichthyological subjects published in April.

VAN DYKE, THEODORE S.—*Flirtation Camp; or rifle, rod, and gun in California: a sporting romance.* New York: Fords, Howard and Hulbert, 1881. 6+299 p. 12mo. \$1.50.

Combines the interest of a novel with the more practical features of an authoritative work on the hunting and fishing of a country celebrated among sportsmen. The author is a sportsman of some celebrity, and a writer on sporting matters in the best American papers devoted to the gentle crafts.

WESTON, JAMES.—*The Fresh-water Aquarium.* London: Marshall Tapp, 1881. 43 p., 29 il. 12mo. 6d.

BORNE, M. VON DEM; HAACK, H.; MICHAELIS, K.—*Fischzucht.* (Im Anhang: Die Angelfischerei von M. v. d. Borne). Berlin: Paul Parey, 1881. Mit 39 Holzschnitten. 8vo. 3m.

Official Report on the International Fisheries Exhibition at Berlin, in 1880.

JOURDAIN, S.—*Sur le développement tardif des écailles chez les anguilles.* Montpellier: Boehm et Fils, 1881. 4 p. 8vo.

Reprinted from "Revue des sciences naturelles," December, 1880.

LEYDIG, F.—*Die augenähnlichen Organe der Fische anatomisch untersucht.* Bonn: Strausz, 1881. 8vo. 13m.50.

LINDEMAN, Dr. M.—*Seefischerei.* Berlin: Paul Parey, 1881. Mit 162 Holzschnitten. 8vo. 8m.

Official Report on the International Fisheries Exhibition at Berlin, in 1880.

MEYER, J.—*Handbuch der Fischerei-sport.* Wien: Hartleben, 1881. 8vo. 5m.40.

STEINDACHNER, F.—*Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Flussfische Süd Amerika's. II.* Wien: C. Gerold's Sohn, 1881. 4to. 5m.

STEINDACHNER, F.—*Ichthyologische Beiträge. X.* Wien: C. Gerold's Sohn, 1881. 4to. 2m.60.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. J. T.—The matter is plain enough; the man was trespassing unless, he could produce the ticket entitling him to fish; he could be summoned before a magistrate for trespass. The keeper has no right to take away any of his tackle, nor take the law into his own hands at all.

F. B.—Crayfish and Crawfish are identical, the name is a corruption of the French name. See our notice of Huxley's book on the Crayfish.

THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—I had no intention of referring again to this subject, which has caused several communications in THE FISHING GAZETTE; but I am desirous, first of all, of thanking Mr. J. Harrington Keene for his remarks in reference to the observations of "Consistent," and secondly, to state that my sanguine expectations arise from the fact that the Thames trout to be hereafter placed in the Thames, will be of a size able to defend themselves, and not, as formerly, as small fry. My anxiety in all matters is in the interests of the anglers, and for them I hope to labour as long as I live. B.

TROUT IN MILL PONDS.

SIR,—On reading your correspondent J. E. B.'s communication, which appeared in last Saturday's issue, it brought recollections of days gone by, when I used to be very partial to pond fishing—indeed, there was nothing else in the neighbourhood to be had then—for the once famous trout stream which ran through the valley was so polluted by dye-works as to completely destroy all life; but the ponds attached to the numerous mills contained good trout. The owners and tenants, however, as a rule, were very niggardly in granting leave, even for half a day, and when you did succeed in obtaining the desired permission, it was often accompanied with such a look of woe, as if the party had unthinkingly parted with his last hold of existence. One person stipulated that I should give him all the fish I caught, or pay him the market price, and actually placed an old man on the bank to watch me the whole time I was there. His pond was afterwards rented by an angling society at two guineas per annum, paid in advance, and it was reported that a few days after the receipt of the money, he drew off the water and captured all the fish—and, knowing the man, I have no doubt as to its truth, for the members never caught a fish in it afterwards. I learn, however, with regret, that the ponds in these valleys are not now of much account, and I suspect the reason of it need not be far sought. It is a great pity, for the little rivulets that supplied the

ponds, swarmed with loaches—hence the lusty trout. I look back, nevertheless, with pleasure to the many days and half days I have had there. I forward you a little book which I hunted up, containing two cuttings from a local newspaper of an account of my doings in that quarter the year after the Mutiny. I think, even now, they are worth reproducing, if your space permit. The eight trout there mentioned all took the same hackle fly—the body being dressed as the sand fly, but with a feather from the back of a partridge. The last fish broke away with the fly, through slipping or backing at the knot, and it had then become quite dusk. There was a nice ripple at the time, and the greatest swarm of Harry Longlegs I ever saw. The pond was about two acres in extent, with a raised bank on two sides, walled all round to prevent water washing off the banks, and quite exposed without a bush. As a rule, in pond fishing I have found casting close, or a foot or so from where the ripples break against the slanting sides, to be the best. Of course, without a breeze, there is not much chance of a rise, until the gloom of evening.—I am, &c.,

Southport, May 11, 1881.

J. T. HORSLEY.

[The cuttings refer to the capture, in 1858, by Mr. Horsley, of a $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. trout, with minnow—eight trout weighing 12 lb. with fly on single hair, and without landing net, in two hours; and finally a splendid fish of 4 lb. taken with small fly, after twenty minutes' hard struggle, and without a landing net. All these fish were taken in a mill pool, near Southport.—ED.]

TROUT IN SEWAGE WATER.

SIR,—It may be interesting for your readers to know that we have a bit of fishing in the Black Country, and that I caught with the gentle on May 5, three dace that weighed $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, all clean; two trout, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, and one trout, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. One small trout returned, and a roach $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. returned; the roach was full of spawn. I caught them in a tributary of the river Penk, at Four Ashes, in Staffordshire, which runs into the river Trent. On the fourteenth, I caught eleven trout in another tributary that runs the sewage from Wolverhampton into the river Penk but I may say we have tanks to catch the sewage, and by that means, it purifies the water. I may say the stones were stained with a yellow tinge from the sewage, but the water was pure enough to contain trout from a quarter of a pound to a pound. You may make what use you think proper of this communication, and I beg to remain.—I am, &c.,

Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

JAMES DICKSON.

QUIET FISHING NEAR LONDON.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, "Pimlico" in your last issue, I think he can get his requirements at the lake, in Wimbledon Park.

Apply, Mr. Woolgar—keeper—Lake Cottage, Wimbledon Park; or Mr. Osborne the agent to the estate, Wimbledon Park.—I am, &c.,

Covent Garden Market, W.C., May 14, 1881.

THOMAS POOLE.

FISHING IN THE TRENT WANTED.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following in your paper? "I am thinking of spending the last week of June, in Derby, and should like to have a day or two's bottom fishing in the Trent. Will some brother angler, knowing the neighbourhood, kindly inform me which is the nearest place I can reach from Derby, where the angling is free; whether I can obtain baits; or shall have to take them from Derby; which is the best house to stay at; and any general directions connected with the fishing? By so doing, he will confer a great favour on yours, &c.,

SEVERN BANKS.

Tewkesbury, May 16, 1881.

LITERARY QUERIES.

SIR,—Can any reader of the FISHING GAZETTE furnish me with transcript of title and collation of the edition of Gilbert's "Angler's Delight," published by Fox, of Holborn, in 1776; or tell me anything of an edition of the same work, under the title of "The Young Angler's Companion," which is said to be dated (1682)? I possess a copy of the latter without date, pp. 36, and same printers and publishers as edition of 1676.—I am, &c.,

Downshire Hill, N.W., May 19, 1881.

THO. SATCHELL.

CLOSE TIME FOR GRAYLING—GRAYLING FLIES.

SIR,—In taking up a number, by chance, of that excellent serial, "Scribner's Monthly," I find an excellent paper on the Michigan grayling, signed by one Thaddeus Norris.

In it I find the following:—

"The game laws of Michigan, recently enacted, forbid the spearing and netting of grayling at all times, and do not admit of them being taken even with hook and line from January until June. These fish acquire condition soon after spawning, and are better in autumn, and in season nearly all winter. So, after the 1st September, the sportsman can unite shooting and fishing." A capital legislative enactment.

The same writer, speaking of his fishing excursions, says:—"My customary tackle on these excursions is a 12-foot rod of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz., leaders 8 feet long, and flies on hooks ranging from No. 7 to No. 10 (O'Shaughnessy). I have found most of the flies used on Pennsylvania streams effective, and one can scarcely go amiss in his selection. One summer I used for two weeks the same whip, viz., "Professor" for the stretcher, "silver widow" for first, and "white-winged coachman" for second dropper. The first is tied with guinea-fowl feather for wings, an amber or yellow dyed hackle feather for eyes, a yellow floss body wound round with gold tinsel, and three sprigs of scarlet ibis for tail. The second has black wings, black hackle, and black body wound with silver tinsel. The third has white wings, red hackle undyed, and body of peacock hue."

Would any of these dressings do for our rivers of the midland counties? and could any of your contributors tell me the best fishing stations on the Ribble or its tributaries, and also if grayling are to be found in them? I should feel obliged for information on the above.—I am, &c.,

H. NEVILLE.

Manchester, May 18th, 1881.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O. payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London W.C.—[ADVT.]

CLUB REPORTS.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The half-yearly supper of the above society will take place on Tuesday, May 24, at the clubhouse, when we shall be pleased to see all that can make it convenient to a tend.—H. TAYLOR, hon. sec.

THE EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY (NORWICH).

The committee of the above club met on Monday evening last, to name a place for the first match of the season, and also to draw out a code of "match rules." As the reach-fishing is now finished for a time, and as there is not much to be done amongst bream on the Yare, the committee decided to name Acle on the Bure as the most likely spot. Here good bank fishing may be had, besides, having to get to it by road, a most pleasant trip is anticulated. Ten pounds in prizes are already promised, and several others are expected. A special meeting of the members takes place on Monday next, and the date of match is fixed for Thursday, May 26th. Gentlemen intending to compete in the match must at once send in their names to the secretary, in order to give time to make arrangements for conveyance, &c., &c.—ALFRED PALMER, hon. secretary.

May 17.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Change of Secretary.—Mr. Amies having resigned the secretaryship, all communications to be addressed to Fred. Hill, secretary.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the usual weekly meeting of the above society, held at the Golden Fleece, Commercial Road, May 12th, Mr. A. L. Emanuel in the chair, Mr. James S. Dyer read another of his very interesting gossiping papers on angling, entitled "The History, Culture, and Capture of the Salmon." There was a very large muster of the club, and the paper was received with the greatest satisfaction. A vote of thanks was recorded to be added to the minutes of the society, proposed by Mr. A. L. Emanuel and seconded by Mr. J. Buck. This will be the fourth paper Mr. Dyer has contributed to the society during the past twelve months, and now, especially during the fence months, very agreeable evenings are spent.—DAGGERWOOD.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of this old-established and eminently prosperous society took place on Wednesday, May 11, Mr. Marriott in the chair, faced by Mr. Starr as vice. The dinner was placed on the table in a manner which reflected high credit on Mrs. Shepherd, our worthy hostess, and was done ample justice to by the members and guests assembled. After the usual loyal toasts, the pleasant duty devolved upon the chairman of presenting the various prizes of the past season to the fortunate winners; tackle, tea services, clocks, plated ware books, pictures, &c., were among the articles represented. The toast of the evening, "The Waltonian Angling Society," coupled with the name of our most popular secretary, Mr. Packman, was proposed, in a felicitous speech, by Mr. Webster, and responded to with the greatest enthusiasm. Some singing of an excellent character enlivened the evening, in which Mr. Hart, a guest, and Mr. Waltham, a member, specially distinguished themselves. The "West Central Association," proposed by Mr. Starr, was also enthusiastically received, and responded to by Mr. Geen, in a very humorous speech; Mr. Bonvoisin also responded on behalf of himself and Mr. Hoole, who was unfortunately absent. Other toasts and songs followed, including the "Health of Mr. Webster," the late chairman, who had travelled many miles to be present. Towards the close of the evening the Chairman was enabled to announce upwards of forty prizes for the ensuing season, and after a most enjoyable evening the proceedings were closed with a vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair, which was responded to in a manner which could not fail to be highly gratifying to the gentlemen concerned.

May 16.

ON Friday, May 6th, Moses Riceman, baker and fishdealer, Leeds, was charged under the Fresh Water Fisheries Act with selling freshwater fish during the close season. Mr. Grisdale prosecuted on behalf of the Leeds Rockingham Angling Society. A member of the society saw a large number of perch exposed for sale in the defendant's shop, the price asked being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. The defendant stated that he had received the fish from a person named Underwood, of Manchester, and that he was entirely ignorant of the law. Under the circumstances, and on condition that the defendant agreed to make a donation to the Leeds General Infirmary, the society did not press for a heavy penalty, but desired that a stop should be put to the practice of illegal selling. Mr. Grisdale, therefore, asked Mr. Bruce, the stipendiary, to inflict a nominal penalty. A fine of 1s. and costs was imposed.

BRIGHTER THAN SILVER!—Some very excellent, three-parts grown fresh herrings were on sale at a cheap rate last week in London. The thought struck me while eating a couple for breakfast, what a capital bait one would have made to lure Sharky. He'd surely have mistaken the young herring—brighter than silver—for a nice Thames-bred dace, and "negotiated" it accordingly.—CALLER 'OU.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory" the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

FISHING IN THE RIVER NIGER.

THE following interesting letter has been received by Mr. G. F. Spencer, the President of the Larkhall Angling Club, from a member of the society:—

To George F. Spencer, Esq.,
President, Lark Hall Angling Club.

Since arriving in Africa I have had but little time to indulge in the piscatorial art, and it must be remembered that angling is not carried on under the same pleasant circumstances in this country as it is in England. In the Niger there are no post cards, or fishermen to send them to, with instructions to have some favourite spot ground-baited overnight, and a punt in readiness next morning.

There is but little sport attached to fishing with a rod and line in this river, as the fish, when hooked, show but little fight, but succumb almost immediately to their fate, and I have found by experience that by far the most amusing and exciting method of capturing the finny tribes that inhabit the Niger is by spearing them.

Having a few hours to spare one fine morning, a few days ago, I determined to try my luck with a spear, and selected a light one 12 feet long, preferring this to a heavier kind, about 6 feet in length, and with a long line attached to it. As I intended taking my rifle, I did not care to hamper myself with the line, owing to the smallness of my canoe, which was made of silk cotton wood, and so exceedingly limited in space, that, when paddling, my legs below the knees were dangling on each side of it in the water. This position is cooling to, but causes some considerable anxiety about, one's extremities, on account of the alligators.

My preparations completed, I started against the stream, keeping close in shore, and, after paddling for about half an hour, reached a native village. The mud huts, with mat roofs, look picturesque at a distance, but, on close inspection, are not so pleasing either to the eyes or nose.

As a number of village maidens were bathing, the novelty of seeing a white man in such a frail craft as that in which I was seated caused considerable excitement; and as these damsels were standing up to their knees in water, and were in the same condition as Mother Eve is reported to have been before she was weak enough to partake of that apple, I thought I might as well rest here and admire their forms if not their faces.

It was at this village that a few months ago I witnessed a most unpleasant catastrophe, and which I was powerless to avert.

Whilst standing on the bank watching a girl washing some clothes in the river, she suddenly gave a fearful shriek, and at the same instant I saw the tail of an alligator appear above water, and then the girl being borne off into mid-stream, her head and shoulders visible. Her shrieks alarmed the men, who came running down to the water's edge, and began launching their canoes. The first to go to the rescue was the poor girl's lover, who made his canoe fly through the water. He neared her fast, and ranged up alongside; dropping his paddle, he stretched out his left hand and almost seized her, his right, which grasped a spear, was raised over his head to strike, when in an instant the girl disappeared, and he was struggling in the water, his canoe overturned by a stroke from the alligator's tail.

Leaving the girls to their ablutions, I resumed my paddle, but this unpleasant reminiscence did not tend to alleviate my anxiety regarding my lower limits. Up to this time I had not seen a single fish rise, and on coming to a creek, after making a few casts with my spear, but without any satisfactory results, determined to leave the river and see if there was any sport to be found in this creek; and after working up for about a mile, found it branched off at right angles, and just as I was following the bend noticed a large alligator lying on the sand, about seventy yards from the water. But as its tail was towards me it was impossible to kill it in that position; so landing, proceeded to crawl along the sand to get between it and the water. This mode of progression requires a good deal of perseverance, particularly when the sand is loose and dry; but I at last reached a spot from whence I could get a fair shot, and although my chance of inflicting a mortal wound was doubtful, I was in a position to effectually prevent the creature taking to the water; and after waiting a few minutes to get my breath I fired.

As I expected, my shot did not prove fatal, but it took effect on one of its legs. As the alligator started for the water, on three legs, coming directly towards me, I quickly reloaded and started to meet it. Then it changed its course and made for the creek, considerably to my right. After a sharp run I again cut it off, and again went straight for it. This time the alligator evidently determined to run the gauntlet, as it did not try to avoid me. When within twenty yards, and just as I was thinking of stopping to take aim, my foot slipped in a hole and I was brought up, or, rather, down, rather quicker than I intended, as I found myself full length on the sand. I had no time to get up as the alligator was almost on me, with his jaws wide open, so raising my rifle I fired, and the bullet, passing through the roof of his mouth, entered his brain, and it fell dead at my feet. Leaving the carcass I regained my canoe, and was not long getting back with the stream.

I immediately sent some boys for the alligator's head, intending to send it to you, the president of the club, but, unfortunately, the natives were before my boys, as they found no vestige of it.

Will write again as soon as I get time.—I am, &c.,

D. W. SARGENT.

Akassa, River Niger, West Africa.
March 15th, 1881.

"BEAUTY'S" BANE.—At the lower portion of the old town of Watford is a tributary of the Colne, over which is a little bridge on the rural roadway that leads towards and past the pretty red brick Gothic residence of Edward Majoribanks, Esq., M.P. Under the said bridge a trout (as it was told to me by the angler's wife, both of whom lived in the cottages close by) had taken up its quarters. The humble rodster in question had tried and tried in vain to tempt the trout from his lair, until early one summer's morning ('tis the old tale over again) the "beauty" found his bane in very "taking" bait. Another "early bird" happening to pass along, the angler besought his assistance, and the five-pounder prize was landed by the aid of a gardener's basket.—INVALID.

LOCAL ART.—In the Royal Academy this year Mr. Nattness, of St. Leonard's, Mortlake, a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, has succeeded in getting four of his water-colour studies well hung on the line. No. 621 consists of trout and grayling, which are particularly good, and as the artist is a practical piscator his knowledge of angling has been of great service to him. The notion of fish is frequently taken from the slab of the fishmonger, and none but an enthusiastic follower of Isaac Walton could have imparted the exquisite beauty which these fish possess. The other studies of the "Refectory of Cleve Abbey," "Entrance to Haddon Hall," and the "Interior of an Old Church," are fine examples of an artist's talent.—B.

THE KINGFISHER.—Observe the grace with which the pretty kingfisher rises, but without at all diminishing the rapidity of his flight, to "top" the highest rod of that withy pollard! In the sunshine the bird looks like a bright cerulean gleam when making for some favourite haunt, where, upon friendly overhanging bough, he watches the gudgeon and the dace swim past, and, quick as lightning, dives and soon emerges with a fish in his powerful beak. Now and then a kingfisher might some few years since have been observed about the New River, near the reservoir in Lordship Lane, Stoke Newington, but bricks and mortar and branch railways have driven most of the birds further and further away from the suburbs of London.—RUSTICUS.

THE following message, intended to break bad news gently, was sent to the widow of a man who had just been killed by a railroad accident: "Dear Madame,—Your husband is unavoidably detained for the present. To-morrow an undertaker will call upon you with full particulars."

400,000 MARKS or £20,000 Sterling. TO BE WON.

THIS is the amount of the Chief prize to be won in the most fortunate case in the HAMBURG MONEY LOTTERY guaranteed by the Government of Hamburg.

This Money Lottery contains 51,700 prizes, together amounting to

9 Millions 324,080 Marks.

All these Prizes will be drawn in Seven Divisions, closely following each other.

Among the 51,700 prizes are the following Chief prizes:—

Marks.		Marks.	
1	of 250,000	12	of 15,000
1	of 150,000	1	of 12,000
1	of 100,000	24	of 10,000
1	of 75,000	5	of 8,000
1	of 50,000	3	of 6,000
2	of 40,000	54	of 5,000
3	of 30,000	5	of 4,000
4	of 25,000	105	of 3,000
2	of 20,000	263	of 2,000
		etc., etc.	

The price of the tickets is officially fixed at

**6 SHILLINGS FOR A WHOLE ORIGINAL TICKET,
3 SHILLINGS FOR ONE HALF ORIGINAL TICKET.**

Immediately after receipt of the amount, the Chief Lottery Office Isenthal and Co., Hamburg, forward the ordered tickets for all the drawings of the first division, in closed envelopes, direct to the applicant. The amount for the tickets is to be joined to the order, in English Postage Stamps or Cheques on known Banks in England. Every dispatch of tickets will be accompanied (gratis) by plan of the Drawings. Every applicant is noted in the Lottery Register, and will receive, immediately after the Drawing, the official Drawing List, whereby the numbers drawn up and the value of prize of each respectively is ascertained. The payments of the amounts won are made immediately under Government control by the Chief Lottery Office, Isenthal and Co.

It is respectfully requested that all orders for this Money Lottery are sent before the beginning of the Drawing, and not later than

30th MAY, 1881,

and addressed to the

Chief Lottery Office,

ISENTHAL AND CO., Bankers,

HAMBURG (GERMANY).

N.B.—Correspond in English.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning. Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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* * The "FISHING GAZETTE" SPINNER (Registered) is sold by all the above firms.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1881.

MY FIRST TROUT.

BY AN ENTHUSIAST.

HOW well do I remember catching my first trout, and what an incentive it was to me to continue angling! For I had got tired of catching only roach and dace, when, one summer, I was asked by an old friend to go down to Worcestershire and try

trout-fishing, which I readily agreed to do. In due course, I found myself in that picturesque and well-wooded county, and had been trying to capture "spotted beauties" in an excellent and well-known stream, both with the fly and worms, for more than a week, without basketing one, when one dull, close morning—having been working carefully up stream for some time with a choice, well-scoured brandling, without any success—I came upon a long, deep reach of water. The thick bushes that grew along its high banks made it somewhat difficult to cast a line over, especially for a beginner, but having been told that there were some big trout in it, I was determined not to miss such an opportunity; and having quickly put on flies, was proceeding to throw over the pool, when I saw the rise of a heavy fish right under a thorn bush that drooped over it a little higher up.

Now was a golden and easy chance; so, following the advice of a veteran angler who was with me, I decided to change again, and dib for him with a grey drake; and, having forthwith wormed my way into the bush, I waited patiently for him to rise again. As I had to do so for a long time, he must have been frightened; but at last he began again, and then, gently lowering my line, I trembled the fly in the water just above the place where he last rose. Immediately there was a splash, and a tremendous tug at my line told me that a big fellow was hooked!

Being a novice, I did not know how to play him properly, and he got among some roots; but on my companion coming up at that minute, he helped me to dislodge him, and eventually I safely landed a fine, highly-conditioned trout of over 1 lb. in weight. Of course, as it was my first, I was very excited and pleased, and, though it has been my luck to kill and land many a heavy, and heavier one since, yet I shall ever vividly remember how and where my first was caught.

E. R. L.

NETTING FOR FISH.

DRAGGING UNDER AN OLD CHARTER.

IN some portions of the river Colne—notably at a place called Longford—the inhabitants, by an old decree or charter, claim the right of netting three days in each week after the 10th of May, when it is believed the roach have spawned; and this right so exercised has in previous years been the means of a large destruction and reckless waste of fish—most of them having either been sold, some for money and some for beer, and others to rot and perish. This year I received a letter from the indefatigable secretary of the Association at Windsor, asking me if anything could be done to put a stop to the wholesale netting; and I made a purpose journey to the royal borough to give him my opinion, which was this, that the netting could not be stopped, but the selling of the fish could. I gave him a number of large placards headed "Prohibition of the Sale of Freshwater Fish between the 15th day of March and the 15th day of June inclusive," and then giving the sections of the Freshwater Fishery Act of 1878, commonly known as "Mundella's Bill"; and if one or two convictions could be made for the selling of the fish it would soon put an end to the netting. On the following day Mr. Stevenson sent two of his river keepers with the bills for distribution, and this was prior to the day of beginning to net. I have heard nothing officially since, but from another source I have ascertained the movement has had a wonderfully beneficial result. I met a friend of mine this last week who always knows what is going on and has frequently bought some of the trout that have been netted out. I asked him what had been done this year in reference to the netting, and he told me the river had been as usual netted, but the roach not having spawned the fish were all put back again. They had got a nice quantity of 5 lb. and 6 lb. trout, but regarding these as freshwater fish, had been informed

they could not sell them. Instead of accepting money for one of them, they simply asked for a drink of beer, as they stated it was against the law to sell them or any other fish. I inquired whether he thought they were going to observe the law which prohibits the sale of freshwater fish during the recognised close period, and his answer was "Undoubtedly." Here is a grand example of the good being done by the Freshwater Fisheries Act! It is, as I have always said, "the kernel of the nut," and goes very far to prove the value of fish legislation. For years this most destructive netting at Longford has been most painful for me to hear, and it can be better imagined than described how gratifying it has been to my mind to learn of this great and important change; and I am not the only one who has regretted the existence and result of such a chartered right of netting in the Colne. I know my good friend, Mr. T. R. Sachs, will be pleased to read this communication, for he has often spoken to me about this merciless netting, and I think there are few practical anglers better possessed with truer sportsmanlike feelings than he has. The time will come, I hope, when the sizes of fish will become a matter of legislation, and one general standard adopted. Mr. Mundella, I know, felt that his Bill was only a partial one, but that it was putting in the thin end of the wedge to future legislation.*

DRAWING FOR STRAY ROACH.

I will now leave the subject of the Colne netting, and if occasion requires I will again refer to it. There has been another removal of roach out of the back stream at Hampton Court, and the complete restoration of large quantities of fish into the channel of old Father Thames. From information received it appeared that "Clay's Ditch," the name by which it is locally known, had received another migration of roach, and it was desirable to have them removed. As it was not expected to find so many fish as on the previous occasion, there were no invitations issued, and in addition to two or three of the river keepers, there were only Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, H. J. Alfred, F. H. Lemann, Alfred Nuthall, F. C. Hatfield, and W. T. Cosier arranged to take part in the proceedings. A great improvement had been made in the net by the introduction of large leads in lieu of the common method of brick ends for sinking the net. On the previous occasion, when Mr. H. J. Alfred, of the firm of Messrs. Alfred and Son, as usual took part in the dragging, the suggestion of leaden weights was made, and instructions given for a dozen to be got in readiness for the next netting. It was left to Mr. Alfred to carry out the idea, and in a conical form the weights of 1 lb. each were made and used with great success on this occasion. The ditch is rather a peculiar one to drag, as under the bay there are so many large stones and a deep hole underneath, and requires repeated nettings to get the fish out, but it was evident the leads were most valuable as rolling more easily over the obstructions. The netting was done under the direction of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, and with Mr. F. C. Hatfield as his first-lieutenant, the work was done in the most business-like manner, but there was nothing like the quantity of roach as on the previous occasion. The result was something like fifteen pails full of roach estimated at 1500 fish, in addition to a brace of good chub and a small trout of six inches in length. The latter was evidently one of those from the Sunbury Rearing Pond which were put in the Thames about three weeks ago. It was an exquisitely-marked fish, and was put in at the Back Weir at Hampton Court. The two nettings at "Clay's Ditch" have caused the recovery of 6000 good roach averaging six ounces each, and were all placed in the Thames at the back of Tagg's Island Hotel, at Hampton Court, which should be a good adver-

tisement for this capital hostelry. On our return to the hotel, Mr. T. G. Tagg submitted for our inspection his new style of a canoe, which he designates the "Niagara canoe," the idea of which was first taken during his trip to the rivers and lakes of Canada and America, and which during the last winter he has made it his special duty to improve upon. The patent swivel-shifting outrig of his own invention possesses great ingenuity. His largest canoe can be paddled by one, two, or three persons, and can be rowed with great ease and comfort, and is adapted for fishing, shooting, and travelling or pleasure excursions. It is said to be a great improvement on the Canadian and North American canoe which is being sent to this country for sale. It was considered by all of us most favourably, and Mr. Tagg was highly complimented on the skill and workmanship of the canoe, which it was felt would receive high appreciation from aquatic men. B.

RULES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

[Through the kindness of the author (Mr. Henry Bradfield, Secretary of the King's Lynn Angling Association), we now print his essay which at the recent Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich won the prize given by the FISHING GAZETTE for the best essay on the subject of Rules for Angling Clubs].

THE RULES OF ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE name of the Association is "The Angling Association."

The objects for which the Association is formed are:—

For acquiring the rights of fishing in Waters in the neighbourhood of the [City, Borough, &c.] of ;

And for the preservation, for legitimate sport, of the Fish in such Waters;

And for the culture of Fish by artificial or other means, for the stocking of such Waters, and for doing all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of January in every year, on a day appointed by the Committee, to receive the Accounts, to form, revise, or conform Rules; to appoint the Officers and Committee, and to transact the general business of the Association.

2. The Committee may, whenever they think fit, and upon the receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by five Members, and stating the object of the Meeting, they shall forthwith convene a Special General Meeting.

3. The Quorum at General Meetings shall be ten Members.

4. The President of the Association shall be the Chairman at every General Meeting of the Association, and if at any Meeting he is not present, the Members present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman of such Meeting.

5. The Chairman may, with the consent of the Meeting, adjourn any Meeting from time to time, and from place to place.

6. Questions arising at any Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes at any Meeting, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

7. The business and affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee of Management, consisting of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and nine Members, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in every year, but in the event of no new Election, the Committee of Management of the last year shall continue in office as if re-elected. Any casual vacancy occurring in the Committee of Management may be filled up by the Committee.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

8. The Committee shall meet for the despatch of business on the Monday in every month at o'clock in the , and at any other time they may think fit; five shall be a quorum. Questions arising at any Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

9. The President shall be the Chairman at every Meeting of the Committee, and if at any Meeting he is not present, the Committee present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman of such Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP.

10. Members shall consist of persons residing, or having places of business or property in the [City, Borough, &c.] of or within miles thereof; and there shall be ordinary and honorary Members.

11. The name of every candidate for election as a Member shall be sent in to the Secretary, who shall give written notice thereof to every

* If the Mundella Act would abolish netting and all poaching it would be a "grand Act" indeed, but we hope soon to see angling with rod and line excluded from its interference.—ED.

Member of the Committee previous to the next Committee Meeting; and the Committee shall at such Meeting proceed to the election or rejection of such candidate. Every candidate shall be proposed and seconded by Members of the Association.

12. No person shall be considered a Member until he shall have paid his annual Subscription to the Treasurer, and shall have subscribed his name to a Memorandum of his approval and adoption of the Rules of the Association.

13. Any Member selling his fish, lending, or refusing to show his Ticket, violating any existing Acts of Parliament for the preservation of Fish, or who shall at any time infringe any of the Rules of the Association, shall forfeit his Ticket, and shall be liable to be expelled from the Association, upon a resolution to that effect, passed by a majority at a Meeting of the Committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

14. The annual Subscription of ordinary Members shall be per annum, which shall be paid to the Treasurer within the month of January in every year, and they shall receive therefor a non-transferable Ticket.

15. Every Subscriber of per annum shall be an Honorary Member, and have all the privileges of an ordinary Member, and shall be entitled in addition to obtain, on application to the Secretary, a Ticket entitling any friend of such Honorary Member to the privilege of fishing in all the Waters of the Association, subject to the Rules of the Association.

16. Any person not being a Member can, by applying through a Member of the Committee to the Secretary, have a Weekly Ticket at , to be available only in the company of an ordinary or honorary Member, who shall be responsible for his due observance of the Rules of the Association. Such Ticket to be returned to the Secretary on its expiration.

ACCOUNTS.

17. The Committee shall cause true Accounts to be kept of all moneys received or paid on account of the Association, and shall lay before the Members at the Annual General Meeting a Statement of the Income and Expenditure for the past year.

AUDIT.

18. The Members shall elect at the Annual General Meeting in every year an Auditor, who shall audit previous to the next Annual General Meeting the Accounts for the past year.

ALTERATIONS, &c. OF RULES.

19. The Committee shall, if they deem it necessary for the official management of the Fisheries or affairs of the Association, rescind, revise, or make new Rules, provided that such rescission, revision, or new Rules be passed and accepted by at least three-fourths of the Members of the Committee present at an ordinary monthly Committee Meeting, and the same shall have effect until confirmed, or otherwise at a General Meeting.

20. The rescission, revision, or making of new Rules in General Meeting shall be passed, and accepted by at least three-fourths of the Members present at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

FISHING.

21. The taking of Fish by any other means than by Rod and Line is prohibited, and proceedings shall be taken against any person taking Fish by Netting, Snaring, Fouling, Snatching, Trailing, Gleaving, Setting Trimmers, Bank Runners, or Night Lines.

22. No Member shall use more than one Rod.

23. TROUT.—The fence time for Trout shall commence on the 15th September, and end on the 15th April. The taking of Trout by any other means than by Fly fishing with an artificial fly is prohibited. No Trout shall be taken between one hour after Sunset and Sunrise. No Trout shall be taken under 1 lb. in weight, and if caught under that weight, whether killed or not, shall be immediately returned to the Water. No Member shall take more than brace of Trout in any one day.

24. GRAYLING.—The fence time for Grayling shall commence on the 1st December, and end on the 31st July. The mode of taking Grayling, the hours of fishing, weight of fish, and number to be taken in any one day shall be the same as those hereinbefore respectively set forth with regard to Trout.

25. PIKE.—The Fence time for Pike shall commence on the 1st March, and end on the 1st September. The taking of Pike by any other means than by Spinning is prohibited, and no Gorge hook shall be used for any bait. No Trout or Grayling shall be used for bait in any case. No Pike shall be taken under 2 lb. in weight, and if caught under that weight, whether killed or not, shall be immediately returned to the Water. No Member shall take more than Pike in any one day.

26. OTHER FRESH WATER FISH.—The Fence times for Fresh Water Fish (other than Trout, Grayling, and Pike) shall commence on the 15th March, and end on the 30th June. No Fresh Water Fish (other than Trout, Grayling, and Pike, and for which heavier weights have been hereinbefore respectively fixed) shall be taken under ½ lb. in weight, except Dace and Gudgeon, which shall not be taken under ¼ lb. in weight, and if caught under those weights, whether killed or not, shall be immediately returned to the Water.

27. Any Member taking fish during the Fence times hereinbefore respectively set forth, or otherwise in contravention of Rules 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, shall forfeit his Ticket, and be liable to be expelled from the Association as aforesaid.

28. Every Member, or other person fishing in the Waters of the Association shall show his Ticket, and the contents of his bag or basket when requested by one of the Committee or a Bailiff so to do; and a Member, or other person, shall show his Ticket, and the contents of his bag or basket on any Member producing his Ticket and requesting him so to do.

29. Any Member who, whilst fishing, or in going to, or returning therefrom, shall do any wilful damage to fences or otherwise, shall pay for the same or forfeit his Ticket, and be liable to be expelled from the Association as aforesaid.

HIRINGS.

30. All Hirings of the Association shall be in the names of the President and Secretary,

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BRITISH FISHES; THEIR STRUCTURE, ECONOMIC USES, AND CAPTURE BY NET AND ROD. By Frank Buckland. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1880.

A SPECIAL interest, but unfortunately one of deep melancholy dye, attaches to this work, apart from the fact of its being written by one whose great merits have endeared him to every reader of this paper. This doleful interest is centered in the preface, which contains nearly, if not quite, the very last words that were penned by the author only forty-eight hours previous to his death. Under these circumstances, therefore, it is impossible to take the volume in hand or peruse but very few of its lines, without being continuously reminded of the magnitude of the loss that every lover of animal life or student of Nature has been called upon to bear. And if Mr. Buckland's death thus powerfully affects those whose acquaintance with him extends only to an intimate knowledge of his written works, what, then, must be the feelings of those who were privileged to enjoy the charm of personal intercourse with one of the most tender-hearted and kindest of men? Absolutely crushing must be the thought that they shall never again bask in the warmth of his manner or hear the ringing sound of his laughter; never again listen to his ready repartee or watch the gleam of humour in his eye; never again revel in the happy powers of apt illusion and playful illustration that enlivened his general conversation or hall-marked each contribution from his pen. But it is time to pass from these saddening reflections to a more detailed consideration of the book under notice. It is well known that the modern doctrines of Evolution and Development found an uncompromising opponent in the late Mr. Buckland, and certainly, in the preface to this last of his literary undertakings, his language is unmistakeably and unequivocally hostile. He firmly believed that if his accumulated facts and observations were placed before a jury consisting wholly of engineers, he would obtain a verdict in favour of his views. So remarkable is the passage in which this opinion is expressed that it must follow here *in extenso*; and also for the additional reason that it gives a complete idea of the scope of the work and an index of what the reader may expect to find embalmed with much costly spice of humour in its pages.

"I am very willing to prove my case by holding a court at any time or place, before any number of people of any class. I would empanel a jury of the most eminent and skilful railway and mechanical engineers, while the only witnesses I should call would be the fish fresh from the deep sea trawler, the City fish-market, or the fishmonger's slab. I would adduce from them evidence of 'Design, Beauty, and Order,' as evinced in such as the electric organs of the torpedo—the gun-lock spine of the file fish—the water reservoirs and spectacles of the eel, the teeth of the gillhead, bream, and throat-teeth of the carp, bream, &c.,—the anchor of the lump-sucker and remora—the colouring of the perch and bleak—the ichthyophagous teeth of the pike, shark, and silvery hairtail—the tail of the fox shark—the prehensile lips of the dory

and sprat—the nose of the barbel and dog-fish—the resplendence of the Arctic gymnetrus and scabbard-fish—the dagger in the tail of the sting ray—the nest of the stickleback—the armour plates of the sturgeon—the nostril, breathing powers, and store of fat in the salmon—migrations of the salmon, herring pilchard, sprat, and mackerel, &c.—and, above all, the enormous fertility of fishes useful as food to the human race.”

“I am satisfied that I should obtain a verdict in favour of my view of the case, namely, that in all these wonderful contrivances, there exists evidence of design and forethought and a wondrous adaptation of means to an end.”

On the real finding that such a jury would be likely to deliver, it is of course idle to speculate here. The chances are they would be unable to agree. But on one point they would be certainly unanimous, namely, that never in the whole history of man has any single theory been the means of promoting scientific research, and enlarging the boundaries of human intelligence, in anything approaching the extent of that which has been so conspicuously accomplished by the theory of development.

Every page teems with instances of the author's remarkable and acute observing power, as well as of a strong desire to make everything plain and easy to his readers. Each statement is couched in clear and precise terms, and with close regard for orderly sequence of detail. The diction is racy throughout, and, eminently characteristic of the author, who shunned the jargon of science as the deadliest of plagues, is, moreover, abundantly enlivened by the quaint allusions and mirth-provoking comparisons for which he has ever been famous. In proof of this, the reader is invited to turn to the account of an attempt to stuff a monster angler fish, very far gone on the road to decay. How the monster's stomach was successfully charged with a bucketful of sawdust, a broom-handle being used as a ram-rod. How, also, the noxious odour ascended from the area to the bedroom floor, and speedily brought down strong conjugal remonstrance on the head of the operator. Then how a hamper was fetched, and the great mass of corruption hanging by a rope thrown over the coal-cellar door was cut down, packed, addressed, and sent off to the museum at Kensington. And, finally, the last sight of that hamper, as it stood on the pavement *outside* the Parcels Delivery Office, not *in* the shop, with a dog sniffing inquiringly through the cracks of the hamper, and the bluebottles flying about over the vicinity. Or else let the reader turn to a description of the author's visit to General McDouall's tame codfish pond at Port Logan, near Stranraer, Wigtownshire. Here he made many curious observations on the morals of fishes, and tested their gastronomic powers. When he had used up all the mussels which on that occasion were served out as food to the codfish in captivity, he tempted them with bits of paper, pieces of tobacco, official red tape, and pieces of his mackintosh. This last-mentioned item is eminently suggestive of his habits, for, perhaps, no man ever lived who had a greater disregard for minor articles of clothing and property. His colleague, Mr. Spencer Walpole, has told us, in “Macmillan's Magazine” for February, how, on one occasion, he started “on the herring inquiry in Scotland with six boxes of cigars, four dozen pencils, five knives and three thermometers. On his return, three weeks afterwards, he produced one solitary pencil—the remnant of all this property. The knives were lost, the cigars were smoked, one thermometer had lost its temper, and been thrown out of the window; another had been drowned in the Pentland Firth, and the third had beaten out its own brains against the bottom of a gunboat. No human being could have told the fate of the pencils.”

In the face of publishers' paragraph at end of preface, it would be ungenerous to point out in detail the large number of errors

remaining uncorrected. Otherwise a very lengthy list would be the result, consisting for the greater part of ill-spelt proper and foreign names, the latter largely predominating. A word or two must also be said about the cover, for surely a more imbecile attempt at surface decoration has rarely been held up to invite execration at the hands of the public. Yet, paradoxical as it may sound, it still has one redeeming merit. The reader will infallibly hasten to get at the contents of the book with all the greater speed and be more than ever loth to close it.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES, selected from the Committees of the Duchess of Marlborough Relief Fund, and the Dublin Mansion House Fund, to administer the sum of 100,000 dollars, voted by the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada towards the relief of distress in Ireland in the year 1880. Dublin: City Printing and Lithographing Company. 1881.

THE Report now before us is that issued by the Committee appointed to administer the munificent donation of 100,000 dollars, voted by the Canadian Parliament towards the relief of the distress existing in Ireland, at the beginning of the year 1880. As the distressed agriculturists were already being helped by other charitable funds, the Canadian Committee determined to undertake the relief of the starving fishing population on the north and north-western coasts. The funds at their disposal were therefore expended in the erection of fishery piers and harbours in distressed districts, and in the provision of boats and fishery gear for necessitous fishermen. Towards carrying out the first of these objects, Parliament granted £45,000, and with this sum and £10,000 contributed by the Canadian Committee it has been found possible to give very considerable impetus to Irish fisheries generally. The remainder of the fund was absorbed in providing 192 new boats, and repairing 437 old ones; and in supplying nearly 4000 persons with new nets and lines. It is calculated that this distribution of fishing gear has given lucrative employment to over 4000 persons, and estimating only two persons dependent on each one of these, has been instrumental in providing food for about 8000 additional souls. The committee have thus every reason to be gratified with this very successful outcome of their task.

PRIZE ESSAYS: NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, NORWICH, 1881.

“The Artificial Propagation of Anadromous Fish, other than the Salmon, and the Restocking the Tidal Waters of our large Rivers Artificially with Smelts, &c.” By CHARLES W. HARDING. King's Lynn: Thew and Son, 1881.

“The Utilisation of Localities in Norfolk and Suffolk suitable for the Cultivation of Mussels and other Shell Fish.” By the Same.

AFTER careful perusal of the first of these essays, it is somehow difficult to resist the conviction that the competitors, taken collectively, can only have reached a somewhat debased standard of merit to have made success in the present instance possible. And inasmuch as the author fails to bring forward anything beyond tolerably well-known facts, and, moreover, deals with these in a manner hardly calculated to heighten their effect, we shall best consult the interests of our readers by proceeding at once to the examination of his conclusions and suggestions. These last are not wanting in comprehensiveness or breadth; on the contrary, they are about as wide as man can make them. But on the other hand, they disclose such inadequate perception of the real functions of the State, or the duties and powers of Constitutional Government, that we lose ourselves in wonder and dismay. High-handed interference by Government, and plenty of it, is here set forth as

panacea, the sole specific remedy for a condition of affairs engendered by inexperience and popular ignorance. We confess to thinking otherwise. Accordingly, as we proceed, we are not exactly unprepared to find the Executive is to be charged with the responsibility of providing at least two fishes for every one swimming at this moment! After all, this is a mere trifle compared with the next suggestion, which takes the form of a special Act of Parliament, such as the world has never seen or imagined. Whilst strictly remaining within the four corners of this remarkable piece of amateur legislation, always supposing it were possible to enact it, we should see the Executive engaged in abolishing every kind of individual and proprietary right, destroying the natural liberty of industry and labour, spending freely and losing largely, and generally taking a permanent departure from every fixed principle of economic science. In practice, the different sections of this [contemplated Act would be found as antagonistic as the Kilkenny cats; only, unlike as happened in the case of these celebrated quadrupeds, the contingent remainder of conflicting interests would belarge; though how this is to be dealt with, we are not at present told. Besides undertaking the above, Government is generally to work the fisheries of the United Kingdom! Now, after recommending this gigantic addition to the duties of Government, we really had hoped our ardent advocate of bureaucratic enterprise would have stayed his hand and sought out dignified repose. But such is not the case, we find. In his opinion, it is further desirable to make the scope of his projected Act more general still. The pelagic fishes must also be brought under Government control! . . . This is indeed a large order; and, happily, it is not for us to promise that it shall be executed with punctuality and despatch.

If, for ample reasons indicated, it is impossible to bestow aught but negative praise on the first of these essays, a like award cannot in any sense or shape be made to fit the second. In this case, we find the author dealing with matters with which he is evidently minutely and practically acquainted, and, consequently, there is a refreshing sense of fitness about his observations and remarks which was strangely inconspicuous before. It is only when he, so to speak, strays outside the tidemarks of his subject, and hazards ill-digested suggestions on the subject of public and private fishing-rights, that he is likely to call forth much adverse expression of opinion.

THE GENERAL FISHING SEASON.

THERE will doubtless be some who, under the plea of ignorance, will regard the first of June as the opening day of the general angling season in the Thames and who will find out their mistake when reminded by the river keepers they are violating the law. In some instances, there may be those who have the old first of June so firmly stereotyped in their minds, as to forget that, under the Freshwater Fishery Act, as well as the bye-laws, angling in the Thames is not permitted until the 16th day of June; and, therefore, it is as well to give all the publicity it is possible as to the change. Whit-Monday, which falls this year on the 6th of June, is a grand day for the gathering of rods amongst the holiday sportsmen, but they will find to their discomfort that if they attempt to assemble on that day, they will be violators of the new law, and liable to a summons. "Why stop these poor men from catching a few bleak?" was once addressed to me by some apparently benevolent individuals, when I was quietly informing the offenders or law-breakers they were doing wrong. The question is an easy one to answer—"Because they are doing wrong, and should be taught to do right." There is more benevolence in such a reply than giving permission to continue doing wrong, and the moral effect undoubtedly good. There

has never been any harshness exercised in dealing with these would-be sportsmen, nor has there ever been an attempt to make a conviction amongst them. Under the old bye-laws, Whit-Monday this year, being so late, would have been a lawful day for angling, and the scene at Hampton Court, of fishing-rods, would have been of an astonishing character. I remember once meeting with an old Scotchman, and reminding him his attempt to fish was illegal. He first said he was fishing for trout. I told him neither his bait or his position on the stream had any indication of trout fishing. He then discreetly remarked, "If I am doing wrong I will give it up." And he did so. He neither wanted to break the law or the sabbath, and so, after a little chat with him, he wended his way to the railway station, and thanked me for my courtesy. I have never found these holiday sportsmen at all abusive; but naturally disappointed at having invested in a brand new fishing-rod, and not being able to use it. This year I expect the river keepers will be actively on the alert, simply to caution those who are found practising the gentle art against the law, and it will be fair to assume the friendly caution will, as heretofore, be obeyed. Let there be no mistake amongst the general body of anglers as to the commencement of the season, which is Thursday, the 16th day of June, and may they all have a good season!

B.

A NEW PLUMMET.

MR. HENRY W. T. HINES, of the Bazaar, Adelaide Street, Norwich, sends us samples of a very ingenious plummet, which he has invented, and which he calls a "spring plummet." The novelty consists in the use of a spring catch for attaching the plummet to the hook. We need not point out to our readers the advantages of a plummet which can be instantly attached to the hook and instantly taken off, and yet which can hardly by any means come off of itself. In addition it enables the angler to plumb the depth without removing the bait, except in the case of one which, like paste, must cover the point of the hook. Every angler will use this plummet when he sees it.

SCOTCH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE first annual meeting of this Association will be held in Edinburgh on Tuesday of next week. The Association was constituted only on the 5th of January last, a council being appointed and rules adopted. The first report, therefore, of this young Society will be looked forward to with some interest, the more especially as we understand that an elaborate report and appendix of documents showing what the Association has been doing, has been prepared and printed, and will be immediately in the hands of the members.

AN ANGLER'S WISH.

Only to roam, where babbling brooks
Tell to o'erhanging woods, in joyous strain,
Their simple tale, yet musical withal.
Where the o'erhanging canopy of spring
Only lets fall a checker'd, shimmering light,
Yet ever and anon, sway'd by the breeze,
A flood of sunshine plays upon
The wavelet's whitened crest.

To hear the song
And busy hum of myriads of airy things;
Light as the western wind that fans and cools
The cheek of pallid care.

To hear the blithesome, careless call
Of mocking blackbird—or from yon tall ash
To hear the love-song of the tuneful thrush.
Man, learn to love the creatures of that care,
Who hath created, and whose all they are.

H. N.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river seems to have been so low and bright that trout work has not been worth the candle. Rain has fallen heavily within the last twenty-four hours, and this will do an immense amount of good, not only agriculturally, but piscatorially. Fish are now, in clear runs, well on the feed, and any one possessed of plenty of nice baits must succeed if they only know their book.

Thursday evening.—Rain still falling, and hourly improving the chances of success. Two trout taken at Henley, and one of 2 lb. at Hurley.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Halliford).

River very low and bright, which makes the fish feed very shy, owing to the want of rain. Although the large ones show up better they will not be tempted. Since my last report I have, with different gentlemen, taken four more, making my total number seven, viz., J. Wilson, Esq., fishing with me three days, took two trout, one weighing 4½ lb. and another 2 lb.; E. J. Withers, Esq., fishing with me on Sunday last, took a little beauty of 5½ lb., and a gentleman fishing with me on Tuesday caught a small one of 1 lb.; which I returned to the river immediately.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Kingston).

I have had no news to send you lately. There is plenty of trout and fine fish, but no one comes to fish for them. I saw four fish last evening in less than a quarter of a mile of water, and two of them up to 10 or 12 lb., and as fine a lot of bream and roach as you would wish to see, bream from 1 lb. up to 5 lb., gudgeons any quantity, and a fine lot of rudd on the shores of all sorts, these last few hot days makes them show themselves. There has only been a local private boat or two out trout fishing here.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Windsor).

Since my last scarcely any rain has fallen, and it has been blowing pretty hard. River is very low and bright. James Gray has had another nice trout, this time a six-pounder, taken yesterday at Old Windsor weir, and in the Windsor weir stream a pretty little fish of 2 lb. was grassed on Sunday. Within 40 yards of my place a nice fish feeds. I should say he is about 5 lb., and not far off is another of less weight, which one young gentleman has twice severely pricked. Whilst at Boveney the other day I noticed a number of small trout, and at the rafts, Windsor bridge, several have taken up their abode, from an inch to about ½ lb. This looks well for the future, as they are undoubtedly fish bred in the river. At Boveney weir, I am sorry to say, another good fish has been lost, going away with flight trace and about twenty yards of line, through the silly practice of laying down a rod to fish for itself, without having a check-winch. I will not mention the name of the angler, but doubtless, had he had a check-winch—not the hard check (which is one of the great faults in a good many of these winches) but a medium, doubtless his tackle would have been secure and a good Thames trout to boot. Another trout has fallen to the fly-rod of Captain Haines, R.N., of Maidenhead, this time a beauty of 4 lb., making several taken this season, all with the fly.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers now are in very good order for fishing, but are fining down quickly, so that in a few days (unless we have rain) will become very low and clear. Should we have rain, for which there are at present indications, fishing during the next few days will be good. Last Friday we had a heavy fresh down, which, (after a lapse of some time, when the rivers have been so low that fly, and even worm, "up stream," were of little use), gave anglers fresh hope, and consequently many turned out when the flood was on with the worm, and some very good baskets were taken. On Saturday these rivers, which fine quickly, were in rare order for the fly, and good takes were made, chiefly with the black gnat.—W.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On the 20th, Dr. Bouling, of New Hampton, killed 17 trout of 5 lb. weight; On the 24th, T. Dixon, jun., of Newcastle, killed a good creel; A. Hutchinson, sen., Bukinfield, a good creel. On the 25th, T. Dixon, jun., a good creel; Dr. Bouling, a good creel. The river is flooded to-day, and the wind from the north. To-morrow the river will be in condition for minnows. A gentleman from Yorkshire killed a splendid basket on the Brinkburn Water. Staying at the Inn.—A. GLASS.

[We can strongly recommend anglers who think of fishing the Coquet to stay at the Angler's Inn, Weldon Bridge (drive from Morpeth). After these rains there will be good sport there, and Mr. Glass knows how to make one comfortable at most moderate charges.—ED.]

Dove (Derbyshire).

This stream is in rattling order for the fly. The water is certainly low, but no lower than we usually expect it at this season of the year. The May-fly is now coming out all over, and, while this is on, the trout will take little else. Sport has been good this week, and the fish have run large. The average of baskets has been about five brace. Some gentlemen angling at Hartington have done better than this, several of them catching from seven to nine brace each. The best killing flies, so far, are the blue dun and Turkey brown, but there are so many insects on the water that the rodster scarcely knows what to fish with. The best plan is to open and dissect the first trout caught, and on finding what it has been taking, try the nearest imitation. The May-fly will be pretty well on by the 1st of June. I cannot hear that the bottom fishers have been doing a great deal. The weather is glorious, and the country looks splendid everywhere.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Carlisle).

The water is in fair condition for angling. Since my last report we have had fair weather, but rather strong winds. To-day (Wednesday), we have been visited by a rather severe thunderstorm. On the 18th instant Mr. Jno. Caruthers killed 10 lb. of trout; Mr. R. Archibald killed 5 lb. of trout; Mr. R. Wm. Waters killed 4½ lb., all killed by worm. Same day, Mr. R. Bone, Beaumont, killed a very nice basketfull, weight not known.—THOMAS PARKINS.

Exe (Exeter).

Since my last we have had a welcome change in the weather, having had a little rain, which brought down a moderate freshet, and we therefore hoped to have had some good sport; but the Exe so quickly lowers that we have looked for sport in vain. The days are so excessively hot and bright that very few anglers care for toiling in the burning sun. A few trout have come to bank, but they were very small. Several carp of 5 lb. and 6 lb. each have been netted. They were not in first-rate condition; they should have weighed 9 lb. or 10 lb. each when filled out. Mackerel are in abundance in the estuary. The salmon fishermen in the lower waters and pools are doing moderately well, and some fine bass, shad, pollack, mullet, and eels have come into the market; also large quantities of flounders, and, very curious, a great number of piebald and mottled skins among them—some black both sides. It is not uncommon to see these fish so marked, but I have never seen so many in one catch before. The wind is beginning to blow hard from the south south-east, and clouds of dust are covering everything, so very probably we may get some rain directly, which will cool the atmosphere and quench the parched ground, and provide, let us hope good sport.—FRANK GOSDEN.

P.S.—Mr. Charles Blake, of the Royal Museum Hotel, Exeter, has just received a splendid dish of two dozen trout, averaging six ounces each. They were taken at seven o'clock this morning (Monday, 23rd inst.) at Woodford Bridge, on the Torridge, by a gentleman staying at Mr. Blake's, Woodford Bridge, Hotel. The handsomest trout of the dish I am now preserving to place with the pike preserved by me last week.—F. G.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Streams about Ilfracombe are very low, and good catches of trout have been taken by hand this week. Some good hands have bagged from three to four dozen both morning and evening. Average weight, four or five to the pound. Anyone wishing to try their hand at bass-fishing can get good sport at Ilfracombe. These fish are very plentiful and in good condition. They take the minnow, or glass bait well. Catches, about one hundredweight per boat per tide. There is good sport, as usual, from the piers with rod and line for whiting pout, grey mullet, small pollack, dabs, &c.—H. COMER.

Lea (Ferry Boat).

Condition of the water very good. Unequalled by any fishery near London, the shoals of fish being larger than ever seen before. These waters will open for roach on the 1st of June. Messrs. Chapman, Herbert, Williams, Stone, and others took some beautiful chub, from 1½ lb. to 3½ lb. during the close season. There have been a great many trout taken which have been returned, and this with the promises of great many more will make this a magnificent trout stream. The reservoirs again poured forth their hundreds to stock this water, amongst them being some handsome bream over 3 lb. they were turned loose in the pool and should work up the river.—H. GAME.

Lee (Co. Cork).

The late rains increased the waters in the Lee and Blackwater, and for a few days during last week, and the early part of this week, there was good angling. Mr. George Haynes killed two on Sunday, and on Wednesday morning landed three. On the same day Mr. Bowen, of Carrigwehen, landed six, and Mr. Augustus Warren two. On the Bandon river Mr. Duncombe took two one day, and several other anglers were equally successful on the same river. For two or three days on the Blackwater there has been capital sport. Mr. O'Connor, Low Mallow, took three one day, one of them being a fine fish of 18 lb. Several other heavy fish were also taken, one gentleman having landed a splendid new fish of 23 lb. Trout angling during the week has been very good.—ANGLER.

South of Ireland.

A movement has been started by the net fishermen of the Lee, to co-operate with the Fishery Conservators for the preservation of the river. A society has been formed under the name of the "Cork Harbour Fishermen's Society," and its principal aim is to stamp out the system of illegal fishing, which has been going on in Cork harbour ever since the introduction of drift nets, and their prohibition as a legal engine. During the close season, and throughout the whole year these illegal engines are used with a persistency and daring defiance that required something beyond the ordinary preservation to grapple with. On Saturday the new society formally inaugurated their rooms. They had invited members of the Fishery Board to be present. Several of the Conservators attended, including Sir Oriel Forster, C.B., Sir Augustus Warren, Bart, Major Nettles, Captain Rye, and others. The chairman of the meeting, Mr. Min-tern, one of the net fishermen, explained the object of the Society. They desired to co-operate with the Fishery Conservators for the preservation of the river, and they proposed to procure a good steam launch with sleeping accommodation, which they would man themselves with a staff of six or seven men and bailiff, and thoroughly protect the lower harbours. Sir Oriel Forster and Sir Augustus Warren speaking on behalf of the Conservators, highly approved of the Association, promised their substantial support, and co-operation. They were glad that the fishermen appreciated a maxim, which they were endeavouring to teach, and that was that in good preservation lay the best interests of all clubs. The chairman stated that since the society was established the members had not wet a single drift net. He wished to say that if drift net fishing were practised in the Lee, eight out of every ten fish that run would be destroyed, and the species of salmon would be extinguished after a few years. The net men seeing that, desired to put it down with a strong hand. A sum of £50 has been already raised by the fishermen towards the purchase of a steam launch. The result of the meeting, regarded with mutual satisfaction by the Conservators and fishermen, was that a treasurer and committee, were appointed to make arrangements for collecting subscriptions, and making enquiries for procuring a suitable launch.

Swale.

Owing to the prevalence of very bright sunshine and high winds the weather has not been of a very favourable character for trout-fishing. Despite these drawbacks some good dishes have, however, been made. Mr. Barker was out

for a few hours between Ramsholme Bridge, and Keld and killed a nice basket of 23, with purple brown, spiral brown, drake, mottled brown, and orange brown. Some were over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and many more would have been caught but the high wind was unfavourable. In a stream that I am stocking I caught on Saturday last one fish of 2 lb., and another of 1 lb. Another of about 2 lb. was nearly choked with that nuisance of a trout stream—sheepwashing. This formed a good supper for a local shepherd.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries. Clonmel (Ireland).

Owing to the easterly winds and bright sun every day very little fishing has been done for the past week, but two salmon have been taken by the rods, and the nets in Clonmel for last week got but eight. There is great poaching going on every night; while but eight salmon were caught legally, nearly 15 cwt. were exported from Clonmel Station. The trout fishing affords some good sport; any cloudy day, and almost every evening there is a good rise, and many good trout have been caught. The killing flies are still black hackles and rails.—WOOD.

Tees and Greta (Barnard Castle).

I am afraid we are going to draw a blank this season in our neighbourhood—Tees and Greta—for trout fishing. One of our professionals here told me on Monday that he had not caught 8 lb. of trout this season. He rarely uses anything but artificial flies, with such result that he is accustomed to look at 3 lb. or 4 lb. of trout as a poor day's work. While fishing in the Tees yesterday I netted a viper out of the river as it was swimming slowly down. It seemed in a semi-torpid state, both in and out of the water. It measured 14 inches in length. A high wind was blowing, with very bright sunshine. The air was cold; water warm for the first time this year. Many times the surface of the water was quite in a boil with very small trout jumping and playing about. They would jump over any fly you offered them, but they would take no hold, neither to a fly sunk nor on the surface. All I caught were small and foul-hooked, and were returned to the water. Is it not extremely early for vipers to take to the water?—W. S. L.

[We fancy the viper must have got in by accident. In fact, we were under the impression that they never "took to the water" of their own accord. Do they?—ED.]

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather during the past week has been very close and hot in the middle of the day, with thunder hanging about, which has caused the fish to feed but very muddling in the middle of the day to the artificial fly. The best feeding times have been early in the morning and late in the evening, and some handsome baskets of good-sized trout have been killed, chiefly with the yellows, light dun, little black spider, red, ribbed with gold turt, and same fly for late evening fishing. The yellows are now out nicely, both on the Wye and Derwent, and the fish have begun to take them very freely. We have three kinds of yellows—viz., the May yellow, the Sally, and the yellow dun. Two of these have upright wings and one flat. Now, all these three flies may be dressed from one bird—the dotterel—and I have found, and proved, there cannot be made a better fly. Dotterel feathers are very scarce this season, and those that have been fortunate enough to get some may think they have a treasure. These flies kill well up to September. There are a good many flies made and sold nowadays that are made from starlings and golden plover feathers for real dotterel flies, but these flies are soon detected by good fishermen. Sport, the latter end of last week, was first-class, both with fly and bottom fishing, and baskets of from four to thirteen brace per angler were made. There were several large trout killed in the deeps at Matlock Bath, and also on the Derby Dale club waters that were from 1 lb. to nearly 2 lb each fish. Trout are now in excellent condition and show wonderful good sport after being hooked. Dabbling on most parts of the Derwent has been followed with good success with the small blue bottle natural flies under the bushes and trees. This plan is a very deadly way of killing large trout in hot, bright thundery weather; $6\frac{1}{2}$ brace were killed on Wednesday, off of the Chatsworth fishery by dabbling. Rain is hanging about to-day (Thursday), and if we have a nice little downpour good sport is certain to follow, with both bottom and top, as there seems to be a very fair quantity of trout in most of the Derbyshire streams just now.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There have been one or two nice little freshes down this river since my last report, which have improved angling greatly. Some very fair dishes of trout have been taken with the minnow and the stone fly, which is just making its appearance, will, I expect, be answerable for some good catches during the next ten days or so. I regret to hear that the river Swale has been poisoned at Richmond, it is supposed by a quantity of refuse escaping from some bleach works. One man picked up 17 lb. of dead trout, and two lads over 10 lb. It is a thousand pities that mishaps such as this cannot be guarded against effectually. Weather, at time of writing, like the middle of summer; river very low and clear.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

In consequence of the first Monday in June being Bank Holiday, the usual monthly meeting will be postponed till Monday, June 13th, on which evening the half-yearly balance-sheet will be presented. All privilege tickets ordered will be ready for delivery at the club-house on Tuesday, June 7th, from nine till eleven o'clock, so as to allow secretaries an opportunity of distributing to the members at their club meetings previous to the opening of the fishing season, on Thursday, June 16th. The old tickets will be cancelled on June 15th, 1881. A new angling club has been formed at the Admiral Hotel, Francis Street, Woolwich, with the title of the Admiral Brothers. Secretary, Mr. T. Howard; president, Mr. J. Williams. This society is likely to prove a very influential one, they having a very commodious club-room, capable of holding over 100 persons. It is to be added to the list of the United London Anglers' Central Committee.—R. GHURNEY, secretary.

N.B.—Secretaries who have not sent in their lists for the Foster Fund, will oblige by returning them at once.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O., payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London, W.C.—[ADVT.]

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

ALTHOUGH the general angling season has not yet commenced, and very little trout fishing has been done, the members mustered in great force on Monday evening last, in the club room at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, where, under the new management, they appear more comfortable, and Mr. Best has proved himself a good caterer, with a lower tariff, to the very great satisfaction of the members. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. J. Inderwick, and amongst his supporters were Col. Crawford, Messrs. F. G. Pearce, T. Gillatt, James Pat-tisson, B. Perelli-Rocco, F. H. Lemann, T. Huggetts, W. H. Brougham, James Lander, H. Gray, C. P. Wheatstone, J. R. Sachs, D. Goodger, W. B. Adlington, J. Hill, R. S. Fenning, J. G. Andrew, E. Wilkinson, E. Russell, E. T. Walker, E. Fireman, J. Ross Faulkner, A. Bryant, G. F. Hughes, &c. The minutes, as usual, were read over and confirmed, including a vote of thanks to Mr. Alfred Jardine, for a large framed photograph of his exhibit at the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich. There was not any special business to transact on Monday evening. Mr. C. Wheatstone addressed the meeting in reference to a promise he had made to present the society with a painting of fish, which he had now great pleasure in performing. The painting, which was in a handsome gilt frame of good size consisted of roach and perch; the roach in the foreground was admirably executed and perfectly life like in its expression, whilst the perch were exceedingly natural, and all well grouped. The background, with the fishing-creel laden with fish, and the lilies and rushes gave a completeness to the picture. The artist is Mr. R. Richards, who took a silver medal at the Piscatorial Exhibition at the Westminster Aquarium, and whose father is a good fishing member of the "Stanley Anglers." The painting was passed down the room, and the exclamations of admiration from one and all were of the most satisfactory character. A cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wheatstone for his valuable present, and which, as a work of so much merit, would be prized by the members. Mr. F. H. Lemann then rose, and referring to the safe return of the society's exhibit at the Norwich Exhibition, remarked that he had contributed out of his private collection four cases of fish—one consisting of a chub of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., another of $4\frac{3}{4}$ lb., a perch of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and a trout of 7 lb.—and he had now much pleasure in asking the society to accept of these cases as a contribution from him to the museum. This announcement was received with very great applause, and Mr. F. H. Lemann was warmly thanked for his splendid gift of such noble specimens of his skill in the capture of the fish. The presentations of Mr. Wheatstone and Mr. Lemann put those present in the best possible humour, which had the happy effect of increasing more largely the offers of private prizes, and for some time the honorary secretary (Mr. James Lander), was occupied in making records of them. The evening altogether was a most enjoyable one, and the greatest unity and good fellowship prevailed.

THE "BELL'S LIFE" SPINNER.

In our notice of Mr. Bambridge's capital "*Bell's Life* Spinner" last week, in the words "Mr. Bambridge guarantees that its opening action is perfect"; for "opening" read "*spinning*." The use of the word "opening" was of course a printer's error—but it is not so very inappropriate, for the bait will certainly prove a regular "eye-opener" to many a trout and salmon.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

SOURCE OF THE THAMES.

DURING a recent visit to Cheltenham and its delightful neighbourhood, accompanied by an intelligent friend, I made a pilgrimage to the source of the river Thames.

It is between three and four miles from Cheltenham, across the lofty and grand Leckhampton Hills from the summit of which the surrounding country, to a distance of thirty miles, may be seen. The view from thence of the celebrated Malvern Hill, Tewkesbury Town, &c., is particularly beautiful.

The crossing of the Leckhampton Hills I found to be as beautiful, curious, and interesting a pedestrian excursion as I ever had in my life. In ascending the hills, one portion of which is called "The Devil's Chimney," it being a peak or pillar that stands grotesquely alone—there is a delightful view of and over Cheltenham. The marks of elaborate cultivation everywhere appear. The busy haunts of men, and the gay restlessness of fashion; the new and wide roads—the Cheltenham and Gloucester iron railway—the varied promenade of the several Cheltenham spas—their grand portico and buildings, all give note of the immediate neighbourhood of civilisation, fashion and bustle.

Having crossed the Leckhampton Hills, on the route to the "Seven Springs," which form the source of our river Thames, a vast expanse of country is beheld, that presents hardly any proof of being inhabited, except here and there a dwelling of humble size, and the divisions of the land into fields, which is chiefly done by stones piled one above another, to the height of two or three feet, which in the distance look like so many footpaths. Far and near have, to the eye as well as to the ear, the quietness of a desert. Nothing is either seen or heard to move; if the birds sang they appeared to tune in muffled notes. Not a soul is beheld travelling along the roads; neither cart, wagon, horse, nor farming man was to be seen. The road itself, especially the cross one from Cheltenham over the hills to the "Seven Springs," presented very imperfect marks of human traffic; and though I never in my life before was at a spot that struck me as being so dreary, owing, in some degree, to the extraordinary and unexpected transition and contrast, as compared to the perpetually active and smiling Cheltenham, I must own I was never more gratified. The trees, in some parts overhanging the road, so as to form a grove, at the same time completely shutting out the sun's rays; then the Leckhampton Hills, with their lofty and barren sides, which gave no solace even to a wandering party of sheep, presenting an aspect that seemed to defy all efforts to mount them; and at last coming to a cottage or small dwelling, rurally cultivated, but so lonely in its appearance, that it might be taken for some hermit's abode. It immediately impressed itself on my mind, as if Parnell had some such spot in thought when, in the opening lines of his *Hermit*, he describes the place of the recluse's dwelling:—

"Far in a wild, unknown to public view,
From youth to age a rev'rend hermit grew;
The moss his bed—the cave his humble cell,
His food the fruits, his drink the crystal well.
Remote from man, with God he pass'd his days,
Pray'r all his business, all his pleasure praise."

This rural and lonely hut, it will be borne in mind, is near to the "Seven Springs;" and as we approached those springs, which, on account of their mighty results, we viewed with something like sacred awe, the aged inhabitant of the hut was returning from them with her antique shaped pitcher, filled with water. I asked leave to drink, asking at the same time whether it was "strong," and the piece of antiquity, for the pitcher and the bearer were alike venerable, with much *naïveté*, replied, "Oh no; not stronger than other water, though it is clearer and softer. We can get no water like it." And the lonely hut is a "lodge." There is a gate by the side of it, guarding the road, and that road

leads to what I suppose we must call the "mansion," the residence of a Mr. Somebody. I could not comprehend the pronunciation of the name; but some idea may be formed of the populousness of the place, when it is stated that the mansion is three miles from the Lodge.

The situation of the "Seven Springs" is remarkable. The place is in the parish of Culberly, but neither church nor village was to be discovered; and it is about as far from Frogmill as it is from Cheltenham—four miles. The springs are close by the roadside, in a considerable angular glen, the point of which reaches the roadside; and at the bottom, about fifteen feet below the surface of the road the "Seven Springs" almost imperceptibly make their way through so many crevices of what might be termed unhewn flagstones, piled rudely one above another, and covered with a hill. There is no regular way down to the springs; no pathway, no railing. You scramble down as well as you can, or as the cattle would do.

The considerable hill, or embankment, over the "Seven Springs" is surmounted with many ash and other trees and shrubs; and as those products are on the other side, which is almost perpendicular, of such place, they naturally recline over the springs, thus forming a wild and imposing umbrageous shade over the unquestionable source of the Thames. Though there are seven springs united, they form a small current, which winds its way along a fine, picturesque and secluded valley; so small, even at a considerable distance from the source, that I with ease stood astride this portion of the river Thames, and its appearance for a great way is so peculiar, bushes growing on each side of it, and forming over it a protecting arcade, as it were, that in many places it was requisite to put aside the bushes to discover that stream about which only we felt anxious.

In this romantic manner, so guarded by the growing over of the bushes, it continues for about half a mile; and then a mill suddenly and provokingly burst on the view, destroying the charm produced by the extraordinary seclusion, by displaying wheels, which the stream thus early in its career works.

These "Seven Springs" unquestionably constitute the highest source of the Thames. The stream forms a junction with the Isis at Salperton, about six miles off; and this junction was completed so recently as 1786.

G. M.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MUNDELLA ACT

WE are delighted to be able to state that Mr. Stuart Wortley and Mr. Dodds have undertaken to bring a Bill into the House of Commons to amend the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878, with a view to legalise rod-fishing at all times. We were at one time greatly in favour of the Mundella Act, but are now convinced that fishing for fish which are in season should be always permitted, and that any rules as to close season should be left to the discretion of the local fishery boards. For our own part we should very much like to see the Norfolk and Suffolk Act, with a few modifications, applied to the country generally.

We shall be glad to have the opinions of those who have watched the operation of the Act.

We cannot learn that better sport than formerly has anywhere been had in consequence of this Act, and we firmly believe that the average weight of individual fish will decrease under its operation, though their numbers may greatly increase; that is—where we formerly had a good proportion of large fish and small, we shall gradually get all small fish. If netting and all forms of poaching were put down by the Act, and fair angling allowed for any fish in season, we should soon have better sport, and the few fish taken out of season by ignorant or unprincipled anglers, would not greatly matter. Anglers generally would combine to put down such unsportsmanlike acts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

AN INTERESTING RELIC.

SIR,—Only a short time since I had the pleasure of looking through a small but ancient volume that was placed in my hands for perusal, and seeing therein some directions for catching fish, I have ventured to make a few extracts, which may perhaps interest and amuse some of your readers, as they seem to show that great interest was taken in the capture of the finny tribe by our predecessors more than two hundred years ago, and also give us an idea of the systems pursued. The work itself, to quote from its title page, was “printed for Samuel Lee, at the Feathers, near the Post Office, in Lombard Street, 1680.”

“THE ART OF TAKING FISH.—Take time, savary, and elder leaves, of each a like quantity, take the suit of an ox or sheep, the lees of wine, and make this in a mortar, then break it into little bales, and throw them into the water an hour before you intend to fish, *approved*.—*Albertus*.”

“Take dolphium, beat small, and sift it through a fine sieve and throw it into the water, and the fish will so flock to it that you may take them with your hands, *approved*.—*Pliny*.”

“Take a good many dew worms, and distill them in a common still, with a slow fire, then rake the liquor and put it into a glass vial, and put to it four ounces of quick silver, and stop it very close, then put this glass on a long pack-thread, that you may let it into the water without breaking. When it is in the water it will give such a light that all the fish will flock to it, *approved*.—*Pliny*.”

“TO TAKE FISH WITH YOUR HANDS.—Take nettles and petanphylon, or for want of that cinquefoil, and stamp it together with the juice of houselike, and take it into your hand, and go into the water, and stir it too and fro in the water, and the fish will flock to your hand, and you may take them, *approved*.—*Cornel. Agrippa*.”

“TO CATCH ELES.—Take sea stone wort one ounce, called in Latin *Scelopendrium marinum*, and of sea-onions one ounce, called in Latin *Squillorum Fluvialium sefanum* a dram, mix them together, and throw in the water as before.—*Tarentinus*.”

“TO CATCH CRAB FISH.—Take frogs, cut them in pieces, and put them into a basket and hang them in the usual places, where the crabs are, and they will come into the baskets.—From a fisherman of his own experience that used the trade.”

Many more instructions and recipes are given, a number of which refer to the “turning-up” of fish; but as they might possibly result in some one trying them and getting into trouble thereby I refrain from quoting further. Although the work itself is only a trifle over 200 years old, many of the ways of taking fish which it mentions must have been in operation for many years, as several are signed as “approved” by Cornelius Agrippa, a learned physician and reputed magician, who died in 1534.—I am, &c.,
CAXTON.

Beccles, April 6th, 1881.

THE THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—I see in your recent publications several letters from your correspondents about increasing the number of Thames trout. This is a subject worthy of much consideration on the part of all anglers, who take an interest in the preservation of that handsome fish, which has of late years become very scarce and almost extinct.

For nearly twenty years I have been well acquainted with Thames fishing, and have devoted much time to the capture of trout in that river. I well recollect that the first time I had a view of Sunbury weir, when there were seated upon it half-a-dozen anglers fishing for trout. Then there appeared to be some prospect of catching one of these noble fish, as one angler with whom I am well acquainted caught, during that season and in that neighbourhood, eighteen Thames trout. Since then the times have sadly changed, and the prospect of Thames trout fishing appears to be now most deplorable. I now, like numerous other anglers, seldom fish for trout in the Thames. I have four times during this month been to examine the river between Sunbury and Hampton Court weirs, which used to be one of the best portions of the river for trout fishing, and I have seen only five anglers fishing, and only one fish on the feed. On my last visit I certainly heard a more favourable report, and that seven very large trout had been seen at Sunbury, also six near Hampton Court, and that they were the largest trout that had been seen in those places for many years. I received this information from two persons who are well acquainted with the river, and on whose statement I can fully rely. However, each succeeding year both trout anglers and trout appear to be deserting the river. I have a strong belief, with your correspondent “B,” that artificial breeding would greatly contribute towards increasing the stock of this fish in the river; but for the trial to be thoroughly efficient and successful, a most careful and liberal course must be pursued to effect this desirable object. This would involve a far greater expenditure and more careful attention than any private person would probably be disposed to bestow on it. The existing fish-breeding establishment at Chertsey is no doubt a very praiseworthy effort towards restocking the Thames with trout; but from the great extent of the river, and the public interest involved therein, it is questionable whether such an undertaking should any longer be allowed to rest solely upon this unreliable and temporary effort to improve the Thames fishery. If a well-managed fish-breeding establishment were founded and supported by public contributions, the trout ova being obtained from our own Thames fish, and the young fish retained in captivity until they were from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb. weight, then turned into the river would no doubt effect the desired purpose of adding greatly every year to the now impoverished stock. The river, by this means, would become and might be made one of the best trout rivers in the kingdom, as I believe no other river has produced or can produce trout of such great weight and beauty as those from the Thames. It is no doubt useless to pursue the practice of turning brook trout into the Thames, as from many years’ experience of failures it is well known that they are not suitable for the river, and they no doubt return to those smaller streams which are naturally conducive to their existence. The small and unprotected breeding stream at Sunbury is not a suitable place for retaining or rearing the young trout previous to their being turned into the river. This has been amply proved year after year by the great destruction and loss of fish. The stream is much exposed to the winter floods, and it is at the mercy of any poachers who may choose to steal these valuable fish. This year I am told that only 250 trout were taken out of this stream, being all that was left of 2500, which were pre-

viously put there. I hope that the Thames trout which have been recently bred at Chertsey will not be placed in this stream; if so, they will certainly share the same fate as all their predecessors, and I trust that a more secure place will be found for these most precious fish. If some strenuous efforts were made to establish a well managed system of fish culture in the Thames, not only for trout, but for all descriptions of fish that would be likely to thrive in the river, no doubt the attention and interest of many very influential anglers and naturalists would be drawn to the improvement of the fishery, and many who now look with dismay upon the apparently hopeless state of Thames trout fishing, and who consequently care not to contribute towards the support of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, may be induced to take an interest in that society, which has done, and is doing, much good to promote fair angling, and to protect and preserve the greatest aquatic highway of England for the healthful enjoyment of the public.—I am, &c.,
R. D. E.

SIR,—“A Pilgrim Fry-er,” in his very interesting banter of Saturday last, does me too much honour, I fear, if he really thinks that I have solved so intricate a problem.

In your issue of the 7th inst., Mr. Keene is not very sure that my idea of stocking the extreme head of a river is not capable of exception, *in re* Thames Trout. Here, I think, it is simply a case of “the wish being father to the thought.” Mr. Keene is an authority on the Thames, but my experience has been gleaned on other waters. This may be an objection in many respects, but a subject like the present is sometimes better approached from a distance—any way, one has then a guarantee that the view will, in a measure, be impartial.

Like most of my brother contributors, I am a truth-seeker; but, whilst I shall ever hold the conviction that the proper place for the deposit of trout fry is in the upper reaches of a stream, I am still interested in the settlement of the question:—“Where do the few comparatively large trout found about Hampton Court, Chertsey, &c., come from?”

I may, I think, start with the theory that trout were found in the Thames at the time when the vine flourished on the present site of Drury Lane and the fig-tree blossomed on the sunny heights of Holborn. Nay, I may go a little further, and say that the spangled beauties leaped as merrily after the gauzy wings when the mammoth and mastodon wallowed in the waters, and the turtle deposited its eggs upon the shelving shores, as they do now.

It so, let me ask—

(I.) How is it they have been so slow to fulfil the sacred injunction, “increase and multiply”?

(II.) If they do perform such family functions, what becomes of their young?

(III.) If they do not increase and multiply—why not? They must, if they are indigenous to the district, have themselves once been youthful. I dismiss the idea of their castration as untenable.

(IV.) Is it possible that these fish have, like other animals when they become senile, lost their procreative propensities?

(V.) Bred (?) on the higher runs of the Colne, Kennet, Loddon, Wey, &c., have they, in their old age, dropped down to spend the close of life in deeper and stiller waters?

I should like to enlarge more fully upon this interesting subject, but time forbids. If spared to see the close of the trout-fishing season, I may perhaps return to the matter, and give a few of my own ideas thereon.—I am, &c.,
THOMAS FORD, of Caistor, Lincolnshire.

THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—I should like to ask the following of the London anglers. What have you gained by the Mundella Act? I ask what use is it if there is no one to put it thoroughly in force? For netting is as rife as ever. Please read extract of this week’s *Field*.

“The roach here have made another shift, and have gone up in masses to the upper waters. They appear more plentiful than usual this spawning season. It seems a great pity no action is taken in the Colne, where the householders have the right to net three days in each week after the 10th of May, to discourage the practice. It can easily be done under the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878. If it cannot prevent the netting it can stop the sale of the fish; and I take it the netting goes on more to get the proceeds of the sale of fish than anything else; and if that clause could be put into operation it would soon discourage the netting.”

And you are contentedly sitting at home, waiting for the good you expect from the close season, but never to come. What have you really obtained? For years you have had a close season on the Thames and Lea, both of the rivers well looked after, no thanks to the Mundella Act. Does the Mundella Act prevent the netting at Pullbrough, or upon the canals? Oh dear, no! for liberty has been obtained to net to supply food for animals at the Zoological Gardens, Aquarium, &c. So, in conclusion, I ask what have you really gained? Have you much to be thankful for, is the question asked by A SOUR BUT.

[We are happy to say that it is most probable that energetic steps will be taken to modify the Mundella Act before long.—ED.]

May 23, 1881.

GLACIALINE FOR PIKE BAITS.

SIR,—Just when baits are wanted for trolling or spinning they are never to be had; but when fishing for roach, &c., one often gets a lot of little “brats,” which one throws back in disgust. It occurred to me that glacialine would do splendidly to preserve these small fish for future use, and thus the pike fisher would always have a stock of dead baits by him.—I am, &c.,
12, Rendezvous Street, Folkestone.

THE AVON SMELT.

FISHING IN SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WANTED.

SIR,—Can any reader of the FISHING GAZETTE inform me where I can get a day’s trout-fishing in South Staffordshire? By so doing they will confer a great favour on yours, &c.,
ANGLER.

CRAY FISH AND CRAWFISH.

SIR,—If, as you inform me through your columns, crayfish and crawfish are identical, what is the difference in name between those small frustacea of the same shape as the lobster but much smaller, used for garnishing, &c., and those of the same shape as the lobster, but larger, a lighter colour when boiled, and without the claws of the lobster?—I am, &c.,
F. B.

Holborn Viaduct Hotel, E.C., May 21, 1881.

[We think our friend must be running his head against the big sea-crab; but have they not claws?—ED.]

FISHES OF DEVON.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. Gosden's notice of the Porbeagle shark, "*Squalus Cornubicus*," one was caught off here last summer by, I think, one of the Beer drifters. It was about 4 feet long, and perhaps weighed half a hundred weight. The smell from it was disgusting, worse than that from a blue shark, which is bad enough. I should think the sense of smell must be wanting in those people on the coast of the Mediterranean who, according to Risso, highly esteem it as an article of food.

A female lump fish, "*Cyclopterus lumpus*," was brought to me a few weeks since. It was taken in a crab pot in the bay. The power of sucking is retained after death to an extraordinary degree. On the second day a considerable weight could be raised by it. This power is also possessed by the smaller suckers, "*Liparis*," &c.

On the 11th of May I caught a very handsome specimen of the painted ray, "*Raia microcellata*," in the Trammell. This fish was unknown to our men, and is not, I think, common anywhere. Will Mr. F. Gosden kindly favour me with his address.—I am, &c.,
E. GOSLING.

Budleigh Salterton, May 23.

FISHING AT WELLS.

SIR,—Can any reader of the FISHING GAZETTE kindly inform me through your columns whether there is any trout-fishing near Wells? If so, whether one can get permission for the day, and who from. By doing so they would much oblige
A FLY-FISHER.

51, New Street, Salisbury.

FISHING IN THE RIBBLE.

SIR,—I can inform your correspondent, H. Neville, that Ribchester-on-the-Ribble and Red Pump-on-the-Hodder, which joins the Ribble near Stonyhurst, are the best for salmon-fishing. There are no grayling, however, in any portion of these rivers that I am aware of. What the natives call grayling are in reality dace or roach. I warn your correspondent that the Ribble in the above neighbourhood suffers very much from pollution, notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts which have and are now being made for its abatement, and unless he is there in the "nick of time," on the subsidence of a flood, his chance of a fish will be very small. I have not fished the river for the last eighteen years, yet I am afraid the conditions are much about the same; but by getting the landlord of the De Tabley Arms, at Ribchester Bridge—standing on the top of which I once hooked and killed a salmon—to write or telegraph me, I have occasionally, by acting promptly, had grand success. The Hodder is quite free from any contamination, and a trout or salmon may be killed there when one is not to be stirred in Ribble.—I am, &c.,
J. T. HORSLEY.

Southport, May 24.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions towards the above:—Cadogan, 21s.; Cambridge, 16s. 6d.; King's Cross United, 7s. A number of societies have not yet sent in their list. I shall esteem it a great favour if they would do so, to enable the Committee to close the list.—I am, &c.,
J. HOOLE, hon. sec.

FOSTER'S ACME LINES.

SIR,—Seeing your recommendation in the FISHING GAZETTE last August of the "Acme Wire Line," I bought one, which I have had in constant use, and which has given me the greatest satisfaction.

Passing down the Strand the other day I saw a line extensively exposed for sale, composed of horsehair, silk and wire, it being a twisted line, and, liking the appearance of the same, I was induced to purchase. I gave this line a fair trial on Saturday last with two other gentlemen, but found it anything but satisfactory. I hope the defects of such inferior imitations will not prejudice the public against the original, and I am convinced that the caterers to the angling community will soon be contented and pleased to push the sale of Foster's acme wire line, which is a credit to the inventor and a boon both to shopkeepers and anglers.—I am, &c.,
W. H. COOPER.

63, Church Street, Manchester, May 25.
[We have had one of Foster's lines in constant use since last year, both for fly fishing and spinning, and are perfectly satisfied with it. It is less liable to kink than any line we ever used.—ED.]

WORMS AND GENTLES.

SIR,—Will some anglers unfold themselves in these matters for the benefit of those anglers who want to know?—

- (1) Give a list of all worms useful to the angler.
- (2) Where to find them.
- (3) How to keep them when obtained.
- (4) How to breed them.

The writer is quite in a mist about the cockspur worm.—I am, &c.,
33½, King Street, Hammersmith.
THOS. MACKNESS.

THIS SPRING'S TROUT FISHING.

SIR,—The writer of a leading article in the *Daily News* of to-day appears to consider that there never was such a bad spring for trout fishing as the past. I presume he is not a Hampshire fisher, although he alludes immediately afterwards to what a Hampshire fisher says about the dearth of flies; but in this case the old adage, "Out of evil comes good," is verified. I have known the natural fly so thick on the water that trout would scarcely look at the artificial fly; and I have known, as in this season, the natural fly so scarce that nearly every well-delivered cast, with a good artificial fly of the right sort, produced a rise. I seldom leave business until the evening, but I find, on comparing my diary for 1880 with that of 1881, that in the former year up to this date I had killed 18½ brace of trout, while this year I have killed 48 brace. This difference I attribute in great measure to the scarcity of natural flies; but this scarcity is not likely to continue. The last winter was so severe that immense numbers of small birds were either starved or frozen to death, and our beautiful Hampshire valleys are now almost songless, notwithstanding the Small Birds Protection Act. As flies increase much more rapidly than small birds, I quite expect by the end of this summer we shall be overdone by the former, or that an all-wise Providence will in the meantime have adjusted the balance again.—I am, &c.,
Fareham, May 23.
RED PALMER.

CORRECTION.

SIR,—In your footnote to my communication which appeared in your last issue, the words "near Southport" should have been "near Delph, Saddleworth." There are no mills near Southport.—I am, &c.,
J. T. HORSLEY.
Southport, May 24, 1881

BLACK BASS OVA WANTED.

SIR,—I shall be very much obliged if any of your readers can tell me if I can obtain the ova, or young fry of the black bass from any one in this country, or of any one with whom I might join in obtaining a parcel of ova from America.—I am, &c.,
H. DREWFIELD, hon. sec.

May 23.

[Apply to Mr. W. L. Silk, Burghley House, Stamford.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held its first meeting on Wednesday last, May 18, 1881. Mr. Bates was voted to the chair, and Mr. Bignall facing. The chairman in his remarks said they had met for the purpose of forming an angling society. It was proposed and carried that this society be called the First Surrey Angling Society, and it was also proposed and carried that this society be enrolled in the Central Association, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross. Fourteen members were enrolled on the books. Mr. F. Johnson was elected secretary (pro tem.), seven gentlemen were elected for the committee, which met on Monday night for the purpose of forming the rules, which will be submitted to the next general meeting, Wednesday, June 1. Anglers living in this neighbourhood please to note the entrance fee to this society is 1s., weekly subscription 2d.—F. JOHNSON, secretary.

GOLDEN TENCH.

Owing to the extensive alterations taking place at the Somers Arms, we have had to remove the club to the Victoria Tavern, Charlton Street, Euston Road, King's Cross. The meeting nights the same as usual, Sunday and Wednesday. N.B.—Secretaries, please notice the new address.—T. S. WEBB, sec.

May 23, 1881.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

Our eighteenth annual distribution of prizes will take place on Tuesday, May 31st, when we shall be pleased to have the favour of our brother anglers and friends. I also beg to inform you that the next general visit of the angling societies is appointed to take place at the Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville, on Wednesday, June 1st, when the pleasure of your company and as many of your members as can make it convenient to attend will oblige.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

May 21.

KENTON SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

The annual meeting of this club took place on Wednesday last, the 25th inst. at the Palmerston, South Hackney. There was an excellent attendance of the members and their friends to witness the giving away of the prizes for the past season, and to do justice to the capital supper provided by the worthy hostess (Mrs. Partridge), the winners of the handsome prizes given by the club, and its friends were Mr. Down, Mr. J. Huntley, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Halton, &c. The worthy chairman of the society in his unavoidable absence, forwarding a gold medal value 20s. as an extra prize for the largest jack, which Mr. J. Huntley obtained. Messrs. Youens presided at the musical department. Mr. Youens, sen., giving an exquisite solo on the violin, which was much appreciated, the vocal abilities of the guests were put to a severe test. Mr. Fowler, one of the visitors particularly distinguishing himself. The meeting broke up at a late hour, after a most pleasant evening's entertainment.

[Will Mr. J. please note that stamps cut from post wrappers will not frank letters.—ED.]

LOUGHBOROUGH SOAR ANGLING CLUB.

President, Hussey Packe, Esq., J.P.; vice-presidents, Major-General Burnaby, M.P., J. F. Ealand, Esq., J. Harriman, Esq.; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. Hibbins, Baxter Gate; hon. secretary, Mr. Wm. L. Cayless, Fishing Tackle Depot, Nottingham Road; Committee, Mr. Pegg, Mr. Turner, Mr. Guess, Mr. Warren, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Stubley, Mr. Bishop, Mr. S. Burton, Mr. Wignall, Mr. Giles, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Keeling. Annual subscriptions, payable in advance—Honorary members' tickets, £1 1s.; ordinary tickets (available for pike fishing), 11s. 6d. each; ditto (available for all fishing except pike), 6s. each; day tickets, 1s. each; ditto (if to include pike fishing), 2s. 6d. each. The Midland Railway Company issue return tickets, at reduced fares, to the following stations:—Syston, 10d.; Rearsby, 1s. 2d.; Frisby, 1s. 5d.; Brooksby, 1s. 3d.; Fiskerton, 2s. 11d.; Trent, 10d.; Castle Donington, 1s. 3d.; Weston-on-Trent, 1s. 7d.; Burton-on-Trent, 2s. 11d. All tickets, books of rules and further information, may be obtained at Cayless and Sons, Fishing Tackle Depot and Soar Angling Club Offices, Nottingham Road, Loughborough.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of this association was held at the club-room, "The Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road, to consider the amount of pecuniary assistance that should be voted out of the club funds to the "River Dee Free Fishery Defence Association." There were present, T. Davis, Esq. (president) Richard Woodfall (vice-president), Mr. Pratchett (chairman), Mr. Jones (treasurer). The room was very crowded, the members numbering 110. The chairman stated the case for which their aid was solicited, and was followed by Mr. H. Leeman in a neat speech—another member, Mr. Fearnett, delivered a stirring appeal, urging the duty of Lancashire and Yorkshire supporting the association in their defence. The chairman called on the treasurer to inform the meeting the amount of cash at the credit of the association. His statement showed a balance in the bank and in his hands of £25. The proposition was put to the meeting and was unanimously agreed to, that the sum of £6 6s. be forwarded to the treasurer of the "River Dee Free Fishery Defence Association," the manager of the National and Provincial Bank of England, Wrexham. Another very pertinent question came before the meeting, which suggestion emanated from the manager of the Great Western, London and North-Western, Midland, and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Companies, as to the necessity of members' privilege tickets for the present year being officially stamped, failing this, the companies' booking clerks will refuse issuing the tickets at reduced fares. On Thursday next, the 26th, the business of the association will be—the date and locality of the first angling excursion of the season; one of the following places will most likely be selected, viz., Comber-

mere (the seat of Viscount Combermere), Vale Royal (the seat of Lord Delamere), Morbury Mere, or the river Vyrnwy.—*Correspondent.*

MARYLEBONE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return visit was paid to the Marylebone Angling Society at the Prince Albert, Sherborne Street, Omega place, Marylebone, on Monday, 16th May. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Prosser, of the Marylebone, faced in the vice by Mr. Dixie, of the Golden Barbel. The club-room, a large one, was filled to excess. Messrs. Prosser, Dixie, Chambers, Mellish, Woods, Roberts, Adams, Brice, Dobell, Payne, Hyde, Lovett, Hugget, Chambers, Parker, Sangster, amongst others, contributed some capital songs. Mr. Evans, of the Westbourne Park, gave some splendid music on the ocarina. Mr. Bonvoisin in responding to the toast of the "West Central Association," said that both he and his colleagues have always met, with the greatest courtesy and respect from the clubs of the association, and asked those present to give their greatest interest to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The subscription was only 1s. 1d. per annum, and the advantages were greater than those of any other society, and he hoped that every holder of tickets of the association would become members. He also referred to the close season, and said for a great many years fish were caught when spawning, and we found we could stand it no longer, but Sheffield was the first to move in it, and got Mr. Mundella, M.P., to bring in a bill for the close season. He begged of members to look to the 15th of March, and lay by their rods, for fish were then unfit to take; they gave no sport, and were unfit for food. (Hear.) In London we have set a noble example in paying attention to the close time. In Norfolk and Suffolk fish were caught even now in large quantities, and they did not hide them but seemed proud of them. Some were caught and exhibited at the late Norfolk Exhibition, some of them measuring only 3 and 3½ inches long. Mr. Green obtained some, and when at the supper of the Hammersmith United drew attention to them. (Shame.) In conclusion, he impressed on those present not to forget the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and so long as the close season lasted to respect it. (Cheers.) The roll was called at 11 p.m. by Mr. Osmond, the district officer, when it was found that sixteen clubs were represented, viz., Bostonian, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Hampstead, Norfolk, North-Western, Duke of Cornwall, Globe, Prince of Wales, United Marlboro' Brothers, Westbourne Park Piscatorials, St. John's Wood, Cavendish and City of London. Our annual supper takes place on Tuesday, 31st of May.—W. PEARCE, sec.

May 24th.

NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit of No. 1 District, W.C.A., will take place at the Norfolk Arms, Burwood Place, Edgware Road, on Monday next, 30th inst., at 9 p.m., when the pleasure of as many members of societies as can make it convenient to attend will be esteemed a favour. The new room will be opened on that occasion.

PRINCE OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

Important Notice to all angling clubs on the Central Committee list. Mr. F. Robson is not secretary of the P. W. A. S. If the secretary of clubs will alter the address in their list of the P. W. A. S., it will greatly oblige the members. The present address is Victory Tavern, Newnham Street, Edgware Road, and the present secretary is W. Lee. Our annual supper takes place on Tuesday evening, May 31, 1881.—W. LEE, sec.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The distribution of prizes among the successful members of this society took place on Wednesday, the 25th. Dr. Carpenter presided, assisted by Mr. Medway. Mr. Beckett stood with the pole for something, viz., £16 16s., a pair of boots, and a copy of H. L. Rolfe's well-known picture; Mr. Duck, £5 15s. 6d. and half sack of flour; Mr. Boalch, £5 5s., roach rod and waterproof legging; Mr. Pugh, 1st gross weight, £4 4s., a dressing case, and a rod, and winch; Dr. Carpenter, £3 3s.; Mr. Medway, a portrait by Mr. Evans, and £2 2s.; Mr. Whitby, hon. sec., £2 2s.; Mr. Bansback exhibited that which he had purchased with the money prizes that he had won in the two societies, the articles consisting of a clock and two vases to match, with glass shades; Mr. Barnes, £1 1s.; Mr. Langlois won the £10 10s. cup; Mr. T. Clarke is entitled to £3 3s.; Mr. Barnes and also Mr. Murray won prizes. Gentlemen who have won prizes, and were not present this evening, are requested to remove their prizes as soon as possible. I return my sincere thanks to Messrs. J. Maas, and E. Gosling for their response to my query, "American Fish."—PIXIE.

May 25.

WOOLWICH BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday evening, the 16th inst., about fifty members and their friends met at the Prince Regent to celebrate their sixth anniversary. The dinner was served in Host Beech's usual excellent style, which was appreciated by all present. The chair was occupied by E. Taylor, and the vice by T. Bennett. After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to. The toast of the evening—"Prosperity to the Woolwich Brothers' Angling Society,"—coupled with the name of Mr. John Shipston, the secretary, was given by the chair, and duly acknowledged by the secretary, who congratulated the club on its success during the year. The results of their fishing excursions, although only moderate, had yet provided them with some good sport, and as an encouragement for future exertions he was enabled to announce a good prize list for next year's competition. The amount already in hand for prizes is over £20, and which, he believed, would be largely augmented before the opening of the season, when the allotment of the prizes would take place. (Cheers.) Votes of thanks were recorded to the Host and Hostess, the Chairman, and Vice-chairman, and responded to. Kindred societies were duly acknowledged, and were responded to by Bro. J. Bridges (Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows); Bro. J. Bennett (Ancient Order of Foresters); Bro. H. Hoskine (Kent Order of Odd Fellows); Bro. J. Wilmore (Free and Accepted Masons); and by the chairman on behalf of the visitors. The proceedings were very much enlivened during the evening by the musical talent and good singing of a number of the brethren and visitors present, and the company broke up at a late hour by singing "God Save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne." During the evening the prize list was increased by Mr. Beech, £2 2s.; Miss Beech, £1 1s.; Mr. J. Shipston, £1 1s.; Mr. E. Taylor, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. Hart, 10s. 6d.; Mr. A. Taylor, 5s.; Mr. Plaistead, 10s. 6d.—JOHN SHIPSTON, sec.

May 26.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 16th the members of this society met the members of the S. P. A. S. at Dulwich, and played a friendly game at cricket. Both societies were well

represented, the former as "The Patriarchs" (as their years are something under seventy), and the others as "The Juveniles" (they being a few years over seven). After much fun and amusement "The Patriarchs" were declared the victors. On the 20th the distribution of prizes took place. Mr. J. Boalch, hon. sec., was entitled to twelve prizes, including first gross prize, £11 11s., a felt hat, a tea service, and half a sack of bran—"no wonder he got the first gross weight." Following up close came Mr. J. S. Weatherhead, he succeeding in getting second gross weight prize, £7 7s., a writing-desk, a work-box, a guinea hat, a cigar case, and two gallons of gin; comment on the last-named article is useless, it has all gone. Now come "M. le Pere" for a set of tankards, a guinea hamper, a box of cigars, hat, bottle of brandy, and £6 6s. Mr. Delahaye, jun., wanted a £1 1s. hat, two meerschaum pipes, a £2 2s. pair of boots, half a sack of flour, half ton of coals, and £10s. 6d., and he got them. Next came Mr. W. Brown, the big trout gentleman; he was contented with a pair of shoes, two gallons of gin, a tackle case, and £2 12s. 6d. Now followed Mr. Beale, who, with £4 4s., a box of cigars, and a £1 1s. hat, retired contented; Mr. J. Collins, £1 11s. 6d. and a box of cigars; Mr. Cain, £2 2s., a cruet stand, and a cigar tube; Mr. F. Grigg some handsome work of art presented by Mdm. Piolaine, and £2 12s. 6d.; Mr. Evans, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. Fox, the grand prize of the season, a silver cup, given by Mr. T. A. Taylor, a £1 1s. hat, a bottle of brandy, and £1 1s.; Mr. Piolaine, a side of bacon, about 80 lb., and a ladies' workbox; Mr. Bansback, a portrait of himself taken by Mr. Evans, and £3 3s. The following also received prizes: Messrs. Schwartz, Renault, Bedford, Green, jun., Howard and Son, Irons, and Pearson. Harmony and the meals brought the evening to a close.—PIXIE.

May 25.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—A grand bazaar in aid of this seriously encumbered charity will be held, under the distinguished patronage of H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck, by kind permission of Messrs. Charles Cadby and Co., at the spacious pianoforte shows-rooms, in the Hammersmith Road, on Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28. Doors open from two p.m. Friends of the charity are earnestly besought to render the project a financial success.—R. J. GILBERT, secretary, &c.

400,000 MARKS or £20,000 Sterling. TO BE WON.

THIS is the amount of the Chief prize to be won in the most fortunate case in the HAMBURG MONEY LOTTERY guaranteed by the Government of Hamburg.

This Money Lottery contains 51,700 prizes, together amounting to

9 Millions 324,080 Marks.

All these Prizes will be drawn in Seven Divisions, closely following each other.

Among the 51,700 prizes are the following Chief prizes:—

	Marks.		Marks.
1 of	250,000	12 of	15,000
1 of	150,000	1 of	12,000
1 of	100,000	24 of	10,000
1 of	75,000	5 of	8,000
1 of	50,000	3 of	6,000
2 of	40,000	54 of	5,000
3 of	30,000	5 of	4,000
4 of	25,000	105 of	3,000
2 of	20,000	263 of	2,000
			etc., etc.

The price of the tickets is officially fixed at

**6 SHILLINGS FOR A WHOLE ORIGINAL TICKET,
3 SHILLINGS FOR ONE HALF ORIGINAL TICKET.**

Immediately after receipt of the amount, the Chief Lottery Office Isenthal and Co., Hamburg, forward the ordered tickets for all the drawings of the first division, in closed envelopes, direct to the applicant. The amount for the tickets is to be joined to the order, in English Postage Stamps or Cheques on known Banks in England. Every dispatch of tickets will be accompanied (gratis) by plan of the Drawings. Every applicant is noted in the Lottery Register, and will receive, immediately after the Drawing, the official Drawing List, whereby the numbers drawn up and the value of prize of each respectively is ascertained. The payments of the amounts won are made immediately under Government control by the Chief Lottery Office, Isenthal and Co.

It is respectfully requested that all orders for this Money Lottery are sent before the beginning of the Drawing, and not later, than

30th MAY, 1881,

and addressed to the

Chief Lottery Office,

**ISENTHAL AND CO., Bankers,
HAMBURG (GERMANY).**

N.B.—Correspond in English.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

An adjourned special meeting was held on Friday, the 20th inst., when the following business was transacted, viz.:—Messrs. Adeand West re-elected, and Mr. Vincent (in place of Mr. Becket, resigned) elected as auditors for the next twelve months. Mr. Fowler elected as auditor for the Anglers' Benevolent Society. A new society, named the Princess of Wales, was enrolled. Five guineas was voted to the funds of the Reading and District Angling Association. Mr. T. Hoole was unanimously elected to represent the association upon their committee, the secretary having written to say that his association would be pleased to accept a representative. The question of additional concessions upon the Great Eastern Railway was discussed and deputed to the committee to arrange preliminaries conjointly with the United London Anglers' Committee. The charge of 1s. for the new privilege tickets, as arranged by committee, was confirmed. Mr. G. Treadwell was kind enough to offer his services, free, as reporter for the association. Letters were read from Manchester, Derby, Sheffield, Reading, and District Associations, &c. The new ticket was exhibited, and admitted on all sides to be the best extant. The new list of fares is much improved, having full particulars in reference to the public and private portions of the river Lea, &c. The secretary requests that applications for the privilege tickets be made as soon as possible, so as to enable him to get the orders executed in time for the opening day, he would remind secretaries that, association issue hundreds in excess of any other body, it takes considerable time to get through the work. We send all tickets ordered, postage paid, addressed to the club house. The association, it is admitted, has done wonders for the anglers since its formation. Six railway companies now grant concessions, four out of which this body has obtained, in addition to having obtained the concessions from fishing tackle, and mackintosh, manufacturers. The other two railway concessions were gained by the United London Anglers' Committee. We subscribe to River Preservation Societies alone nearly £50 per annum, besides offering large rewards for the conviction of poachers.—H.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

WHITSUNTIDE EXCURSIONS.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS will be run FROM LONDON as under:—

From	Whit Monday, June 6th.		Saturday, June 4th.		Friday night, June 3rd.
	(c) a.m.	(d) a.m.	(c) a.m.	(b) a.m.	
Euston Station	6 45	11 40	9 20	7 30	12 1
Broad Street	—	11 10	8 55	6 50	10 55
Kensington	—	—	9 8	7 5	11 50
(Addison Road)	—	—	—	—	11 8
Mansion House	—	—	8 38	—	11 20
(District Railway)	—	—	8 25	6 45	—
Victoria (L. B. & S. C. Ry.)	—	—	—	—	—

* From District Company's Station.

- (a) For Carlisle, Windermere, Kendal, Barrow, Whitehaven, Grange, Cockermouth, Morecambe, Lancaster, Carnforth, and the English Lake District. For 3 or 6 days.
- (b) For Abergavenny, Dowlais, Merthyr, Tredegar, Llandovery, Builth Road, Brecon, Swansea, Llandilo, Carmarthen, &c. For 6 or 8 days.
- (c) For Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn, Wigan, Bolton, Birkenhead, Carnarvon, Bangor, Blaenau Festiniog, Holyhead, Rhyl, Denbigh, Corwen, Chester, Crewe, Nantwich, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Craven Arms, Llanidloes, Montgomery, Newtown, Aberystwith, Barmouth, Dolgelly, Oswestry, Welshpool, Minsterley, Shrewsbury, Wellington, Newport, Stafford. For 3 or 6 days.
- (d) For Liverpool, Manchester, Warrington, Stockport, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Oldham, Ashton, Halifax, Bradford, Dewsbury, Leeds, Huddersfield, Buxton, Derby, Burton, Tamworth, Macclesfield, Stoke, Leicester, Nuneaton, Kenilworth, Leamington, Coventry, Walsall, Stour Valley, and South Staffordshire Stations. For 3 or 6 days.
- (e) Day Trip to Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Wednesbury, Leamington, Kenilworth and Coventry.

For Fares and full particulars as to times of return,

see Bills, which can be obtained at any of the Railway Stations, the various Parcels Receiving Offices, and at Gaze's Tourist Office, 142, Strand.

G. FINDLAY, General Manager.

Euston Station, May, 1881.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—All EXPRESS and ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS for distances over Ten and under Fifty Miles, including those between London and Beckenham Junction, issued on June 3, 4, 5, and 6, will be available for the Return Journey by any Train of the same description and Class up to and including June 10th. The Cheap Return Tickets issued on Week-days between London and Westenhanger, Hythe, Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Dover, Ramsgate, and Margate, will be similarly extended.

The Cheap Saturday to Monday Return Tickets, to the Sea-side, issued on June 4th, will also be available to return up to and including June 8th.

This Extension of Time does not apply to London and Gravesend Cheap Tickets, nor to those between London and Shalford and Stations to Wellington College inclusive.

WHIT SUNDAY AND MONDAY.—Special Cheap Excursion Trains from London and New Cross to Dover, Folkestone, Shorncliffe, Hythe, Sandgate, Hastings, St. Leonards, Tunbridge Wells, Margate, Ramsgate, Deal, Canterbury, &c. Fare there and back, 5s. Third Class. Children under 12, Half fares.

Special Trains for Blackheath, Greenwich, Gravesend, &c.

CHEAP TICKETS by Night Services for Excursions to Paris and back, via Folkestone and Boulogne; the cheapest, shortest and quickest short sea route; or via Dover and Calais. Fares, Third Class, 31s. 6d.; Second Class, 47s., available for 14 days, from Charing Cross and Cannon Street Stations. Tidal and Mail Services as usual. For further particulars see handbills, &c.

LONDON AND BALE IN 20 HOURS.—From Charing Cross and Cannon Street Stations, New and Accelerated Through Services to and from Bale, &c. For Fares, times of departure, &c., see bills.

MYLES FENTON, General Manager.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—SEA-SIDE.—Two Months' Return Tickets are now issued by all trains to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, Hunstanton, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Harwich, Dovercourt, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea).

Fortnightly, and Friday, or Saturday to Monday First, Second, and Third-class return tickets are now issued at REDUCED FARES by all trains to Hunstanton, Cromer, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, or Southwold.

WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.
London, May, 1881.

LOBSTERS AND CRABS.—The merchants say there has never been so many crabs before as during the present time, one of them has had nearly a quarter of a million. Lobsters also are very numerous. This is another result of Mr. Birkbeck's kind and good work on behalf of the fishermen. How I wish poor Mr. Buckland could have lived to see it; at all events, they will never forget him or what he said to them.—ESOX LUCIUS.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

SEA FISHING.

C. and R. BROOKS' MACKEREL SPINNERS, 3s. 2d. per doz., post free.

C. and R. BROOKS' RED and GREY SAND EELS, For Pollack, 4s. 2d. per doz., post free.

"UNPARALLELED SUCCESS."

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1881.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

OUR announcement last week that a movement was on foot to amend the Mundella Act, has caused no slight stir amongst anglers, and especially amongst our club friends. In our corres-

pondence columns this week will be found some important letters on the subject. We wish it to be distinctly understood that our only object in calling attention to this important matter is to get at the real views of the majority of anglers. "The greatest good of the greatest number" is our motto, and if the anglers of the country as a body decide that they are satisfied with the Freshwater Fisheries Act as it now stands, we shall be perfectly willing to support their views. No harm can possibly occur from a fair and calm consideration of the matter, and by hearing both sides of the question. As we stated last week, we consider the interests of anglers generally would be improved if the act were amended, and for our own part, we are convinced that legitimate angling for freshwater fish is possible all the year round. By legitimate angling, of course, we mean the taking of fish in season. We would not for a moment sanction the taking of fish which are out of season, and we confess we are under the impression that this was not done in Norfolk and Suffolk, although rod fishing is permitted there all the year round. We have written for further information upon this point, and if Mr. Geen and Mr. Bonvoison's charges against the East Anglian Anglers are true of the body generally, we will at once admit that such a state of things is anything but creditable to our eastern friends. If we had our way, we should like to see—

1st. Angling for roach, chub, bream, carp, &c., permitted until these fish spawn, which is a *much later* period than the 15th of March.

2nd. Angling for dace permitted much *earlier* than the 16th of June.

3rd. Angling for eels permitted all the year round.

This would enable an angler to fish all the year round.

At present angling is stopped just at the time when roach, bream, chub, carp, &c., are in best condition, and at the time of all the year when there is best sport with them, for they do not take the bait nearly so well in the summer months on account of the quantity of natural food in the water, and in November, December, January, and February the inclemency of the weather permits of very little angling of this kind.

We should, on the other hand, like to see fishing for jack prohibited until the 1st of August.

Mr. Geen gives us a friendly rap for saying that we considered the present close time, if strictly enforced, would tend to the deterioration in size of our freshwater fish, we may be wrong, but we think not; and for these reasons. We have frequently noticed that where a water is stocked with fish if those fish are not thinned out they will increase enormously in number, but that the breeding of immature fish which follows produces a puny race; another cause of the smallness is insufficiency of food, for a water will not support more than a certain quantity of fish in full vigour and capability of growth. We have noticed this in the case of trout in streams and lakes, in the case of roach in rivers and ponds, and also in the case of jack and carp in rivers and ponds. The close season for roach, although nominally only three months is practically much longer, for it is an acknowledged fact that they will not take a bait well in the hot months. This, however, is a question which only time can settle. In a large river like the Thames in which the spawn is so largely destroyed by the constant navigation, such an effect would be long in making itself apparent; in lakes, ponds, and quiet rivers much sooner. On the Continent the fact that over crowding prevents the growth of fish is well known to every pisciculturist. Mr. Geen will laugh at the idea of our metropolitan waters being over crowded, but we make bold to say that if you pit the fecundity of fish against the skill of the angler only—not the net—the fish will win in the long run, for how many anglers can catch fish? But it must be remembered

that this Act applies to almost the whole country, and we could name rivers which are naturally so prolific of fish that even netting hardly keeps them down. The object of the angler is the same as that of the farmer: he wants a good crop, and that means fine individuals, not a larger number of a smaller kind, though of no more aggregate weight.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE inaugural dinner of this new City club took place at the Mason's Hall Tavern, on Monday evening last. Mr. Thomas Crumpton, in the absence of Lord George Hamilton, M.P., the president of the society, occupied the position of chairman, and Mr. F. W. Backhouse, the vice-chair, supported by Messrs. Alfred Jardine, H. L. Rolfe, H. J. Alfred, F. H. Lemann, W. H. Brougham, J. P. Wheeldon, C. S. Bentley, C. E. Aveling, W. Beckett (West Central Association), S. C. Harding, J. G. Thompson, C. S. Austin, J. E. Harding, T. Skinner, D. A. Darling, C. G. Darling, L. Blunsum, &c., altogether numbering over one hundred guests. A very excellent dinner was placed upon the table by Messrs. Wood and Romain, in which fish was made a principal feature as suitable to a large and influential gathering of piscators. The attention of the waiters, under personal superintendence, was most satisfactory, and the various items on an elegantly printed *menu* were admirably served up. After effective justice had been done to the good things so well provided—and it occupied a considerable time—the chairman proceeded to give the first toast, which is never omitted in a company of anglers, “The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family,” and which was proposed in a thoroughly loyal and patriotic speech. This was followed by the National Anthem, and then Mr. Alfred Jardine introduced the toast of the evening, “Success to the Gresham Angling Society.” In a very able and practical address he referred to the auspicious commencement of the society, which had really become a City enterprise, and was regarded by the citizens as a great event, who now looked upon it as a City institution. In the short space of three months it had grown to larger dimensions than older societies of forty years’ standing, and as there were some young men amongst them he hoped in time they would have better experiences in fishing than he had had, and that was not offering them a bad wish. As an angling society they would actually feel interested in promoting its prosperity, and they would not forget the claims which the Thames Angling Preservation Society, as a City association, had upon them. They should give it their liberal support, and in doing that there would, in such an union, be common interest between them. He thought their early consideration should be to encourage the conservation of the river Thames. He was glad to find in their rules that the sizes of fish were of a good standard, and that there were signs of doing away with gross weight competitions. It was far better to offer prizes for large fish, as the anglers would then return back to the river the small ones and only retain about half a dozen of the best. It would do good to the river, and save the unnecessary distribution of the finny tribe. Mr. Jardine’s remarks were listened to with great attention; they were frequently warmly applauded, and he concluded by asking those present to drink success to the society as heartily as they could, which was promptly and vociferously obeyed. The Chairman proposed the toast of “Anglers and Angling Societies,” remarking that angling was an old art, and humorously referred to the two signs in the zodiac, of fishes and scales, having something to do with anglers. As regards the anglers, they were, as a rule, men possessed with the virtue of patience—an angler loved the

quietude of his sport, and he was altogether a wise and contemplative being. They had amongst them men of literature and science, and angling was conducive not only to art, but to common welfare. After referring the advantages to be derived from anglers combining into societies, he coupled with the toast the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, who would then address them, and he believed there was also a representative from the West Central Association. Mr. W. H. Brougham observed that the toast he had the pleasure to respond to was of a very comprehensive character, inasmuch as it enhanced an aggregate of something like 12,000 London anglers and 140 angling clubs. He considered in looking after the small fish of the Thames, which were designated as “Brougham’s Babies,” he had a numerous family under his charge, but now he had in addition that evening the position of representing an immense shoal of full-grown sizeable anglers. He had from boyhood been an angler, and a successful day’s perch fishing had stamped his determination to continue a piscator. Although he had little time now to angle, he had a large amount of time to give in the interests of angling, and he hoped to labour as hard as he could for the anglers to the end of his life. He contrasted the anglers of 21 years ago with those of the present day—there was now a grand change in the direction of true sport, and he could not help thinking they were largely indebted to the Central Associations for it, as they had laid down a standard for the sizes of fish to be adopted by all clubs affiliated to them, and that standard had been approved by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and he hoped would soon be embodied in the Thames bye-laws. In conclusion he thanked the Gresham Angling Society for the honour they had done him in electing him as an honorary member of the club, and any assistance or service he could render them would be willingly given. Mr. W. Beckett, of the West Central Association, also replied, and expressed the pleasure he felt that the bank anglers had not been forgotten on that occasion in remarks made by previous speakers, as his association represented the great bulk of anglers who fished from the banks. Mr. S. C. Harding, in giving “The Press,” regarded it as a mighty engine in the political and social machinery of the world, and they were all closely identified with it. He then humorously strung together the names of some of the leading newspapers, and afterwards spoke of the immensity of the work employed in getting up one daily paper with articles, paragraphs, reports, and such like, concluding a skilful and energetic speech by coupling with the toast the name of Mr. J. P. Wheeldon.—Mr. Wheeldon suitably replied.—The only other toasts were “the Chairman,” which was proposed by Mr. Alfred Jardine, and “the Visitors.” Mr. C. J. Winterbottom presided at the pianoforte—there was some capital singing by Messrs. A. Jardine, J. P. Wheeldon, J. C. Harding, W. Firkins, and Bokenshaw, and J. E. Aveling sang with good taste the song of “Welcome Anglers,” which was composed by Mr. T. Crumpton specially for the occasion. Mr. Harker ably discharged the duties of toastmaster, and thus the inaugural dinner was a manifest success.

WELCOME ANGLERS.

Sung by C. E. Aveling.

Words by T. Crumplen.

Welcome, Anglers! welcome, all!
It is a gladsome sight
To see the many happy friends
Who grace our board to-night.
Though some may yet prefer the chase,
Or other sports, may be,
Let those who like them have their way—
An Angler’s life for me!
An Angler’s life, an Angler’s life,
An Angler’s life for me!

In rosy morn we find him
 As at the close of day,
 Where the rippling stream or river
 Pursues its peaceful way;
 There nestled in, 'twixt thorn and flow'r,
 True type of man is he
 Who plods in sunshine and in show'r—
 An Angler's life for me!
 An Angler's life, an Angler's life,
 An Angler's life for me!

Then, silent, musing, rod in hand,
 Dame Nature seems to tell
 Her secrets, till the Angler's mind
 Is bound as by a spell;
 Yet still, with no uncertain eye,
 But deftly as can be,
 He'll watch the quill, or throw the fly—
 An angler's life for me!
 An Angler's life, an Angler's life,
 An Angler's life for me!

THE RIVER WHARFE.

BY FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THERE are few districts in the north of Yorkshire, or indeed throughout the whole of it, that can boast of more varied or picturesque scenery than is to be found in Wharfedale, and doubtless many of my readers have read accounts of its beauties written by far abler pens than mine; or perchance may have thrown the mimic fly upon the surface of its rippling streams, or at some time or other yielded to the entreaties of certain members of the fair sex, and in their company explored the many pleasant glades and shady nooks of Bolton Woods in the sweet summer time. It is not my intention now, however, to enter into the merits of such delights, though I by no means despise them, and have, apart from my fly-rod, spent many such happy days in the district; but my object in writing this article is to afford information to those anglers who are strangers to this pleasant Yorkshire valley, and who may wish to pay it a visit during the present season.

The river Wharfe owes its source to two small streams which rise in the north-west moors of Yorkshire, and which unite near the village of Kilnsey; these two streams would both of them yield excellent trout-fishing, but for the incessant poaching that is carried on between the village just named, and Kettlewell a place higher up the stream; at Kilnsey, however, an excellent angling club has been established through whose energy and perseverance, poaching has been effectually put a stop to on their portion of the river, and has caused it to be considered the best trout-water in Wharfedale, or, in fact, in the county. The number of members is limited, I believe, to thirty, annual subscription £4 4s., but strangers who take up their quarters at the Tennant's Arms, are allowed to fish the club waters on payment of 5s. per day. The inn is a well appointed one, and, providing that the angler meets with decent weather and the water in good order, I do not think he will complain about lack of sport, if he can handle a fly-rod at all. There are no grayling in the Kilnsey water. I believe that an attempt was made some years ago to introduce them, but was unsuccessful, whether from the nature of the stream, or some other cause, I cannot say; however, I do not consider that the members of the club need regret the failure of their experiment, as I feel confident, from long and careful observations that I have had the opportunity of making on the river Yore, that where grayling predominate the trout as surely decrease. The river next flows past the villages of Grassington, and Burnsall, at the latter place another angling association has been formed, which preserves a fine stretch of water. Here grayling abound and attain a good size, so that the fly-fisher has variety in his sport, though his pannier at the close of the day may not contain as many trout as it perhaps might do on the Kilnsey length. The day tickets on the Burnsall water are issued

by the landlord of the Red Lion Inn, at a charge of 2s. 6d. per day, the secretary of the club being Mr. C. J. Critchley, of Ilkley, who will readily supply any further information respecting the rules, &c.

We next approach what is justly considered the most beautiful portion of Wharfedale, viz., Barden Tower, Bolton Woods, and the far famed ruins of Bolton Abbey. One of the many delights that are known to the fly-fisher is the beautiful English scenery that his favourite sport leads him to, and here indeed he will find it in all its varying forms, for I can say without fear of contradiction that there are few beauty spots in England that can rival Bolton Woods viewed in early spring, when the tender green buds are bursting into life, and its many dells and coppices are resonant with the twittering of feathered songsters; when the mossy banks are stellated with clusters of primroses, wood anemones, and violets, and when the river, swollen by recent rains, thunders over the moss clad rocks, the whole force of its current rushing through a narrow passage about four feet in width, where, in days gone by, tradition states that young Romilly, the "Boy of Egremont" met with an untimely death whilst attempting to leap the chasm with a leash of hounds:

"He sprang in glee, for what cared he
 That the river was strong, and the rocks were steep?
 But the greyhounds in the leash hung back,
 And checked him in his leap.
 The boy is in the arms of Wharfe,
 And strangled by a merciless force;
 For never more was young Romilly seen
 Till he rose a lifeless corse."

This dangerous point in the river is named the Strid, which, I suppose, is a corruption of the word stride, and even now may be found persons who are fool-hardy enough to attempt the feat, though they must be aware that a single false step means sudden death.

Very beautiful, again, it appears in the full glory of midsummer, when the banks of the stream are clothed in thick foliage, and the stately fox-glove rears his head among the tangled masses of bracken and ferns. Then the cool shade of its many glades forms a pleasant resting place for the tired angler, who perchance has been wading up stream all day in the heat of the sun, fishing with the little red worm on drawn gut in the diminished streams. Many a pleasant day has been spent by me in this delightful district, and I trust that many others are in store. Permission to fish in this portion of the river, viz., from Bolton Bridge to Barden Tower may be obtained by staying at the Devonshire Arms. The trout are pretty numerous, but, owing to the fact that the river about here is very hard fished, they are very shy and require the most delicate of casts and a light hand in throwing it. From Bolton Bridge down to Ilkley, known as being a fashionable resort for hydropaths, the river is preserved by the various landed proprietors, from whom permission is somewhat difficult to obtain. Below Ilkley Bridge are a succession of fine streams, to fish which tickets may be obtained from Mr. Kendall, landlord of the Rose and Crown Hotel, at a charge of 2s. 6d. per day; here also, as on the Bolton water, the fish are very wary, but at times some capital dishes are brought to bank, chiefly, however, by local experts, many of whom reside in the district. A stretch of preserved water again intervenes between the end of the Ilkley length and the market town of Otley; here the premier angling club of the Wharfe exists, secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. M. Pratt, who is most indefatigable in his exertions to maintain the welfare of the club, and is indeed well worthy of the respect and esteem in which he is held by his brother anglers. This club is, I believe, limited to thirty members, and they only are allowed to fish, no day tickets being issued; the rules, too, are strict, no wading being allowed before June, and several other restrictions; however, in

the end the members reap the benefit, and I wish with all my heart, that the same rules could be enforced on several other of our Yorkshire streams that I could name. This club's water extends to the village of Arthington, but at that place tickets are also issued by the landlord of the inn at rs. per day, and the river consequently being fished incessantly, little is to be done, even by a skilled angler, unless it be either in a coloured water or on a very favourable day.

The cream of the fishing ends here, although there are some fine streams near Harewood and Collingham, but the river is preserved by the Earl of Harewood and other riparian owners. I believe that a Leeds club known as the Rockingham Angling Society rents a length of water somewhere near Collingham, but am unacquainted with the precise locality. Mr. Hellawell, a member of this club, caught a splendid specimen of a river trout about two years ago, it weighed close on 4 lb., which is an extraordinary size for the Wharfe. The flies that kill the best, are those made hackle-wise, and a very skilful maker of them is Mr. Brumfitt, of Otley, who is also a thoroughly practical fly-fisher; Mr. J. G. Eaton's flies also answer well on this river, as I can testify to from experience.

In the upper portions of the valley, the tourist angler will find the peasants very hospitable, and at the various inns named he will meet with the best of Yorkshire fare, coupled with the utmost civility and attention, so that I think any angler who pays a visit to the Wharfe will be likely to repeat it, and will bear away with him many pleasant recollections of the happy hours spent upon its banks.

[Having very pleasant memories of fishing on the Yore and Swale, we can strongly recommend these fine streams to the notice of our readers. The scenery in Wensley-dale on the Yore is delightful, and the fishing very good.—ED.]

THE ARMY OF ANGLERS.

IN view of the approaching conflict between the army of anglers and the finny tribe, it is as well to notice the advance of the gallant band of piscators who are now occupying every portion of the area of the great metropolis and its suburbs. The very centre of the city is now occupied by a noble force, having its head-quarters in the vicinity of the Bank of England, with a company of something like 140 good and true disciples of the rod. Everywhere are new companies springing up, bearing different designations, under well-known leaders, until we find the present strength estimated at twelve thousand skilled anglers, with something like one hundred and forty head-quarters, extending to Richmond on the west, Walthamstow on the east, Camberwell on the south, and Haverstock Hill on the north, meeting regularly once, and some twice a week, under the discipline and guidance of three grand Central Associations, that of the West Central possessing such pioneers as Messrs. P. Geen, Leo Bonvoison, W. Beckett, J. Murphy, and Thomas Hoole. That of the East Central with Messrs. S. Morgan and R. Ghurney, and that of the Central with Messrs. F. C. Hatfield, J. C. Murray, and R. Stebbings. These associations have made capital arrangements for the transit of members of clubs affiliated with them on the following railways:—Great Eastern, Great Northern, Great Western, London and North-Western, London and South-Western, and Midland Railways, whose concessions have been most liberally given. Thus their action of operation is by no means confined to the neighbourhood of London. Mr. W. Birt, the general manager of the Great Eastern Railway, has evidenced his attachment to the anglers, by giving them facilities to get to Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Wroxham, in close proximity to the fish farms of Norfolk and Suffolk; and Mr. Henry Oakley, the general man-

ager of the Great Northern Railway, who is himself an angler, has given full proof of his desire to support the interests of the anglers, by opening out facilities for getting to the Ouse and other rivers, and of acquiring the best possible information of suitable places to visit. The recent National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich has given some considerable proof of the great interest taken in angling as a national sport, and in this the anglers are greatly indebted to Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., for making it to occupy so noble a position under the patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. In the neighbourhood of the Thames, the Windsor Association is under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Christian, and the Richmond Piscatorial Society, that of His Serene Highness the Duke of Teck. It may naturally be expected to find the Royal patronage extended to other societies and associations. At the present time, in preparation for the coming sixteenth of June, the anglers are busily engaged in looking over their fishing material and equipments, and the fishing tackle shops are in great request, supplying what is necessary to make a glorious start when the war begins. On reading over the notices of angling requirements exhibited at Norwich, there is a great variety of valuable improvements, commencing with the spring plummet, which has been favourably considered by Messrs. Alfred Jardine and H. L. Rolfe, two of our leading anglers, to others of a higher degree of development in other useful departments. The anglers, as a body of men, are far superior to the general craft of anglers from ten to twenty years ago. They are better trained—possessing greater skill—and having a more merciful view of the sport of angling. The clubs, from their affiliation with the Central Associations, have now one adopted scale of the sizes of fish, and there is no recognition of the weighing-in of unsizable fish. The war against the fish is, as a rule, made perfectly honourable, and the Thames Angling Preservation Society, with its junior associations at Windsor, Maidenhead, Reading, Great Marlow, and other places, are ready to defend and protect the fish from any unsportsmanlike and illegal attacks. There is a movement now afloat in the legislative assembly of this country, to declare war against the fish all the year round, and we shall, no doubt, have some opinions expressed upon it in the columns of THE FISHING GAZETTE. It will not affect this season's angling, as it is quite improbable any alteration in the Freshwater Fishery Act of 1878 will be made in the present session, and it will then give plenty of time for ventilation. What I have more to do with now, is the operations of the army of anglers in the coming season. The time is fast approaching, and the clubs are making arrangements for opening the campaign with competitions for the first available day of the season. As far as I can ascertain, the club competitions this season will be of a more comprehensive character. Some of the clubs have more than doubled the number of their competitions, and there is evidently a great going forward of anglers. It would not surprise me at all if there are competitions for special prizes in the Norfolk Broads, and in the river Ouse, amongst the members of London angling clubs, as the facilities are now so great for getting to each destination. To meet the movements of the large army of anglers now surrounding the metropolis, there must of necessity be other rivers than the Thames, the Lea, the Colne, and the Arun; and the action of the Central Associations, in obtaining railway concessions has been a grand step in other directions out of London, which are not so largely attacked as the rivers I have mentioned. The war will soon begin in our metropolitan rivers, and the columns of THE FISHING GAZETTE will, as usual, weekly chronicle the list of killed, as given by its numerous correspondents. I heartily wish great success to the anglers, and may they catch plenty of good fish!

B.

ANGLING IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

I BELIEVE it is little known what excellent fishing is to be obtained in the north of, or rather north-east of, Lincolnshire. I had surprised some of my friends, aye, Lincolnshire ones, too, by telling them that the Prince of Wales, when down here, expressed a wish to taste the Bain trout, a stream in north-east Lincolnshire. But my experience leads me to treat of the sport to be secured in the stream which takes its rise in the neighbourhood of Horncastle, flowing into the sea below Tetney-in-the-Marsh, of which marsh Camden wrote in his day, "Good Heavens, what store of fowl and fish are there here!" This stream, after wending its circuitous way through the parishes of Thoresway, Orford, Binbrooke, passes through my uncle's grounds, by my father's residence, on through Thorganby, Croxby, Hatcliffe, Barnoldby, Brigsley, Waithe, till it empties its beautiful waters into the sea. On the banks of this enchanting rivulet, which I believe is nameless, now gliding smoothly, now foaming through most beautiful English scenery, have both my father and myself, and other brother anglers, spent many a refreshing day. The trout, on an average, run to the size of half a pound and above if anything; personally I have landed several over a pound. Some years ago my father creeled one weighing three pounds and a few ounces. It was within a few yards of the place where my father had to exert his skill in securing his big fish, that I met Mr. Ford on the Saturday before last Easter Sunday. I was compelled, through circumstances, to fish with a light trolling rod, the result being that I only managed to take a brace from their watery element, in order to restore them as soon as possible. But I could not agree with Mr. Ford, when he remarked that one ought to go to Yorkshire for trout fishing; and I think, by his note in the last number of the FISHING GAZETTE, that he is changing his mind, as I have no doubt that the stream Mr. Ford mentions is the one I am writing about. My diary for last year shows a produce of twenty-four brace in five weeks, and I must have put ten brace back again, and it was last year, not two hundred yards from where I met Mr. Ford, that I captured my biggest fish of the season, namely, a pound and a half, well fed and proportioned. As I admired him on the young green grass, the lines of Walton, or Cotton, is it? came forcibly to mind:—

"The jealous trout, that low did lie,
Rose at a well-dissembled fly."

Our stream is a late one, and the contemplative man need not think of his recreative sport before the beginning of April, and he will find the following flies suffice for the season—the March brown, green drake, stonefly, alder, professor, and last, but not least efficient, the bracken clock. But it is not with the fly that the largest fish are to be caught here, but with the minnow and stickleback, of which my father can give accounts of most successful creels. In the village of Croxby, through which the stream passes is some of the finest carp, fishing to be had. But let no man go who has not the very best of tempers. My father endeavoured to catch one in the following manner, after wasting his patience in other ways. He fastened a weight to the end of his line and from the weight upwards attached several treble hooks to the line, casting it over the carp, which can be seen in numbers and size astounding. Having managed to hook one, away went the cold-blooded creature like a dart to the middle of the pond, with the result that the line came whizzing back into my father's face. Here also can perch be creeled, and formerly the physician of fishes. Where they have disappeared to I cannot say. I must not forget to mention that magnificent silver eels are to be easily enticed from the bed of the above-mentioned trout stream. In my uncle's pond I have caught with the green drake any amount of roach, one weighing a pound and a half, the teeth of which I now have. We have also in the blow wells of Tetney and

North Thoresby, some very fine pike. It is said nobody has been able to find the bottom of these blow-wells, their formation being the result of the water from the wolds forcing its way through the earth, and I say beware how you approach these haunts of the mighty *Esox lucius*. I was at Tetney last January, when a gentleman from Grimsby had got the wind of me. I learned afterwards he had managed two fish, weighing fourteen pounds.

R. ALINGTON.

[If Mr. A.'s respected parent fishes in such a poaching manner for carp, he ought to expect to get the hooks in his face.—ED.]

THE "BELL'S LIFE" SPINNER.

IN our notice of Mr. Bambridge's variation of this very killing spinner for trout, &c., we spoke of it as the "Bell's Life" spinner. As the rotary motion is given by the "split" tail, known very many years since as the "Archimedean" which gives quite a distinct style of spin to that of Alfred's "Bell's Life" spinner, we would suggest that Mr. Bambridge should give another name to his bait, so as to prevent confusion. We ought to have mentioned that the "Archimedean" tail, though giving a very perfect spin, is no improvement on the bent tail of Mr. Alfred's "Bell's Life" spinner, which we noticed so favourably when it appeared.

THE HOME OF THE TROUT.

Huge boles and mighty arms and jagged roots
That claw-like clutch the hollow bank whence shoots
The agile trout; a marvel of deep shade,
From leaves more thick than Vallombrosa's glade—
Lush undergrowth—the blue forget-me-not,
The hyacinth and foxglove, in this grot
Of dreamy woodland.

Through it, like a beam
Of molten silver in the fitful gleam
Of fretted sunlight, runs the rivulet,
With prattle as a child—from care and fret
Entirely free. Its gurgling, plashing, clear,
Impetuous water wantons far and near
With every stone and plant, and forward goes
To placid pools and peacefuller repose.

Tread softly, parting the thick branches—see!
Yon spotted beauty speeding fluently
With easeful motion. How with brilliant eye—
A water jewel—he, afar or nigh,
The gauze-winged insect floating softly down
Perceives at once and marks it for his own!
How with swift sweep of body does he turn,
And admiration of his glories earn!
The silver-belly and blood-spotted sides
Reveal their glories as he, turning, glides.

Oh! happy trout, thus deeply bowered 'mid
Thy shade-loved waters; far from turmoil; hid
Where never earthly turmoil comes to mar
The peaceful stream, and naught but pleasures are,
Repairing to the calm of vale or grot,
Fain would we change with thee thy quiet lot.

CREON.

MESSRS. SAMUEL ALLCOCK AND Co., the well-known fishing-tackle, &c., manufacturers, of Redditch, have just been awarded the first degree of merit at the Melbourne Exhibition for general exhibits of fishing materials. A special extra diploma and gold medal has also been awarded to the same firm at the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition for their collection of sea and river fish-hooks, and for inventions and improvements effected in the same article.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

Thames (Windsor).

Water has been low and bright this last week, with hot sun. Mid-day fishing is not up to much—morning and evening being the best, though several good fish have been seen feeding mid-day, notably at Datchet (the Image Swim) and the reaches in the Windsor waters. Two small fish have been had—one by James Gray, 1 lb. 11 oz., and a 2 lb. fish, by Mr. Marsh, in the Windsor Weir stream. Barbel have been showing up strong, and shall expect a good season with them, also chub, roach and jack.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

Water in first-class order for angling. Every prospect of good sport during the coming week with the trout, dace, perch and tench. Only a few anglers have been out this week, most of them taking dace. One or two trout have been hooked and lost. Our roach have done spawning, and the chub are beginning to come up.—E. GODFREY.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On the 27th, Mr. Bewing, New Hampton, killed 9 lb. of trout, Mr. Dixon, Newcastle, 8 lb.; Mr. Brown and a friend, Lemington-on-Tyne, killed 5 dozen and two, 1 trout, 1½ lb., all with partridge hackle, and orange body; on the Friday and Saturday little was done, the river small, and bright sun, and the trout not yet into the shades. On 30th, Mr. J. Short, South Shields, killed 6 lb. 1 trout 1½ lb. With worm, fishing up stream, there have been a few good trout killed in the shade with minnow. When I was packing Mr. Bowling's trout, for New Hampton, Mr. Baumaker, the water bailiff came in and saw them, he said it was the best creel that he had seen this year; he counted the trout, and there were 29, weight 9 lb.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

This has been another splendid angling week, weather, wind, and water being all that could be desired. Trout have been rising madly at the myriads of flies now out on the water. The May fly will be in fully next week. I hear of a grand take of pike some distance below Rochester with the artificial spinning bait. The fish caught scaled no less than 38½ lb. Some capital dishes of fish have been killed with the alder and cinnamon flies. Four and a half brace were secured in the tributary, Henmore, and the baskets at Rochester, Uttoxeter, Mayfield, Ashbourne, and Ilam have averaged quite three brace each. The worm-fishers have been killing plenty of good fish, and dibbing under the bushes has been found very remunerative, the blue-bottle fly being the attraction. I think we shall have great sport during Whit-week.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is extremely low and bright. Nothing is being done in the day. Toward evening and at dusk fish sport very well for a short time. Flies killing best—small blue upright, black gnat, yellow, May dun, and ostrich Palmer.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

The streams in the neighbourhood of Ilfracombe are still very low. No one cares about angling. Any one in want of a mess of trout gets to a chosen spot in the early morning and helps himself to a dozen or two by groping. We have had some good catches of bass since my last report. One man caught 250 lb. in four hours—viz., 150 lb. in two hours in the evening tide, and 100 lb. in two hours in the morning tide. These fish are generally caught when the tide is running strong, either ebb or flood. When there is no wind to sail one man has to paddle the boat against the tide, and the other works with two lines over the stern of the boat. In this way the 250 lb. was caught in the time mentioned above. I do not like to mention the fishermen's names as there are several looking for a job, but if any one would like to try their hand at bass fishing, and will write to me I will put them in the hands of a good fisherman.—HENRY COMER.

Kennet and Lamborne.

The committee of the Newbury Angling Association are doing their best to provide sport in this as in past seasons. There are plenty of nice trout in the Lamborne stream, and one gentleman—Mr. Morgan, of Maidenhead—has already hooked more than fifty brace. The prospects of general fishing in the Kennet, also under the control of the association, are spoken of as being most satisfactory.—GEO. COSBURN.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

During the fence season, the waters in this district have been watched by A. M. Stephens, the bailiff of the river, together with the members of the Edmonton and Tottenham fishing club, during the time has displayed great activity in guarding the waters. Mr. Collyer, Mr. Monro, Mr. Money, Mr. Sellwood, and Mr. Hasler, and others taking their turn going in from Cook's Ferry to Lea Bridge, and from Cook's Ferry to Hernford both night and day. Notwithstanding this, not a single case have they seen during the whole time, therefore anglers are deeply indebted to these gentlemen for services rendered and they all say that the waters are full of fish, and as the season opens on the 16th day of June, lovers of the sport will do well to see to their tackle.

Anglers who visit us will get a hearty welcome, and find that down here we make a deep study of the three C's—cleanliness, civility, and comfort.—S. SEWELL.

Loch Awe.

Visitors are having rather better sport since a few days ago. To-day a gentleman, staying at the above hotel, succeeded in landing a fine trout, which weighed 3½ lb. Better sport is anticipated.—W. P. CAMERON.

Swale.

The poisoning of fish in the River Swale by the refuse from the paper mills reported by my friend Mr. Walbran is no new thing, fortunately it does not affect the best part of the fishing which is above Richmond. Tourists should take note of the fact that the fishing below Reeth, and above Gunnerside remains similar to what it was before the bursting of Moss Dam. Between these places it is impoverished. The stonefly (mayfly) is now out in fair force, and little will be done with the small flies until the glut is over. This fly is better fished naturally with two hooks, Nos. 4 or 5 long shank, and 2 or 3 ordinary hook. The larger hook is passed through the body and out of the tail, while the shorter is merely run through the head. A long collar of 3 or 4 yards should be used, and the fly is allowed to float naturally down the stream. If the angler keeps out of sight, and there are fish, it won't travel far before it is gulped up by Master Trout. When this is over the datterel flies will be abundant.—THOMAS FORD.

Wandle (Hackbridge).

On the 1st of May, the opening day of the season, 30 brace of trout fell victims to the artful dodgers that visit the open water at the bridge and plenty of good-conditioned fish, varying from 2½ to 2 lb. each, have been taken since. The black gnat and hare's ear did the most mischief. On Sunday morning last heavy rain fell during the early morning, discolouring the water for a short time. The fish would not look at a fly, but with an artificial quill minnow I secured a brace and a half of splendid fish, 2, 1½, and 1¼ lb. each, much to the astonishment of some of the locals. If any of your readers require a cheap, well-balanced and highly-finished rod of any description, they cannot do better than try Mr. S. Biggs's establishment, at 33, Russell Street, Covent Garden. I purchased a fly-rod from him a few days ago, which, for workmanship and balance cannot be surpassed. His flies and other tackle are of a very superior description, and cannot fail to give satisfaction.—RENURT.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

As I anticipated in my last week's report that if rain only fell good sport was certain to follow. We had a nice fresh come down in both rivers on Friday evening which stirred the fish up and set them well on the feed at both top and bottom, and I can only say that I don't remember more fish being killed in my life than were taken last Saturday and Monday bottom fishing, and a very great number being killed with the fly; in fact, they were a couple of red letter days to those anglers who were fortunate enough to be out fishing. Baskets from 12 to 14½ and 20 brace per angler were made on various parts of the Derwent, and some very handsome young trout were amongst them. The greatest quantity of fish were killed off of the Darley Dale Club waters, which I am pleased to say is very full of fish just now, in fact I have never seen anything like the quantity of fish in this part of the river for the past twenty years. My opinion is that the great quantity of fish that are now in the Darley water have come from the Bradford through the bursting of the bank of that stream, and have come down the Lath Hill into the Darley water. The Bradford is always well stocked with large quantities of good-sized trout. Fly fishing of an evening is now first-class. The "yellows" are generally on the water from seven to nine p.m., and the fish rising very freely at them. The green drake is now out on most of our rivers, and a few fish have already been killed with them. Dabbling with the natural flies has been followed with first-class results in the middle of the day, with the following flies:—Blue bottle down looked, soldier and sailor flies. Several ground fish have been killed chiefly off of the Darley and Chatsworth Club waters. Angling prospects are looking first-class for the Whitsuntide holiday piscators. Sport on both the brooks and ponds has been very good during the week. The tight-line party about Matlock have taken some large trout and eels on their lines during the past week.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Not a drop of rain has fallen since my last report, and the rivers are consequently getting very low. There is very little to be done during the day-time, but a few fair fish have been taken in the evening and early morning by the local hands, the best lure proving to be the stone fly (fished natural) and the minnow; the latter spun up stream on the finest tackle obtainable. A good downpour is greatly wanted before first-rate sport can be expected.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford" and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

RARE AND CURIOUS FISHES OF DEVON.

(Continued from page 249).

PIPER.

<i>Trigla lyra</i>	Jonston.
" "	Willoughby, p. 282.
" "	Linnaeus.
" "	Cuvier.
" "	Lacepede.
" "	Risso.
" "	Donovan.
" "	Fleming; Brh. Anl., p. 215.
" "	Jenyns; Manl., p. 341.
" "	Yarrell; Brh. Fishes. Vol. i., p. 51.
" "	Gunther; Cat. Brh. Musm. Vol. ii., p. 208.

THE Piper, according to Couch, is but little known in the north of England, and is not numbered among the fishes in the north of Scotland. It occurs in Ireland; but, according to Mr. Thomson, of Belfast, with some uncertainty, except in the south and west parts. The Earl of Enniskillen informs us, he has never seen it in the north. It is far from rare, however, on the coasts of the west counties of England, except in winter time, when it appears to seek shelter in the deeper waters, or perhaps migrating further to the south. It seems to be more plentiful in the Mediterranean than in Britain. It resembles the tub-fish, but is in rather greater estimation for the table. The colour of the head, back, and sides brilliant pink, or scarlet, faint, and nearly white on the belly. Pectoral fins, the dorsals, and tail, more or less red, ventrals and anal tinged with red.

Mr. Frank Buckland, in his History of British Fishes, page 14, states that in November, 1871, Mr. Frank Gosden, of Exeter, presented me with a very handsome specimen of the piper, which is now in my museum, &c., &c.; and that it is said to obtain its name from being somewhat the shape of an ancient musical instrument, or from the peculiar noise it makes when taken out of the water. Upon receiving the above fish, Mr. Buckland writes to say the *Trigla lyra* safely to hand, for which he is exceedingly obliged, and that he intends taking the same to the opening soirée of the aquariums at the Crystal Palace, the following day, to lecture upon.

This piper I received, with numerous other kinds of fish then in season, from Brixham, which had been brought in from Torbay. And although Mr. Parfitt tells us that they are common, and in season in January February, August and December, I never saw so handsome a specimen, either before or since; and from the position it now occupies in the Piscicultural Museum, South Kensington, London, perhaps it was one that retained its brilliant colours very much longer than these fish generally do, although as a rule, the piper retains its brilliancy some time after leaving its native element, the sea.

FRANK GOSDEN.

(To be continued.)

WHY CHUB GIVE UP STRUGGLING SO SOON.

Has it ever struck my brother anglers why this is the case; why, after a few tremendous rushes, the chub throws up the sponge as it were, and is capable of being incautiously bagged, without let or hindrance? I dare say it has been determined before, but this is the solution, as it seems to me. The chub is invariably hooked in the top lip or in the roof of the mouth. Few will deny this—why it should be so I cannot say offhand. This being so, here, in the words of Sir Humphrey Davy in "Salmenia," is the explanation: "When a fish is hooked in the upper part of the mouth, by the

strength of the rod applied as a lever to the line, it is scarcely possible for him to open the gills as long as this force is exerted, particularly when he is moving in a rapid stream. Hence the chub is suffocated, or, in other words, is in danger of dying from want of breath." I recollect hooking a 3 lb. chub in the side of the mouth (last season), and he gave me as much trouble as a 10 lb. trout on my fine Nottingham line.—J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

DO TROUT TRY TO DROWN A FLY BEFORE TAKING IT?

I think they do, for this reason: if they rose at a very lively fly (of the *ephemeridae* especially), with open mouth, besides capturing the fly, a mouthful of air would pass over the gills, certainly producing a feeling akin to pain, or at least inconvenience, judging from the behaviour of fishes recently caught when on terra firma. The sudden splash with the tail on taking a fly has been observed by the American trout anglers, and a long correspondence was printed in "Fact and Stream" (U.S.) on the subject, some arguing that the tail struck at the fly for the purpose of knocking it into its mouth. I believe that a consensus of opinion established the theory that the fish purposely struck at the more volatile flies for the purpose of preventing their flight. Perhaps some of our fly-fishers can throw light on this matter.—J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

SNARING PIKE.

There can be no question as to the grossly unsportsmanlike character of snaring any fish with the old wire appliance, but as to its legality in Norwich I am unable to decide. This is how an old poet (vide Llewellyn's "Men Miracles," 1646), characterises such a proceeding—

He that searches pools and dikes,
Halters jack and strangles pikes,
Let him know though he think he wise is,
'Tis not sport, but an assizes.
Fish to hook, were the case disputed,
Are not took, but executed.

I should advise "A True Disciple of Izaak Walton," to communicate what he saw to a local Angling Society.—J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

NORTHERN NOTES.

By F. J. H.

FROM all accounts it appears that trout are to be had for the fetching up towards Top-lock, Duffield way. We saw a brace of beauties that had been caught by a boy only a few miles up the river Hull.

And a friend of ours gives a glowing account of the sport he had a few days since in the neighbourhood of Arran Beck.

From Market Weighton Canal comes news of occasional big takes. We heard of an official pulling a party up in this quarter, saying "Where did you get those fish you have in that bag?" "Bought 'em," says the party; "Bosh," says the official. "Very well," says the party, "good-day, I'm off." "Not so fast," says the man of law, "I must see what you have got and make a report of the matter." "Very well," says the party, "look!" The official party looked. They were six smoked bloaters.

ANGLING.

A REVERIE.

IT is early in July; the wind in the south-west. The morning opens bright and cheering, but shortly clouds gather and cast a gloom over the earth; the rain descends—a dashing summer shower. The angler starts for a day by the riverside; some with a foreboding of bad weather; not so he who has studied the

varying movements of the barometer. He knows that the storm will be of short duration. His anticipations, prompted by knowledge, are soon verified, for scarcely is the railway station reached when old Sol again shines forth, gladdening the hearts of all around. The journey by the train is a short one, and on the way to the river the attention of the angler is attracted by the beauty of the landscape, the variety of tints of the fields under cultivation, the fulness and beauty of the foliage, every tree having its own individual character; the song and passion of the birds; the sound of sheep and cattle; the buzz of insects, all proclaim the breathing, living universe. When lo! the river comes in sight; then what feelings move the breast of the angler! Pleasure, emulation, and hope. Arrived at the riverbank, he soon chooses his position. The tackle is adjusted, his hook baited, and he casts it forth, and seats himself on the grass to wait the attack. In the meantime, his attention is attracted by the beautiful reflections in the river, which find an echo in his own imagination. That beautiful river running on and on until it reaches the boundless ocean may be compared to man being carried down the stream of time, until he finds a haven in the realm of angels.

But to return to our angler, whose hopes are realised, by making a good basket. And now the shades of evening remind him that he must catch the train by which he determined to return home, and so he leaves the riverside a wiser and happier man, with hope for the future.

H. GRAY.

February, 1881.

TO SECRETARIES OF ANGLING CLUBS.

NOW that the angling season is so near, we beg to remind secretaries of angling clubs that we shall always be happy to insert their reports, and that we supply printed forms for the purpose gratis. Any secretary who has not got a supply can obtain them by sending an application, with name and address, to the editor of this paper, at 12, Fetter Lane, London. The reports should be written on one side of the paper only, and should reach the office on Thursday morning; for although we always endeavour to get all reports in that have arrived before going to press on Friday, it is not always possible. Angling clubs are increasing so fast, that we hope, before long, to increase the size of THE FISHING GAZETTE, or else publish them in a special supplement. From the many pleasant letters we constantly receive from the secretaries of clubs in London and the provinces, we are glad to see the GAZETTE is appreciated. We shall always endeavour to make it merit this support, and are now arranging for some special Club Notes, which will, we think, prove of great interest to our club friends. We look to the secretaries to support us heartily, and we trust they will always consider the GAZETTE as their own special paper, always ready to do all in its power for them, and the improvement of fair angling.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

MR. EDWARD BIRKBECK, M.P., Chairman and promoter of the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich has consented to preside at the 43rd Annual Festival of this society, at the Star and Garter hotel, Richmond Hill, on Wednesday, the sixth of July.

SCOTCH FISHERIES' IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

WE have received the First Annual Report of the council of this most important association. It contains so many matters of general interest, that we must reserve it for a longer notice next week.

A BREACH OF THE SALMON FISHERIES ACT AT CHRISTCHURCH, HAMPSHIRE.

At the Petty Sessions held at Christchurch, on Monday (before Messrs. Farr, Dean, Entwistle, and Douglas, magistrates present), Samuel Butler, fisherman, and James Starks, and Edward Porter, two of his crew, were summoned for having, between 12 noon on the 21st of May, and 12 noon on the 23rd of May, namely, at 4.30 a.m. on the latter day, caught by a net, a salmon, contrary to the bye-laws of the Avon and Stour Fishery Conservators.—Mr. Trevanion, of Poole prosecuted and Mr. Bell, of Southampton defended. The evidence of P.C. John Harmsworth (water-bailiff), for the prosecution, went to show that he watched the defendants fishing with a 4-inch mesh net, and in drawing in the net, he saw Butler take out a salmon and kill it. He then went and demanded the fish, when defendants denied taking it, but despite the denial he (Harmsworth) went and took it out of a sack, into which he had seen Butler put it. Mr. Bell set up a defence to the effect that defendants were fishing for flounders, and contended that the license under which Butler claimed to fish did not state that salmon were not to be taken within the hours stated in the summons, but that it was an utterly unconditional license.—The Chairman (Mr. Farr) said that if the license did not state it, the Act of Parliament did, and every body ought to know the law of the country. The Bench had consulted, and were unanimous that defendants were guilty of an illegal act—of catching salmon in prohibited hours. They had decided to convict defendants, and they were each fined £2 10s., and 5s. costs each.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE fifth annual dinner in connection with the above society was held on Wednesday evening, 25th, at the Seven Stars Hotel, Fish Street. There was a very fair attendance of members, and a number of visitors representing other clubs. A capital dinner was put upon the table, with a fish course added to the menu. Mr. W. T. Robinson, the president, was in the chair, and Mr. Proctor occupied the vice-chair. The chairman was supported by Mr. Councillor Wilkinson and Mr. Councillor Tate. On the removal of the cloth the chairman rose and gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were responded to in the most hearty manner. The chairman gave the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," coupling with that the name of Mr. F. J. Hamlyn. After a well-rendered song by Captain J. Holbrook, Mr. F. J. Hamlyn responded to the toast of the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," remarking that he felt proud to have the honour of responding to the united services, which was well represented in the company assembled.

The Vice-Chairman proposed "The Mayor and Corporation of Hull," which was neatly responded to by Mr. Councillor Wilkinson. Mr. Wm. Hague, the secretary, then read the fifth Annual Report of the Committee. The committee in their report congratulate the members on the great success of the society, its increasing popularity, and its financial position. Twenty-four new members had been made during the week. After a general review of the club's work in the past, and some allusions to the close season as it affected the northern counties, the report went on to notice the very valuable prize given by the worthy president in the shape of a valuable solid silver cup, to become the property of the member who made the most points to end of season 1882. The report was received with very great enthusiasm, was signed by F. J. Hamlyn, chairman of the committee, and ordered to be printed.

The members were then informed of the intended benefit competition and excursion on the Ancholme, on the 15th August next, in aid of a very deserving institution known as the Hospital for Poor and Sick Children. This project was receiving much aid and support from all sources. Messrs. C. Sylkes, Esq., M.P.; W. H. Broadley, Esq., M.P.; C. James H. Wilson, Esq., M.P.; the Mayor (Alderman Leak), Colonel Smith, J.P.; Alderman Summers; Councillors Williamson, Greasley, Tate; Mr. Strattan, and a great many other influential gentleman having notified their willingness to become its patrons.

During the evening many other toasts were proposed and responded to. Mr. Vinson proposed "Success to the Hull Piscatorial Society," which was responded to by the chairman, whose remarks frequently drew great applause.

"Kindred Societies" was given by Mr. Cheeseman, and replied to by Mr. W. H. Barker, and supported by Mr. J. Jackson, of the Wilkinson Society. Mr. Wilkinson proposed "Town and Trade of Hull," which was well handled in a speech by Mr. Councillor Tate. Mr. Robert Jackson proposed the health of the visitors, which was responded to by Mr. Brown. After Mr. Hamlyn had proposed the health of the club's worthy host and treasurer, which was replied to in suitable terms by Mr. Willett, the chairman announced that the rest of the evening could be devoted to conviviality. Mr. Barker rendered a song entitled "The Land we Live in," Mr. Hamlyn "There is a Flower that Bloometh" and "All that Glitters is not Gold." The chairman drew applause by his rendering of "True till Death" and "Happy Moments." Songs were also sung by Messrs. Hague, Vinson, Durden, and several other gentlemen.

Altogether, the society may be congratulated on having made its fifth annual gathering a most pleasing and effective affair.—FRED. J. HAMLYN.

6, Engine Street, Hull.

[Many thanks for the notes. Will always be acceptable.—ED. F. G.]

"My Garden Wild" is the title of a new book, shortly to be published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, from the pen of Mr. Francis George Heath. Its object is to show what a delightful pastime may be provided by "growing the commonest" wild flowers and ferns.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INQUISITIVE.—The book is out of print.

CRYSTAL HOOK.—Mealworms will live for months in meal. They are a capital bait for roach, dace, chub, &c.

J. E. T.—We advise you to use fine-drawn gut in preference to hair; it is much stronger and finer.

H. Y.—Spinning is decidedly the most sportsmanlike way.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

SIR,—Since the passing of the above Act, a number of letters have been written you, in which the writers have expressed themselves more or less strongly against the clause which makes it illegal to angle during the three fence months. You, sir, in last week's issue express your delight at being able to state that Mr. Stuart Wortley and Mr. Dodds have undertaken to bring a Bill into the House of Commons to amend the Act, with a view to legalise rod-fishing at all times.

It is well understood by most people that when ninety-nine are satisfied with an improvement, they will allow the one to give vent to his dissatisfaction to his heart's content, so long as little or no mischief is the result.

Unfortunately in this case mischief has resulted, which would have been prevented had the ninety-nine expressed their satisfaction as persistently as the one has his dissatisfaction.

Your correspondents, with one exception, have not claimed to express any other than their own opinions. The exception is a gentleman signing himself "H. E. G.," who claims to have spoken the opinions of a society. I do not desire to disguise the importance of his statements. He is a member of a society about nine miles west of London, on the banks of the Thames, and he deliberately states that he and his brother members are of opinion that the fence months are a mistake. Now, if it is true that a society, and such a one as is here directly pointed out, has discussed and arrived at the conclusion stated, why, then, sir, there will be some foundation for the charge which appeared in the *Echo*: "Anglers are never satisfied. They prevailed on Mr. Mundella to bring in a bill to institute a close time, and now the Act is in force they want to get rid of it. Piscators don't seem to know their own minds."

Nine miles west of London, on the Thames, is Richmond, and here we have the Richmond Piscatorialists, many of them, including their president, my personal friends. I will not go so far as to ask "H. E. G." to supply the names of all those who think as he does. I ask him, and challenge him, to produce one. When I learnt that "H. E. G." was none other than our friend the proprietor of the fishing-tackle shop on Richmond Bridge, I thought it proved over again the old saying that business cannot be entirely separated from pleasure. Our friend has a right to his opinion, but he has no right to state that his brother members think as he does until he has ascertained that such a statement would be true.

We have in London 130 angling societies. Are they a means or not by which we can arrive at the true opinions of London anglers? Is there amongst this large number a single society that will say that they disapprove of a three months' absolute close time?

I wonder very much that any one who presumes to speak with authority on this matter can have overlooked the fact that anglers, as a body, have thought out this question, and are fully determined that the foundation of the close time shall be a three months' quiet for all fish, with as much more as may be necessary for pike and perch.

Let me ask those who desire to fish all the year round what particular fish is in season or fit to take during April and May. Pike and perch have spawned, but surely you will let them get over it. Chub and roach are now on the spawning beds. You cannot desire to touch them. The bream have been into the backwaters to survey, and are expected to return in a day or two and complete their work. The barbel are full and will be sure to spawn early in June. The dace is the only fish, and if you fish for him with a fly the result will be chub, and if you try with a worm you will get roach. There is no fish but that will be the better for the quiet, and no true fisherman can possibly be the worse for this restraint on his desire to be amongst them.

You say, sir, that you would like to see the Norfolk and Suffolk Act extended to all England. Permit me to give you one or two facts as to the working of it in Norwich; and I hope the Norwich Piscatorialists will read and inwardly digest what I am about to say, as they not only do wrong, but they offer premiums for so doing, and they have the bad taste to send the results where all the world are invited to see that which should be pleasing and instructive and not that which is repulsive and beastly.

In company with four others I paid a visit to the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition on April 28th, and after admiring the many splendid exhibits, my attention was called to a large slab of fish. There were large roach bursting with spawn, and little roach, not longer than my finger, there were numbers of bream equally small, and a number of small rudd. These fish, we were informed were the result of prize competitions by the Norwich Piscatorialists on the previous day. Do the anglers of London and Sheffield desire to go a single step backwards to such practices as these; will they not rather say, as my companions did when they saw these fish, "Disgusting; shame, shame"?

We had conversations with several local piscators; one offered me a rod to go with him fishing. I am told that a similar compliment was paid J. P. W. when there as one of the judges, his answer was, "What, I go fishing in the fence months? No, no."

We have heard many reasons against the close time, but yours, sir, that it tends, and will have the effect of diminishing the size of fish is quite a novelty. I must confess, I cannot see how; unless it be caused by their loss of ground bait.

It reminds me of the arguments used by a few who were very partial to the retention of undersized fish. They said little fish breed little fish, and therefore it is the big 'uns that ought to go back. I need not say that full permission was given them to return the big 'uns.

I shall be very much disappointed if the anglers are not prepared to make a stout fight for the threatened clause. Should they lose it, the Act itself is worthless, as any one may then fish and have fish in his possession, and poachers cannot be prevented from taking advantage of circumstances so favourable to their vocation.

Those who must fish all the year round should go to Norwich, but let us

hope they will not again send the fish to any exhibition while unsound or full of spawn.

I am in receipt of letters by almost every post since the last FISHING GAZETTE appeared, not only from London anglers, but from the country, each and all inquiring, as did the respected president of the Stanley Angling Society, "Do anglers intend to allow the undoing of their one Act, which has cost so much, and which is doing so much good?" My answer has been, and will continue to be, decidedly not.—I am, &c., P. GEEN.

P.S.—Since posting you my opinions upon this subject I have received a number of other important letters, including one from the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., and one from our old friend, M. T. W. Guest. Most of your readers will remember that this gentleman was chosen to represent his brother anglers of Sheffield, at the meeting at the Society of Arts Room, and to give evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons. Will you kindly allow this and Mr. Guest's letter to appear this week, as it will set at rest any fear or suspicion of Sheffield anglers wanting to fish all the year round. I am now in a position to state that we can and will prevent this attempt of a few to override the many.—P. GEEN.

[We fancy Mr. Geen somewhat over-estimates the esteem in which the Mundella Act as it stands is held by anglers. However, if it becomes clear that the general body of anglers are satisfied, we shall be glad to bow to their decision. No harm can come of ventilation of the question.—ED.]

DEAR MR. GEEN,—I am very much pleased at receiving a letter from you, as I was about writing you on the same subject. Our association know nothing about the matter. What I can make out is that during the last election Mr. Wortley was asked at a meeting if he would alter the Fishing Bill to let anglers fish all the year. He promised he would do so if returned, and I suppose is carrying out his promise. We hold our quarterly meeting to-morrow, and the question will be brought up. I am writing Mr. Wortley for particulars of his Bill, and will let you know further on the subject. I hope the London men are dead against any alteration, unless to make it stricter. My kind respects to Mrs. Geen, yourself, and friends.—Yours truly, THOS. W. GUEST.

11, Court, Broomhall Street, Sheffield, May 31st.

SIR,—You are quite right, rods ought never to have been interfered with, it was a mistake; anglers are not poachers. Have not the London Associations always had a close season? and for England generally, as you observe, the Local Boards could fence each kind of fish, according to their wants. We do not wish to angle for fish out of season; many have felt great annoyance by the suggestion. Now, take fly-fishing for dace in May, when dace are in fine condition, how absurd not to be allowed to do so; this is only one example. But the great mistake of the Mundella Act, was attempting to fence all rivers throughout the kingdom, and all kinds of coarse fish, in three months. What is wanted, is an Act to make netting illegal; but, failing this, the close seasons should be extended to six months against netting and sale of spawning fish.—I am, &c., F. M.

40, Ludgate Hill, May 31, 1881.

SIR,—The under-mentioned society view with the greatest alarm and regret the report in your last issue of an intention on the part of Messrs. Dodds and Stuart Wortley, M.P.'s, to introduce an amendment legalising rod fishing during the fence months established by the Mundella Act, and hereby enter their formal protest against such amendment, which, in the opinion of this society, would entirely and eventually ruin legitimate sport in all rivers.—I am, &c., Piscatorial Society, Covent Garden, May, 31. JAS. LANDER, hon. sec.

SIR,—What have you gained by the Mundella Act? asks one of your correspondents. Before answering that I will tell him, and those who make indiscriminate attacks on the Act in question, that the said Act gives pretty general satisfaction to the anglers of London. It will doubtless be amended in due time. There is room for improvement, but improvement requires care and caution. By the way, fishing tackle dealers and their friends are among the principal grumblers at the Act. What have we gained? Well, the knowledge that we have two right good trusty friends in the Right Hon. Mr. Mundella and Sir Henry Peek. The former gentleman said at the time of the presentation, If the Act in its present form does not suit you, take means for ascertaining what the general wishes of the anglers are, and I will do my best to serve you. The willingness of Sir Henry Peek to do the same is beyond question, so also is his ability.

Another thing ought to have been gained by the anglers, the knowledge of their power. United, with an intelligent purpose, there is nothing in reason beyond their compass, but petty jealousies, absurd squabbles, &c., must be put aside, and if the rank and file among us see that our own leaders are working for any purpose but the general good, others ought to be chosen.

I will conclude with a word as to the netting mentioned by your correspondent. It is, unfortunately, only too true; but if your correspondent were to make the West Central Society acquainted with any facts that he could substantiate, they would most likely take action in any case where the law empowered them to do so. They are, of course, powerless to interfere with the rights of property.—I am, &c., M. A.

SIR,—I am greatly rejoiced to hear of the proposed amendment of the Mundella Act. I will only offer two observations respecting it:—

(1) The close season for pike should be extended to September 1.

(2) That any person detected in the act of taking any ill-conditioned fish—alive or dead—from the water shall be liable to a fine of £5.

I quite agree with you that fishing for fish that are in season should be allowed, but at the same time a sharp eye will have to be kept upon those who appear likely to abuse the privilege.

And, while I am upon the subject, allow me to enter my protest against anglers (P) fishing jack during the first few weeks of the coming season.—I am, &c., OWEN KING.

Ethelburga House, Battersea, S.W., May 30.

THE SEA CRAWFISH.

SIR,—There is a species of crawfish, resembling much the shape of a lobster, but far larger as a rule. It is, when boiled, of a lighter red colour than our "salad friend," with whitish spots sometimes here and there. This is the fish that "F. B." is inquiring about. Any good fishmonger will give your correspondent a look at one of these "brain increasers."—I am, &c., RED JACKET.

CRAYFISH AND CRAWFISH.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to answer your correspondent "F. B." and assist him, as clearly as I can, in diagnosing the names of the two above-named crustacea. These fish, as far as the two names are concerned, viz., cray and craw, one is as frequently used as the other for either fish, by those unaccustomed to the fish or the localities from whence they come. The crayfish (*Palinurus vulgaris*) is the sea crustacea, and the crayfish (*Astacus fluviatilis*) is the river crustacea. The crawfish is locally called crayfish in many parts, where they are taken, also crawfish; but crawfish may be considered the proper name for the sea species (*Palinurus vulgaris*), especially when we read in "Crab and Lobster Lore," by W. R. Lord, R.A., that "Apicius feasted right royally on crawfish." Pliny speaks of crawfish of huge dimensions, and the tables of ancient Rome were often seen laden with crawfish, &c.—I am, &c., Exeter. FRANK GOSDEN,

TROUTING IN SOUTH WALES.

SIR,—Allow me through the channel of your well read columns to call the attention of anglers to a new field for trouting, and one but little known except to the local Waltonians.

By good luck I had my attention called to Kidwelly, Carmarthen, in South Wales, and here I rusticated fourteen days, and had fair sport. Others did much better. One man took forty-five fish in a day, trout averaging 5 to 6 oz. each; some few $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each, fat, brown, and in good condition, and excellent on the table. The Pelicans is a capital inn and moderate, and they take in boarders, and here you get plenty of good fare; but it is a very primitive town, boasting a superb ruined castle, famous for its fine cockles, but certainly not for its trade or population. Anglers can obtain three miles of good fishing here, and with plenty of rain, fish are very plentiful, also salmon and seewin later on (July). Tickets, 2s. 6d. each. Flies to be used are the cockabundy and bright blue and green bodies. Minnows (real) also are very killing bait when there is a flush of water on; worms also do good work. I trust some of your readers on this may follow suit, and get good sport at the Pelican. There is always a fine tap of ale on which to comfort one's creature wants after work or bad luck in sport.—I am, &c., F. P. May, 1881.

WHERE ONE CAN FISH ON THE TRENT.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent a fortnight ago, I beg to inform him that I am well acquainted with all the places on the upper part of the Trent, and that I believe there is no free fishing, but if he will go to Willington, seven miles from Derby, and call at the Green Man public house, he may get some good fishing for a small sum; or if he think well to go to Burton-on-Trent, and enquire for Mr. Charles Smith, at Westmore, he will get on very well. Mr. Smith is the proprietor of the water, and also keeper, and a first-class angler in the Nottingham style. Only mention my name to him, and there is not a doubt that he will show you all the best swims.—W. BAILEY. 170, Kirk White Street, Nottingham.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—The seventh annual supper of the above society will take place on Wednesday the 15th June.

Members are requested to attend on Wednesday night next, the 8th of June, when the tickets for the supper will be issued.—I am, &c., R. GAZE. June 1, 1881.

THE THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—The letter in your issue, May the 28th, and signed R. D. E., is, in my opinion, well worth attention. Undoubtedly, if we are to have an increase of Thames trout, it will be necessary to breed from those fish alone. I have ever argued that to turn into the Thames small stream trout is useless; they are certain to seek smaller water, suitable to their size.

I well remember, under Mr. Ponder's management, a grand success from the Sunbury pond, when I personally turned into the water at Sunbury many more than the entire number lately taken from the same pond. All were healthy fish, quite up to the size of takeable gudgeon, and some larger. They were a mixture, salmon being a part, yet generally trout bred from small stream trout. Where have they all gone? as well as the rest—for many more were turned into the Thames at other stations. Certainly they are not at Sunbury, nor have they been caught. What is wanting is a piece of water, that is Thames water, of a good size and depth. This should be walled up above the possibility of flood, and the fish allowed to grow to one pound before put into the Thames. There is a piece of water already made; it only wants the wall; it has good depths and possesses a "tumbling bay."

I allude to the water that leaves the Thames just opposite Tagg's Island Hotel, and runs through the grounds of the late Mr. Clay, of Hampton Court. If this could be utilised, I will, as a start, give two guineas towards expenses.—I am, &c., E. L.

3, New Broad Street, E.C., May 31, 1881.

[We will also subscribe towards the expenses, if E. L.'s capital idea is carried out.—ED.]

FISHES OF DEVON.

SIR,—In last week's issue of the FISHING GAZETTE your correspondent "E. Gosling," gives us an account of two beautiful fish recently taken in the bay, off Budleigh Salterton, the former of which was a female lump fish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) which is also called the lumpsucker, and in many places the "sea owl," and "cock paddle." I have had numbers of them during the season for years past, and they are taken on various parts of the south coast, consequently are not considered uncommon; but the latter fish of the two, the "painted ray" (*Raja microcellata*), also called the "small-eyed ray," I should much liked to have seen, not having been enabled to add that name to my list of rare fish secured by myself since in Devon, and a lengthy list of which appeared in the F. G. 26th of February last, and of which you have given several descriptions. This handsome fish, so our lamented friend Frank Buckland informs us, is with the "starry ray" and "shagreen ray," all rare; but Mr. E. Parfitt, in his "Fauna of Devon," says it is a very local species, and it appears to be confined entirely to the coasts of Devon and Cornwall. As I have above stated, I should liked much to have seen it, not having seen one taken from off this coast, and therefore consider it is more rare than observed by Mr. Parfitt. I have the preserved skulls of various kinds of rays in my collection, and should liked to have added this one. E. G. does not state whether it was the grey painted ray or the brilliant yellow one with yellow spots like beads. If the

latter, it is very rare. Couch, vol. i., plate xxv., page 107, states that they have not hitherto been taken anywhere but on the coast of Devon and Cornwall, &c.—I am, &c. FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

HINES' SPRING PLUMMET.

SIR,—We beg to inform you we are the sole agents in London, wholesale and retail, for Hines' New Spring Plummet. We shall be glad if you will notice the same in your paper.—Yours truly, F. T. WILLIAMS and Co. 10, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

[We suggested to Mr. Hines a form of his plummet which will better protect the spring, and he has carried out our idea exactly, and we think the new form will sell better.—ED.]

THE STANLEY ANGLERS.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in informing you that we have had some nice shows of Thames and Colne trout this last week, the largest being 3 lb. 12 oz., caught from the Colne by Mr. R. J. Pollentine, with the artificial fly. Our president, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, had a very handsome trout of 3 lb. 6 oz., taken spinning from the Thames, likewise one of 2 lb. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. I may here mention that in spinning for the same he captured several jack, five chub, the heaviest over 5 lb., one barbel over 6 lb., and a perch weighing over 2 lb., these fish were, with the exception of the trout, returned to their native element. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone says that they were in miserable condition. A singular thing happened with the perch. He was taken, marked and returned, but in about an hour afterwards was again taken, and when again landed had a bleak in his mouth, half gorged. I think this incident would prove that though Mr. Mundella's Bill in itself is not a complete success, yet it is a step in the right direction.—I am, &c. C. LAIDLAW, hon. sec. Lord Stanley Hotel, Camden Park Road, May 28.

FISHING IN FRANCE.

SIR,—Will you kindly ask in your valued GAZETTE the following question for me? I am about to visit the village of Corney, in Lorraine, and my friends tell me the river Moselle runs through their farm.

Can any of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE tell me what fish I may expect to catch there, and what is the best tackle, bait, and way to fish, or any information as to the fishing in the locality?

I should esteem any answer a favour.—I am, &c., H. W.

7, Castle Street East, Oxford Street, W., May 28.

[There is good general fishing in the Moselle. Jack, perch, barbel, chub, roach, &c.—ED.]

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers give me instructions as to the best and cheapest bait for a galvanised eel basket, and the best part of a river to put it? Say whether in deep or fleet water. Also, as to baiting eel lines? Also, as to where I can purchase the Act of Parliament relative to the close time of fish?

Perhaps some of your readers can tell me some other plan of catching eels. I have the right of fishing on both sides of the river part of the way, and on the one side for the remainder.

Your kind attention will oblige.—I am, &c., C. T.

Whittlesford, near Cambridge, May 29.

BAIT FOR BREEM.

SIR,—Will some reader kindly inform me how to make or where to obtain a tempting bait for bream in running waters? By so doing they will greatly oblige.—I am, &c. H. A. WEST.

SPRING-TIME.

The winter's past. Now smiling spring,
With bounteous hand, doth garlands bring
To deck the sunny braes;
And breezes, blowing wide and free
O'er verdant pastures, bear to me
The tale of other days.
At early morn, with tuneful throat,
The lark from cloudland pours the note
Of liquid melody.
And from the depths of sheltering woods
Ascend, responsive, joyous floods,
To swell the jubilee.

The peaceful cattle, grazing, stray
O'er sunlit slopes, while, far away,
The flickering kestrel hangs.
And like cloud-shadows o'er the grass,
In mimic race, the lambkins pass—
Glade-loving, gladsome, gangs.
The patient angler by the brim
Of babbling beck—whose song to him
All strife and sorrow stills—
Again his simple pleasure takes,
Where cry of lonesome wild bird breaks
The silence of the hills.

Springtime! thy beauty has been sung
Ages adown since time was young,
And still awakes a strain
Whose lighter measure breathes a balm,
As when we view, apart, the calm
Downfall of vernal rain.
The fairest scene, the brightest hour,
Seem, aye endued with greater power
In Memory's softened light;
And Spring-time, sweet in youthful days,
Illumes with more enduring rays
Life's autumn's subdued sight.

E. E. H.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Second Annual Dinner will take place on June 15th.—W. SHAKEL, secretary.

May 31.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

In my river report I mention the activity and labour that the members of the Edmonton and Tottenham Fishing Club have displayed during the close season, it will, without doubt, give great pleasure to the readers of this letter to hear that their labours have not been lost sight of, for on Wednesday evening, the 25th day of May, they met at the club to be welcomed on every hand, and various prizes were given to the most successful members—namely, Mr. J. Stephens, 1st prize, consisting of two first-rate rods in cases and a telescope; Mr. Munro, the 1st jack prize; Mr. Collyer, a prize for perch; Mr. Money, Mr. Whale, Mr. Wray, Mr. Lewin, and Mr. Robinson all received a special prize, and, notwithstanding the great expense, there is a large balance in hand, and prizes are already promised for the coming season. Should this meet the eye of those who wish to join a club they cannot do better than join this one, and they will at once receive all the privileges. In both giving and receiving, there was but one wish, that for years they would all be spared to share each other's friendship, and that the club would ever be successful.—S. SEWELL.

May 30.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

The annual dinner of the above will take place at the York Minster, Foley Stree, Portland Place, on the 14th, on which occasion Mr. G. Dixie will give the result of Mr. H. West's travel through the Fish Book, which to my opinion deserves more than ordinary praise.—PIXIE.

June 2, 1881.

THE LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting was held in the club-room at the Strawberry Hotel, West Derby Road, on Thursday, the 26th inst. There were present Mr. Woolfall (vice-president), Mr. Pratchett (chairman) Mr. Jones (treasurer) and a good muster of members. After the usual routine of business, the debate of the evening was the date and locality of the first angling excursion of the season. The chairman, after describing the angling qualities of the four places, viz., Combermere, Marbury Mere, the Vale Royal and the Vyrnwy, in which he was followed by Mr. Woolfall, a veteran angler on the Vyrnwy, who spoke very highly of the river, called for some member to make a proposition. An animated but friendly discussion was engaged in, and it was proposed by Mr. Schmitt, seconded by Mr. Healey that the river Vyrnwy be the scene of the anticipated pleasant outing. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Fearwitt and seconded by Mr. Serjeanson, that Combermere was the most suitable place. The amendment was put to the vote and carried. The next business was to fix the date. It was proposed by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Evans, that Whit Monday be the day. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Serjeanson, who spoke very ably on the duty of anglers observing the close time for all coarse fish, as embodied in the Freshwater Fisheries Act, and he suggested the 20th of June as being a more suitable day. This was seconded by Mr. Fearwitt in a capital speech to the same point. The amendment being put to the vote, was carried. This being all the official business, the meeting was closed. The rest of the evening was spent in pleasant conversation so acceptable to Waltonians, viz., discussing the angling qualities of the various waters visited by members during the earlier part of the present season.—LIVERPOOL BLUE DUN.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society (which is enrolled in the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies) was founded on the 19th May last, and has already between twenty and thirty members. The entrance fee (for a few weeks only) is 1s., after which it will be raised to 2s. 6d. There are numerous advantages offered to anglers, especially to tradesmen, which cannot be obtained in other societies; and as the society is limited to 100 fishing members, gentlemen desirous of joining are requested to attend any Thursday evening between 8.30 and 10.45 at the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., or to communicate with the secretary, Mr. F. Robson, 19, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., who will be pleased to forward all information.

"IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLING SOCIETIES."

In your last issue I noticed a report from the Prince of Wales Angling Society, in which it stated, as a notice to angling societies, that Mr. F. Robson was not secretary to the "P.W.A.S." I wish most emphatically to deny that statement, as Mr. F. Robson is the secretary to the "Princess of Wales Angling Society," which is duly enrolled on the books of the W.C.A.L.P.A.S. At the same time, I feel much obliged to Mr. Lee for publishing what all anglers knew eighteen months ago, that Mr. F. Robson is not secretary of the "Prince," but that he is of the "Princess," Angling Society. I am, &c.,—F. ROBSON.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The opening day of the season will be held at Shepperton, when the members will compete for a sweepstake dinner at the Ship Hotel, Halliford, at 6 p.m. Major Bull, chairman; M. F. C. Clench, vice-chairman. Members tickets free, visitors 5s. each. A special concession has just been obtained from the South-Western Railway by this society allowing all anglers, upon production of their privilege tickets, to travel down from Richmond at reduced rates to any fishing station below.—J. H. GAUNT, Sec.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

Trout for the first time this season made its appearance in this society on the 28th of May, introduced by Mr. Canton, who became acquainted with it near Broxbourne. It was received by all members present with much pleasure. Grand preparation for the 16th. Roach and Co. will appear.—PIXIE.

June 2nd.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

THE ANGLER'S POCKET DICTIONARY OF TROUT FLIES AND THEIR SYNONYMS. By William Sang. Published by W. Ward, Market Place, Barnard Castle.

The price of this little work is only fourpence, and we can most strongly advise every trout fisher to secure a copy. It is just what we have frequently wanted, and frequently been asked for—a carefully compiled list of the various names by which the flies used in angling are known in various parts of the country. How frequently we have been at a loss to understand what fly was meant when some local name has been mentioned. Mr. Sang's little work, though not professing to be complete, will go far to obviate this difficulty. He also gives the times of the year and kinds of weather best suited to the flies named, and other useful information. Mr. Sang hopes this little first attempt may lead to something more important, and we feel sure it will.

TONBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB, TONBRIDGE.

LAST Thursday the members of the above club had a very enjoyable day's outing at Southborough. Sir David L. Salomons, Bart., having very kindly placed two large ponds at their disposal to net, to procure stock fish for improvement of the fishery of the Medway. A right merry party assembled at the club house, the Bull Hotel, Tonbridge, from whence they drove to Southborough in conveyances. On their arrival in the beautifully wooded park it was found that Messrs. Grownds and Son had got their net in the water, and were quite ready to commence operations. Amongst those present were Messrs. E. Greenwood, R. A. Dallas Beeching, Martin Spiller, W. Kirby, C. Payne, T. Pawley, W. Roser, W. Noot, W. Epsom, G. Butcher, H. W. Harris, E. G. Pine, Q. Austin, W. A. Kirby, W. Wyles, H. Hoare, C. Strudwich, H. Crundwell, J. Waite, L. Browne, W. Harmer, &c. The order was given about 12 o'clock to commence to drag, and Mr. W. Flood, who waters as well as any amphibious animal dashed in, and taking the rope of one side of the net greatly helped with the work. The pond was expected to be full of trout and carp, but the result of several draws brought to land about 1000 fine roach, splendid silver fish, some of them weighing a pound and upwards, two or three brace of very large carp, and a couple of brace of trout. The latter were returned to the water. By this time luncheon, which was supplied from the club house, had been spread in a mossy slope under a fruit tree, and every one went in for the good things provided, as if they thoroughly enjoyed them. After the appetites of all had been satisfied, the order was given to draw the second pond when about 4000 splendid carp were brought to grass, and were placed in the tubs and, with the roach, at once dispatched to the society's waters. The day was fine, and most of those enjoyed a stroll over the well-kept grounds. Through Mr. H. Crundwell, jun., John Deacon, Esq., of Mabledon, one of the Lords of the Manor, and Mrs. Pott of Broomhill, allowed the society to net the large pond on Southborough Common, and from this some three thousand carp and roach were taken, and safely removed to Tonbridge. The whole consignment was placed in the Medway, adjacent to the Powder Mill lock, under the direction of Mr. E. Greenwood, who, as usual, kindly lent the tanks and conveyance to carry the fish. The day was delightfully fine, and the outing was greatly appreciated. At a meeting of the committee on Monday night votes, of thanks were passed to Sir David L. Salomons, Bart., John Deacon, Esq., and Mrs. Pott of Broomhill for their kindness in allowing the society to net their waters.

HINES' SPRING PLUMMET.

AFTER noticing this last week, it occurred to us that though Mr. Hines' principle was quite right, the form of the lead might be improved. The spring is exposed in Mr. Hines' original pattern, and if by accident the plummet got trodden on it would probably be spoiled. We suggested to Mr. Hines that he would greatly improve the look of the thing, and prevent any possibility of the spring being damaged—if he made the lead bell, shaped. He now writes, "I have very great pleasure in sending you my new pattern, and thank you very much for the suggestion, which I am certain is an improvement." We think most anglers who compare the two patterns will agree that the bell shape is an improvement—it has a flat bottom to stand on, and won't roll off the seats of a punt, or down a bank into the water, like the old shape, besides protecting the spring.

A STICKLEBACK IN MILK.—The late Mr. Frank Buckland in his "Natural History of British Fishes," relates that a milk woman served out at a door a pennyworth of milk, and in the milk-jug the servant found a live stickleback swimming about. When the fish, all alive oh! in the cow's milk, was shown to the old woman, she turned round to her boy and boxed his ears. "Jimmy, oh! Jimmy, you lazy rascal," she said, "you never strained the water!"

CONVICTION FOR POACHING AT OXFORD.—At the City Court, Oxford, on Tuesday, Frederick Heritage, Cardigan Street, Wm. and James Carter, Cranham Street, were summoned for illegally fishing with a snare, in the river, near Binsey, on the 8th of May. The Town Clerk prosecuted on behalf of the Town Council, and said the object was to stop the waste of fish and the use of improper means in taking them. Mr. William Venables, water-bailiff, said he went to Binsey and saw the three defendants. They were walking by the side of Swift's ditch, which runs into the river. He watched them about three quarters of an hour. William Carter had a stick and a wire, and he saw him snatch at fish several times. Some men came up in a punt and they ran away. They got into a hedge row; he sent a man to stop them going out of a gate, and they then turned back and walked into his arms. He took their names. Cross-examined: He was about 80 yards off whilst he was watching the defendants. They were acting in concert. Jonathan Day stated that he was in company with Mr. Venables, and he saw the defendants snaring. William Carter was holding the stick. After the defendants ran away he found the stick in the gap of the hedge where they got through, and he judged that wire had been attached to it because of the mark upon the end of it. Frederick White, a youth of Binsey, said on Sunday, the 8th of May, he saw the defendants near the river. James Carter picked up a stick and Heritage fixed something upon the end of it. They were all together while this was being done. He thought it was a wire. He was about 100 yards off. Defendants denied that they attempted to take fish. William Carter, who had been previously convicted, was fined 10s. and 9s. costs, or fourteen days; and the other defendants 5s. and 9s. costs, or seven days.

The annual meeting of the Scotch Fisheries Association was held on Wednesday in Edinburgh under the presidency of Mr. Milne Home. A report by the council was adopted, on the motion of Professor MacLagan, after an interesting discussion, in which the causes of the decrease of salmon in Scotch rivers, and the remedies to be applied in order to bring about improvement in the fisheries, were touched on by several speakers. It was afterwards resolved, on the motion of Sir J. R. Gibson-Maitland, to approve the action taken by the council with a view to the holding of a national fisheries exhibition in Edinburgh in the spring of 1882.—*Scotsman*.

TICKLING THE "BEAUTIES."—The poachers in the Hampshire and other streams are adepts at tickling trout, and thus capturing the silly fish from under banks, and roots of old pollards. 'Tis not every yokel, however, who can tickle a beauty; it is a most delicate operation, and the "game" have to be approached with no heavy hand, or uncouth introduction. The poacher lays flat upon the ground, and very cautiously feels his prey; but it is a "killing" dodge for the expert, and many a brace of nice fish are flung over into the grass, and pocketed by the poacher.—*SPOTS*.

SUCCESSFUL EEL PLANTING.—Some four years ago the Sportsmen's Club, of Battle Creek, Mich., deposited about 5000 young silver eels in St. Mary's lake, which were at that time about three inches in length. Recently eels have been caught in this lake weighing fully six and seven pounds each.

FISH AND OYSTER CULTURE.—We learn from the *Norfolk Chronicle and Norwich Gazette* that, "Arising out of the National Fisheries Exhibition, recently held at Norwich, a series of microscopical experiments upon the oyster were made by Mr. Byram Littlewood, of Huddersfield. By invitation, a large number of persons interested in pisciculture met at the Royal Hotel, and manifested great interest in Mr. Littlewood's demonstration of the fact that the oyster tribe is divided into two sexes, a fact more interesting because it shows the possibility of developing the production of this delicious shellfish. The oyster will now in all probability become as easy of propagation as any other species of fish, and in a short time we ought to hear no more of the scarcity and dearth of oysters, since the inroads made by natural enemies upon the oyster beds will be compensated for by the establishment not only of artificial beds, but by the employment of artificial methods of propagation. We ought to state that Mr. Littlewood was one of the silver medallists at the exhibition, and in addition to this he received from many gentlemen well versed in fish culture valuable testimony to and many marks of recognition of the many practical advantages of his apparatus."

The other day a park ranger came across a man fishing in one of the ponds with a cotton string, to which was attached a hook made of the wire off a soda-water bottle, and baited with an apple core. "Do you expect to catch fish with such a line as that?" asked the ranger. "No, sir," was the prompt reply. "Are you fishing for bites?" "No, sir." "Fishing for fun?" "No, sir." The nettled ranger was about to tell the calm-minded stranger to fish away and be hanged to him, when he carefully lifted his hook out of the water, looked at the apple-core, and said, "I've been in this city two days and over, sleeping in carts and living on air, and I was just experimenting to see if there was a blowed reptile in the neighbourhood as hungry as I am!"

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands. Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O., payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London, W.C. —[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. Brocas, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

THE IGNOBLE ORDER OF THE BRASS COLLAR.—Wherever there are jack in the ditches in watermeadows near a river, there will surely be found fellows with a snare (wire) attached to a withy or other stick for catching jack in the spawning time. This remark, of course, refers to unpreserved waters. These fish poachers are actuated by much the same spirit as the ignorant and lawless Rebeccaites in Wales, when spearing the salmon in the breeding spot. It is a disgraceful, nay, cowardly act in both cases; it requires little dexterity to catch jack, and there are but few places now left where the unsportsmanlike wiper can pursue his robbery with impunity; the fish, too, are unwholesome and out of condition.—*RUS*.

SEA BIRDS INLAND.—Gulls sometimes get blown inland in stormy weather. On one occasion a number of terns (about a score) appeared on the Kennet, at West Berks, and soon each bird was seen hovering over the river—not unlike a kestrel in a field—presently diving into the water and bringing up a dace, or gudgeon, or minnow in its beak. These birds were rather tame; some were knocked down with stones and sticks when they settled upon posts and rails near the towpath. I shot a couple—one a very fine male bird, which I had stuffed; the remnant of the flock moved off for Hampstead Marshall and Hungerford.—*SPOTS*.

THE ORIGIN OF BOTTLED BEER.—It is not generally known that the best of drinks since nectar went out of fashion was invented by an angler, but, according to the *Globe*, this was so. In Queen Mary's days a certain London merchant, named Bowyer, was amusing himself by fishing in the Thames, when tidings came that a warrant was out for his apprehension. He immediately took to flight, leaving behind him some beer he had brought with him in a bottle, and placed in a hollow of the bank. Returning to his home some months later, at the accession of Elizabeth, he had the curiosity to look for his beer, "but found there no bottle, but a gun, so great was the sound at the opening thereof."

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Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1881.

THOUGHTS ON THE COMING SEASON.

ON Thursday next, the sixteenth day of June, the season for general fishing will commence, and, above all other days, it is prominent this year as the Ascot Cup Day, when a great struggle is expected between two great horses. But that will

very little deteriorate the value of the day as an opening day to anglers, whose great struggle will be in the competition for prizes amongst the finny family. There are those who always make it a rule to wet their lines at that time, and it is possible, having done this, they may go to the races afterwards. The Richmond Piscatorial Society may be illustrated as an example of club arrangements for the 16th. The members open with a match or competition for three prizes in the Thames, and terminate the day with a good feed at the Ship Hotel, Lower Halliford, a house that has become noted for its excellent dinners. Other clubs are on the move in a similar manner as regards competitions, and I expect in most cases they will be "gross weight competitions." I am hoping, as each season advances, the clubs will give less encouragement to these competitions, especially amongst some kinds of fish, such as jack, barbel, perch, chub and bream.* I have no desire to force my opinions upon any one, but I contend there are greater advantages and far greater pleasure to be derived from competitions for the largest fish than in the encouragement to destroy a large number of small though sizeable fish for the purpose of making up a gross weight quantity. I am satisfied, as time rolls on, my ideas will grow into favour. I have always been prepared for some opposition, and in ventilating the question I have not done it from any personal motive, but for the benefit of the anglers, and keeping up a stock of good fish in our rivers. I should like the clubs calmly to consider the question, not because I have introduced it, but on far higher and better grounds. What has done more to get a supply of good fish in our tidal water than the stoppage of the slaughter of unsizeable fish, which years ago was carried on to a fearful extent? There is no serious discouragement to "gross weight competitions," it is simply limiting the quantity, whatever it may be, to good sized fish. I have thought it desirable, on the commencement of another season, to bring the question again under consideration. Mr. Alfred Jardine, at the inaugural dinner of the Gresham Angling Society, spoke very forcibly against the present rule of "gross weight competition," and others of equal position in the angling world share with him in his opinions. Probably, that society may become a model one in that respect, as Mr. Jardine remarked it was favourable to competitions for large fish. At all events, I will leave the question again for the present, and refer to other subjects connected with the forthcoming season. We are, as anglers, greatly advanced in the support of true sportsman-like practices, and the convictions of the two last seasons will certainly check many of the abuses, not only amongst anglers, but professional fishermen. In several of the cases where the latter have been implicated, each bench of magistrates has expressed a determination to punish them the more, as being more to blame than the anglers. The professional fishermen should be the natural allies of a fish preservation society, for the work of the latter is not to benefit the anglers only, but the fishermen as well. There should be one common bond of union between them, and that fisherman is the best friend to his clients who assists in the suppression of illegal practices. There never has been a preservation society established to injure the professional fisherman, but on the contrary, to preserve the fish for their customers. To my notion, each fisherman who gets his living—or, it may be, a partial living—in going out with anglers, should be a kind of river keeper for his own benefit in the district where he lives. He should help the preservation society in vindicating the common law, by the encouragement and support of legitimate practices. He too often thinks such a society is an oppression to him. It is a wrong idea. If a boat is examined to see the kind of fish there are in the well, and the keepers find the great bulk of the fish are greatly under size,

* The Stanley Anglers are the first to do away with these competitions.

can he blame them either for the removal of the fish or for taking out a summons? He knew they were unsizeable fish and perhaps justifies himself in saying his customers will not allow him to put them back again. He is wrong, and he knows it; and I am sure ninety-nine anglers out of one hundred would support him if he told them it was against the law to retain them. One of the worst cases I ever had was in a large take of roach, nearly all of them were only four inches in length. The angler assured me he was perfectly ignorant as to size, and if the fisherman had told him he was doing wrong in keeping them, they should all have been willingly returned. He and the fisherman were convicted, He pleaded guilty, and paid both fines, the latter being the heaviest, and presented the society with a donation for doing its duty. The evil practices that want putting down are these—The taking of small fish, all attempts at snaring or snatching fish, the use of night lines—which have been so greatly misused on the Thames—the catching of all unseasonable fish, the working and possession of all illegal nets, and such like things. It would be a grand day for the Thames if the fishermen could be convinced that the desire of a Preservation Society is to help them, if they in return would assist the society. There is nothing between them but what could be removed. All these are questions which the commencement of another season naturally suggest. All the society seeks from the fishermen is their help in maintaining the law, which, as good subjects, they should feel it their duty to do; and from the anglers the exercise of honest and fair sport.

B.

ANGLING IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

I WAS much pleased to see Mr. Alington's article in last week's issue, but am rather surprised that he should make so many mistakes in connection with what I believe is his natal stream. He says the stream is nameless; on the contrary, its names are legion. It receives a separate name in almost every parish through which it passes, *i.e.*, Swinhope Beck, Thorganby Beck, Hatcliffe Beck, Barnoldby Beck, Waith Beck, Tetney Beck, &c., &c. I have seen it marked the "Tetney" on two or three maps, henceforth let it so be called. Mr. Alington observes that the Tetney rises in the neighbourhood of Horncastle. Its source is fully twelve miles from this place. The Bain and the Tetney, according to the Ordnance Map, rise near Washpool in the parish of Ludford. The former runs to the south, the latter to the north. Again, Mr Alington states that the Tetney runs through Thoresway, whereas the Thoresway Beck, if we may dignify it with such a name, is merely a tributary of the Tetney, which runs through Croxby Pond. Furthermore, Mr. Alington puts the Bain in North-east Lincolnshire. It really lies nearer the centre of the county, and flows in a southerly direction until it joins the Witham at Dogdyke. This is the premier trout-stream of Lincolnshire, and contains a good store of beautiful fish. Like Mr. Alington I can testify to the loveliness of the sylvan scenery through which the Tetney flows, and also to the fine size, game-some disposition, and splendid flavour of the trout which it contains. On these points the stream will hold its own with any that I have fished; but if we substitute an arithmetical comparison, why the Tetney is nowhere beside the Yorkshire and West of England rivers. Mr. Alington speaks of catching twenty-four brace in five weeks. On looking over my diary, I find that I have often caught more than this number in five hours. On the day that I met Mr. Alington I had twelve fish that weighed close on 10 lb., so he rather understates the size. One of these was $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and two others of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, all caught with fly or fine drawn gut. I did not show my catch to Mr. Alington, as at that time he was a stranger to me; furthermore, finding that he had none, I thought

it would savour of affectation to display my beauties unasked. If Mr. Alington will promise me to leave that "light trolling rod" at home, and take a decent fly-rod with him, I will send him, in return for a day, which his uncle has promised me, a few flies (leaving out all that he names), which, with decent manipulation, will enable him to take twenty-four brace in a close approximation to five days. I have only fished the Tetney once this year. My last catch of thirty was on the Laceby Beck, but they did not average above $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, and were in rather poor condition. I am one of those anglers who never abuse the leave to fish. I have permission on certain parts of the Tetney, but thus far I have never been more than twice or so in the season. I regard the fishing as somewhat limited, and act accordingly.

Mr. Alington is wrong again respecting the tench in Croxby Pond. A year ago I caught two which weighed a little over 2 lb. each, but I got them in wading in the bulrushes, and spotting my quarry before presenting the bait. The editor would hardly have been so severe upon Mr. Alington, senior, had he known the difficulty of fishing Croxby Pond. The water is as clear as Old Tom, and on the sides not more than four or six inches deep, whilst in the middle of the lake (which is perhaps half a mile in length) the depth is not more than a foot. The monstrous carp (15 to 20 lb.) are tumbling about on all sides, but though I have made inquiries for years, I have never heard of one being taken by the rod and line. I have, in days gone by, captured 30 lb. weight of carp before, but these Croxby fish have thus far been too much for me. A long hand-line tightly weighted, and armed with two hooks and small float, is the only way in which the pond can be effectively fished, and then the lines in common use sink so abominably that three-fourths of the time is spent in untying knots. I purpose trying my David Foster (Acme line) the next time I go. With suitable small weights made in a thimble, I have been able to throw forty yards. There are plenty of perch and eels, but they, as a rule, feed only at dusk. I and a friend once caught eighty after seven o'clock p.m., and they were all about uniform in size, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. It is a pity such a fine pond is not stocked with lake-trout or *fontinalis*, as the waters are very favourable for pisciculture.

Caistor.

THOMAS FORD.

RANDOM CASTS;

OR,

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF "AN OLD ROD."

(No. II.)

MY BIGGEST DAY.

THERE is probably no sport, at all events, no angling sport attended with so much uncertainty as that of salmon-fishing, and perhaps this very uncertainty gives an additional charm and zest to this "the king of sports." In other fishing as for trout, grayling, pike, perch, "*et id genus omne*," given a favourable condition of weather and water, the skilful angler may almost make sure of success at all events to some extent. When I say "skilful angler," it must be understood that I do not mean merely one who can cast and manipulate his fly, minnow, worm, or other line, deftly and well, but one who also thoroughly understands the habits of his would-be prey, knows the places in which it is most likely to be found feeding, the various conditions of water, &c., the bait which will probably prove most alluring to it, the best method of concealing himself from the observation of his quick-sighted quarry, &c.; for, of course, the angler who possesses those qualifications will frequently succeed when one not possessing them would fail. In salmon-fishing, however, the case is often very different. There are days (as every salmon-

fisher knows) when, no matter how favourable the condition of the water, how, to all appearance, promising that of the weather the best and most skilful salmon-angler has little, if any, advantage over the veriest tyro, the reason being simply that the fish will not, like trout, grayling, pike, &c., take a fly, worm, or other bait, because it either is, or resembles, something upon which they are in the habit of feeding; but can any one say why a salmon takes a salmon-fly? So far as we know it resembles nothing the fish has ever seen before! It is not "the likeness of anything in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth," and therefore I, for one, can hardly suppose that it is taken by the fish for the sake of food. What it is taken for I leave to wiser heads than mine to determine, for though I have studied the habits of the salmon for more than a quarter of a century, on this point (and on many others, too), I confess I am still in the dark. Again, there are days when, to all appearance, everything is against any chance of sport, and when the attempt to capture almost any other kind of fish would be quite hopeless, yet when salmon will "feed," or, I should rather say, "take the fly, &c.," greedily, and the novice, provided he can fish fairly, stands almost as good a chance as the experienced salmon-angler. Let me give a somewhat curious instance of this. A good many years ago, when I was the lessee of a very good salmon fishery in the West of Ireland, an English friend, who, though he was an enthusiastic trout, etc., angler, had never seen a salmon except on a fishmonger's slab or a dinner table, came to spend a week with me for salmon-fishing. Need I say that weather, water, everything, from an angler's point of view were so bad that during the whole week, though he fished with the greatest perseverance, he only killed one or two small fish. On his return to England he had to join the railway at a town close to which is one of the best salmon rivers in Ireland, the fishing in which belongs to a friend of mine. Being very anxious that he should have a good day before his return to England, I arranged to go with him and have a day or two's fishing in the river I have mentioned, as I knew that if a salmon could be killed anywhere in Ireland it could be killed in this same river. The necessary permission for both of us was readily obtained from my friend, the owner of the fishery, who, however, informed us that not a single fish had been killed in the river for more than a week, in fact all attempts at angling had been given up as hopeless. A pleasant look out for us! Well we decided to begin our fishing at six o'clock on the morning after our arrival. We were called at five o'clock, and after taking a crust of bread and a glass of milk each, we set off for the river. Even at that early hour (it was the last week in July, as far as I remember, for I have not the exact date entered in my note book), the sky was without a cloud, there was not the faintest breeze in the air, the water was very low and "as clear as gin," and the heat was excessive—to use an Irish expression, "the sun was splitting the trees." Nothing daunted, however, but with hope, which "springs eternal in the human breast," we put up our rods and arranged our tackle. There was one particular place, an eddy on the far side of a rough stream, which I knew, from old experience, was sure to hold a rising fish if there was one in the river! To show my friend the exact spot, I took his rod (I had not yet begun to fish myself, but was watching and endeavouring to instruct my friend) and cast into the place. As soon as the bait—we were fishing with the "shrimp," as it is called in Ireland, it is really a "prawn"—touched the water there was a "boil," a splash, and I was "fast" in a fish! I handed the rod to my friend and, after some 12 or 15 minutes' hard fight, gaffed for him a very good fish of 11 lb. weight. He then tried a few casts, but, as he failed to reach *the* place, I again took his rod and cast. Again, as soon as the "shrimp" was in the water, there was another "boil,"

another "splash," and another fish fast! This fish my friend killed, as he also did a *third* I hooked for him. Finding that the fish were really "on the rise," I left him to his own devices, and began to fish in a pool a little higher up the river. I rose and hooked fish at nearly every cast! Never in my five-and-twenty years' experience have I seen salmon in such a "good humour," with one exception, which I may mention in some future article. When we went into breakfast at 9 o'clock, my friend had four fish (he had hooked and lost three others) and I had six fish (having also hooked and lost one other). You may be sure we did not spend much time over our meal; but having arranged to have some lunch sent out to us, were soon back at the river. The fun was still "fast and furious" when lunch time arrived; I had seven more fish, making up to then thirteen, and my friend had five more, making his total nine good fish. He was then so tired that he gave up for the day. Whilst eating my lunch and smoking a quiet pipe after it, I lent my rod to another friend who had joined us a short time previously to watch the sport, and he, during that time, killed five fish. I then resumed my rod, and at half past 3 o'clock I had 20 salmon dead on the bank (in addition to the five killed by my friend with my rod); they were all good fish, though not large, the heaviest being only 16 lb., and I had hooked and lost two others. Thinking I had done quite enough and being, moreover, considerably tired, I gave up fishing for that day; but I have not the slightest doubt that had I continued to fish till evening I could have killed 35 to 40 salmon. This on a day which was, to all appearance, utterly hopeless for fishing of any kind! Next morning was dull and cloudy, with a nice breeze, and I quite expected to have another good day, as everything seemed to afford a much better chance of sport than was the case on the previous day. I turned out for a couple of hours before breakfast; my friend was lazy and would not go. I killed three fish with the fly. After breakfast we both went out, but, although we fished steadily for some hours, we neither of us even rose a fish. We tried again in the evening, but with no better result.

AN OLD ROD.

THE GLENCOE WHISKY.

OF all the drinks that Providence has provided for the refreshment of humanity, surely none can equal good whisky. In the words of old Walton, it is a "drink too good for any but anglers and honest men." We imagine if the great army of anglers were asked what beverage they would prefer to stick to in the long run, the great majority would decide for whisky. There is nothing like it for the flask or to accompany the pipe; that is, of course, if it is good. If your sport is good, you feel you deserve a pull at the whisky, if it is bad good whisky will console you, if you get hot it will cool you, and if you get wet or cold it will warm you; a little of it goes a long way, and a flask of whisky eked out with water from the river, will last an angler all the day. It is the best introduction you can have to the anglers you may meet or the keepers who may meet you. It will find out for you the best swim or the killing fly as nothing else will. You can offer it where money would be an insult. In case of an accident it will revive you better than brandy. If you want to keep a few baits for spinning, a little whisky will keep them better than anything, especially if you add a little camphor. A trout will dash three times at a bait which has been preserved in whisky, when he will only go twice at an ordinary bait. It's the greatest mistake in the world to suppose because fish live in water they are all teetotallers; trout don't care for beer or common drinks, as chub and roach do, and the people on the Eden in Cumberland know this right well. They throw some of the ingredients of beer on their waters when they want to "fuddle" the "scalies," as they call

coarse fish, and they in this way capture them by the bushel when drunk; but the trout turn up their noses at the "stuff." This is a fact.

We believe it is a disputed point as to which is the best way to drink whisky at night, whether hot or cold? Dr. Brunton, who is a fine judge, and one whose opinion on this matter or any other we attach the greatest value to, is of opinion that the best way to take whisky is with a *little* pure cold water (he lays stress on the *little*, mind). His opinion is that hot water and sugar and lemon may do *occasionally*, but the heat evaporates the delicate flavour of the spirit.

But the grand thing, after all, is to get a good pure whisky, and if our friends will try the *Glencoe*, we are sure they will agree with us that it is a good whisky. We have known the proprietors for the last twelve years, and the mere fact of their putting their names to an article which they supply is an ample guarantee that it will be of the best quality. We ask our readers to give the *Glencoe* one trial, it will "speak for itself."

PISCICULTURE BY STEAM.

THE MALTHUSIAN THEORY REFUTED.

FROM an exhaustive article on Fish Culture, written by Mr. B. B. Redding, we clip the following:—

"Scientific investigation may never show the origin of life. In this direction it only knows that all forms of life with which man is acquainted have proceeded from previous life. Beyond this point it eludes search, and its beginning seems to be as unthinkable as the commencement of time, or the boundary of space. It, however, does know that on this planet there is no life not connected with water. In every form in which life is found, whether in the vegetable or animal kingdoms, water, in some form, is the first requisite for its existence and perpetuation. The recent investigations of life, in the ocean and on the ocean's bottom, conducted by order of the American, English, French, and other Governments, show that the varieties and numbers of different forms of life at the bottom of the ocean are largely in excess of those on the land. As the area of the earth's surface covered by water is about three times that of the land, it gives an abundance and variety in forms of life at the bottom of the ocean of which it is difficult to imagine. But this abundance and variety exists not alone at the bottom of the ocean; every cubic foot of the water of the ocean is filled with countless and multitudinous forms of life, varying with temperature and strata of depth.

"When the varieties and numbers of life at the bottom of the ocean are multiplied by the mass and magnitude of the ocean itself, it gives an abundance of life that is inconceivable and inexhaustible. Man has no food that does not come from the surface of the land, or from the ocean. If the ocean itself could be cultivated for food, it should yield a supply, not as the area of the bottom is to the area of the land above its surface, but as all its areas of density and temperature are to the surface of the land above water. Could the abundance and varieties of those lower forms of life in the ocean, that appear to propagate and increase in a geometrical ratio in the lowness of their organisms, be made to serve as food for higher forms of life, and these again for others still higher, until they resulted in food useful for man, the time could not come, during the present geological epoch, when man could exhaust the supply of food. The fecundity of the higher orders of aquatic life, made use of by man as food, is almost marvellous. Leeuwenhock found 9,344,000 eggs in one codfish. C. F. Land reported to the Swedish Royal Association

of Science that he obtained 272,160 eggs from a pike. Valenciennes reported to the French Academy of Science that he found 9,000,000 eggs in a turbot, and 13,000,000 in a mullet. Pettitt obtained from a carp 342,140 eggs. A sole has yielded 100,360, a flounder the enormous sum of 1,357,400, and a mackerel 546,680.

"Mr. W. K. Brooks, professor of biology in the John Hopkins University, while studying the life history of the Atlantic Oyster, found that each female averaged more than nine million eggs, and, what is of as great importance, that all of these eggs could be artificially fecundated, and, if cared for, would grow into perfect oysters. The soft shell-clam now found so abundantly in the mud in the bay of San Francisco, is said to be equally prolific. Mr. R. E. C. Stearns, of the University of California, who has made a study of the crustacea of this state, says that this clam (*myra arenaria*), is not a native of the Pacific coast, but that the spat was brought here in the mud attached to the shells of Atlantic oysters. None of the shells of this clam are found in the kitchen-middens, or shell mounds of the aboriginal inhabitants.

"It has been estimated that, in a state of nature, not more than an average of two eggs in a thousand ever become fish; the others either fail to receive the fertilizing sperm, or are eaten by the parents or other fish, are smothered by sediment, sand or mud, or killed by fungoid growths, or destroyed by waves or changes in temperature. It is only when man brings the milt and sperm in contact, and protects the eggs from enemies, that the full measure of this fecundity can be made to result in living fish.

"The possibilities of the ocean, as an inexhaustible reservoir of food, were not known or dreamed of when Malthus proposed restrictions to the increase of the human race. The work has commenced of turning these lower forms of life into increased supplies of food—first, for our own people, and after them, the world. The credit for this enlarged philanthropy is due to the United States Government; the honour of its inception and the exercise of the executive ability to make it practical, are due to Professor Spencer F. Baird, United States Fish Commissioner and secretary of the Smithsonian Institute. Under his supervision, for the past two years, millions of codfish and mackerel have been hatched and turned into the waters of the Bay of Fundy and Long Island Sound. Aided by an appropriation from Congress, during the past year, a steamship of 484 tons (the "Fish Hawk") was constructed expressly for the taking of fish on their spawning beds, in the ocean and rivers. She is equipped with all the means and appliances for the hatching of millions of the eggs of fish. This work is now done by steam. When the shad enter one of the Southern rivers and are ripe, the "Fish Hawk" follows; the fish are taken, the milt and spawn are artificially brought in contact; the fertilised eggs are placed in proper receptacles, and furnished with a continuous supply of fresh water by aid of a steam-engine. In three or four days the young fish, by the million, are hatched and turned into the river. The "Fish Hawk" then continues the work in some river further north, into which the fish appear later. When all this work is completed, she steams for some station, where the codfish or mackerel are ripe. The hatching apparatus is changed to suit the eggs of the particular variety of fish, and the work continues. The eggs of some fish float, as the codfish; others sink; some are glutinous, and become attached to grass or weeds; some will hatch in still water; others require running water or the motion of the waves of the ocean; some kinds, as the shad, hatch in two days; others, as the salmon, require forty or more days. The United States Fishing Commission was the first to use the power of steam in the artificial hatching of fish eggs. The amount of the work performed by steam relatively to

that performed heretofore by hand, bears the relation that the work of the largest Lowell or Manchester cotton mill does to that of the loom of our ancestors.

"Man's power to multiply fish through the aid of steam, is only limited by his want of knowledge of the various forms of life in the ocean, by his ignorance in relation to the food of fish, by the mysteries of their migrations and different modes of propagation. As scientific investigations disclose the facts as to each variety, they can be propagated and turned into the waters of our coasts until in numbers they equal their supply of food. Other civilised nations will follow our example, and in time, the waters of the shores will be stocked with all the varieties useful to man. Man's civilisation was developed in his efforts to increase his supplies of food. When in numbers he shall have increased beyond the productive power of the land, he will have so far advanced in intellectual development, that that he will be enabled to find inexhaustible supplies in "the waters that bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that have life."

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

SCOTCH FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. First Annual Report of the Council to the Members of the Association. May, 1881. Edinburgh: Neill and Co., 1881.

CONSIDERING the short time that has elapsed since the first formation of the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association early in the present year, the Council unfold a very promising tale of present and prospective success in this the first of their annual reports. One hundred and forty life and annual subscribers, including the best-known names in modern annals of angling and fish-culture, have already found place on the member-roll; but, as the rules provide for the admission of corporate bodies, such as district boards and angling clubs, on the same terms as individuals, this number only faintly indicates the amount of support at the disposal of the Council. So far, fifteen only of these corporate bodies have joined the association, but inasmuch as it is the council's desire "to make the association a common centre to which fishery associations and angling clubs may communicate, and from which they may receive useful information with regard to the protection of the waters under their control," there is but little doubt but that the whole of the twenty-one district boards and fifty-five fishery associations and angling clubs, named in an appendix to this report, will shortly join hands with the Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association and find their advantage in so doing. The objects of the association are fivefold—to bring about required amendments in the legislation relating to salmon, trout, and other freshwater fish; to promote district boards in fishery districts where none at present exist; to procure extension of the powers given to Government Scotch Salmon Fishery Commissioners; to encourage fish-culture, and to prevent or cure the pollution of rivers, streams and lakes. In regard to the third of these objects, the council draw attention to an extraordinary anomaly in the existing legislation relative to Scotch salmon fisheries. It appears that the Scotch Commissioners are neither entitled nor enjoined to give advice or assistance to river conservators, and still less are they required to gather materials for annual reports to be laid before Government and Parliament. Under these circumstances, bearing in mind the generally acknowledged and proved utility of the reports by English and Irish Fishery Inspectors, it is no wonder that the Council should in the first place imperatively call for immediate enlargement of the powers given to Scotch Fishery Commissioners, so that these also may hold annual inspections and draw up reports, which, if not likely to excel, may at least be expected to rival the English

and Irish reports in providing valuable suggestions for the development and improvement of our national fisheries. To the Council is also due the honour of initiating the projected National Fisheries Exhibition for Scotland, to be held at Edinburgh in the course of April, 1882, and their memorial on the subject to the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council will be found in an appendix. The Scotch Fisheries Improvement Association have indeed a wide but glorious field of useful labour open before them, and it is to be hoped that every one recognising the national importance of the objects they have set themselves to accomplish, will not lag behind in tendering assistance of a practical kind, as well as encouraging expressions of sympathetic good will.

Along with several valuable appendices to this report the Council have printed Sir James R. G. Maitland's Essay on the Salmon Disease, which gained the £10 prize presented by the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, at Norwich; but as consideration of this matter will find a place in these pages elsewhere, all further reference to it here is superfluous.

BAITS FOR EELS—BREAM, &c.—THAMES TROUT, &c.

BAIT, &c., FOR EELS.—In answer to "C. T.," he may use fresh offal or small fish for his eel basket, and it should be placed in water of moderate depth, near reeds, submerged trunks, &c., or under the overspreading branches of such side growth as the river may possess, with the head of the basket pointing down stream, as eels are heading up rather than down at this season of the year. Eel lines may be baited with frogs (a capital bait for large eels), small fish, lob-worms, fresh offal, or the tiny lamprey or sand-pride. Eel-lines laid with many hooks on constitute the most killing way of all. Of course he can "bob" or "sniggle" for them. Any fishing-book will tell him how, or I will do so, if he does not know.

BAIT FOR BREAM.—Let Mr. H. A. next try the ordinary maiden lob-worm, carefully scoured in moss for several days previous to using, ground baiting with same, or greaves, also ground-baiting with same. The latter must be chopped up and boiled till quite soft. Do not overdo the ground-baiting. About a quart late at night or very early in the morning for three days before fishing will do. Write again if not successful, giving locality and characteristics of water, &c., and I will try to help further.

THAMES TROUT.—I know the water referred to by "E. L.," and I am quite sure that his suggestion is a happy one for the increase of this splendid fish. By all means let those turned in be of the true Thames breed, for I most distinctly utter my protest against the introduction of an inferior kind, such as those from the Wick even. It is, of course, very nice to be able to say one has taken a trout from the Thames, even if it has been placed there only ten minutes before, and is of size and game qualities vastly inferior; but give me the genuine article, running up sometimes to 16 lb. (as witness the cast of such a fish in the office of *Land and Water* this week), and with a capacity for fight not surpassed by *Salmo Salar*, Esq., himself.

Now, I am convinced that if trout of 1 lb. weight were introduced, say, to the number of a dozen at each station on the Thames every year, and if a fish pen were erected at each weir, in seven years the Thames would swarm with sizeable fish of the true breed, and in fourteen—providing, of course, that the supply be persistently kept up—there would be no finer trout river in the world. There is no earthly fear of jack that need be for one instant entertained, nor of the other coarse fish, because bait-catching and general angling would keep them within bounds. Pollution and poaching would be the only enemies, and the latter is not now, happily, a considerable one on this river. Of pollution, however, I greatly fear me yet. How is it, for example, that Richmond and Kingston still discharge sewage into the river?

Floods are of necessity evils with which the angler cannot cope. These do immense damage to all spawning grounds if prevalent during the breeding season. Trout are generally the greater sufferers, and hence the enhanced necessity of artificial spawning of these gallant fish. Mr. Forbes has done right well in the artificial business at his own cost; but even "B." sanguine as he is over this gentleman's operations, will admit with me that for various reasons Chertsey is not the most desirable place for trout breeding. I have not, it is true, very great knowledge of the improvements effected by Mr. F. during the last few years, but I have acute recollections of his early failures through the total inadequacy of the natural resources of the locality—and natural insufficiencies in any breeding operations whatever can never be entirely supplied.

I have several times deplored the decadence of Thames trouting, which I insist, from intimate acquaintance of the river during the past twenty years, is still increasing, and I have pointed out before the enlarging desirability (seeing the growing fraternity of anglers) of some active measures being adopted, not simply by gentlemen—theorists, as, at the best, gentlemen whose trout are found for them and observed, can only be—but by the aid and practical help of those men whose business it is to find fish for their patrons—namely, Thames fishermen. At any rate, if the fish of the Thames are to be benefited to any appreciable extent, let such men have a voice in the method. I think our fishery inspectors might do good service in holding an inquiry into the subject of Thames trout culture, seeing that the dream of the late Mr. Buckland as to the return of salmon can never be realised.

I sincerely trust that the Thames trout question will not drop out of your columns yet awhile now it has been broached; and that, as my much writing on this subject may weary my readers, that "B.," whose knowledge of the Thames cannot be surpassed, will again return to the charge with some practical suggestions.

HINE'S SPRING PLUMMET.—I admire the ingenuity of this plummet—but is it not a fault that the hook point is not protected? Suppose one is using a large hook, and fishing near or over weeds, is not the point liable to catch? and if by an accident it came in contact with stones would it not be probably unconsciously blunted? The old-fashioned plummet is not so elegant, but I certainly prefer it on this score.—I am, &c.,

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

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RIVER REPORTS.

Thames (Goring).

Good water on now—a little discoloured from heavy rains. Prospects look well for a good season. Chub and barbel have done spawning; roach have not done yet. JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

With a fine week the river will be in splendid order for fishing; the heavy rain has done a lot of good to our waters; it has washed all the filth down that might have hung about till the end of July. I think we shall have an early season, the fish is priming more than usual for the time of year. There is a lot of barbel this season. It would be a good thing for us if our water was preserved to Kew Bridge or Barnes, as the fish seem to drop down year after year. If there was a good sale for freshwater fish now, the net men would have a good time of it, as I think there are more fish below Richmond Bridge than 20 miles above it. I hope to have a good report to send you next week of the result of our opening day.—J. BUSHNELL.

Thames (Windsor).

Another proof of the eccentricity of our climate. Last week was broiling hot, this week it is more like March; as to getting up these mornings and going on the river it requires an iron constitution. Nothing has been done here, and being an unusually busy week for the boating fraternity, anglers are few on such occasions. At Windsor Weir some good chub have been coming up to the spinning bait, but no barbel have been had as in seasons past, which is an unusual thing, as during May and June there were always some fine specimens had, though of course they were returned. I rather fancy they are not up yet, if so they are very late. I hear that a fine chub was had on Bank holiday by a Londoner, and no river-keepers being about it eventually found its way to the smoke. May a bone stick in his throat, if the pot was his object, is the sincere wish of—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On to the Whitsuntide holiday the old sportsmen came in on the 3rd to secure a good start for the 6th. The water very small and bright, not much done. On the 4th, from 3 to 11 fish was the best basket. On the 6th a beautiful morning, everything required by the sport, from 2 to 3; started about 9.30, the day all overcast with thunder clouds, and about 10 hail began to fall, which lasted till 3, when it brightened up again, and then another start was made, but nothing worth speaking of was done. The best basket was Mr. J. Robson's, Newcastle, 4 lb., one trout 17 oz. Worm and minnow is the only thing that is taking during the day-time and fly in the evening. There are few who care for worm-fishing, but all the best fish are got by worms now.—A. GLASS, the Angler's Inn.

Dove (Derbyshire).

For all we have had so many anglers out on our river this week, I cannot hear of any great quantity of trout being taken. The best basket—one of five brace—came from near Birdsgrove. Plenty of piscators have got their two and three brace a-day, but I really thought there would have been something better to report. I attribute the slackness of sport to the fact that nasty cold winds have been blowing, which sent the fish right off the feed. They sent the fly off the river as well. I thought the Mayfly would have been fully out by the middle of the week, but it is no more forward now than when I last wrote. The river is in nice order for either fly or worm, and I think the weather is now settling down into thorough summer order.—THE SPLODGER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

Not so many anglers as expected took advantage of the above waters being open on the 1st, but those who did had good sport and good baskets, several of them having fish of good size. Amongst them chub, 2½ lb. roach, 1 lb. 12 oz.; carp, 4 lb.; and barbel, 5 lb. The bream have been sunning themselves, and such a show has not been seen for years. Several trout have been taken, and as the anglers are returning them this will benefit this stream, which in its own nature is about the finest trout stream on the Lea.—H. GAME.

Loch Awe.

The following have been the takes at Pottsonachan Hotel:—June 4—Mr. Keoch, 12 trout; Mr. Clerks, 13 trout. June 7—Mr. Simpson, 14 trout and 2 salmo-ferox, weighing respectively 3½ lb. and 4½ lb.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

The Severn is now quite stained, but not risen. It is at summer level, and, no doubt, upon the fords, there are plenty of trout. Some good takes have been the result of a few evenings' fishing up stream. It is of no good to angle in the daytime—that is, after nine in the morning—and, say, not before six in the evening, unless it should be a dull day. The caddow is upon the move now; we are within a few days of the great rise, as it is termed. A few remarks may be useful to some of our less-favoured brethren of the angle—I mean those who do not live so near a trout stream as myself. I can get to three streams in less than an hour, and each contain trout. In fact, I rose between forty and fifty fish last Friday evening, and landed twenty-one. They rose shy, or, as is often termed, short. The stream was so clear that I could see the spotted fellows balancing themselves as though fixed upon the extreme end of a stick, waiting the approach of a caddow, or owl-fly. The red spinner and yellow dun also seemed to be well amongst the victims. I found the red spinner and dun take the best. One of the most doubtful flies to use is the caddow, unless the water be rough. I have made, and also my father something to look like the caddow, but when the caddow is on it is useless to try an artificial one in a steady, deep pool, and that is the spot for a one or two

pounder. I have seen some of the best imitations that can be, and none will take like the natural one. The best way to take trout with the caddow is to place the natural fly upon a hook, tied on with yellow silk, taking care to form the head as if making the fly; thread the insect upon it so that your hook—a No. 7 bright sneck bent—shall make its appearance amongst the legs. Let your tackle be good, but fine, and a trout will not let it pass him without a dash at it; but give me whipping the stream with the small flies, made well and exact to colour. Do not forget the black gnat when going fly-fishing.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

There has been so little fishing lately that I have nothing to write about. The water continues still very low, even though we have had some few odd showers of both hail and rain. The cots do not fish at all now, and cannot well until we get a little fresh in the river. On Monday there was a nice fish landed by James Donohue, weighing 10 lb., and one at Newcastle on Dr. Cook's preserves of the same weight, killed by Paddy Keefe. The trout fishing on the Suir is pretty fair, but all the streams are so low that no fish can be caught at present. A party of gentlemen went to the Lakes for a few days, and caught about 15 doz. good trout. The rails are the best flies for evening fishing at present, and small spiders during the day. Weather got suddenly cold and wine northerly, and all anglers hope for rain.—DORA.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The Bank Holiday and Whitsuntide piscators have had a bitterly cold northerly wind prevailing ever since last Sunday, which has caused the trout to go off the feed a little, owing to the scarcity of flies on the water. A few professionals and some of the old hands who know the feeding places and the proper flies to use have done very fairly since Monday, and baskets from five to fourteen brace per angler, have been killed off both streams with the artificial flies. The green drake has been out very strong on the Wye, Lathkill, and also on the Derwent during the latter end of last week, and some fine baskets were killed last Saturday, both with the natural and small Derbyshire green drakes. Eight brace of fine trout were taken in the Derwent, near Matlock Bridge, last Saturday afternoon with the natural drake, weighing over 7 lb. The yellows have done fairly well, both on the Wye and Derwent, for about an hour of an afternoon, while the flies have come on from 1 to 5.30. The fish rose very little late in the evening, owing to the weather being so bitterly cold. Eight brace of large trout were killed on Wednesday on the Darley Dale Club water with the Downlooker fly by dibbling under the bushes and trees with the natural fly. Fifteen brace were taken on the Derwent with the maggot yesterday—some very large grayling among them. There have also been some good catches made on most parts of the Derwent with both worm and eggs and gentles. Sport on the ponds has been first-class during the week with both the natural and the Derbyshire green drakes. One gentleman writes me that he killed thirty brace of good trout on the Amber last Saturday with artificial green drake and spider flies. Fly-fishing prospects would be first-class if the wind were a little warmer and accompanied with a little gentle rain. There are a good many anglers now in Derbyshire.—JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Wye (Ross).

This river is now in good condition for angling, but trout are very scarce. Several good ones were taken last week at Bachney, by Mr. Akerman, and some good sport may be obtained in the streams with the chad. The brooks are in first-class order, yet the May flies are as thick as leaves in Vallambrosa. Last week good baskets were taken in the Garron, the fish being in splendid condition. On Sunday some scoundrels poisoned a small trout brook at Cohey, and numbers of fish were taken out dead. If looked after with care the brooks in the neighbourhood would soon swarm with trout, but at present farmers and others ignorantly net the water and spoil all chance of sport. The Wye preservation, too, is a sham and a mockery, and until something really effective is started in the way of an angling association, the stock of fish will continue to decrease. The salmon will never be more plentiful so long as the Messrs. Millers, of Chepstow, rent the lower waters. Their system of fishing is too deadly to allow anything like a fair percentage to fish to ascend the upper waters, yet the proprietors above Monmouth have consequently to suffer.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Our English climate is, indeed, a strange one, as last week everyone was groaning under the oppressive heat, and yesterday, when fly-fishing, my fingers were so benumbed with the cold that I could hardly take the fish from the hook. Then, we were treated to a thunderstorm on Monday; so that, on the whole, my readers will not be surprised to hear that trout-fishing this Whitsuntide has been a failure. I, in company with two gentlemen from Stockton-on-Tees, fished the Yore at Tantfield, but did not meet with much success, owing, I think, to the atmospheric phenomena alluded to above. I tried the minnow, worm, stonefly and every artificial fly that I thought likely, but all to no purpose, as I could only induce a few dace to show up. The yellow dace was on the water very thickly at times, and, doubtless, when the weather changes this fly will kill well. I prefer it made hacklewise, dotterel feather on a ribbed yellow silk body. The black spider, fern fly, June dun, and little yellow May fly should also kill well on warm cloudy days or in the evening, but on bright, sunny days dibbling carefully behind bushes with a bluebottle fly, will be found to answer best. The Yore rose a few inches yesterday, but was not much discoloured. It rained very heavily last night, so that a further rise may probably ensue.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

NORTHERN NOTES.

By F. J. H.

THE fag-end of the close season is a time of considerable interest to the angler, a large number longing for the time when they can go out and make a good all-round catch, and certainly the grand weather we have had during the last fortnight has only tended to make that feeling the keener. It's too good to last. Some who have had a good look over the country declare that already rain is greatly needed.

A friend of mine, Mr. Willett, with a party of three or four gentlemen, had a day last Monday up at Cope's landing, towards Driffild, when several fine trout were caught. Mr. W. landed a brace in addition to a quantity of eels, one roach and a dace, these latter were returned to their native element, but are spoken of as being in fine condition. Water in good condition.

High up and low down the river Hull trout are to be caught, and no doubt adepts at fly fishing will be repaid by attention to certain parts in this stream.

The more unassuming angler will find something to do if he must have fishing before the 16th, for here he can have any number of good-conditioned eels; he may even fancy he's about to get something big, and when brought to the top it will probably turn out to be a $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. flat fish. Taken altogether, I think things seem to have a very promising aspect. The water was weedy in some parts; this stream is, of course, subject to a slight rise and fall.

Most anglers who may be in the habit of making a periodical visit to any particular river or stream will sooner or later become acquainted with what I may term the self-conceited wisecrack of the locality. A man who, by his own account, has caught more fish than you have ever seen; a man hard to shake off; a man who will cage your tobacco and liquor, a man who will sit down alongside of you without invitation and tell lies till further orders; and after all he may only be connected with the ferry, or be a hind at some neighbouring farm. It matters not; there he is. You cannot get him to take an Irish hint, you can scarcely insult him; he is probably a man who never fished with a rod and line in his life, yet knows all about it; he boasts how he has taken everything that can be taken, and uses a miserable set line at night. This is how the conceit was taken out of a man of this kidney: he was carefully watched, and seen to make for some bushes that overhung the stream, and put down his miserable line and depart. His watchers went and drew up his line, knocked off the baits, and hooked on a mackerel fresh from the town that day, and dropped line and mackerel in. Next morning, just after breakfast, in rushed Mr. Clever to a little public where a few fishermen met. "Caught another," says he. "First this season; got about fifty last." "Why, it's a mackerel," said the company in chorus, ready to burst with laughter. "Is it?" said the knowing party, with something like a doubt in his tone of inquiry. His bewildered looks set the company in roars. He feels he has been bested in some way, but cannot make it out; but if you want to hear him quote Scripture, just sing out, "Caught any more mackerel lately?" Use the word mackerel and he leaves in double quick time.

LARKHALL ANGLERS.

The annual general meeting—which had been adjourned on several occasions owing to the large amount of business to be got through—was brought to a conclusion on Wednesday, May 25th. The following gentlemen have been elected as officers of the society for the ensuing season:—President, Mr. G. F. Spencer re-elected. Vice-President, Mr. G. Nicholson, in place of Mr. F. Boyce, resigned. Treasurer, Mr. C. J. Morris. Committee, Messrs. F. Croutel, E. M. Mallett, B. Boyce, W. Creak, A. Burgess, F. Boyce, W. W. Westley, C. Davison and J. W. Green. Auditors, Messrs. E. Nixon and J. English. Hon. Sec., W. Tucker. Much time and attention has been bestowed upon the revision of the rules, the whole of which have undergone most careful consideration and reconstruction, and I have no doubt that when, shortly, they are placed in the hands of members, it will be readily conceded that the Special Committee appointed for the purpose has succeeded in placing before them as neat and as lucid a book of rules as emanates from any angling society in London. Prizes to the amount of nineteen guineas have already been arranged, and as the season progresses, doubtless this amount will be considerably augmented. A great feature during the coming season, and which will doubtless be the means of producing some good shows of fish, is the monthly competition (not pegged down matches), which have been arranged as follows:—Barbel competition, August; roach do., September; bream do., October; perch do., November; chub do., December; and pike for January and February. The contests are pretty certain to be close and exciting, as all the "cracks" have signified their intention of competing for the valuable stakes. We can also reckon upon seeing a severe race for the ten guinea challenge cup, won the first year by Mr. Geo. Penn. Several matches are already on the tapis, those old opponents, Messrs. J. W. Green and J. English having already arranged for a renewal of hostilities, and should the weather be at all favourable there is every prospect of the coming season being the most successful since the formation of the society. The number of members has steadily increased since the limit was taken off, and as this is a most favourable time to join an angling society, gentlemen wishing to become members are invited to apply (by letter) to the Hon Sec. or any member of the Committee at the Club House.—RUNNYMEDE.

June 4th.

MORE TROUT FOR THE THAMES.—On Wednesday 100 splendid trout of the Wycombe breed—supplied by Mr. Edwin Davis, of High Wycombe—were turned down by the Reading and District Angling Association, forming another valuable contribution to the future sport of the angling community by this active society. It has been found that ordinary brook trout are of little use in the Thames, as they are sure to work up the tributaries; but the Wycombe fish are believed to have a little tendency to rove as the true Thames breed, which they most nearly approach.

THE FRANK BUCKLAND MEMORIAL.—The sum of £5 5s. has been voted to this fund by the Reading and District Angling Association, and has been forwarded to the hon. sec., through Mr. Higford Burr.

A REMARKABLE EEL.—Mr. Best, of Caversham, has taken in his eel-bucks a very curious specimen of the eel, which has excited a good deal of comment among those interested in such matters. The peculiarity of the eel in question—which weighs about half-a-pound—is in the head, which is remarkably short and broad, and furnished with a pair of enormous eyes, which are as nearly as possible half-an-inch in diameter. The expression is almost diabolic; and—most remarkable of all—the look of the "weird beastie" is borne out by its temper, as it snaps viciously at any and everything within reach.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

STANLEY ANGLERS.

The annual dinner of this popular club took place on Wednesday evening last, at the Lord Stanley Hotel, Camden Park Road. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, the respected president, occupied the position of chairman, with Mr. R. Pollentine in the vice-chair. Amongst those present were Messrs. F. C. Hatfield, G. Walker, C. Scull, J. Pooley, W. H. Brougham, L. Gow, Charles Laidlaw, E. J. Pain, H. W. Baldry, H. Lupton, Hewitt, Godsall, Rose, W. R. Hornby, &c. The billiard room (with the table removed out of it) was most tastefully laid out, the walls being decorated with the fish trophies of the president and some first-rate fish paintings from the pencil of Mr. R. Richards, and the tables looked exceedingly nice. An exceptionally good dinner was provided by Mr. W. Jarvis, who had evidently determined to make it a special one for the occasion—there was a profusion of everything, and it was served up in capital style, the wines also being of the choicest vintages. At the conclusion of the repast the Chairman gave the loyal toast of "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and the National Anthem having been sung, Mr. Wheatstone proposed "Success to the Stanley Anglers." In doing so he noticed the prosperity of the club in the most cheering terms, and said that the committee had, after a number of meetings on the subject, made some great and important alterations in the rules, one being that of doing away with "gross weight competitions," which he considered was a move in the right direction, and encouraging the retention only of good-sized fish. The rules would come before a special meeting on Tuesday evening next, and he had no doubt the proposed alterations would meet with the approval of the members, those present having already most favourably recognised the removal of "gross-weight competitions." The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm. The honorary secretary (Mr. C. Laidlaw) then gave an interesting account of the work of the society during the last year. In the gross weight table for the season of 1880-81 it would be seen that Mr. Wheatstone, as usual, was at the head with a total of 334 lb. 10 oz. The next heaviest weight was Mr. C. Scull with 192 lb. 1½ oz.; and then followed Mr. I. Duncan, with 77 lb. ¾ oz.; Dr. Harris, with 71 lb. 10 oz.; and Mr. C. Laidlaw and Mr. A. Wrightson making a tie with 59 lb. 3½ oz. each. The gross weight on the list was 1031 lb. 9¼ oz. The club had now 90 good members, and the fishing members were on the increase. The funds were in a healthy condition, the balance after the collection of a small sum being £24 11s. 2d. The sum of £42 18s. 6d. had been contributed in prizes, and, after reading over a lengthened prize list, Mr. Laidlaw hoped, if he remained their honorary secretary another year, to come before them with even a more satisfactory report. Mr. C. Laidlaw afterwards gave "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," referring in the most glowing terms to the character of its work on behalf of the angler, and with the large increase of piscators it had extended its operations in every way to increase the sport in the river. He included in the toast the name of their old friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham, for there was no man worked harder for the anglers than he did, and none appreciated his labours more worthily than the Stanley Anglers. Mr. W. H. Brougham, in responding, thanked his friend Mr. Laidlaw for the generous manner in which he had given the toast, and was assured by his remarks that the work of his society was speaking for itself. He looked forward to a very prosperous season as regards angling, inasmuch as the different kinds of fish had gone up to their spawning grounds in greater masses than usual, and the river abounded with young fry. The Chairman proposed "The West Central, the East Central and the Central Association of London Angling Clubs," coupling with the toast Mr. F. C. Hatfield, of the Central Association. Mr. Hatfield, after referring to the concessions the Association had obtained for the anglers, called the attention of those present to the Bill now before Parliament to encourage rod-fishing all the year round. He hoped that all the London anglers would unite in a spirited and determined opposition to it, as he thought it was a most disgraceful measure, and would completely annihilate the work of river preservation. A representative from the West Central Association acknowledged the toast, and said his association was alive to the importance of opposing most strenuously the Bill of Mr. Stuart Wortley. A letter was read from Mr. P. Geen, calling attention to the advertisements in the papers in reference to a meeting to oppose the Bill. Mr. W. H. Brougham said he believed it was the intention of the West Central Association to call a mass meeting, and he sincerely hoped that any differences of opinion on other matters would be laid on one side, and all would work cordially together to prevent such an idea as rod fishing all the year round being carried out. Mr. Hewitt gave the "The Press," and with it he united the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham, who briefly replied. A number of other toasts followed, the last proposed by the Chairman being "Our Host and Hostess," in which he highly complimented Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis on giving them so excellent a dinner. There was some excellent harmony by Messrs. Scull, Hatfield, Gow, and others, and the evening was pleasantly spent.

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O., payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London, W.C.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Harover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—In spite of Mr. Geen's long letter, in your to-day's paper, I trust that you will persevere in advocating considerable alteration in this most objectionable "Mundella Act."

As honorary secretary of an angling club, consisting of nearly 200 members, I have no hesitation in asserting that an immense majority are utterly disgusted with the working of this Act. I differ entirely with Mr. Geen, if he considers that roach, bream, and chub ought not to be fished for after the middle of March. As to the roach exhibited at the Norwich Exhibition, which I saw on the 29th of April, the day after Mr. Geen's visit, I must say candidly that I saw nothing either "repulsive or beastly" about them. They were in far finer condition than they are at all likely to be for at least a month after the termination of these precious fence-months. Had the exhibition been held some six weeks later, say, in the middle of June, what would the roach have been like *then*, I should like to know?

Mr. Geen's theory that fish are in a repulsive condition as they approach their spawning-time, is quite new to me, and, I think, to most other anglers, and I do not hesitate to say that roach, bream, chub, carp, and tench are, in the opinion of myself and many others, in splendid condition, throughout the whole of April. But the fence-months for all these fish commence on the 15th of March, in order to protect the jack and perch! It is notorious that dace are in good condition long before the 16th of June; but, then, one might accidentally catch a chub or a roach. These qualms of conscience do not seem to trouble the Thames trout spinners much, for everyone knows that they hook hundreds of pike, perch, chub, and barbel, before they get one single specimen of what they fish for? Will Mr. Geen tell us whether he advocates putting a stop to this practice?

Jack-fishing should not be allowed, I consider, between February and September, but that is no reason why all fishing should be stopped. The Mundella Act has attempted an impossibility. No three consecutive months can be selected as fence-months for our fish, with their different spawning times and habits. The natural consequence is that, at present, fishing is forbidden for many fish at a season when they are in excellent order, and allowed for others when they are not fit to take. Believing, as I do, that our rivers will never be damaged as long as fair angling only is allowed (considering the enormous productiveness of fish, and also the numerous days throughout the year when, from some cause or other, even the best angler goes home disappointed). I say—Put a stop to *netting*. Talk no more rubbish about increasing the food of the people—which coarse fish never can become to any extent—and leave the fair angler alone.—I am, &c.,

E. BICKNELL.

Bedford, June 4, 1881.

SIR,—The proposal of Mr. Stuart Wortley and Mr. Dodds to "amend" the Freshwater Fisheries Act, "with a view to legalise rod-fishing at all times," has caused much alarm among the anglers in this neighbourhood, who cannot see why the most valuable clause in that excellent measure should be destroyed. The matter was, on Saturday last, discussed at the weekly meeting of this association, when there was a crowded attendance, and I was unanimously requested to write you on the subject, and to enter our earnest protest against any tampering with the clause except in the direction, if thought desirable, of extending the close time for some fish. At the meeting the admirable letters of Mr. Geen and Mr. Lander in Saturday's GAZETTE met with unqualified approval, and all agreed with every one of the points they so ably enforce. We must have at least "three months' quiet for all fish," or "legitimate sport in all rivers will eventually be ruined."

It is easy to talk of putting down netting and all kinds of poaching, but let us aim at the possible. Every one will, I am sure, agree that it is a great point gained to have netting made illegal everywhere three months in the year.

The argument that fair angling all the year round would do no harm is still more plausible; and no doubt if all who seek to catch fish were as honest and sportsmanlike as the gentlemen who have written you on the subject, no harm would be done by legalising it. But if the argument—the only one—that because a certain number of persons have true instincts, therefore a law to check those who are evilly disposed should be abrogated, is a good one, let us follow it out to its logical conclusion, and do away with our criminal law, because you and I, as individuals, do not contemplate murder or indulge in "burgling."

Those who have the practical working of preservation societies know that if angling were permitted all the year round a bailiff would be required at the elbow of nine out of ten of the anglers, at any rate in the neighbourhood of large towns; and even if such a thing were desirable, where are the funds to come from?

No doubt the Mundella Act is capable of amendment, and we should be glad to see a real conference on the matter, which should be attended by delegates only from associations and clubs all over the kingdom, elected say at the rate of one or two for every hundred members. Then it would be impossible for a noisy local clique to swamp the sober opinion of the great community of fair anglers.

Following the good example of the Piscatorial Society, this Association hereby protests most energetically against the proposed "amendment" of the Act, and we intend to petition Parliament and otherwise act in opposition to it. May all clubs and associations do likewise.—I am, &c.,

ARTHUR C. BUTLER,

Hon. Sec. Reading and District Angling Association.

Great Western Hotel, Reading, June 6.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to express my opinion on the above subject, through the columns of your valuable paper? At one time I was greatly impressed with the importance of the "Freshwater Fish Act," but after carefully watching the operation of the Act in this district I am forced to confess that it requires altering in some of its details. Years ago, barbel and chub were netted from the weed beds during scouring time—sometimes to the tune of tons in a single season—on the various reaches of the Lower Trent; ay, and certain "anglers," who called themselves "sportsmen," would take chub with a rough Palmer or the locust on the surface, or with the cadbait from the bottom, when the ova has dripped from the fish. But, as a general rule, anglers are honest, and there are not very many of the class just described. I am perfectly aware that there are black sheep in every flock, and that the flock of anglers is not an

exception to this rule; but that is no reason that a hundred anglers should be deprived of their sport because there happens to be a "blackleg angler" among them. Mr. P. Geen, in a lengthy article on this subject, which appeared in the GAZETTE for June 4, seems to me to be of the opinion that the great body of anglers are dishonest—at least that is my opinion after reading the very high-handed letter just referred to. Mr. Geen—you surely cannot mean it—what are your reasons for supposing that the great body of anglers would take fish out of season? We are all aware of the fact that trout fishers frequently hook chub, barbel and dace; but they are mostly, if not always, returned; and I have no hesitation in saying that any angler fishing for dace during May, if he hooked a roach or chub would return it to the water. Trout fishing we know is in the height of its glory during the close time for coarse fish, and perhaps Mr. Geen and his friends have got their purses well lined, and can afford to go trout fishing, and don't care for such "ignoble" sport as bottom fishing during those months. But let him ask the great army of working-men anglers up and down the country, who cannot afford to go to a distance trout fishing, while a good coarse-fish river is within easy hail. I say, let him ask these men if they agree with the "Mundella Act," and I am sure the answer would be—No, no! At least, it would be the answer of ninety out of every hundred. Let him come here to Newark, and walk through the Trent Ironworks, and ask the anglers in those works if they are satisfied with the "Act of 1875"; I know what the answer would be. I am a workman in these works, and I can speak from experience, for I have heard the opinions of lots of our working-men anglers. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that I could forward a petition from this little town of Newark, signed by at least a hundred of our local anglers, that are in favour of rod-fishing all the year round, and if this is so in our small place, what must it be in other large places up and down the kingdom? Mr. Geen is very much mistaken when he says that only fishing-tackle makers are in favour of an alteration. It is all very well for him to go to gentlemen trout fishers, who are in favour of the present condition of things, and say that their opinion is the opinion of the majority. I am not a fishing-tackle maker, but simply a working blacksmith, and my opinions are shared by scores of my fellow working-men anglers. I cannot allow Mr. Geen to ride roughshod over us in this fashion without protesting against it. Mr. Geen may suppose that as I am only a working man my opinion is not worth much; but I have studied the question of fish and fishing, and I know the nature and habits of our coarse fish, and so I am perhaps entitled to an opinion.

Rod-fishing will never hurt a river in the least degree; it is netting that wants putting a stop to; the improvement to the "Mundella Act" would be a grand improvement if it would entirely stop netting, snatching, snaring, trimmering, liggering, and all other unfair methods of fishing, from the 1st of March till the 1st of August, and also stop the sale of fish (freshwater fish), except trout, &c., during the same period; by far the great majority of anglers in this district are of this opinion. I say, don't accuse anglers of unfair doings, but give them the benefit of the character they have long borne of being honest. The netting and the sale of coarse fish is all that requires putting a stop to, and the anglers with their rods will never hurt the fishing. I cannot learn that any better sport has been obtained since the passing of the Act, and I am sure that anglers who have hooked a fish in a gravid state would return it to the water. Dace are in condition in May, and may very well be taken then; and as for eels and flounders they ought not to be interfered with by any Act of Parliament, but allowed to be taken by anglers at any time. This is my honest opinion as a sportsman, and this opinion is shared, as I before remarked, by scores of our anglers. We do not wish to do an unfair thing, but we would be satisfied if we could legally fish for dace after the 1st of May, and take eels and flounders any time when we could get them. I will just give one instance to prove that netting ought not to be allowed until some considerable time after the 16th June. It was, if I remember aright, about a week after the opening of the season last year that a lot of barbel and chub were scouring themselves in the weed beds a short distance from Newark; a party of poachers went with their nets and captured a large quantity of them, and then they were hawked through the streets, and sold to the poor people at about a penny per lb. as wholesome food, when they were anything but wholesome. I say, stop the netting and also the sale of coarse fish from March 1st to August 1st, but let the rods be free and trust to the honesty of the anglers to return fish taken in a gravid state or in bad condition.

I am afraid I have trespassed on a deal of valuable space, but with your kind permission I will again refer to the subject when I get the opinions of other anglers in this district.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

Newark, June 6.

[Mr. Geen is not backed up by "gentlemen trout fishers," but by London and Sheffield working men—it is only fair to state that fact.—ED.]

SIR,—In the GAZETTE of May 28 you say you would be glad to have the opinions of those who have watched the operation of the Mundella Fishery Act.

I will, therefore, endeavour to state, as briefly as possible, how matters stand in this particular neighbourhood.

The river Ivel is only a small stream; the water very pure, as there are no manufactures to pour offensive matter into it; and I am certain that in a short time it would be swarming with coarse fish; but just here there is a long length of common land alongside the river, and although, during the fence months, netting is not carried on in the daylight as much as it used to be, yet, as soon as the close time ends, netting will begin and be carried on both night and day as long as fish can be caught. The roach are never done spawning here by the middle of June, and on the shallows at night they capture them wholesale.

Snaring jack (if only six inches long) is carried on openly during close time, and the laying of night lines also. I have seen where they have been taken out, and on the bank scales as large as a sixpence; they would not belong to an eel, you know.

Now the Mundella Act is very well in some things, but as it stands it is very little use to us here. I agree with a close time of some sort, but we want a power created to see it carried out. We don't seem to have any here. I have asked the police whose business it is: they cannot tell me. 'Tis not theirs, they say. And then, a close time is no use unless netting is stopped entirely. We want the Act amending, power being given by special means to stop netting and night lines *entirely*, for if a man is a true angler I hold that he ought to catch his baits with rod and line if he wants them; I do myself. If we cannot get netting stopped we had better go back to the old state of things. I could then take my chance with the netters all the year round. Now I lose three of the best months of the year, for what? When the 16th comes, however early I may be out, I shall probably encounter half-a-dozen nets, and the men who own them do not mind throwing them just where you are fishing. I have had them within a foot of my float before now.

I am afraid that instead of telling you how the Act operates, I have told you more of how it does not operate; but perhaps you will understand the state of things existing here, though not told in best style. If you do I shall be glad, and I earnestly hope it may be soon altered. Hoping I have not tried your patience, I am, &c.,

J. F. COOPER.

Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, June 7.

SIR,—Kindly allow me space to notice briefly a question asked by Mr. Geen, in his letter published in your last week's issue. "What particular fish is in season or fit to take in April and May?" Your correspondent answers this question in favour of dace only. Why has he omitted carp and tench, which fish, according to Blakey (no mean authority on the subject), are at their best during the above-named months? Mr. Geen also says he would prohibit the capture of dace in May, because, possibly, chub or roach might take the offered bait. Does not this objection equally apply to anglers who fish for trout in the Thames during April and May? Is it really a misfortune for these gentlemen to have to put back a 6 or 8 lb. pike or barbel, after an exciting struggle of five or ten minutes' duration? I think the majority of anglers whose pockets might permit them to partake of such a luxury would answer in the negative. Into the general question which forms the main subject of your correspondent's letter space forbids me to enter; but as the law now stands the more humble angler is certainly placed at a disadvantage. The 16th June will indeed release him from an enforced three months' abstinence, but it will also release the netters and their tribe, who will then be free to carry on their wholesale destruction of fish, large and small, indiscriminately, to the great detriment of the angler. The Thames and Lea are, to a certain extent, protected rivers, and, of course, I do not in these remarks allude to them. There are, however, other streams and miles of canal water in the neighbourhood of London, which may truly be said to be open water. In such places an angler might fairly expect to catch a few fish on the first day of the season; but whatever benefit three months' fencing may have accomplished for these waters, the angler gets none of it. A week or two's persistent netting suffices to neutralise the advantages of a close time. This I believe to be a more important question than the one which Mr. Geen is so decided against. We owe him and the Association generally a goodly debt of gratitude for what they have done, and that debt would be largely increased if, by their means, the abolition, or at least partial suppression, of netting should be accomplished. If money were wanted I am satisfied the clubs would liberally respond.—I am, &c.,

M. R. P. S.
128, The Grove, Camberwell, June 7, 1881.

SIR,—In reading your paper of the 4th inst., I was much amused, firstly, by some one signing himself "P. Geen" holding a sort of "indignation meeting" upon Norfolk and Norwich anglers. I think it would have been as Christian-like of "P. Geen" had he held a similar meeting respecting Cockney fishermen holding their club meetings and matches on Sundays, and then sending an account of them in the most brazen manner to the FISHING GAZETTE to be read throughout Christian England. Secondly, I read another short article signed "B.," saying most likely some of the London clubs would fish on the Norfolk broads and waters this summer. I do think it is rather cheeky that they should first dictate, like "P. Geen" does, as to when we may fish, and then invite themselves to our broads and rivers to fish. I hope they will come down handsomely to the Bure and Yare Protection Societies for the liberty they are about to take. I daresay when those London clubs do come they will find different fishing from what they are in the habit of having. We in Norfolk do not want to buy a few fish and turn them into some artificial pond or other, and then fish for them, as they do in and around London, for then I can understand "P. Geen" and a few others haggling all Sunday evening over a few paltry fish. I understand one firm in Norwich is supplying certain Scotch streams with Norfolk fish to the tune of 20,000 per week, and I have no doubt that we could supply "P. Geen" with twenty times that amount, then he could angle and pay attention to his particular water, instead of dictating as to what Norfolk anglers may do with their fish. Thirdly, I see some one, who signs himself "J. H. Keene," recommending "A True Disciple of Isaac Walton" to communicate with some local angling club to remedy the grievance about "pike snaring." "J. H. Keene," like "P. Geen," has no idea of Norfolk fishing. Clubs in Norfolk have not control over legal matters connected with fishing. We do not pay for fishing here, only through the Yare and Bure Protection Societies, to stop netting. All are free to fish. We do not want to buy a few fish from one place and turn them into our streams and fish for them again. We have millions of fish, and now that they have stopped the netters (who used to take as many as 10 tons of fish from the river as manure in the year) we shall have millions more, and can fish all the year round and not miss them. We in Norfolk do not want to do the Pharisee business over a few fish about close time. I do not believe in persons vamping themselves up in matters they know nothing of. They either do it in ignorance or to gain notoriety amongst the ignorant. We in Norfolk have gone on very well for many years without the advice gratis of "P. Geen," and our prospects appear to be more flourishing than ever. If I was Mr. Geen, and wanted something to do, I should advise him to turn his attention to the cod fish, as I consider they ought not to be caught and sold just when they are so full of spawn, as I consider them a national food; but perhaps what applies to them applies to the fish in Norfolk—viz., inexhaustible. Apologising for trespassing on your space,—I am, &c.,

A NORFOLK ANGLER.

St. Stephen's Street, Norwich.

SIR,—The anglers of the Eastern Counties, having been the subject of criticism—and that, too, of a somewhat strong character—respecting the working of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, kindly allow me a space in your columns to offer a little information with respect to "all the year round" fishing in Norfolk and Suffolk.

In the first place, allow me most respectfully to suggest to Mr. G. and Mr. B. the desirability of becoming practically acquainted with the character of our Norfolk Broad before they again rush into print on this subject, it being too apparent from the nature of their communications that their want of knowledge respecting them is in a great measure due to the misrepresentations contained in their letters. Those gentlemen are evidently labouring under the delusion that we have no more facilities for breeding fish than are to be found in the metropolitan and many other waters.

I might possibly be asked, "What has this to do with taking fish out of season?" My answer is, that if we did not continually keep our fish down with rod and line, we should very soon be overstocked; and the wise and pertinent remark in your leading article of this week, viz.,—"That if you pit the

fecundity of fish against the skill of the angler only—not the net—the fish will win in the long run"—would, before long, be practically demonstrated.

If further proof were needed, I might mention a fact that on Sunday last Surlingham Broad (a few miles from here) was one black surging mass of live fish. Here it was that, a few years, as much as one hundred tons of fish were taken by wherry-men and others in one week by means of netting. Since this has been put a stop to, it has been known that one single angler, in one day, has caught upwards of five stone weight of fish, near this very spot. I merely mention this in order to show how very good our facilities for natural breeding are.

I cannot but think, from the severe animadversions contained in Mr. G.'s letter, a great injustice has been done the anglers of the Eastern Counties, who, if not numerically, certainly in point of quality, are as good as the anglers of the metropolis or elsewhere, or even from the locality from which Mr. Geen himself hails.

Sir, we, as a body, are as jealous of the interests and belongings of pisciculture as any society in the land, and would scorn to be guilty of a single act derogatory to the sport we love so well, and which we are banded together to uphold and promote.

Mr. Geen is probably not aware that, before the passing of the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, the late Mr. Frank Buckland and Mr. Spencer Walpole, as representing Her Majesty's Government, made a personal inspection of nearly all the broads around here, and it was doubtless mainly owing to the representations of those eminent gentlemen that Parliament conceded the privilege of continual rod-fishing in this district. Would this have been perpetuated had there been the slightest ground for the allegations now made? The absurdity of such a suggestion is its own refutation. The fact is, sir, the Broad of the Eastern Counties are too rich and fertile ever to be injured by constant rod and line fishing, from the fact that the spawn is rarely if ever disturbed, and, as I have before shown, good rather than harm is the outcome of the practice.

One word as to the exhibit of this society in the National Fisheries Exhibition. Here Mr. G. again shows a lamentable ignorance of the actual facts of the case. The roach were not so small as he asserts, and certainly not one bream weighing less than 4 lb. was exhibited.

With regard to the general question which forms the subject of Mr. Geen's letter, I will not venture to offer any further expression of opinion, but I have deemed it right, in the face of the misstatements contained therein, to ask you to publish the above facts in vindication of the integrity and, from a sportsman's point of view, the honour, of East Anglian Pisciculturists.—I am, &c.,

ALFRED PALMER,

Hon. Sec. East Anglian Piscatorial Society.

St. Stephen's Street, Norwich, June 7.

SIR,—I am glad to find that Mr. Geen is prepared to uphold the principle of the Freshwater Fisheries Act as opposed to those who would legalise fishing all the year round. Better, say I, entirely close that season which includes the spawning times of the greatest number of fishes than ever entail no end of confusion on the part of well-disposed but, to a certain extent, ignorant anglers, and no end of evasions of the law, which would inevitably ensue were different seasons enacted for different fishes, if, indeed, this were possible. I feel confident that he expresses the opinions of the majority of anglers (who are not tackle and bait sellers) when he emphatically asserts that London anglers will decidedly not agree to rod-fishing during the fence months.

With all due respect, however, I would record my disagreement with you, sir, when you say that "angling for roach, chub, bream, carp, &c., should be permitted until they spawn." Granted that it is much later than March 15, why "till they spawn"? This indicates precisely the condition of the fish Mr. Geen (and I also) saw at Norwich. The fish were full of ova, and I argue that at such time the fish is by no means in condition, even if it had not completed the issue of its ova. From my observation, I declare that all fishes are in best condition when the ova is about a third developed, and not one fish with which I am acquainted shows an exception to this rule. The fat of the animal is then most plentiful, its flesh most firm, and its fighting power greatest. Experience, moreover, tells me that this period, roughly speaking, is with all the coarse fish during the early winter.

The duration of this period of condition varies with each family. With the carps, properly so called, it is longer than with the *leuciscini*. Jack possess it a shorter time than perch, but in each case the forward development of the ovaries and their contents indicate deterioration in quality, and even in desire for food. It may be said that these are platitudes, but I submit that they are facts going far to disrobe the idea that fish are fit to be caught "till they spawn" of its fascination.

Yet I will admit that in certain parts of the country it seems a hardship to preclude fishing when the fish have not as yet even advanced toward spawning, owing to a preceding average lower temperature, which, by the bye, is the cause of such retardation. Then, I would recommend the formation of a board for such districts, or a responsible committee of local anglers, and let it decide what extension should be allowed of the particular season in question. Suppose, for example, owing to a cold summer and winter, and a chill early spring, it be found that the fish of the Thames do not indicate loss of condition by the 1st of March, what difficulty would there be in a committee of London anglers, representative of their fellows, suggesting the necessary alteration. In other words, why could not a board of anglers adjudge the interests of London anglers with reference to the Act?

The radical alteration of the Act would be a virtual self-stultification of what was deliberately determined by anglers themselves. Of course, the Act was only intended, so far as its details were concerned—for example, dates—to be tentative. Alter the dates slightly if you will, but do not destroy its strong prohibitory character.—I am, &c.,

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

[By the expression "till they spawn," we meant the period when they commence "heading up" (for the purpose of spawning), which is very much later than March 15. In fact we maintain that roach, chub, barbel, carp, &c., are in their best condition for a month and often two months after they are fenced, and that the so much talked about "period of rest" is wanted just when the fence months now end. We predict that the London and Sheffield anglers will some day admit that vast improvement in their pet Act is possible, and that their fear of "rod poachers" is a bogey they will one day laugh at. Stop the nets.—Ed.]

SIR,—I am a Thames angler of over fifty years' experience, and I beg to say that, as regards the Mundella Act, I should be very sorry indeed to see the fence months done away with. I should like the fence months to commence

1st March and end the 3rd May—that is to say, for all coarse fish except jack—and I would make it illegal to catch and retain the fish before the 1st September.—I am, &c.,
Guildford Lodge, Teddington.

THAMES.

SIR,—In paragraph eight of Mr. Geen's letter to your paper last week he says, with regard to dace-fishing, if you fish with a worm you will take roach, if with a fly, chub. Well, if that was a fact (doubtful), is that any worse than Mr. Geen and his friends hooking and mauling chub, barbel, perch, and jack while troutling (see the Stanley Club report this week)? Is that giving the fish the quiet Mr. Geen says fish so much require in their spawning time? Come, come, Mr. Geen, it is a very bad rule that won't work both ways. Give your poorer brethren of the rod credit for as much honesty as yourself and friends that can afford a punt. If you will take this piece of advice, try and make the Act perfect in protecting fish in June, and, if possible, less hard against the class of anglers that get so few fishable days in the now short fishing season.—I am, &c.,
CENSURE.

(Mr. Geen sends us the following telegram.)

SIR,—The result of the prompt opposition of London anglers to Mr. Wootley's Bill is that it cannot possibly pass second reading this session.—I am, &c.,
P. GEEN.

House of Commons.

[Oh, Mr. Geen! are you forgetting the "wrongs of ould Ireland"? The Government have other "fish to fry."—ED.]

THE ORIGIN OF BOTTLED BEER AND THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—In last week's FISHING GAZETTE there is related an anecdote on this subject, taken from the *Globe* newspaper. The writer has evidently fallen into a mistake when he describes the discovery or invention of "that best of drinks since nectar went out of fashion," viz., bottled beer, to a certain London merchant, fond of angling in the Thames, named Bowyer. If you and your readers will consult "Walton's Complete Angler," one with notes by Sir John Hawkins. For my present purpose I take Ephemeris' edition. At page 29, Walton there speaking of "two memorable men . . . who have been ornaments to the art of angling," mentions, first, Doctor Nowel, some time Dean of St. Paul's, London. After a graphic account of his many virtues, how he spent a tenth part of his time in angling (only after his duties were done), gave a tenth of his revenue and "usually all his fish amongst the poor that inhabited near to those rivers in which it was caught," and then praised God he had spent that day free from worldly trouble, and so on. How he died at the ripe age of ninety-five years, with all his faculties unimpaired, further remarks:—"Tis said that angling and temperance were great causes of these blessings, and I wish the like to all that imitate him, and love the memory of so good a man" (p. 30). To this latter passage, as quoted, Sir John Hawkins adds a foot note: "It would appear that, though reputed temperate, he was by no means reputed a teetotaller. For Fuller, in his 'Worthies' Lancashire, p. 113, has thought it worth recording of this pious and learned divine, and that in language so very quaint as to be but just intelligible, that he was accustomed to fish in the Thames, and having one day left his bottle of ale in the grass on the bank of the river, he found it some days after, no bottle but a gun, such the sound at the opening thereof. And hence with what degree of sagacity let the reader determine he seems to derive the origin of bottled ale in England."

This note is somewhat differently ended in Sir J. Hawkin's fifth edition of Walton.

Such I take to be the correct version of the story.

In these days of agitation for and against Mundella's Act, it will perhaps interest some of your readers if I quote from p. 37 of same edition. Says Walton to Venator, "For I know that the want of otter killing, and the not keeping the fence months for the preservation of fish, will in time prove the destruction of all rivers; and those very few that are left, that make conscience of the laws of the nation, and of keeping days of abstinence, will be forced to eat flesh, or suffer more inconveniences than are yet foreseen." Speaking of the Acts then in force—Edward I. and Richard II., and the regulation of their defects, and, I take it, their non-enforcement, Walton says, "that which is everybody's business is nobody's business, if it were otherwise there could not be so many nets and fish that are under the statute size, sold daily amongst us; . . . above all the taking of fish in spawning time may be said to be against nature; it is like taking the dam on the nest when she hatches her young; a sin so against nature that Almighty God hath in the Levitical law made a law against it" (Deut. xxii. 6, 7). Curiously enough, in answer to Venator, Walton gives the fence months as March, April, and May, but assigns quite a wrong reason, vide, p. 37.

I quite agree with you and most others that some modification of the present Act should be made. I will not go so far as to advocate rod fishing all the year round, but I am sure I shall be supported by all in insisting that the most important part of any modification of the present Act should be the abolition of all netting in public water (except for special purposes) throughout the year; and that such public water should mean, not, for example, the main stream of the Thames, but include all its tributaries to their sources.

June 8, 1881.

FISHING ON THE WANDLE.

SIR,—My attention has been directed to a paragraph in your last week's issue respecting the Wandle (Hackbridge) from "Renurt," which, like a great many fishermen's reports, is misleading. On the 1st of May about fifteen brace of trout were killed; of these, certainly not one half were regulation size, that is, over 8 oz. I stood on the bridge for some time in the morning and saw "artful dodgers" killing 2 oz. fish. There are no good fish in the wash of a morning, for they are so disturbed by the carts going through the water that they only show up late to feed, and certainly this season no one has caught a brace of trout there to average 2½ to 2 lb. each. Such a thing would certainly astonish the locals who are good fly fishermen, as would "Renurt," fishing with an artificial minnow, who caught an improbable brace and half of trout (qy. Where were they weighed?) Is "Renurt" aware that such things as minnows and baits are strictly prohibited on all parts of the Wandle, and a suggestion to a good fisherman of such a thing would be considered the height of poaching. I am always pleased to read accounts of anglers; but somehow, when these accounts

are to be printed, they get magnified exceedingly, for I have seen reports of my own sport by other people, and have been ashamed of their system of multiplication and exaggeration in writing.—I am, &c.,
CARSHALTON.

BAITS FOR BREAM.

SIR,—One of your readers asks "for a good bait for bream in deep swift waters, pretty clear." Try cod's roe, worked to fine paste, in oatmeal grits, and strong clove oil; that is, if the water is clear, and of not too strong current. Otherwise "wasp's grubs" take well in sun, but best red worms in clove oil are my killers mixed in rosemary oil and not essence.
P. P.

Cork, June 6.

["Stinking Gladwin" has been tried by some anglers, and it appears to be as useless as nasty. We have not tried it, and don't wish to. The name is enough!—ED.]

SIR,—I advise Mr. H. A. West to send to Mr. W. Bailey, fisherman, Annesley Terrace, Nottingham, for his book, "The Angler's Instructor," price, I think, 2s. 9d. He will get every information about bream fishing from this excellent little work, and if he strictly attends to the instructions will soon be rewarded with some heavy takes.—I am, &c.,
E. GOSLING.
Budleigh Salterton, June 5, 1881.

BAITS FOR EELS AND BREAM.

SIR,—In reply to C. T. in your last publication as to bait, &c., for galvanised eel trap, my experience is gut of a fresh killed sheep, bunch it up, and tie it tightly around the middle thereof, and make it fast to the inside top of trap; lay the trap where you may expect to find eels (say a quiet, muddy part). I believe they travel in rivers a distance by night in search of food, therefore one thing is, and I believe the great secret, to be up at break of day and haul in the traps, otherwise the prisoners get uneasy in confinement and want to return to their respective haunts. And unless they are so dealt with I do know small ones will get out of galvanised traps.

And in reply to H. A. West, as to bait for bream, of which I have at times taken a very fair quantity, I have always found a moderate-sized marsh worm (cleaned in coarse moss after wetting and wringing the moss, and keeping them in a flower pot a night or two), the most effective bait.—I am, &c.,
J. P.
Covent Garden Market, W.C., 6th June, 1881.

BAITS FOR EEL TRAPS, &c.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent, C. T., in your issue of the 4th inst., I have by experience found that the best bait for an eel basket is the entrails of fowls or poultry of any sort. And to his second question, I should suggest the deepest water, near old camp-shedding if possible. To his third question, he can purchase a handy book of the fishery laws, Oke's Fishery Laws, containing Act of Parliament relative to Freshwater Fishery Act, &c., &c., 1878, by J. W. Willis-Bund, M.A., published by Butterworths, 7, Fleet Street, London.

Another mode of capturing eels that may be new to your readers:—Procure a small skag, increase the size of the bung-hole with a chisel, insert an old stocking with a small portion of the foot cut off, fasten the edge of the stocking to the rim of the bung-hole, placing a small quantity of entrails and other offal in the barrel beforehand, sink the whole in the water with a strong rope attached, the result, after remaining a few days, will meet your fondest anticipations, if there are any eels about.—I am, &c.,
WM. TRANTER.
Portsmouth, June 6.

ANGLING IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

SIR,—Since writing my letter marked No. 1, I have read your issue of the 4th, and was well pleased with Mr. Alington's communication on "Angling in North Lincolnshire." Its a part I know, though, perhaps, but little known by those out of the locality. I will shortly, with your permission, give you a little copy concerning another place in Lincolnshire. I mean Ferryby Sluice and about.

I remember a London gentleman asking me last summer if there was any fishing within twenty miles of Hull. I happened to recommend him to this part. He made a good day of it, and gave it, as his opinion, plenty would be glad to come from London and have a day or two. There is a nominal charge of 6d. to fish, and if a man can do with putting up at a small, but comfortable, house, he may have some good fishing at very little expense. Its noted for heavy bream and roach, and few fail to make a good all-round catch.

I make these remarks because such communications as Mr. Alington's are a sort of guide to those from other parts, and its just as well if the quickest, cheapest, and best route is given from various points. For instance, you cannot get by railway much nearer than Great Grimsby, and here's where most travellers should make for. The rest is a pleasant look round.—I am, &c.,
F. J. HAMLYN.
6, Engine Street, Hull.

MR. BAMBRIDGE'S SPINNERS.

SIR,—In your last notice of the "Bell's Life" spinners, it is suggested I should alter the name of the bait called by Messrs. Alfred the "Bell's Life" spinner. If the bent tail or the bait itself was the original idea of Messrs. Alfred I should not hesitate so to do, but as like myself they have to get them from a wholesale house, which I explained to you, I see no reason for doing so, especially as the bent tail is like the "Archimedean," very old.

Respecting the improvement, whilst trying one a few evenings back in the Boveney Weir I found that the bent tail of the 4s. 6d. size (according to Messrs. Alfred's price), when revolving, described a circle of 1½ inches, and would be liable to form a gag when taken unless a very large triangle was used at the tail. Whilst with the split tail (on the same principle as the Windsor bee specimen), which you describe as Archimedean, it gives a circle of under ¾ of an inch.

When Mr. Alfred again visits the river side it will be perhaps apparent to him that the split tail, "though known very many years since," is less liable to lose a fish.

I leave your readers to judge whether this is an improvement as regards this bait. I certainly when using it shall give preference to the split tail; and if that old trout at Clewer point, or any other, will come at it, we shall see what they think of it.

Hoping you will allow insertion in your next issue.—I am, &c.,
June 1881.

B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

BLACK BASS.

SIR,—I thank you for the reply appended to my inquiry in your issue of the 28th of May, but I had applied to Mr. Silk, and his reply, dated the 4th of May, is as follows:—

"The black bass that we have are in a lake where they will spawn naturally. The first lot that were brought over will be about spawning at the present time. I will not have any for sale. It would be very difficult to catch any of the young fish in the lake that they are in at present."—I am, &c.,

The King's Lynn Angling Association, H. BRADFIELD, Hon. Sec.
June 8.

FISHING IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

SIR,—I would feel obliged to any Northumbrian angler who can give me directions how to fish any of the following Northumberland rivers, starting from Central Street, Newcastle:—The Coquet, Wansbeck, Blyth, Tyne (North and South), and the best stations on each river.

It is calculated that there go in the season over 700 anglers from Newcastle, and to a great many of these the above information would be of great value, as the average angler has to fish outlying districts, and stand the risk of it being preserved or private water, which generally means a day's sport lost, which, as all anglers will agree with me, is far from being pleasant.—I am, &c.,

Sycamore Street, Newcastle, June 7. NEWCASTLE.

SNARING PIKE.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of the FISHING GAZETTE, to thank Mr. J. Harrington Keene for his notice of the above subject in your "Notes and Queries" of this week's number, likewise for the very quaint, but unmistakably true, lines which are also inserted.

When I wrote about it, J. H. K. will, perhaps, remember that I did not accuse any gentleman or a member of any angling club, but simply the natives who lived on the spot.

These cases really ought to be looked after by the river watcher, who is employed by the Y. P. S., but from the fact of his having such a long stretch of water under his charge these yokels take advantage of his absence to commit these depredations.—I am, &c.,

A TRUE DISCIPLE OF ISAAK WALTON.

AN ERRATIC BARBEL.

SIR,—A rather unusual occurrence happened last Friday night, which may possibly interest your readers. As I was rowing up the River Thames, near Windsor, a barbel of about half a pound jumped into the boat and flopped about vigorously. I returned it to its native element as soon as possible, none the worse, I hope, for its little excursion into the upper air.—I am, &c.,

June 6th. BLUE DUN.

TROUT IN CLOSE TIME.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will kindly inform me through the medium of your Answers to Correspondents, whether it is illegal for an owner of a private stream to take trout during close time, i.e., for his own use only.—I am, &c.,

Manchester, 3rd June, 1881. W. R. R.

[We fancy it is strictly illegal—he may not shoot game in his private grounds out of season.—ED.]

THE THAMES TROUT.

SIR,—You were kind enough to insert in your issue of May 28th a few remarks which I made about fish culture and the scarcity of trout in the river Thames, and as the subject is evidently engaging the attention of some of your correspondents, I wish, with your permission, to make some addition to my former statements.

The fishery of the Thames from Richmond to Staines has for many years been under the protection of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. This society has done much good in maintaining a stock of fish in the river; and through its exertions the Thames has partially sustained its reputation for sport, although the great number of anglers, who now frequent the river, has much increased the drain on its resources. Probably, for one angler that fished the river ten years ago, there are now thirty. The Thames is teeming with small fish, which are visible to anyone who walks along the banks on a bright summer day, but the continuous drain mentioned must necessarily increase greatly every year with the continuously-increasing number of anglers. To keep up an efficient supply of fish, a proper method of artificial breeding must be resorted to, in order to replenish the river, the more especially with large fish; such as trout, pike, perch, and I might also include barbel and chub.

It is all these fish that require more preservation and protection than those which are of less weight, such as roach, dace, gudgeon, bleak, &c., as these appear to multiply more rapidly than those of the former kind. In the supply of many of the larger kind of fish, the Thames has of late years shown a falling off, and, though there is an abundance of food for them, they every year appear to become scarcer, more especially the famous Thames trout; and this scarcity is no doubt to be largely attributed to the great increase in the number of anglers. Angling becomes more popular every year; as the numerous angling clubs which have recently been established in London and other large cities and towns fully testify; and there appears to be a great and increasing wish on the part of many of the inhabitants, especially as respects the working class, to participate in those healthful sports and recreations which a day in the country will enable them to enjoy. Angling is a sport that is accessible to all, and can be pursued more economically than many others; therefore, it is every year gaining favour as a healthful recreation.

The Thames above the stream of tide might surely be most profitably cultivated for the benefit of anglers. It is the cultivation of the larger kind of fish that is now most needed. No doubt, in some of the Continental rivers there are many large fish that might be successfully and profitably acclimatised in this country, and might be introduced in the Thames, therefore it would probably be in this respect that fish culture would greatly benefit the river. The numerous shoals of dace and other fish which may be seen heading up the stream at the different weirs during the spawning season, darkening the surface of the water, is a proof that there is great abundance of small fish, and more than sufficient to support an extensive increase of the superior species without being injurious to the sport of angling for the various smaller fish now existing there. I am sure that the greater number of anglers would welcome the accession of a great increase of the larger kinds of fish in the river, and that a

liberal cultivation of them would add considerably to the sport of all anglers, and tend to the improvement rather than the impoverishment of the inferior species. It is by artificial breeding that many of our salmon rivers have so much increased in value; and so might in other respects the Thames be equally improved by the like means, and by the introduction of other species of fish hitherto unknown in this river. It is said that an acre of water properly cultivated is more profitable than an acre of land; but really good fishing in England is now most scarce and costly to obtain, in consequence of the great difficulty caused by the increase of population and by the destruction of fish through the pollution of many of our streams and rivers. The Thames surely offers such an inducement for improvement that every effort ought to be exerted to make this river one of the best and most attractive in the kingdom for the enjoyment of angling, combined as it is with the recreation of boating; these being the most popular pursuits during the summer and autumn months of a large number of the greatest and wealthiest city in the world; whose inhabitants can well afford, and would, no doubt, liberally support, a well-managed institution established for the benefit of their favourite pursuits.

The river above the tide-way has hitherto been kept sufficiently free from pollution to support a large stock of almost every variety of freshwater fish, and this result offers an additional inducement for hopeful success, by a liberal system of fish culture.

Among the Thames Angling Preservation Society, there is an influential and intelligent number of enthusiastic anglers, who would, no doubt, render every assistance towards the promotion of Thames fish culture; and it is not unreasonable to hope that the angling public would liberally support an institution of this kind, the want of which is now so much needed. I may add, in conclusion, that like your correspondent, "E. L.," and your own liberal offer, I would willingly subscribe towards this project, and others, including fishermen and boat-builders, to whom I have spoken on the subject, have also promised to subscribe; and I believe that the same spirit of sympathy and assistance would be found to exist amongst all anglers and fishermen throughout the whole course of the river, from London to Oxford, towards the establishment of an efficient and well-managed system of fish culture, on which we must, no doubt, eventually rely for the permanent maintenance of the Thames fishery.—I am, &c.,

R. D. E.

[We have always advocated and should be delighted to see fish culture carried on in a spirited manner in this country. We fear it will be a long time before Government will take the subject in hand, and so we must look to private enterprise. Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, the originator of that grand success, the Norwich Exhibition, has undertaken the culture of all kinds of fish at his fish farms at Lowestoft. We wish him every success, and when he has a stock of perch fry ready for use, we are sure the Thames associations will buy largely, for perch are wanted in the Thames, and there is no more handsome kind than that produced by the Norfolk rivers.—ED.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CAPTAIN.—Write to Messrs. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch; they will tell you who supply their luminous floats. We are not sure that they are on sale at all yet.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society will hold their annual dinner at Mr. Mansel Bayley, the Swan Hotel, Pulborough, on the first Sunday in July, and they will wind up the fence months by having a supper in the club room on June 15. Members not aware of this, please copy. Unlimited as to numbers, but limited to 2s. 6d. per head. Members are requested to send in names prompt for Anglers' Benevolent Society. Railway privilege tickets expire on the 15th of June. The new ones come into operation on the 16th.—J. WORLEDGE, Sec.

June 7.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The third annual meeting of this flourishing society will be held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, on Monday evening, June 13, at six o'clock. Mr. Councillor Pemberton, the president of the association will occupy the chair.

June 8.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club have decided to open the season by going for a series of prizes on the first Sunday after the fence months—19th June—at Ware Room of Water, from Ware Bridge to Hertford Lock, the prizes ranging from £5 5s. to 10s. 6d. I expect a strong force to compete on the occasion. After their long rest they are eager for the fray. I trust we shall have a better season than the last and also every other club the same. One of our members, Mr. H. Brookwell, has added another trophy to his handsome collection by the capture of a handsome trout of 12 lb. 4 oz., from Dobbs' Weir, on the Lea, and I think it will make all anglers proud of their dear old river. Perseverance is not always rewarded, but it was so in this case, for he was trying for him eleven days before the capture. There is great credit due to him. Bravo! Brookwell.—R. MURPHY.

[We congratulate Mr. Brookwell on getting such a stunning trout.—ED.]

ISAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members will compete for two special prizes on Sunday, the 19th inst., at Pulborough and Amberley; all fish weigh in accordance with the rules of the society. The annual Sunday dinner will take place at the Rye House on July 3rd, 1881. Members who intend to be present are requested to inform the secretary not later than the 24th inst. The annual Wednesday dinner will take place at the Pied Bull, Stanstead, St. Margarets, on July 13th, 1881. Members who intend being present, will also inform the secretary not later than July 6th, 1881.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The first fishing excursion of the season will take place on Monday, the 20th inst. The water selected is the river Vyrniew, at Llanymynech. Members will leave the landing stage by the 8 a.m. Woodside steamer, taking, at Birkenhead,

anglers' tickets to Oswestry. The fare is 5s. 5d., 1s. 5d. of which will be paid out of the funds of the association. Members should kindly inform me, at least three days before, if they intend to go.—**RICHD. WOOLFALL**, hon. sec.
Strawberry Hill, West Derby Road, Liverpool,
June 8.

MARYLEBONE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual supper of this society was held on May 31, at the Prince Albert, Sherborne Street, Omega Place, Marylebone. The chair was filled by Mr. Prosser, faced in the vice by Mr. R. Humphrey. The supper was served in excellent style by Host Garrett, to which ample justice was done by those present. Letters were read from Messrs. Bonvoison, Hoole and other friends, expressing regret at being unable to attend. Mr. R. Humphrey, in responding to the health of Mrs. and Mr. Humphrey (who are both large prize givers), said he hoped the time was not far distant when we should have the company of our wives and sweethearts both in our outings, and on such like occasions as this. In bicycle, cricket and other clubs, no supper was complete without the presence of the ladies, and our societies were about the only ones where ladies were not recognised, although many of them were true anglers. Some capital songs were sung by Messrs. R. Humphrey, Toesland, Mellish, Crate, Wood, A. Humphrey, Pearce and Prosser; our worthy host giving a recitation. The harmony was greatly shortened on account of the great number of prizes given to be fished for during the ensuing season. The company dispersed at 12.30, deeply regretting the evening was so soon brought to a close.—**W. PEARCE**, sec.

June 8.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the above society took place on Tuesday last, June 7th, at Walnut Tree Shades. The president, Charles Daniels, Esq., occupied the chair, vacated for the time by the chairman *en posse*, the Rev. W. H. Matthews, B.D., and there were present—F. F. Brady (in the vice chair), R. Brady, A. Brown, W. Butler, G. Corbyn, E. H. Corbyn, W. G. Capon, A. Cox, Hinsbey, F. S. Harvey, Holmes, F. S. Howitt, Knight, P. Otty, Ollivant, W. Provart, Pyc. Spellman, Sim, Wright, Townshend, Thompson, Waters, Dr. S. Matthews, Loveday, Cubitt, &c., &c. The proceedings consisted chiefly of making arrangements for the first fishing match of the season, to be held at Horning, on July 14th next, for which match a liberal sum, voted from the funds of the society, for prizes, is handsomely augmented by special prizes offered by several of the members, so many that as regards this feature nothing will be left wanting to make the match a success as great as those which have hitherto taken place. Three new members were ballotted in, and the maximum number of 50 thus made up. In addressing the meeting, the President commented on the great impetus which angling in the eastern counties had received during the past few years, and the great assistance which was given to the gentle art by the preservation of our Norfolk and Suffolk rivers, while he pointed out that the facilities for angling would in a few years be much enhanced by anglers returning to the waters all under-sized fish, instead of, as is too often the case now, allowing fish to die which could be of no use whatever, when they might be returned to the water, and in after years afford sport to the angler, besides being a valuable addition to the food supply. A resolution was then passed that all fish under six inches in length should be returned to the water.—**W. G. CAPON**, hon. sec.

June 9th.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have an advantage that many of their brethren of the London Angling Societies do not possess, but, could they avail themselves of it, it would tend greatly to prevent the now increasing murmurs relative to the Freshwater Fishery Act (I mean sea-fishing) when the 15th of March arrives, and with it the three months' probation. Our members turn their thoughts, with evident satisfaction, seawards; and, although it is in this locality, to a certain extent, an innovation to take fish with a rod, and was viewed with no small degree of contempt by the professional fishermen of this place, the use of the rod and reasonable fine tackle is gradually increasing. One proof of its efficiency is to see the boatmen, with their primitive rods, use live shrimps for bass and pollack fishing in the harbour, instead of the coarse hand line. One of our members, Mr. Redward, has been weighing in some good fish, from Brackelsham Bay, consisting of sea bream, conger, flat fish, and two sorts of dog fish, viz., nurse and the lesser hound, the latter most formidable affairs; also Mr. Smith, a fine show of whiting coal from Ryde Pier; Mr. Bracey, a lobster of 5 lb.; Mr. Hollanders, whiting, coal bass, from the

harbour. In spite of these attractions, the members are looking forward to the 16th inst. with great expectation; and I am pleased to say the London, Brighton and South-Coast Railway Company have again renewed their kind concession of cheap fares to Chichester, for which we have to thank the kindness of J. P. Knight, Esq., their able and efficient general manager. We expect a good muster on the platform of the Portsmouth town station by the 1.30 train to Chichester, to celebrate the opening day, on which occasion several handsome prizes will be competed for.—**W. TRANTER**, sec.
June 6.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The following resolution has been passed by the Richmond Piscatorial Society:—"That the Richmond Piscatorial Society has heard with regret that it is proposed to amend the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878 by legalising rod-fishing throughout the year. That such proposed legislation will seriously interfere with the proper preservation of the river Thames, especially in the tidal waters under the observation of this society, and are convinced that the Act of 1878 has been of great service in the prevention of poaching in this neighbourhood, and such proposed amendment is unnecessary and uncalled for by anglers."

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The usual monthly meeting will take place on Monday next, June 13, at nine o'clock, when the half-year's balance sheet will be presented. The question of opposing the proposed amendment to the Freshwater Fishery Act about to be brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Stuart Wortley, M.P. for Shaffield, and Mr. Joseph Dodds, M.P. for Stockton, will be considered. In answer to an application to the Lea Conservancy Board to appoint a local honorary bailiff at Cheshunt, I have great pleasure in stating that I have received a warrant in favour of Mr. Lane, of Government Cottage, Aqueduct Lock, Cheshunt, who is appointed. Secretaries of clubs will oblige by sending their lists of members who require privilege tickets as soon as possible, when I will send them by post or otherwise, as requested, on the second day after application. The yearage is 1s.—**R. GURNEY**.

June 9.

WILKINSON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 30, the members of the above association held their usual fortnightly meeting at the Crown Hotel. In the absence of the president, Mr. Freeman, the vice-president occupied the chair. There was considerable discussion in respect to where the opening match was to be held, on account of a change having to be made from the original fixture for Newport, this last-named place having to be abandoned on account of some supposed dredging operations. It was finally settled that Brigham, near Driffield, should be the place for the club's opening match. It is expected that about £10, in addition to several special prizes, will be forthcoming for that occasion. The annual match for the benefit of the Hull General Infirmary has been fixed for the 15th of July, and it was proposed and carried without an objection that Ferreby Sluice be the place where the match be held. After some little business of a private nature the evening's proceedings were brought to a close with a little harmony.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—Seaside.—**TWO MONTHS RETURN TICKETS** are now issued by all trains to YAKMOUTH, Lowestoft, Cromer, Hunstanton, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Harwich, Dovercourt, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea).

Fortnightly, and Friday or Saturday to Monday; First, Second, and Third Class Return Tickets are also issued at Reduced Fares by all trains to Hunstanton, Cromer, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Dovercourt, Harwich, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh or Southwold.

A SPECIAL EXCURSION TRAIN to WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE, Dovercourt and Harwich, will leave the LIVERPOOL STREET STATION, every Sunday at 9 a.m., and every Monday at 8 a.m., calling at Stratford. Fares, 8s., 6s., 4s.

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EPING FOREST.—EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued daily to Woodford, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton and Chingford. Fares, 2s., 1s. 6d., 1s.

For full particulars see Handbills and Time Tables.

WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.
London June, 1881.

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NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the following, amongst other Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces:—

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1881.

ANGLING PROSPECTS IN THE PROVINCES.

PROSPECTS for the coming season in the angling world seem on all hands to be good. There are exceptions, perhaps ; but, according to the old adage, the exception proves the rule. There is, independent of the temporary fluctuations of good and

bad seasons, a great normal improvement going on in the prospects of sport for the followers of "Old Izaak," caused by the protecting influence of modern legislation, the growing popularity of the sport, and the increased facilities offered by the great railway companies to the more humble and far removed to indulge in the pastime. The introduction of fence months has undoubtedly done much to prevent the destruction of young and breeding fish, and consequently increase the supply, if we may believe the more recent statistics on the subject, published on the authority of Parliament in regard to salmon ; and no doubt the same results may be expected in regard to the like operation on other kinds of fish. Vast quantities now go on to maturity, and ultimately to furnish the means of sport, which otherwise would have been destroyed ; and as the breeding stock increases so does its fructification, in a like ratio, as time progresses. The increase in the number of anglers is an almost unappreciable one in comparison to the increase of fish ; but at the same time the increase of sportsmen tends to the increase of their protecting influences, for the chief aim of the true sportsman is not the extirpation of his pastime, but the perpetuation of it. Consequently, apart from any local or temporary advantage, it is fair to suppose the prospects of the angler yearly improve as the influences producing the improvement continue to exist and operate.

Apart from all these natural circumstances, there is very good reason indeed to suppose the prospects of the angling season now commencing are much better than they ordinarily are. There are many reasons for believing the fish that have spawned have had a most favourable time of it. For many years past the rivers during spawning time have been full, fresh, and even often greatly flooded. Such disturbance of the water and of the beds of the streams acts very injuriously during incubation time, and vast quantities of spawn are buried, damaged and wasted by such floods. During the past fence time there have been very few of these freshes, and what there have been, they have been of the diminutive or minimum kind ; consequently there is great confidence that the spawning season has been more favourable than for several years past. Then, again, the spawning is believed in many places to have been much earlier than has been usual for some time, and it is believed the fish are in a more forward condition. Last year there were complaints that some kinds of fish had not spawned at the close of the fence time, and were not in a fit state for sport, being mostly disinclined to bite, and even those that were caught were poor, flabby and ill-nourished. This year it is thought the contrary will be the case. The fish will have well over-gotten their sickness, will be in a better condition, and will seek more eagerly after their food. In a word it is considered in very many districts there will be plenty of fish well on the feed by next week, and that consequently sport will be extremely good for the time.

It is little use, though, generalising thus, and leaving the more definite information to be gleaned on the spot. It is far better to refer to localities, and at the same time to give a few practical hints that will aid the angler in his sport. The first locality, perhaps, in the provinces for angling at the present time is that of Lincolnshire. A correspondent of the writer the other day from Boston, states this fact :—"The whole of our waters" (the waters of the Boston Association), says the writer, "are in splendid condition, and abundantly supplied with fish ; and, seeing that we have nearly one hundred and sixty miles of water, I think we may fairly lay claim to having the best rough fishing in England." The waters of the Boston Association, as some readers will know, not only include long stretches of the Witham and other smaller rivers, but miles upon miles of those long deep drains so familiar to the traveller in the Fen country, and so enviously regarded by those who really know what Fen country angling is. Speaking of the spawning season, he says :—"The fish have had an unusually

good season for spawning, not having had the heavy floods down our rivers this spring which we had the last three or four years. From the little opportunity we have of noticing the fish during the close season, it is almost impossible to give an opinion as to their condition, but judging from the fact of roach, &c., appearing in shoals and apparently very lively, there is little doubt they have gone through the process of spawning most favourably." Close to Boston the fishing, he says, "is as good as any part of the water, and far superior to any in the Witham between Boston and Lincoln. It is satisfactory to know that "hotel accommodation in the town is abundant, good, and moderately cheap, in fact, compared to many towns, very cheap. There are also plenty of decent houses near the river, a few miles away, where accommodation may be had at very low charges. The baits most in use in these waters," he says, "are paste, plain and coloured, gentles, and of course worms, though paste is certainly the most killing bait for roach in the hands of those who know how to use it. In the drains are large quantities of tench, which yield excellent sport. The privilege of angling in the Boston water is one of the cheapest in the country. All that is necessary is that an angler should subscribe not less than 1s. a year to the funds of the Association.

In the Peterborough district they have been fishing all through the fence months, and during that time there have been some very large takes of good roach. A correspondent, giving this information, says, also, "All we fence is pike and perch. Ours is a private fishery, and the lessee grants us permission under the subsection of the Act." He adds, "The water is all alive with the following kinds of fish:—perch, pike, roach, dace, chub, bream, bleak, eels, and a few tench; but none of these will be in condition except dace. The roach, bream, and chub have not spawned, and the other fish are not in good condition." Speaking of the water, he says, it is very low just now, and no weeds are to be seen. Pike, in these waters, run to a useful size. They seldom reach 16 lb., and few under 2½ lb. The largest taken last year reached 19½ lb. The waters of the Peterborough Association extend along the bank of the river Nene, a distance of about nine miles, from Stanground Lode to Alwalton Mill. The river is not a good one in summer, owing to the vast quantity of weeds, and the swims are best reached by boat. Plenty of fishing places, however, may be thus found at any time. Anglers will find good accommodation at such places as the Boat Inn, the Saracen's Head, the Queen's Head, the Waggon and Horses, the Club House, &c., and boats may be had at the boat-yard close to the latter. The cost of the tickets is 2s. 6d. per year, 1s. per week, or 6d. per day.

From Cambridge and Ely accounts come of the healthy condition of the Association, and that the waters are well stocked with fish. Roach, bream, perch, tench, pike, and eels are plentiful, and a few dace and barbel have also been caught in these waters. The Association have over twenty miles of the Ouse in their hands, and Ely is about in the centre of it, for it extends from near Cambridge to Littleport. Perhaps the best point is at a place called the Branch, where the river Lark joins the Ouse. Perch are taken here up to 4 lb. Good accommodation may be had at the Granby at Littleport, several places at Ely, and at Cambridge. The cost of the tickets is 2s. 6d. per year, and there is the privilege of cheap railway fares on production of the fishing ticket at most of the Great Eastern stations.

At Spalding there is good angling, and it is expected sport will be even better than it has been. The Association have some capital water many miles in extent, and conveniently reached from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, and Deeping St. Nicholas. There is plenty of accommodation, and a cheap tariff. Tickets 10s. 6d. a year; day tickets, town subscribers, 2s. 6d. each.

All along the Trent the prospects of angling are said to be good, and fish are spawning early and satisfactorily. In the upper waters the Birmingham people have extensive rights and anticipate fine sport. In the neighbourhood of Nottingham, anglers are expectant, and anxious to begin. Near Newark the prospects are spoken of as unusually promising, and down towards Laneham, Dunham, and to Gainsborough the reports are equally good. One of the longest of English rivers, the Trent is justly celebrated as an angling stream, and being little polluted by large towns, it produces almost its whole length vast quantities of fish. Upwards of thirty kinds are said to be found in its waters, and the angler can scarcely make a mistake in the selection of a locality. Long stretches of the river afford free angling, and the preserved portions may be fished at a reasonable charge almost anywhere. There is plenty of accommodation along its banks.

The Soar is now a fine angling stream. From Leicester to the Trent it is preserved by associations nearly the whole length, and its waters contain fine pike, salmon trout, roach, dace, perch, tench, bream, chub, and eels. Reports sent into the committees speak very favourably of the prospects of the coming season. Bream and roach are the principal stock. Trout and tench when taken are usually of a good size. Pike fishing is good in the season. One of the finest portions of the stream is that reached from Barrow-on-Soar station. The Barrow, Quorn, and Mountsorrel Association have five or six miles of the river here, and there is capital bream fishing within half a mile of the station, the fish running from 2 lb. to 5 lb. each. The fish have mostly spawned early, and this will make the fishing good to begin with. Roach will be first. It would be convenient here to mention that those who go there for bream would do well to inquire whether they are on, or it is possible they may be disappointed. This information may be got from the secretary and others who would be glad to aid a stranger. There are good inns in most of the villages near, and terms are reasonable. Subscriptions, 10s. 6d.; weekly tickets, 5s.; daily, 1s. 6d.

Between Lincoln and the Trent, and down the Witham for some distance, and in some of the neighbouring streams and drains, the Lincoln Association have good preserved fishing. Their waters are excellently stocked with roach, perch, pike, bream, dace, barbel, eels, chub, &c. For the Fosdyke the best places are Torksey, Dimsey Nook, Saxilby, and Lincoln; for the Upper and Lower Witham, Lincoln, Washingborough, Bardney, Stixwold, and Kirkstead or Tattershall. Subscription to these waters is 1s. a year and upwards, and all information, tickets, baits, &c., may be had of the water bailiff, Mr. George Barton, Newland (Vine Inn), Lincoln. Gentles, paste, and grain in their season are here used for roach, as also caddis and cockspur worms.

In the neighbourhood of Thorne, Keadby, Crowle, &c., where fishing is well preserved, there are great quantities of almost every kind of fish, pike, perch, roach, eels, flounders, &c. Subscription to the preserved waters is 3s. 6d. per annum. There is, however, many miles of excellent fishing entirely free, and about the best and most central point is the South Yorkshire Hotel, close to Crowle Station. Reasonable charges are the rule in this locality, and latest reports from the locality speak of the coming season as likely to be a good one. Roach have not yet spawned but they will be ready in a very short time.

All down the eastern side of the country, no doubt, is the most popular for the coarse fish angler, still it must not be supposed the waters mentioned are all that are to be had worth going to. On the contrary, on the western side there is now capital angling to be had in Lancashire and Cheshire, and it is much patronised by anglers from Manchester, Liverpool, Wigan, Preston, Blackburn, Chester, Warrington, &c. The prospects of a good season

are better than for years. In some of the favourite waters, roach and bream have been seen in shoals very lively. At Newton Mere (nearest station Newton Bridge), roach and bream exist in immense quantity, and there are also plenty of pike and trout. The lake is of good size, and has been strictly preserved. Permission to fish may be had free on enclosing a stamped envelope to J. E. Pardey, Esq., Newton-le-Willows. Boats on the lake may be hired at a low charge. The dams of the Wigan Waterworks afford plenty of fine fishing, good roach, perch, and trout. Tickets 1s. each, may be had of the lodge keeper. The river Weaver, in Cheshire, is a great attraction. The best points on this stream are Acton Bridge, Hartford, and Frodsham, at which places there are good houses and reasonable charges. The Lancaster Canal also contains plenty of fish from Oxenholme to Preston, a distance of forty miles, and permission to fish it may be had from J. Slinger, Esq., Canal Office, Lancaster. Most of the angling clubs of Lancashire pay so much per annum for this right. The Ribble affords good fishing. Dace, roach, and chub are caught in abundance, and there is plenty of good accommodation. There are also several other localities, including the Dee and Severn, that are easily reached from these parts.

In the West of England reports are equally satisfactory. From Wales, the reports speak of good angling, but many of these latter are chiefly devoted to salmon and trout. The coarse angling seems more confined to the places indicated. We have said enough to show that the angler has nothing to fear in the way of sport, if he can keep out of the way of weeds, which in many rivers bother him sadly during the summer time. In the fast running streams there is not much to fear in this respect, but in the country where there is a dead level for miles ill-weeds grow apace, and become his very plague. It is perhaps strange, though, to some; still very often these are the very best streams in the whole country for coarse fish angling. W. H. L.

ANGLING IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

ALLOW me to supplement my notes of last week by recording one of the finest day's trout fishing that I ever experienced. On Wednesday, in last week, I was out on the Tetney and filled my pannier before four o'clock. There were thirty-two fish, which weighed exactly 16 lb. They were all caught with fly, on fine-drawn gut. About one half were secured by the green drake, the others fell to the lot of the iron blue drake and Ford's favourite. The day was very cold and generally overcast, but, as the wind blew up stream, I was able to throw over the heads of the fishes, and thus keep well out of sight. The water was very clear and low, but my David Foster (Acme line) answered admirably, and contributed largely to the glorious result. I retained no fish under $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., whilst several were over 1 lb. On Friday, I again went over to the stream, which I fished lower down. As I did so well on Wednesday, I only fished about three hours, but I managed four brace, which were even larger than those of Wednesday, weighing a total of 7 lb. Four fish weighed just 5 lb.—the largest $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. In justice to Mr. Alington, I must observe that the above results equal, if they do not surpass, anything that I ever did in Yorkshire, but I have often filled the same pannier on the Inny in Cornwall.

THOMAS FORD.

Caistor.

GREAT YARMOUTH FISHERIES EXHIBITION

IN AID OF THE

GORLESTON VOLUNTARY LIFE-BOAT ASSOCIATION.

THIS exhibition will be opened by the Mayor of Yarmouth, on Monday, July 18.—Classes: Class 1.—Models: Ships, smacks, fishing boats, steamers, yachts, &c. Class 2.—Rigging:

Ropes, canvas, blocks, &c. Class 3.—Fishing Gear: Trawl nets, drift nets, freshwater tackle, deep sea lines &c., Class 4.—Fish: Living fish, shell fish, salted, smoked, tinned, and stuffed fish. Class 5.—Life-saving Appliances: Models of life-boats, rocket life saving apparatus, foghorns, signals, lights, &c. Class 6. Aquatic Birds: Living or preserved. Class 7.—Pictures. Class 8.—Relics from the deep (including various interesting articles, picked up at sea).

Exhibitors of Inland fishing matters are invited to send exhibits. Sales can be effected in the building in the same manner as at Norwich. Some prizes for essays will be awarded. Our friends should write for particulars to the secretary.

PRACTICAL NOTES ON THE SPAWNING OF THAMES FISH.

THE ROACH.

IT is generally understood that the roach begin to spawn in the Thames about the middle of May, but much depends upon the character of the season as to their movements in that direction, and it is as well to place upon record any experience in the spawning of fish as matter of practical information. I think on the Thames the best proof afforded about the roach is when they begin to occupy the back stream at Hampton Court. As a rule I have usually found their migration upwards to commence about the middle of May, but this year they have been quite a fortnight earlier, and it will be remembered that four thousand good fish were removed at that time. What I mean by good fish is as regards size—in other respects the roach were getting very rough as they do when in a spawning condition. About a fortnight later another shift of roach was reported, but not in similar numbers, and only about fifteen hundred were found where four thousand had been taken out before. These fifteen hundred fish were very forward, and some of the grass in the water was covered with spawn. I have always thought the roach might safely be fished for throughout April, but this season has proved otherwise, as they must have been getting rough long before the end of April, and therefore might be taken. I admit it has been a somewhat exceptional season in the Thames, but we must be prepared for these exceptions in order to be perfectly safe. It is far better to give time to the fish than to take time from them—much safer to recognise the earlier spawning period as a standard than the later and perhaps more ordinary one.

THE DACE.

The Dace made their first shift very much earlier this year, about the end of February, and were all up in their spawning beds before the general angling season terminated. I noticed some about the time of the first movement that were exceedingly rough and had very little life in them as jack bait, so that the end of February is quite time enough to suspend operations in catching them, as a rule. The extension of the season to the 14th of March is not at all favourable to the dace as they are amongst the earliest to spawn. I have only defined the period as showing by actual observation when the spawning has occurred. I think most people regretted, as far as the dace were concerned, that the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878, left them to be fished for after the old period at the end of February, as even at that time they were in no sort of condition. It would appear from the remarks of the fishing correspondent at Richmond in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, the dace have dropped down to their old quarters in the tideway, and I sincerely hope that he and the other fishermen will have another successful season amongst them, which before this is in print will have made a commencement.

THE BREAM.

These fish went to their spawning beds about the first of June this year, and I think are somewhat earlier than usual in the Thames. It is said they have gone into the backwater at Walton in immense shoals, or, as was computed, by "tons weight." This place and the dock at Chertsey are the most favoured places for the bream at such a time, but as a rule they do not take long to discharge their domestic duties. According to "Otter's Modern Angler," and it is a valuable guide to go by, the bream generally spawn towards the latter end of May, so that the practical author is substantially correct this year in reference to the Thames. The bream then can hardly be in condition for angling before July.

THE PERCH.

The great bulk of these fish are pretty regular in spawning in March, and this season they were quite as early, not only successfully depositing their ova in immense sheets on the boughs at Walton and other places, but they were all safely guarded from the swans, and vivification was complete. The anglers, however, will testify from experience that most of the perch taken towards the middle and end of February are in no condition to be caught in consequence of their being so full of spawn, but I am only speaking of the Thames, as I know in other places they are as late as May in spawning. B.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

THE PRACTICAL FLY-FISHER, more particularly for Grayling or Umber. By the late JOHN JACKSON, of Tanfield Mill. London: John Stark, 12, Bushby Place, Camden Road, N.W.

THE dweller in Herefordshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, or Hampshire, who cares for fly-fishing, can, if he pleases and the weather permits, angle all the year round—for trout in the spring and summer, for grayling in the autumn and winter. There are many most excellent works on trout fishing, but very few on grayling fishing. The little work before us was written by a master in the art, and we cannot give it higher praise than to say it is, in our opinion, worthy a place in every fly-fisher's library as a companion to that grand old favourite "Ronald's Fly-Fisher's Entomology." A great feature is that it contains most beautifully-finished copper-plate engravings of sixty-four flies and beetles, used in grayling fishing, with their artificial representatives. These plates are coloured by hand, and, in most instances, are very carefully done, they will be found of great value, even to those who only fish for trout.

The author first gives directions for making flies, with clear illustrations. He then describes the various flies for the season, which are also illustrated in the plates; and the remainder of the work is devoted to remarks on the nature of the grayling, its haunts and how to take it, and a description of the grayling rivers of Yorkshire. We must mention that our author wrote in 1853, and though his remarks on the Yore, Aire, Wharfe, and Rye are still generally applicable to those rivers, in many particular cases great changes have taken place as regards landowners and angling associations. Our own experience is that it is by no means difficult to get good grayling fishing at the present time on any of the above rivers, and especially the Yore, in Wensley Dale, and on the Rye, near Helmsley.

Grayling fishing is most excellent sport, and trout and grayling fishing combined, on a good day in August, is, we think, the *acme* of sport with the fly-rod. In grand scenery, with a genial companion, when the fish are rising well, there is an indescribable charm in the variety afforded by the great difference in the rise and fight of now a trout and now a grayling; and at the end of

the day a creel of ten or fifteen pounds of these fine fish is a sight and dish for the gods. An experienced angler can almost invariably tell, from the nature of the rise, whether he has hooked a trout or a grayling, and if the fly has been taken under water the action of the fish betrays its nature in a moment.

The trout-fisher who fishes for grayling for the first time or two will find that he strikes too hard for this soft-lipped fish—the gentlest turn of the wrist is all that must be given. When grayling are rising short, as they very often do, we have found it a good plan to sink the flies a few inches below the surface. A short piece of elastic tied between the line and the collar is said to be a good dodge for lessening the effect of the strike.

In confirmation of what we said about our author's remarks being somewhat out of date, as regards some portions of the rivers he names, we may instance his statement that "in Bilsdale the trout are very numerous." We regret to say that in consequence of the poisoning of the fine stream which runs through Bilsdale not a trout or grayling is now to be had in that stream. jute mills are the cause in this instance.

Although it would undoubtedly be more valuable if revised to date, as regards the fishing stations, it still remains one of the most practical and useful little books on the grayling extant.

YANKEE BABIES.

Of all the amusing Yankee "notions" ever invented, we think the palm must be given to the olive-branches, which are supplied—either male or female—at most moderate prices by the sole agents, the Facsimileograph Company, Kemp Town, Brighton. We were recently presented with twins from this establishment, and if the amount of amusement which has been caused by their subsequent unexpected appearance in two or three family circles may be taken as a sample of their reception generally, then, indeed, they must have made thousands grow fat. "Laugh and grow fat" is an old and sound proverb, and we defy the primest and thinnest of old maids to look upon and handle these charming infants without laughing as she rarely laughed before. Their cries are so life-like that a nursemaid who heard one rushed frantically upstairs in search of her charge. The more you whack them the more they squeal—another most natural feature; they hate pins as much as does the real thing; and a great advantage is that you can see inside them if they are unwell, and so dispense with doctors' bills.

THE LUMINOUS FLOAT.

MR. ARCHER has patented a very useful application of Balmain's luminous paint. This paint shines like phosphorus in the dark, after it has been exposed to light. The top of the float is a glass tube filled with the paint, and all you have to do is to strike a wax match and hold it near (but not under or touching) the glass tube. This will make the float luminous, and you can easily detect a bite. It will be found very useful indeed, as one has often to leave off fishing, just when the big ones are coming on, because it is too dark to see the float. Fish feed all night long in the summer; in fact, that is why they feed so little in the day-time. Fishing on a warm summer's night is very good fun, and is the only time that many anglers can devote to fishing. Archer's Glow Worm float comes as a "boon and a blessing" to them.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CONFERENCE OF ANGLERS AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

WE beg to call the special attention of our readers to the particulars of the meeting to be held at 8 p.m. on June 27, in the room of the Society of Arts. Particulars will be found in our correspondence columns in a letter from Mr. Geen, and also in one from Messrs. Ghurney and Hoole. We put both in, though they are nearly identical as regards the amendments.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

BY L. B.

THE one great topic discussed among anglers this week—whether club men or otherwise—has been Messrs. Wortley and Dodd's proposed amendment to the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878, legalising rod and line fishing all the year round. Strange irony of fate that the town of steel, to whom belongs the honour of having been the original promoter of the Mundella Act, should be the first to do a growl. The growl, however, comes from a very few, indeed; for we hear that no sooner was the Bill brought into the House than a meeting of delegates from over 200 angling clubs was held in Sheffield, when it was resolved, by a very large majority indeed, to oppose the so-called amendments "As contrary to the best interests of anglers." Similar resolutions appear to have been passed in many parts of the country by all the large preservation societies—the Thames Angling Preservation Society, Reading and District, Richmond Piscatorial, and many others; while in London the West Central, the East Central and Central—representing some thousands of club men—are unanimous in their opposition to Messrs. Wortley and Dodd's ill-advised amendments.

From the neighbourhood between Send and Woking we hear that a tributary or backwater of the Wey has been drawn off, and large numbers of roach, bream, and carp, from 4 lb. to 6 lb., jack up to 7 or 8 lb., and some large eels, were taken away in sacks by the yokels.

From that savoury place, Dagenham Reach, familiarly known among its admirers as the "Lake" and the "Gulf," come fair promises of a season that is to surpass by far anything that we have seen of late years. I trust it may turn out so, but I much doubt it. This is one of those places which has steadily gone from bad to worse. Continual angling and no restocking—the latter compelling the fish to breed in and in, until fingerling roach and bream like little bits of tin have become the rule; and a decent fish now and then the exception.

From the Cam, Ouse, and Lark district, a correspondent writes:—"Angling prospects first-class; enormous shoals of bream, roach and dace flying about in all directions, showing that pike and perch are making up for lost time after discharging their family duties."

The cry is still they feed. Among the dinners on the—well, no, not on the *tapis*—say on the boards, or about to be set there, are the following—the Thames Angling Preservation Society's anniversary dinner, the Richmond Piscatorials' summer dinner, on the 16th, at the "Ship," Halliford; Major Bull in the chair, faced by our genial friend Mr. F. C. Clench; also the Great Northern Brothers and the Trafalgar on the 15th, the Golden Barbel, 14th, &c.

Touching the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the balance sheet for the half year ending April 31st will soon be issued. The annual subscription becomes payable on the 1st of May in each year, and the necessity for renewing same at once cannot be too strongly impressed, as no angler can receive relief and assistance unless such subscription (1s. 1d.) has been paid. It is impossible not to express astonishment and regret at the fact that only 547 anglers joined this admirable institution during the financial year ending April, 31st, 1881, in spite of the unwearying exertions of the committee, whose members, provided with receipt books for that purpose, have, regardless of refusals and indifference, canvassed for and enrolled members upon every available occasion.

From all parts of the river Lea the prospects for the coming season are said to be excellent. At Ware, on 3rd inst., two men convicted of illegal possession of fish (about 16 lb., mostly small roach taken from the shallows) were fined 10s. each. Mr. Murphy, secretary of the Good Intent Anglers, has been among the trout; half-a-dozen (heaviest 2½ lb.), falling to his rod. It is always a pleasure to hear of Mr. Murphy's success, for a more persevering angler or a truer sportsman never wielded rod. Is he going after some more of those big dace this season?

At the Working Committee meeting of the West Central Association on Friday, 3rd, three new angling societies were enrolled.

Mr. T. Hoole says he has two or three more new societies in his mind's eye which he hopes will shortly do ditto. How many small bodies of anglers, who proposed starting societies, and were struggling over the drawing up of rules, the obtaining of the concessions which they had heard were granted to anglers, has not Mr. T. Hoole assisted with valuable advice, until from the grub state they have burst forth fully formed, and able to fly alone. The Immortal Bard somewhere says: "I see Queen Mab has been with you. She is the fairy midwife, and comes in form no bigger than an agate stone on the forefinger of an alderman." Would it be too far-fetched to compare Mr. Hoole in this case?—yes, I am afraid it would.

£5 5s. from the Reading and District Association voted to the Frank Buckland Testimonial. The late Mr. Buckland's kindly and genial disposition endeared him to all those who were brought into con-

tact with him, however much they might differ from him in matters of opinion. Against a memorial being got up by those whose interests he furthered, there is not a word to be said; but the applying of money publicly subscribed with the one object of securing the better preservation of a stretch of our river Thames to a purpose so entirely foreign is creating a very doubtful precedent, and from all sides there are rumours of its being made the subject of severe criticism both in and out of print.

On Monday evening, 13th, the monthly meeting of the East Central Committee was held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presided. A numerous deputation from the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies was present, including Messrs. Geen, Hoole, Beckett, Welch, Bonvoison, Murphy, Vincent, Marshall, &c. The one great topic of interest here, as elsewhere, being the "Fresh Water Fisheries Act." Mr. Geen opened the subject in a speech of great power, during which he remarked that Mr. Stuart Wortley's amendment might be owing to the prompt opposition offered to it by the anglers, considered a thing of the past. The present, however, was the time for a strong pull, a long pull, and a pull altogether, for the purpose of obtaining such alterations as were needed to make the Bill a really effective measure. He read certain important suggestions which he had jotted down, and which he thought might advantageously be included in any future amendments. It was ultimately decided "that a conference composed of delegates from Angling Societies and River Protection Associations should be held in London to ascertain the views of anglers, and to put the same into shape with a view to a public meeting. Particulars as to date, &c., of both will be published in THE FISHING GAZETTE. After some remarks from Messrs. Manning, Beckett, Ghurney, Murphey, Bonvoison, and others, the ordinary business of the evening was proceeded with. The half-yearly balance sheet, which was distributed, showing the handsome balance of £107 3s. 4d. in the Post Office Savings' Bank.

MR. WORTLEY'S FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SUPPORT OF SHEFFIELD ANGLERS.

A MEETING of the New Angling Association, which represents a large number of fishing clubs in Sheffield and the neighbourhood, was held last night at the Garrick Hotel, Sycamore Street, to support the Bill introduced into Parliament by Mr. C. S. Wortley, M.P., for the amendment of Mr. Mundella's Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878. Mr. Walter Timperley, the President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there were also present the hon. secretary, Mr. F. G. Bennett, and the following members of the committee:—Messrs R. Bickerdike, H. Bailey, W. W. Cook, J. Lowaler, T. Robinson, E. Rhodes, C. Sadler, C. Staniforth, and J. W. Wortley. There was a large attendance of members.

The Chairman said Mr. Mundella's Bill was passed before it was thoroughly understood, and thus it happened that working men were unfairly deprived of the power of fishing with rod and line during certain seasons of the year. He hoped the amendments proposed by Mr. Wortley would be supported by the meeting and adopted by Parliament.

Mr. John Young said the Bill lately brought in by Mr. Mundella was wrong altogether, and Mr. Wortley, by bringing in his Bill, had rendered a great service to the people of Sheffield.

Mr. Arthur Harrop observed that the Old Angling Association had condemned Mr. Wortley's Bill before they knew anything about its provisions.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas White, seconded by Mr. Arthur Harrop, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, is partial and unjust in its action, and operates harshly towards poor and working men; that it is not general in its application; that many owners, occupiers, associations, and individuals are taking advantage of an exemption allowing rod and line fishing, and do fish continuously throughout the close season; that the advantages of the close season is sufficiently gained by stopping the sale of coarse fish, which prevents poaching, and by prohibiting netting and other means of wholesale destruction, which protects the spawning fish; that rod and line fishing can do no harm, seeing that breeding fish will not take bait (live or artificial) during the breeding time; that to allow the taking of eels in the spawning season would confer a substantial benefit on freshwater fisheries, because of their great destruction of other fish spawn during the time it lies for incubation; and therefore this meeting pledges itself to support by petition and other legal means the Bill recently introduced by Mr. Stuart Wortley, and now before Parliament, entitled the Freshwater Fisheries Act Amendment Bill."

It has decided that a petition embodying the statement of his resolution should be forwarded to the House of Commons, and if necessary to the House of Lords, signed by as many anglers as possible.

Another resolution was adopted requesting the secretary to invite the co-operation of the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., and the members for the Southern Division of the West Riding, in the passing of Mr. Wortley's Amendment Bill, and also to ask for kind support of the prayer of the petition.—*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Arouse ye, me merry, merry men,
For 'tis our opening day."

To-day is our spawning day on the Thames, and as the water is in grand trim, in consequence of the wet-suntide days, first-class sport may be anticipated. My occupation, which, "Othello like," seems to have been gone for some three months, will now come back to me, and I am sure "Mid-Thames" anglers will have grand success. The water is in prime order for all round work. Roach and chub well on. I have several reports as to trout taking from Henley and Marlow, but as the weights are only within 4 lb., the record will hardly be interesting.

THURSDAY.—River in prime order for all-round angling; roachmen should do especially well, as the river has got a mignonette colour about its clothes.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good condition. Prospects; very good. Chub biting well, three chub going 9 lb., were taken by Mr. Hue, 231, Camden Road, Holloway, on Thursday.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

My son has just caught 4½ dozen roach and dace, a few good roach have been caught, but principally early in the morning, as the bulk of the fishermen left off between six and seven, and the fish did not feed again till three in the afternoon. We want rain badly, the water is full of natural food. I have not been out myself; hope to send you something better next week.—JOHN JOHNSON.

[This bears out what we said, that the fence months, although nominally three, are practically six, for the fish wont feed in the day time now, and the river is full of natural food. But the nets can, of course, get all the fish they can hold now.—ED.]

Thames (Richmond).

The first day of the week was a good one, or, as anglers would term it, a fine dull day, but did not pass over without a shower of rain, but nothing to stop the man who was bent on business. I was out this morning at half-past six, and had a walk as far as the Orleans Club, and counted no less than seventeen at it as early as this—something new for our waters. When I took to fishing it used to be reckoned nothing before the middle of July; but last season upset all this, as we commenced with good takes, and went on with them. This looks to me to be a very good season. There were no less than 23 small barbel thrown out of the boats moored in the middle of the river during last week, which had leaped into them in their sporting about. The fish that have been taken to-day were in very good condition, and the dace running a good size. There was every punt out that could be had here, and I had to send people to Twickenham, as I could not accommodate them here. The men that were out to-day were G. Howard (who got 2 dozen of roach and dace), C. Brown, Job Brain (2 dozen roach and dace), H. Mansel, H. Wheeler. I think the sport ran to between 2 and 3 dozen, as it usually the case on the opening day. I have not been out myself, but I live in hopes to have a fair start on Monday, when I shall be prepared to take orders for the season. Wishing success to every angler.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Bure (Acle).

Anglers have had plenty of sport on the above river of late; swarms of roach, dace, bream, perch and pike have been taken. Amongst the more expert anglers a deal of fine perch fishing has been experienced, the bait used being live minnows, one gentleman from Norwich having taken upwards of 2 st. one morning, most of them being 2 and 2½ lb. fish. Much controversy has been held of late as to "all the year round fishing, but I think Norfolk anglers need see no fear that close or fence time will ever come into operation in our country. For those gentlemen at a distance who are advocating it in our waters I should advise them to read, "The Cruise of the Coya," issued in "Blackwood's Magazine" for this month, and which charming little narrative will give them some idea of the extent of Norfolk broads and rivers, and the facilities for fish culture therein.—ANGLER.

Coquet (Northumberland).

The river is still very small and clear, but the sport is very fair considering. Messrs. J. F. Dance, W. Dance and G. W. Gray last week caught from six to ten fish each with worm, all a good class of trout of from 4 to 12 oz. Messrs. J. Bruss and T. Bruss, from Morpeth, on Monday had very good sport on the Brinkburn water. Thunder is heard from a distance, and rain is beginning to fall, which is wanted to improve the fishing.—A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The weather continues dull and cloudy, but sport, on the whole, has been good since I last wrote. Last Friday a nice dish of 10½ brace were taken, and on Saturday another of 9 brace. I also hear of a basket of 8½ brace being secured on Friday, while the general takes on Saturday must have averaged from five to six brace each. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday sport continued about the same. There have been any number of roosters out, but, so far, it cannot be said that the drake season has been a good one. No sooner do the flies come on the water, then they are drowned before having obtained

the proper use of their wings. Rain is drizzling as I write this (Thursday) night; and a good copious downfall, with plenty of clear bright sun afterwards, would be a great boon.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

There has been but very little doing, either with net or rod, in the Exe during the past fortnight, the long protracted drought keeping the water very low, and in some parts more than dirty. We can put up with dirty water, but when it comes down like dye refuse and of a purple colour, that will not do. Such has been the case frequently lately, but, thanks to Pluvius, his occasional refreshing showers, the surplus of which are leaving the high lands and a gentle freshet has taken it all downwards. Every one seems delighted at the change, and anglers are busy and anxious for the memorable 16th, when they will to the Exe streams swiftly hie, and cast the trembling mimic fly; find health and beauty, with joy in ample store; creels full of trout, carp, perch and dace; say, who could wish for more? A few trout have come to bank, many of them turning the scale at 1½ lb. each. And my friend, Mr. T. Kelly, informs me of one weighing 1½ lb., so that, if numbers are not our luck, we get it in weight. Eels are plentiful and fine. I have just preserved one of 2 lb. 5 oz.—it is a common sharpnose eel (*Anguilla acutirostris*) in splendid condition. Salmon seem pretty free of the fungus disease (*Saprolegia Ferax*). Bass, pollack, mullet and shad are coming along slowly, although in many parts they are very plentiful. Very few are seen in the market at present. Next week, I am in hopes of saying something about the fishing club now being formed at Host C. Blake's, the Royal Museum Hotel here. Members are anxious to enrol themselves, and with brain and had in concert find fresh vigour for the jaded mind. "An Angler's Life for Me!"—FRANK GOSDEN.

Ilfracombe.

There have been a few trout caught this week; the fish are rather small, average one dozen per rod per day. Prospects look good for sea-fishing, cod, pollack, whiting pout, bream, &c., are increasing catches, vary from 10 lb. to 40 lb. per boat per tide. We have had no heavy catches of bass this week, say about 50 lb. per boat. Should the weather continue as it is to-day, we shall have some good catches next week.—HENRY COMER.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

We had a very few soft showers this week, which did not raise the river in the least. However, it caused a little stir in the trout, but not much in the salmon way, as we only heard of two fish being killed by Mr. Hutchings, one weighing 16 lb. on Saturday last, and on Monday one of 12 lb. at Dudley's and the Bridge Stream. The cotmen are not fishing at all, owing to the low state of the water. We hear of immense numbers of salmon lying at Kilshulgan Bridge, in a deep pool, likely waiting for a fresh to bring them up the river. On the tidal portion of the river there are a large supply of salmon and peal, so we only require a little flood to see good sport. The trout fishing is very good in the evenings, by either wading or fishing out of boat; the weeds have grown so much that it is very hard to fish from bank or river. Strange to say, we have had a flood for the past five years during the June moon until this year; however, as the glass has fallen we may have some rain to raise the river. The best night flies for present use are orange and silver rails, and for day fishing gold and green spider wings.—DORA.

Swale.

Mr. Barker, of Grinton Lodge, had three afternoons last week. He killed fine dishes of 32, 33 and 40. With one or two exceptions they were all caught with the dotteril drake and oak fly, recently supplied by me. As reported in my last notes, the dotteril flies will now do the chief execution. They should be made very small on No. 1 or 2 hook, with yellow or orange bodies. The evening is the best time for fishing them, provided weather is warm. The iron blue drake is a good fly for cold days, but the green drake is seldom fished on this stream, there being but few natural flies.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Newark).

The general angling season commenced to-day, and everything looks promising as far as can be judged at present. The water is low and clear, and seems to be in fairish condition. Roach are now in very bad condition, and should not be taken yet, bream have scarcely commenced to spawn, and barbel and chub are still upon the shallows, dace are in good condition, and may be taken with the fly or a cad bait, or gentles. Try the shallow runs for them. The shallow water by the side of a nice eddy, or at the tail of a pool, will be the best places to look for dace. Eels and flounders have been biting pretty freely at worms to-day. One very small and youthful angler has just brought home half-a-dozen very nice eels, about a score of flounders, two of the eels very good ones. It is raining very nicely to-night; wind south. May all anglers have a very good season is the wish of THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The drake may now be considered nearly over on these rivers; we have had a great quantity of flies, and both on the Lathkill, Wye and Derwent, and a very fair quantity of good-sized trout have been killed, both with the natural drake—where it is allowed to be used—and with the small Derbyshire green drake. The yellows and blacks have also been out very strong on these rivers during the week. What with thunder-clouds and rain hanging about nearly the whole of the week, only small quantities of fish have been killed with the artificial fly, with the exception of last Monday. There were some fine baskets of good-sized fish, both trout and grayling, killed with the yellow dun and spider flies, several of the fish being over 1 lb. each. The downlooker or oak fly is now out very strong, and some good-sized trout have been killed by dishing with the natural fly, both on the Chatsworth and Darley Dale Club waters. The abundance of flies that are now upon the water make the fish very particular, and they require very careful fishing to ensure even a small dish of fish. A man, to get anything like a dish of fish with the artificial fly, must wade, working as much up stream and across under the opposite bank as possible; early in the morning and late in the evening are the best times. The duns or yellows then come sailing down the water, and the fish generally rise well for about an hour. Sport still continues good on the ponds, both with the green drake and spider flies. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have done very little during the week owing to the river being so very clear and low. I am often asked by gentlemen what is the best fly line that can be used for fly-fishing? I can now recommend one with the greatest of confidence. It is a silk and hair line, with a piece of copper wire running through the line. It is so ingeniously worked into the silk and hair as to be barely perceptible. This line thus unites weight, strength and durability. The fact is, it is a line of the future for

the fly-fisher. It is made and sold by Messrs. J. Peach and Sons, fishing tackle manufacturers, 10, St. Peter Street, Derby, whose lines I have used and tested for the past twenty years, and I find none equal to them. Their prices are most reasonable and their lines first-class ones. Rain is much wanted both by the fisherman and the agriculturist.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There is still very little doing in this district, the weather during the last few days having been heavy and inclined for thunder. There are a few green drakes out on the stream, but it does not kill well on the Yore, although at times I have killed good dishes with it on some of the tributary streams. At present perhaps the little red worm is the most reliable bait; but, until a good flood comes, I do not expect that any one will make very heavy baskets.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

NORTHERN NOTES.

By F. J. H.

THE enthusiastic disciples of Izaak Walton in this quarter, from all I can learn, are anxiously awaiting the great day, the 16th. On which occasion they will no doubt be eager for the fly, and it is easy to imagine that long before this, rods and tackle have been brought forth and laid ready to hand. And doubtless our friends the tackle-makers have had quite a good time of it, for the most careful angler generally finds he must get in a little fresh stock for the coming season.

Before the next issue of the FISHING GAZETTE some hundreds who have cheered themselves during the hurry and bother of business will have shaken the dust of the town from their feet, and again betaken themselves to their favourite haunt on the bank, thankful for a day's outing and their favourite amusement, for—

"Oh, the gallant fisher's life
It is the best of any.
'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,
And 'tis beloved by many."

So sings old Izaak Walton, and doubtless a vast number are ready and willing to sing in the same strain.

Three gentlemen, Messrs. Holbrook, Jackson, and Atkinson, had a rare day on Monday last at Leven Canal, and, in addition to trout, they might have brought home big bags (but for the law) of roach and perch, which were said to be in very fair condition.

There is reason to suppose somebody has been doctoring the water in a little stream that runs near the east end of Hull, for a large number of fish were seen floating dead on the surface, and as they are a fish that usually thrive in this particular stream, it is hard to surmise what natural cause has turned them up.

In the same stream a man on Saturday shot a pike, which was reported to have weighed between six and seven pounds. It is not said what the jack was doing to the man, but Master Jack had been dining very extravagantly when he met his fate.

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

Sixteenth of June how anxiously awaited by the impatient angler. How he longeth for the leafy month of June to test the tackle he has been preparing during the last three months, and how heavily the time has hung upon his hands; but if a reflecting man—as all anglers are supposed to be—he will have the consolation that the time, which no doubt has seemed long to him, has been spent by the fish in increasing and propagating their different species to afford him increased sport during the following season.

Our talk is now of waters, as Wilson says:

"From dancing rill to slow and solemn stream,
Not hurl'd precipitous from steep to steep,
Lingering no more 'mid flower enamelled lands
And blooming thickets, nor by rocky bands
Held, but in radiant progress toward the deep,
Where mightiest rivers into powerless sleep,
Sink, and forget their nature."

The anglers of Sheffield have every reason to expect a very successful season, the Trent and other waters round about us having been free from such disastrous floods as swept them last year. At the present time the Trent is exceptionally low, more so than has been known for some years. The account from the Fossdyke and Witham are also very good, and where, I hope, the Sheffield blades will meet that amount of sport that will recompense them for their patient waiting.

The caterer for our opening match is Mr. Robert Spill, who gives £50 in money, besides minor prizes, to be fished for on Monday, June 20th, at Dogdyke, near Boston. To what an amount of time and expense will the enthusiastic angler go to. A journey of 150 miles to exhibit his skill and patience for a few hours, but let us hope success will reward them for their pains.

The Sheffield Angling Association have issued their programme for their excursions during the season, and expect a very successful season, the number of clubs belonging to the association being greater than ever.

The question of Mr. Wortley's Amended Act has caused some little talk in the town, but I think there is very little chance of its becoming law.

RED SPINNER.

[Yes, we should like an account of the match.—ED.]

SALMON TROUT AT GREAT YARMOUTH.—A good many of these silvery beauties have been caught during the past month, but at present the catch has rather fallen off. Mrs. French had a nice lot in her shop window one morning last week, and she informed me one of the boats had over 6 st., two of these fish weighing nearly 7 lb. each. I hope the catch may come on again, as it is rather a dull time for our fishermen.—ESOX LUCIUS.

CONVICTION FOR POACHING IN THE KENNET.—William Basden, Alfred Basden, Frank Bond and John Mercer have been convicted of netting fish from the Kennet on June 3, and each fined 40s. and costs, or one month's hard labour in default. The capture of this noted gang of fish poachers is due to the efforts of the Reading Angling Association.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—The prompt energy displayed by all classes of anglers throughout the country, and the practical way in which they set to work to petition their representatives in the House of Commons, has ensured, beyond the shadow of doubt, the complete discomfiture of Mr. Stuart Wortley's attempt to give back rod-fishing all the year round. Had the attempt succeeded, the best interests of anglers would have been thrown to the rear for many a long year; its failure has brought those interests to the front, and it is now the imperative duty of all thinking men amongst us, to endeavour to make the most of this opportunity.

The defeat of Mr. Stuart Wortley's Bill has cleared the road of one great danger to angling interests; unfortunately, a greater one looms in the immediate future, I allude to the Salmon and Freshwater Fishery Laws Consolidation Act, 1881. However much we anglers may differ as to my proposed amendments, we shall have no differences of opinion in respect to the necessity of taking active steps to prevent the passing into law of such portions of this act, as the following:—

"SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES.

"(5) The justices of a county at any court of quarter sessions assembled, due notice having been previously given according to the practice of the said sessions, may, by writing under the hand of their chairman, apply to the Secretary of State to form into a fishery district all or any of the rivers lying wholly or partly within such county, &c.

"(10) The justices of any county lying wholly or partly within a fishery district shall, in every year after the passing of this Act, appoint such number of members of the Board of Conservators as is hereinafter provided, &c.

"BYE-LAWS.

"(20) (d) To alter the commencement and termination of the close time for freshwater fish, so that such close time shall not be less than ninety-two days.

"(e) To alter the commencement and termination of the weekly close time, so that such close time shall not exceed forty-eight hours, nor be less than forty-two hours, and that Sunday shall always form part of such weekly close time."

Are we prepared to stand by and see our angling liberties handed over to county justices? If so, good-bye to all Sunday outings for anglers.

I had the pleasure to speak to a meeting of representative anglers, on Monday evening, upon this subject, and they answered this question, as practical men must, by immediately taking in hand the subject of the true amendment of our one little Act of Parliament, which we are not prepared to lose, even to bring about the much needed consolidation of the Salmon Acts.

During the past week, I have had conversation with, or letters from, a number of M.P.'s, and I did not fail to observe that most of them alluded to the fact that there is a large number of gentlemen on either side of the House who would be sure to oppose the taking away of protection once granted, but who would be equally sure to favourably consider any true amendment of the Act. In the course of a conversation with Mr. Mundella, he said, "Ask the anglers to state definitely what amendments are requisite. My Act was only intended to be the thin end."

I fear, sir, that I am laying myself open to the charge of presumption by sending to the GAZETTE in such a rough form my ideas of the amendments which are necessary to make the Act a terror to poachers, and something more than a caution for unfair practices of every description. My excuse is, that now is the time to answer Mr. Mundella, and that possibly what I may write will be of some service to those who, more competent than myself, will have a say before this question is settled.

(1) I would empower any fish protection society to appoint by writing, under the hand of their chairman, a sufficient number of water-bailiffs, who should be authorised to search, seize, summon, &c., &c. Anglers could then, when and where necessary, form a society and appoint bailiffs.

(2) Netting must be abolished in all public waters. In private waters it must be illegal to net without the written permission of the owner, such permission to have been signed and dated within three days, inclusive of the day of netting. The possession of nets on or near any water should subject the nets to seizure, and the owners to penalties.

(3) Any one having in his possession a wire, snare, spear, gaff, or other like instrument, at any time or place under such circumstances as shall satisfy the court before whom he is tried that he intended at the time to catch or kill fish by means thereof, shall be liable, &c.

(4) The period between the first day of February and the thirty-first day of July, both inclusive, should be the close season for pike.

(5) The period between the first day of February and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for perch.

(6) The period between the first day of April and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for all freshwater fish other than pike and perch.

I leave these crude suggestions without a remark in support of them, preferring that they should be first beaten into shape by the criticisms of your readers.

It must have appeared to all who read our Norfolk friend's letters, that they have lost their temper. They profess to be very much put out with me on account of my "lamentable ignorance." "No man, at least no contemplative angler, can live long without discovering that he is lamentably ignorant;" but is it my ignorance that has put them out, or my knowledge of that disagreeable fact?

They don't like to be found out at such practices. They are ashamed, and have lost their tempers, therefore I leave them for that which is more agreeable—their rivers and broads.

Many who, like myself, have had opportunities of visiting the rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk cannot help having been struck with the almost inexhaustible sport which they are capable of affording if dealt with by rods only, and in a sportsmanlike way.

Now these immense fisheries are brought before us in a very peculiar manner. Many long-headed men will read these letters and be set thinking, many true hearts will throb with earnest hope that the day may not be far distant when greater facilities shall be given for the thousands of working-men anglers of this big city to wet a line there at least a few times each year.

What an increasing and ever increasing flow of half-crowns would result; we were enabled to pay a visit to these rivers for that sum.

"The Trent Otter" has somehow muddled up my letter with others, and has proceeded to censure me for opinions which I do not hold. I am surprised that one who generally writes so well and to the purpose, should suppose that his being a working man can—in the present day—make his suggestions less acceptable. I hope he will not misunderstand, or be annoyed at, what I am about to write, as I wish to see him at our conference, armed with his brother anglers' opinions. Should the loss of time and the expenses of the journey be too much for him, the society of which I am a member will gladly pay, as they think he should be present.

Make an effort to come, friend, and assist us; we hope to see representatives from all parts of the country, and we further hope that the result will be the true amendment of the Mundella Act.—I am, &c.,

P. GEEN.

Hill View, Addlestone, Surrey.

SIR,—Would you let the enclosed letter appear? It will show that "The Trent Otter" only represents one side of the feeling in Newark.

P. GEEN.

14, Market Place, Newark, June 9, 1881.

To Mr. P. Geen.

SIR,—Since writing my last letter to you a committee meeting of our society has been held. On that occasion I introduced the subject of Mr. Wortley's Bill now before Parliament, and in addition to my own remarks placed before the meeting the letter written by yourself to the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE. The result of our deliberations, I am sure will be pleasing to you. "It was unanimously passed that a special general meeting be held on Monday next, and that the secretary and treasurer draw up a resolution to be submitted, condemnatory of the proposed repeal of the angling clause of the Freshwater Fishery Act, and asking our borough members to oppose the Bill introduced by Mr. Wortley when brought on for hearing in the House. Upon the return of our senior member, who is from home for a few days, I shall place before him your letter, and ask him to back your application to Mr. Mundella when he meets him in his place in the House of Commons after the Whitsuntide holidays. I hope you will give all publicity to your meetings in London, as I think it will create a strong feeling in the country, especially amongst anglers residing in the neighbourhood of the lower reaches of the Trent, who know of the unsportsmanlike proceedings which were carried on before the present Act came into force.—I am, &c.,

H. WEAVER.

Hon. Treasurer Newark and Muskharn Fishery Association.

SIR,—The letter of "we in Norfolk," who signs himself "A Norfolk Angler," does not answer the assertion of Mr. Geen about fish being exposed at the exhibition full of roe that ought not to have been taken away from the water at all in his opinion, but is, instead, full of abuse of a most silly kind. I don't know if Mr. Geen ever went "fishing on Sundays," but I do not think he deems those who do un-Christian, though for that matter a man has to suit himself, whether he be a Christian, and not any one's opinion.

"We in Norfolk" seems alarmed at the threatened incursion of the London cracks to his idolised waters; but if the kindly and temperately-worded letter of Mr. Palmer is conned, it will be seen that there is room for them as well as those who have hitherto used the waters—room without stint of kindly feeling between the men of Norfolk and London, and honest rivalry without acrimonious bitterness.—I am, &c.,

E. U.

83, Rotherfield Street, N., June 12.

SIR,—The letter in your last issue signed "A Norfolk Angler" scarcely merits reply were it not that its gratuitously insulting tone, if allowed to pass unnoticed, might encourage other communications of a similar character; and I need scarcely say that anonymous temper is quite out of place in the discussion of an angling question.

"A. N. A." commences by complaining of Mr. Geen's—or, as "A. N. A." puts it, "some one signing himself 'P. Geen'"—remark anent the disgraceful exhibition of gravid fish at Norwich. Surely Norwich anglers are sportsmen, and if so it is equally sure that the capture of fish so laden with developed ova cannot but meet with reprobation. As to his retort about the un-Christian-like character of Sunday fishing, it seems to me such a remark is beneath the contempt of every broad-minded man having the true welfare of the artizan, clerk, &c., in "populous city pent" during six days—wherein every hour "sweats her sixty minutes to the death"—at heart. How often is the beneficence of an intimate contact with Nature to be preached? A healthy mind occupies only a healthy body; and is it not better in such cases as I mention for the tired brain and body to seek recuperation and true refreshment in a temple not made with hands, amid the unending remembrances of the Great Omnipotent Cause, than to coop oneself anew in stifling edifices, listening, oftentimes, to questionable sincerity and sophistical pharisaism?

Of course all this is somewhat aside from the question; but that is the fault of "A. N. A." not mine. He goes on to "daresay" that London clubs would find different fishing in Norfolk than they have been accustomed to, and further on he tells Mr. Geen, and "a some one who signs himself 'J. H. Keene,'" that they know nothing of Norfolk fishing. Possibly not; but if fishing be a fine art, judging from some samples of tackle shown at Norwich, it is not known as such in Norfolk. If "A. N. A." came up to our streams—where there is perhaps one fish for every hundred in Norfolk—I think the "some ones" he so impertinently refers to could teach him a wrinkle or two not dreamt of in the philosophy of those who justify snaring pike, and boast of manuring land with the fish of their waters. Because a man has a thousand pounds income sterling per day, is that any reason why it should be squandered? Because the Norfolk broads and rivers yield millions of fish, is that a reason why they should be wasted? And they are wasted if taken as the specimens at the Norwich Exhibition were.

"Then," says A. N. A., with remarkable attention to poor murdered Lindley Murray, "If I was Mr. Geen, and wanted something to do, I should advise him to turn his attention to the codfish," *et seq.* What in the world has this to do with the Mundella Act? *Ne sutor ultra crepidam.* Let Mr. Geen, as I know he will, stick to the subject of which he knows so much. He does not desire to interfere with the Norfolk men. If they choose to snare pike and net fish, so far as the immediate subject in hand is concerned, it is nothing either to him or to me. Their resources will bear it probably, and if pot-hunting is preferable in such case to them, so be it. But the Sheffield and London anglers are not so favoured with fish, and a period of rest seems to me,

therefore, absolutely necessary where streams are, from whatsoever cause, not so productive as they should be.

The whole question lies in a nutshell. Certain streams are over-fished. Can any one deny this of the Thames, Lea, &c.? By over-fished I of course mean that the sport of to-day, owing to the increased number of rods, the disturbing influences of navigation and floods, is less per man than formerly. We don't want this deterioration to increase, no matter how large becomes the angling community—hence a period of three months' rest, which has been as nearly as possible fixed for that time when the fish are spawning. Why, it may be asked, is this period fixed for the time when fish are spawning or thereabouts? The answer simply is, because at such time the fish are less game and unfit for food, and facilities are allowed for the deposit and impregnation of eggs.

Again I, therefore, repeat what I have so often said—let the Mundella Act remain, in its essence, allowing such alterations only as are necessary to the complete protection of the spawning time of fish.—I am, &c.,

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

SIR,—The idiosyncrasies of the human family of anglers are so new and extraordinary, especially amongst that peculiar element called "the people," for whom all sorts of fads and fancies have been promulgated both by law and the prophets for their peculiar delectation; but the Lord knows they are a troublesome people and their ways are very perverse and untowardlike.

Now, a short time ago meetings were held all over the country, and opinions taken as the best close time for our freshwater fisheries, and although the time agreed upon did not go to the extent many would have liked, yet the majority seemed well pleased with March 15 to June 15. If my valuable opinion had been taken I should have said from February 1st to July 1st, for you know Mr. Editor—that is if you are an angler—that pike should not be taken after the 1st February, because their matrimonial engagements at that time employ so much of their attention, and I call a "fellow" a coward who takes advantage of them when not thoroughly wide awake; indeed, I have always expected, and very often caught a second pike from the same spot after landing my first, when fishing in the month of January; and I believe, as a rule, they pair in that month.

I have also noticed the female fish to be the first fool, and the jack comes tumbling after, as much as to say that death shall not part us; like silly Adam, after Eve took the bait dangled to her by the "serpent."

I should think all pike fishermen have noticed this freak of nature. It must then, be a pity, and very cruel, to rob a poor fish of its mate; and, by the bye, may not this be the cause of some anglers having such poor sport, for I have heard them say they could see pike lying, and have dropped or drawn a bait right in front of their nose without any effect. Serve the fishermen right. No doubt these were disconsolate lovers who had lost their mates by previous unsportsmanlike fishermen who take advantage of them (in February and March) when not in condition, and consequently now won't look at their bait.

I am also quite certain that roach and most other white fish are not fit for food before July 1st, some of them not being thoroughly scoured by that time, and if the Bill is altered at all give the fish six months' close time.

Some people say, not many, why should I be deprived of a day's angling? but who are these people? not legitimate sportsmen. I know lots of them, and their day's angling is often an excuse for going out and getting swikey. Why fishing might go to the dogs, and fish to the cats if they (the fishermen) were obliged to go without beer and baccy. I don't say a glass or two of beer when you are thirsty or a pipe of tobacco, goes against the grain of any angler as a rule, for I know to the contrary; and this I know, that many fellows go fishing, and return with empty baskets, and a "barrel" full of beer and "woskey." The great objection to doing away with the close season is, that by so doing you open the market for the sale of fish; and who can tell, when on a fishmonger's slab, or in a poacher's basket, whether they were caught by the line or net. While fresh water fish are saleable you will never keep out the nets or do away with poaching, and all legitimate sportsman would like to see the close time extended at both ends.—I am, &c.,

LEICESTER.

THE MUNDELLA ACT AND THE SHEFFIELD CLUBS.

SIR,—The didactic letter of Mr. P. Geen has drawn upon him a very fair quantity of well-deserved abuse. The Mundella Act of 1878 has never been popular in this part of the country. The reasons are numerous. One is that it debars our anglers from enjoying their favourite pastime during the holidays of Easter and Whitsuntide; another is that it includes eels and flounders; but the greatest of all is that it is clearly an Act for the rich but not for the poor.

I enclose you an extract from the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of Friday last, whereby you will see that Mr. Wortley's amendment is receiving almost universal support in Sheffield.—I am, &c.,

J. E. H.

Kiveton Park, June 14, 1881.

[We print the report elsewhere.]

SIR,—In your valuable paper of the 11th inst, I read a letter from a gentleman in the vicinity of Norwich, who signs himself "A Norfolk Angler," it professes to be a sort of reply to the able letter of our friend, Mr. P. Geen, and at the same time an attempt to give the "Cockney Anglers" of Christian England a moral lesson. I do not wish to waste time in discussing with the Christian Angler the worn-out Sunday question. Having had the pleasure of fishing many times in some of the broads and rivers of Norfolk, I must say the brag as to the enormous quantity of fish might well have been omitted. This Norfolk angler seems to think it no pity to take fish in the close season. I am sure no true sportsman, Cockney, Christian or otherwise, like to see this practice. It is true that some anglers never eat their fish, but at the same time love to see a nice clean bright fish brought to grass and not a poor miserable object bursting with spawn. Mr. Geen does not appear in the least to wish to teach the people of Norwich when to fish, it is true that he expressed surprise, like hundreds of others, at fish being stuck in a Piscatorial Exhibition in such a pitiable condition. It has been my good fortune to have fished in the same boat with Norwich anglers, who, I am proud to say, I have found jolly fellows and enthusiastic sportsmen, some of whom, I am certain, do not fish in close time. Allow me to tell the Londoner that the fishing in Norfolk is not so free as our Christian brother would have us to believe. For example, take Wroxham Broad, where numbers of Norwich anglers fish. If other waters were so prolific would they go there, where every boat of anglers has to pay half a crown a day, and no Sunday fishing? Do you call this free, friends?

What do you think? I merely draw attention to this, as I know many Cockney Sunday anglers will be down that way, and I should not like to see the anglers' friend, Chamberlain, disturbed or annoyed on the Sabbath. They

can fish as much as they like in the river, and doubtless will get hold of many a "rum'un" while Mr. Geen's antagonist is in church. Let us hope he will put his threepenny bit in the plate with the same good will as they will pay their subscription to the Bure Protection Society.

I have certainly had some splendid takes of bream in Norfolk, but I must say that, taking the year round, the angler will generally do better if he goes in the direction of Littleport, Cambridgeshire; the waters there are looked after by a society of genuine anglers; they have proper fence months, and, in consequence, there is an abundance of all kinds of fish, and they never complain of excessive stock.

Our Christian friend seems to believe that Norfolk could supply the world, if necessary, with fish, and that they can afford to kill their fish all the year round. He reminds me of a brewer I once knew, who, as an excuse for getting drunk every day, said, "It costs me nothing—I never miss it." You wait, my friends, in Norfolk will be blessed with fence months yet; it is not long since they considered netting, and certainly "liggering" a fair practice. There are already, though you may doubt it, some sensible anglers in Norwich. We must excuse "A Norfolk Angler's" ignorance of London club affairs. We in London fully appreciate the great services Mr. Geen has so many times rendered the Cockney anglers, and as long as there is an angling club in London, I am sure his name, and the benefits conferred by fence months, will never be forgotten.—I am, &c.,
H. A. HAKETONIAN.

ANGLERS' CONFERENCE AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS, JOHN STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C.

EAST AND WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

DEAR SIR,—We are instructed to inform you that it was decided at a joint meeting of the above associations to invite representatives from the whole of the angling and preservation societies of England for the purpose of conferring together and deciding upon the necessary amendments to the Mundella Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878.

The Council of the Society of Arts have kindly lent us the use of their large room for Monday, June 27, for the purpose.

The following have been suggested as necessary amendments, and will come before the meeting for consideration:—

1st.—To empower any fish protection society to appoint by writing, under the hand of their chairman, a sufficient number of water bailiffs, who would be authorised to search, seize, summon, &c., &c.

2nd.—Netting must be abolished in all public waters. In private waters it must be illegal to net without the written permission of the owner, such permission to have been signed and dated within three days, inclusive of the day of netting. The possession of nets on or near any water should subject the nets to seizure, and the owners to penalties.

3rd.—Any one having in his possession a wire, spear, gaff, or other like instrument, at any time or place, under such circumstances as shall satisfy the court before whom he is tried that he intended at the time to catch or kill fish by means thereof, shall be liable, &c.

4th.—The period between the 1st day of February and the 31st day of July, both inclusive, shall be the close season for pike.

5th.—The period between the 1st day of February and the 30th day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for perch.

6th.—The period between the 1st day of April and the 30th day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for all freshwater fish, other than pike and perch.

We would wish it to be understood that the associations have not as yet had the opportunity of expressing any opinion upon these suggested amendments, but they will be prepared to do so through their representatives at the conference.

We have also to inform you that the representatives will be asked to express their opinion in reference to some of the clauses of a bill introduced into the House of Commons by Sir Joseph Bailey, Mr. Dillwyn, and others, which would, if passed, curtail the liberties at present enjoyed by the angling public. The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. GHURNEY, 10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.
T. HOOLE, 7, King's Road, Mortlake, W.C.

June 16, 1881.

MR. GEEN AND THE PROPOSED ALTERATION IN THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow space in your next issue to answer some of your numerous correspondents on the above subject?

All true anglers throughout England will agree that this is a most important question, and that the best people to deal with it are the old and experienced men who have mixed most with anglers, and who have made angling a life-long study. Amongst these we class Mr. P. Geen; he is one of the oldest, best, and most painstaking anglers that England can boast. When I inform your correspondents that he is the Honorary President of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, member of the Thames Preservation Society, treasurer of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, president of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, and honorary member of a dozen different angling societies, it should convince them that we are looking to the right man to defend our cause.

E. Bicknell shows his want of piscatorial knowledge when he asserts that fish are in fine condition when full of spawn. They are repulsive to the sportsman's eye, but "Jews' eyes" to the pot hunters, because they weigh heavier.

The "Trent Otter" evidently desires to make Mr. Geen's name obnoxious to the anglers, but let me tell him that Mr. G. is supported in his opinion by over 20,000 anglers, men who know that he has worked for years to improve the sport that we all love so well, and who has spent, and is still spending his money towards improving the prospects of his poorer brethren of the rod. I think I am correct when I state that he has never spent one penny upon trout culture. He works for the working man, and would sooner go ten miles to serve a poor bank angler than half-a-mile for the man who can afford a punt, although he is a friend to all. I, who have fished with him for many years, and know his almost every thought, know how much the "Trent Otter's" remarks will affect him; they will be like water upon a duck's back. But I cannot pass them by without telling the "Trent Otter" that although he may have studied the question of fish and fishing he has a lot to learn, and, amongst other things, that it is as well to know at whom you are throwing mud, as one may regret hitting a friend instead of a foe. The least the "Trent Otter" can do is to send an apology to the best friend the poor angler ever had, for the gross insinuation that Mr. Geen should represent the majority of anglers is dishonest.

Any one reading Mr. Geen's letter could not so misconstrue it to mean anything of the sort.

In reference to the persons signing themselves "A Norfolk Angler" and "Censure" I would merely remark that their letters are too full of misstatement and spleen to be worth any comment.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Alfred Palmer for his very gentlemanlike letter, although we Londoners do not consider that fish when full of spawn are at all presentable or nice to the eye; still we can and do appreciate a gentleman when he is prepared to discuss these important questions in a friendly spirit.

In conclusion I wish to state that we shall shortly hold a mass meeting to fully discuss the question of "fence months," when we hope the matter will be well ventilated, and that by and by we may get the proper fence time as near right as possible. We are all satisfied that what we have is not quite correct, but it is better than none at all.—I am, &c.,

T. HOOLE, hon sec. W.C.A.L. and P.A.S.

THE FISH AT THE NORWICH EXHIBITION.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Alfred Palmer, in your issue of the 11th inst., accuses Mr. Geen of "lamentable ignorance" of the size of the fish shown by his society at the National Fisheries Exhibition. In company with several anglers, I was present when Mr. Geen was examining the trough, and he is quite correct in stating that the roach shown were scarcely 4 inches in length. In fact, one was taken away as a sample that size. I saw no bream weighing 2 lb. in weight. If they were there, they were at the bottom of the trough with the four-pounders. The general opinion of London anglers who saw the fish was, that we were spared the exhibition of such a seething mass of foul fish in our club-rooms by the beneficial operation of the Mundella Act. I trust that your correspondent will feel convinced that there has been no misstatement on the part of Mr. Geen, and that he will have to make some stronger assertion to prove the "integrity of, from a sportsman's point of view, the honour of East Anglian Pisciculturists."—I am, &c.,
FRED. C. CLENCH.

Mortlake, June 13, 1881.

FISHING NEAR BOURNEMOUTH.

SIR,—Can any reader of your excellent paper inform me whether there is any fishing for coarse fish to be had at Bournemouth or near to? Also as to where I can obtain Warner's registered seat fishing basket in London.—I am, &c.

40, Victoria Road, Holloway, N, June 13.

E. CLEAVER.

[There is splendid roach fishing in the Avon at Christchurch, near Bournemouth. Write to Mr. Warner, and he will tell you where his capital basket can be had in London.—ED.]

STINKING GLADWIN.

SIR,—I have noticed in the correspondence columns of the GAZETTE several letters from anglers who, like myself, have purchased samples of what is advertised as "Stinking Gladwin," and, I presume, like myself, also have been deceived thereby.

The name certainly does not sound particularly odoriferous; but the composition is anything but insulting to the olfactory nerves, and appears to me to be nothing but bread paste with a few drops of oil of rhodium kneaded into it.

I purchased mine the day before an intended outing for roach-fishing, but when I looked at it before starting out, found it covered with a thick green mould, far more offending than enticing to my beloved roach.

What oil of rhodium was, and what it is, might be likened to butter and butterine, the true being a product of the genus *rhodorriza*, natives of the Canary Islands, while the fictitious is a mere mixture of aromatic oils, compounded to suit the pocket of the purchaser.

Be it what it may, I have no faith in it, nor any scented bait whatever. Only let the roach fisherman be provided with a clean sweet piece of paste, white as snow, and, granted he knows how, he will average a greater weight of fish than with any other bait.—I am, &c.,
R.E.X.

London, June 11, 1881.

[Smokers—and where is there an angler who does not?—should keep all smell of tobacco from their baits.—ED.]

THE LUMINOUS FLOAT.

SIR,—I left a specimen of my Luminous Float at your office this morning. It is very useful for the hour that is allowed after sunset. The line passes under the rubber collar, which obviates the necessity of using the ordinary caps. Messrs. Allcock and Co. are the sole makers. The most effective way is to light about an inch of magnesium wire just before the float is wanted. Nearly every member of our Society has one, and speak favourably of it. The float can be had of Miss Williams and Messrs. Gee, and other houses.

We have a meeting of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society on Tuesday. A presentation is to be made to the chairman. I will send you a full report same night.—I am, &c.,
GEO. ARCHER.

June 6th.

THE FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—I come to you as a beggar, very hard up, yet very deserving indeed—on behalf of a very old and infirm individual well worthy of the support of all true men and anglers—I mean the Fisheries Preservation Association. This poor creature turned out its pockets on the 1st of May, and found its balance at the bankers, Sir Samuel Scott, Bart. and Co., 1, Cavendish Square, W., to be—What do you think? £—9s. 2d.!!!

Is this as it should be? I trow not. The anglers must support this association. There are many questions on which this Association is ready and willing to move, but move it cannot, without more support. Some time ago I asked the angling societies to help us, but with few and small results. Now I come to the FISHING GAZETTE, the great "organ" of angling societies and anglers, and I do trust that organ will do its utmost to give its support and encouragement to the Fisheries Preservation Association. I believe, in fact I know, that every pound that it receives (very few they are; last year under £95), is well accounted for and spent to best advantage.

If this society were well supported by the great body of anglers, I feel convinced that they themselves would receive a large return for any outlay. Recently we have heard much about "Annexation of the Thames,"—this society was very anxious to exert itself on the subject, but it was paralysed by want of funds.

Now there is a cry for permission to spear salmon and take samlets, which I am sure this Association is perfectly right in opposing to the death.

On the subject of pollution of rivers, again, it is also quite ready, willing, and very anxious to see a change in the laws; but to get a change of law, even if the Houses of Parliament be idle, which they are not, there is needed the sinews of war, and with nine shillings and twopence to its credit, this Association is perfectly powerless to effect any permanent good in any direction. Now what can the Angling Clubs and Societies do for us? Will they set aside for us what they would otherwise spend in one of their "peg-down" matches for gross weight of fish? If so, I am sure that they will do both themselves and the Association a benefit. If every angler in the United Kingdom would but give, through the Central Associations or otherwise, the small sum of 1d. a year, or still better, 2½d., the cost of a foreign postal stamp, we should be able, I am sure, to give a good account of every farthing received. Knowing that your space is much occupied just now, I will merely add that I heartily commend the cause of the Fisheries Preservation Association to the anglers of the United Kingdom, and all readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, in the hope that its past services (no small ones) may be remembered, and that its worthy president, treasurer and officers may receive the support that they so richly deserve. The treasurer, Dr. Peter Hood, 23, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, W., will gladly receive and acknowledge donations, subscriptions, &c., as also will the bankers, Sir Samuel Scott and Co., 1, Cavendish Square, W.

Hoping for some result from this appeal, I am, &c., CHARLES C. CAPEL.
Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent.

June 14th, 1881.

FISHING NEAR LINCOLN.

SIR,—It is my intention to spend a short holiday in the early part of July in Lincolnshire. Being an angler, and fond of the sport, I should be exceedingly glad if you, or any of your numerous readers, through the medium of your columns, would give me some information on the following points:—

- (1) Where are the best free-water fishing spots to be found within a radius of 20 miles of the City of Lincoln?
- (2) What kind of fish most commonly prevail in the said radius?
- (3) What kinds of bait are generally found to be the most successful?—I am, &c.,

W. MOORE.

Bolton, 15th June, 1881.

[See article on Angling Prospects in the Provinces in this week's paper.—ED.]

A SPLENDID CARP.

SIR,—We have a handsome carp taken in the Thames at Maidenhead last season (13 lb.), which can be seen at our establishment for a few days. We also wish to inform you that we keep the luminous floats, as we see a correspondent wishes to know where they are to be had. We are pleased to inform you that Hine's spring plummet, with your improvement, is now ready.—We are yours, &c.,

F. T. WILLIAMS AND CO.

10, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

FISHING AT DAWLISH.

SIR,—Will some one be so kind as to inform me, through your columns, whether there is any fishing to be got at Dawlish, near Teignmouth, South Devon, and, if so, of what kind, &c. By so doing he will greatly oblige

BLUE DUN.

June 15th, 1881.

[There is good sea-fishing, and there are some good trout streams in the neighbourhood—mostly preserved, we think—but Blue Dun will easily get some fishing.—ED.]

FLIES FOR DACE.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you can inform me if it would be worth going twelve miles to roach fish at Stanstead, Essex? Also, can you tell me the best fly for dace fishing?—I am, &c.,

H. S.

[Any small trout-fly will take dace. We have found a blue dun with a bit of silver tinsel added to the body a good killer. Perhaps Dr. Brunton will let us have his opinion. We don't know Stanstead.—ED.]

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—In your last issue I am made to say, I should like the fence months to commence 1st of March and end 3rd of May; it should be 31st of May.—I am, &c.,

THAMES.

Mr. Mundella having been asked to assist Mr. Wortley in passing the Freshwater Fisheries Amendment Bill, writes in reply:—"My only object in passing the Act was to increase the supply of food, and multiply the several species of freshwater fish which were fast becoming extinct, and to afford better sport to the anglers of United Kingdom. I am receiving testimony on all hands that the measure has been remarkably successful in all these respects. I know that the Act is capable of amendment. But it appears to me that the amendment required is rather in the direction of further restriction than of relaxation. The taking of fish in the close season, when they are full of spawn and easily secured, seems to me both unsportsmanlike and unnatural. Under these circumstances you can hardly expect me, in opposition to the almost universal opinion of fishermen and to my convictions, to support Mr. Wortley's measure."

TIRED HANDS AND ARMS.—Edson's Electric Armlets and Wrist Bands Invaluable for anglers and gun sportsmen and highly recommended for all persons having tiresome writing, sewing, or music practice. They give wonderful energy and strength, enabling the wearer to accomplish tedious work with steadiness and comfort. Price 2s. 6d. per pair, silk web and fine steel clasps. Sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O., payable to J. Edson, the Electric Fabric Co. Patentees, No. 1, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London, W.C.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

CLUB REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of the members of this society was held on Monday evening, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, Mr. Oliver Pemberton, J.P., president, in the chair.—The report, which was read by Mr. J. Gregory, the honorary secretary, congratulated the society on the steady progress it had made, and on its present satisfactory financial position. After meeting all expenses, there remained a balance in hand of about £40. Among the recommendations suggested by the committee were the erection of two huts for the use of members—one on the banks of the Trent, and the other on the Tame; the purchase of another fishing-punt, the offer of prizes for the heaviest fish caught by members during the season, and the fixing in perpetuity of the annual dinner for the 9th of August, the anniversary of the birth of Isaac Walton. The report spoke of the past year as having been a very disappointing one for anglers, by reason of the frequent floods in the autumn and the severe frosts in the winter; yet, notwithstanding these drawbacks, members had made good average baskets.—The Secretary reported that there were a few vacancies, caused by the resignation or death of members, application for which should be made immediately.—The president being compelled to leave after the approval of the report, the chair was taken by Mr. Adams Parker, the vice-president, and the remainder of the business was got through.—Several minor alterations were made in the rules, the only one of importance being that requiring members to give one month's notice prior to the annual meeting of their intention to cease membership.—The suggestions contained in the report were discussed, and approved, auditors were appointed, and hon. treasurer, (Mr. John Allday) and the other honorary officers were thanked for their services, and the proceedings terminated, after a very protracted meeting.—The reports received from the society's river keeper (Charles Draper) as to the past spawning season during the close months, and the quantity of fish in the society's water, were highly satisfactory.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first match of the season in connection with the above society took place at Acle on Thursday, May 26. The day was gloriously fine. The members assembled at the club-house, the Great Eastern, St. Stephen's Gate, at 6.30 a.m. sharp, and after a splendid drive of about twelve miles arrived at their destination at nine o'clock. Every arrangement having previously been made by the indefatigable and obliging secretary, Mr. Alfred Palmer, with regard to staking out places, &c., the members soon commenced operations, and were fairly into work by ten o'clock. Fishing lasted till five o'clock, when the signal was given to "make up." The sport on the whole was not so good as might have been expected, but the fineness of the weather and the charming scenery made up for the deficiency. The weighing-in which took place in the pretty orchard adjoining the house caused much interest, not only to the members, but also to the many visitors who had assembled to witness the contest. List of prize winners:—First prize: Silver teapot, presented by the President, John Boyce, Esq., won by Mr. Robert Palmer. Second: Silver jug, presented by C. Louis Buxton, Esq., won by Mr. Geo. Cubitt. Third: McKenzie's illustrated work on "Freshwater Fish," presented by Mr. Tom Saul, won by Mr. H. Roberts. Fourth: Case of Imperial ale, presented by C. Barnes, Esq., vice-president, won by Mr. Geo. Webb, of the Norwich Photographic Company. Fifth: Handsome smoking lounge, presented by Mr. Geo. Cubitt, won by Mr. Geo. Hart, of the Thorpe Old Gardens. Sixth: Pair of fishing-boots, presented by Mr. H. Roberts, won by Mr. W. Hinsbey. Seventh: Enlarged photograph, presented by the Norwich Photographic Company, won by that old veteran angler, Mr. Walter Vont. Eighth: Pair of silver dolphins, presented by "Professor" Fowler, won by Mr. Tom Saul. Ninth: Fishing rod, presented by an old friend, Mr. G. Harvey, won by Mr. W. Hicks. Tenth: Handsome case of scent, presented by Spratt's Patent, won by Mr. James Cupper. Eleventh: Nottingham rod, presented by Mr. Walter Capon, fishing tackle manufacturer, won by Mr. Ben Hook. Twelfth: A creel, presented by Mr. Roe, won by Mr. Fred. Lacey. Thirteenth: Fishing rod, presented by Mr. Howard, won by Mr. A. Woodcock. Fourteenth: One dozen bottles of mushroom ketchup, presented by Messrs. Woodcock, won by Professor Fowler. Fifteenth: Handsome pipe and case, presented by W. Miles, Esq., of the Bowdley Waltonians, won by Mr. S. Horell. Sixteenth: Two dozen bottles of Caley's Inadore, presented by Mr. Butler, won by Mr. Robert Bradley. Seventeenth: Bait kettle, presented by Mr. Wead, won by Leo Lamb. Eighteenth: Landing net, presented by Mr. McKenzie, won by Mr. Leo Wright. Special prizes.—For the heaviest bream: Prize given by Edward Birkbeck, Esq. M.P., won by Mr. Geo. Cubitt. For the three heaviest roach: Prize given by a gentleman in London, won by Mr. Tom Saul. The weighing-in finished, the members were then photographed by Mr. Geo. Webb, of the Norwich Photographic Company. This over they adjourned to the house, where Host Rose had provided for the members a bountiful and substantial dinner. A number of toasts were given after dinner, including the "Health of the President, John Boyce, Esq.," the "Vice-President, Charles Barnes, Esq.," the "Donors of Prizes," to which was coupled the names of Edward Birkbeck, Esq. M.P., and C. Louis Buxton, Esq., &c.; "The Committee," "The Secretary," "The Host and Hostess," whose catering elicited great commendation; and, lastly, "Success to the East Anglian Piscatorial Society," which brought this pleasant part of the business to an end. The start was then announced, and a ringing cheer was sent up by the visitors and members as the bus left the village. A pleasant drive home, interspersed by songs and a short halt at the Blofield Globe, finished this most successful of outings. The entire catch of the competitors (twenty-five) weighed 7 st. 5 lb., and the highest prize was won by 12 lb. 5 oz. of fish. The fish, with about five or six exceptions, were all bream. The distribution of prizes took place on Monday evening following the match, when Mr. Vice-president Barnes took the chair in the unavoidable absence of the president, the vice being ably filled by Mr. Robert Bradley, in the absence of M. C. S. Fowler. In the course of subsequent toasting the chairman gave "The Donors of Prizes," and took the opportunity of remarking that the club, although only one year old, was now the most flourishing club in the whole city, as was evidenced by the numerous valuable prizes he had just had the honour of distributing, and which were all contributed by gentlemen who had the interest of the club at heart. Mr. Barnes also alluded to the labours of the hon. sec., Mr. Alfred Palmer, to whom, in great measure, was due the success of this and previous matches. Some capital singing added to the pleasure of the evening, which was brought to an appropriate close with the toast of "The Ladies," for whom Mr. Arthur Woodcock returned thanks in his usual chivalrous manner.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening, June 8th, the members of this society held their usual fortnightly meeting. There was a fair attendance, and in the absence of the president, Mr. F. J. Hamlyn occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read by the secretary, Mr. Hague, they were put to the meeting and confirmed. Mr. Willett proposed, "That the society do not fish more than six hours at any match." Mr. Cheeseman moved as an amendment, "That the time to be occupied in fishing be arranged on the ground by the members at that time present." The proposal and amendment were then put to the meeting, when the amendment was declared carried. A long and important discussion took place in respect to the close time, and how it affected angling in the North; the members evinced considerable interest in this important matter, and it was resolved that the feelings of the whole of the anglers in this part should, if possible, be obtained, so that united action might be made in view of bringing about an alteration. The chairman having called attention to the FISHING GAZETTE as a paper in which much information on this matter could be obtained, trusted the members present would endeavour to support a paper which was strictly devoted to their interests. After some discussion on matters connected with the forthcoming match, the proceedings terminated.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—In the report of the above society, as it appeared in your issue of last Saturday, the value of the prizes already arranged for competition is put (by a printer's error) at nineteen guineas, whereas it should be ninety guineas. Trusting you will kindly make this correction in your next issue, I am, &c.
June 13, 1881.

F. H. CROUTEL.

NEWARK AND MUSKHAM FISHERY ASSOCIATION.

We have noticed of late there has been great activity amongst piscatorials, at first we thought that preparations were being made for the fishing season, which commenced on Thursday, but we find that a Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Stuart Wortley and Mr. Dodd to repeal the angling clause of the Freshwater Fisheries Act. This Act was passed by special request of anglers for the purpose of establishing a close season, because they felt that the protection of the fish during the time of spawning was an absolute necessity. And since no person is allowed to have fish in his possession during this time, the poacher's occupation is gone. It is therefore only natural that great indignation should be expressed throughout the country at any attempt to do away with the close season. The Freshwater Fisheries Act, as Mr. Mundella says in a letter, was passed as a tentative measure and might be amended in the way of further restrictions, not relaxation, with beneficial effect. Mr. Wortley's Bill stands condemned by angling associations generally, and, with the opposition it met with in the House, has not a ghost of a chance of becoming law. The members of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association held a special meeting on Monday evening, to consider Mr. Wortley's Bill. Mr. Glover, the president, was in the chair, and after calling upon Mr. Neal, the hon. sec., to read the circular convening the meeting, made a few pointed remarks upon the beneficial effects of the Anglers' Act. Mr. Weaver, the hon. treasurer, proposed, and Mr. Neal seconded, the first resolution:—"That the members of this Association view with much concern the introduction of a Bill into the House of Commons by Mr. Wortley and Mr. Dodd to repeal the angling clause of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, and, believing in the necessity for a close time, condemn the principle of the Bill, and pledge themselves to use every legitimate means to prevent it becoming law." Both gentlemen made some well-timed remarks, and Mr. Neal read the following letter received from a Nottingham member as embodying the opinion of anglers generally:—"Nottingham. Dear Sir,—I exceedingly regret that I shall not be able to be present with you on Monday evening, to enter my protest against the proposed amendment of the Freshwater Fisheries Act. Anything more un-English and unsportsmanlike I have never met with. I shall, however, be obliged to be at the Foreign Office on Tuesday, which will prevent my being present, or I should certainly have liked to tell my brother anglers what I imagine to be the origin of such an abominable attempt.—Yours very truly, J. T. M.—Mr. Neal." Mr. Alcock proposed, Mr. Curtis seconded, the second resolution:—"That a copy of the resolution just passed be forwarded to the borough members in the name of the association, with a letter soliciting their influence against the passing of the Bill." Both resolutions were carried unanimously. The special business of the meeting being closed, the members carried on a desultory conversation on the prospects of the coming season. The look-out is very favourable at present, and we hope anglers will have better sport than has fallen to their lot the last year or two. Any gentleman wishing to join the Newark and Muskham Association will greatly oblige by applying to Mr. J. NEAL, hon. sec.

June 16.

THE ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society, fish for a number of prizes next Sunday, any water. A general meeting will be held on Monday next, at nine o'clock, precisely. Owing to the secretary of the Central Association not coming to time with privilege tickets, they have been compelled to enrol themselves on the United London Anglers' Central Committee.

June 16, 1881.

THOS. WM. LUCY.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

The members of this society will commence the season on the 19th, by a trip to Weybridge, where they will compete for a handsome prize given by Mr. Steadhall. There is a vacancy for a few more members in this society. Gentlemen living in the neighbourhood and wishing to join should apply at once to the secretary, Mr. W. Matthews, The Prince Albert, East Surrey Grove, Peckham.—PIXIE.

June 13, 1881.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual return visit to this society will take place on Tuesday next, the 21st inst. The reason of this late date is owing to not having had a notice from another angling society.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING CLUB.

The annual supper of the above old-established society took place on Wednesday evening, the 15th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. A large

number of the members assembled to partake of the good things which were provided for them, and served up in first-rate style by the worthy proprietor, Mr. Clemow. The chair was taken by Mr. Buck, one of the oldest members, who was faced by Mr. Field. After grace was said, the members did justice to the good things provided for them. On the cloth being cleared, the first toast was the "Queen and the Royal Family," given by the chairman, followed by the vice, with "Success to the Eastern and Western Associations of London Anglers." The Chairman then gave "The South London Angling Society;" the vice "The Health of Mr. Morris, the Treasurer;" which was drank in bumpers and with musical honours. The distribution of prizes then commenced, and an equally large and valuable number put on the list for the coming season; so there will be no lack of prizes for the members. With a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, a very pleasant evening ended. There were some capital songs by Messrs. Buck, Morris, Dickson, and Head. Over six hundred-weight of fish was weighed in by the members during the past season.—G. H. FIELD, pro T. PALMER, secretary.

June 16.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

A competition took place on the 16th, for a pair of £1 1s. boots, given by Mr. Boalch; conditions: go where you like. On the 19th, a 4-horse omnibus will leave Bright's Coffee House, near the "gate," in the Walworth Road, at six o'clock sharp, and convey the members to Staines, where they will compete for £2 2s., given by Mr. Sutcliffe; £1 1s., by Mrs. Coleman; 10s. 6d., by Mr. Gold; and a box of sweets, by Mr. Moore. Limit of distance: from Staines to Egham Lock.—PIXIE.

June 17.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

PRESENTATION TO MR. GEORGE EVANS, CHAIRMAN.

On Tuesday, 14th inst., there was a large muster of members and friends at the club house, the Pelican, All Saints Road, to assist at the presentation of a handsome watch and address to the chairman. The members have had some capital sport among the trout, one weighing 3 lb. 9 oz., was shown on Saturday evening. The opening match will be fished on Sunday, 19th inst., when several substantial money prizes will be contended for. The ordinary business being satisfactorily concluded, Mr. George Archer was elected chairman, and Mr. Fogarty vice-chairman. After a short interval the chairman rose and said—Gentlemen, having been requested by your committee to accept the honourable position of chairman this evening, I must ask you not to expect too much of me. You are well aware we have for some time past been desirous of showing our appreciation of the valuable and gratuitous services rendered to the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society by our respected chairman Mr. George Evans, whose untiring energy and business ability has been the means of placing the society in the position it now is. It was the wish of Mr. Evans that the present should be inexpensive, and the subscription was accordingly limited to a very small amount. We have therefore purchased a handsome watch which has an inscription in the inner case to the following effect:—"Presented to Mr. Geo. Evans as a token of respect by the members of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society. June 14th, 1881." We also thought an address neatly framed would prove an acceptable gift. It is worded as follows:—"Mr. Geo. Evans, in asking you to accept the accompanying present, we, the members of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society, desire to express our thanks for the able and efficient manner in which you have fulfilled the onerous duty of chairman. We can assure you that any further services you may feel inclined to render the society will be appreciated, and may you long be spared to lend us your valuable aid. Dated this 14th day of June, 1881." Now, gentlemen, this is the only manner in which we can but poorly repay our valued friend for the time and trouble he has expended on behalf of our prosperous society. I will now ask your attention for the event of the evening. Mr. George Evans: As chairman of this meeting I have the honour to ask you to accept on behalf of the members of this society these our humble gifts as mementos of the great regard we have for you. This handsome watch, I am sure, will prove useful, and although the manufacturer is noted for the durability of his wares, I hope in this instance you will beat Father Time, and fairly wear it out. This address will, I hope afford you pleasure in after years, even when you speak of the present time as the good old times of 50 years ago. And the wish of the members of this society is that you may continue to grace our chair until that time arrives.—Mr. George Evans, in expressing his thanks, said he was deeply indebted for their spontaneous kindness which actuated them to present the testimonial, and he expressed his desire to do all he could to further the interest of the society.—Mr. Archer proposed the Press, coupled with the name of Mr. Hare, proprietor of the *Indicator*.—Mr. Hare responded in suitable terms.—The health of Mr. Geo. Evans was then drank with great enthusiasm.—The meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Geo. Archer. During the evening a number of songs were well sung, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FRESHWATER FISH DURING FENCE MONTHS.—Joseph Riddle and Joseph Taylor were charged before the bench of magistrates at Ware on Tuesday, June 7, with being in possession of 142 roach on the banks of the River Lea at Ware. The case was taken under clause 11, section E, of the River Lea Fishery Act. G. Cerbbe, Esq., clerk to the Conservancy Board, attended to prosecute. Police Constable Walter Stoten, No. 17, stated that he met the defendants on Ware Bridge on May 28, between 12 and 1 a.m., with a bag containing 7 score and 2 roach, weighing 16 lb. The defendants acknowledged having the fish, which they stated they took from the river with their hands. The magistrate remarked that bills were posted all along the banks of the river giving notice that it was illegal to take fish from the 15th March to the 15th June. In answer to a question, the defendants stated they could not read. The chairman, after giving them a caution as to their conduct in future, fined them 1s. and 9s. costs each.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

QUOIT PLAYING.

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR QUOIT CLUBS FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

(As very many of our readers are quoit players we have pleasure in giving some extracts from the rules of the North of England Association, which have been sent us by the secretary, Mr. Wm. Tyerman, of 2, Prebend Row, Darlington.—ED.)

MEETINGS of the representatives of the various Quoit Clubs in the North of England were held on February 10th and April 19th, 1881, at the house of Mr. Councillor John Fraser, Castle and Anchor Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees, for the purpose of framing rules and regulations for the guidance of quoit players.

The following rules were the final results of the meetings:—

ASSOCIATION RULES.

1. The objects of the Association shall be to provide general rules of play for the guidance of those engaged in the game of Quoits, and to cultivate the game as a national pastime.
2. Each Club belonging to the Association shall be allowed two delegates where the number of members does not exceed fifty, and one for every fifty or portion of that number.
3. There shall be a general meeting of delegates annually, such meeting to be held in the towns represented in the Association as each annual meeting may determine, but no town shall be selected a second time until the meeting has been held in each town desiring it.
4. A President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Committee of five members shall be elected at the annual meeting. The President for the time being shall act as Treasurer.
5. Committee meetings may be called at the discretion of the President and Secretary.
6. In order to defray the general expenses of the Association, each Club shall pay an annual subscription of 10s. where the number of members does not exceed fifty, and 20s. for over that number.
7. All expenses out of pocket (except for refreshments) shall be allowed for Committee meeting out of the general fund, but the expenses of delegates to annual meetings shall be defrayed by the Club they represent.
8. The accounts shall be audited at the annual meeting by two delegates appointed for that purpose.

RULES.

1. Whenever a match is played, these rules shall be in force, unless both parties consent to a variation previous to play commencing.
2. The quoits shall not be more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight, nor more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter outside, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the inside, nor more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in height, and made of malleable iron. Quoits faced, or partially faced, with steel, shall not in any case be allowed.
3. The pins shall be placed in tempered clay ends, confined by a wooden frame, and shall not project more than 3 inches. Pins to be not less than 3 feet long, and the exposed point $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter.
4. The pins shall be placed at such distances apart as may be agreed upon, and placed in the centre of the clay. The pins to be re-adjusted and the clay made up only at the discretion of the umpires.
5. No quoit shall count that is a greater distance than 18 inches from the pin.
6. When a match is played, one umpire shall be chosen by each side, and their decision shall be final. Should, however, an umpire have occasion to appoint another in his place, the last-named in all cases shall be the umpire for the time being. No person except the umpires shall interfere, but each captain may instruct his men, if requested.
7. A player in delivering his quoit shall stand with his foot opposite the pin, but not more than 2 feet therefrom, and must deliver his quoit before the second step is completed. Should he not do so, the quoit

pitched shall be called a "no quoit," and treated the same as a "no quoit," as per Rule 11.

8. The two quoits nearest the pin shall count one each, if belonging to the same side. If not, then only the nearest quoit counts one. The quoit touching the top of the pin to count before a side-toucher.

9. When the inside of a quoit, taken perpendicularly from the pin upwards, shall surround the top of the pin, it shall be called a ringer and count two. If a player has two quoits in this position, they shall count two each, unless his opponent has one dividing them, then the last ringer only shall count.

10. No quoit shall count as a ringer when a quoit under it covers, in a perpendicular direction, any part of the top of the pin.

11. If a quoit when pitched shall hit the frame surrounding the clay in alighting, or shall alight outside the frame, it shall be called a "no quoit," and shall not count or hinder any other quoit from counting, and shall at once be removed.

12. No clay shall be removed in measuring the distance of a quoit from the pin, neither shall any quoit be removed to facilitate the measurements.

13. When two quoits belonging to opposite parties shall rest at equal distances from the pin, the leading player shall retain his lead.

14. Any player claiming a point or points after pitching one quoit, shall not be at liberty to go back and play his second quoit.

15. A player in any match must have been a member of the club he plays with for at least one calendar month previous to that time.

OFFICERS FOR 1881.

PRESIDENT—

Mr. GEORGE MARSHALL, Woodleigh, Darlington.

VICE-PRESIDENT—

Mr. THOMAS SMITH, Milton Street, Middlesbrough,

COMMITTEE—

Mr. J. DAVIDSON, Elvet Club, Durham.

Mr. GOWLAND,

Mr. L. M. HILL, Lord Raglan Club, West Hartlepool.

Mr. H. BLORE, Erimus Club, Middlesbrough.

Mr. E. D. GAULT, Tradesmen's Club, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SECRETARY—

Mr. WILLIAM TYERMAN, Borough Club, Darlington.

The next annual meeting was then fixed to be held at Durham, on Easter Tuesday, 1882.

BILLINGS-GATE MARKET AND THE FISH SUPPLY.—A correspondent of the *City Press* states his conviction that the time has arrived for a further consideration by the Common Council of what is to be done with Billingsgate, in order to cheapen fish by making the market more easy of access. An outlay of a million and a half of the ratepayers' money would not effect the requisite improvements, since there is not sufficient room in the ward of Billingsgate for any further extension without one interest giving way. During the last three-quarters of a century several inquiries have taken place into the fish supply and the conveniences for its sale to the public in London. In the first quarter of the present century the advent of railways effected a complete revolution in the mode of transit; and commencing with about the year 1836 the supply by water diminished, and the supply by railway gradually increased, until now, as will be seen by the figures published, for the 52 weeks of last year, there were 95,548 tons of fish came by railway, and 26,587 only by water; that 95,548 tons brought by railway cost the consigner 5s. per ton for its delivery from the railway station in London to Billingsgate and the railway companies are unanimous apparently in their desire to be relieved of the obligation of delivery even at that price. There is also another serious charge for portage, which amounts to 10s. per ton, and represents an amount in the aggregate on the 122,135 tons of fish that came to Billingsgate last year to £61,768. The delivery of the fish by steamers is an additional expense of about 6s. per ton, representing £7,978 per annum. If one-half of the charge for delivery from the railway station to Billingsgate, and the "bobbing" or portage could be saved, the gain to the owners of the fish would be about £55,000 a-year. All these charges on fish, which are so excessive as compared with meat, render it necessary for a serious consideration of the question.

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COTTON TWINE SPINNING CO., MANCHESTER.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1881.

THE OPENING DAYS ON THE THAMES.

LIKE many brother anglers "in populous city pent" for about nineteen out of every twenty days of the year, who can only tackle the heavy routine of daily work by looking forward to casual holidays, I was determined, long before it came, to spend

the opening day of the Thames fishing season (and, perhaps, a day or two to follow) on the dear old river at Staines. I also determined that the barbel should be the chief object of my short campaign.

The anticipation of sport is often more than half its enjoyment, and preparing for it often equals its realization, and so I amused myself from time to time in making ready. There was to be a new rod, or, at least, one newly arranged so as to be lighter and more pliant than those generally in use for legering, a new line and winch to match, and new hooks, for I find that old ones cannot be depended on for barbel fishing. New paternosters were also to be rigged up, as a sort of supplement to legering, in the hopes of picking up a vagrom perch or two, or whatnot. My Nottingham rod also was to be overhauled, a new top supplied, and the check of the Nottingham rod to be adjusted, and the thin line tested. And then there was my big tin tackle-case, with its many trays and multitudinous divisions, to be thoroughly put in order, and everything to be stowed in its right place.

The doing of all this and more, talking over matters piscatorial with tackle makers and friends, reading the FISHING GAZETTE and wishing it came out as a daily paper, making arrangements with a fisherman and the landlord of some riverside hostelry—all this I took as part of the fishing holiday enjoyed in anticipation. Rooms were engaged at that quiet, clean and snug little Inn, the Swan, hard by Staines Bridge, a favourite resort of mine, as I fully appreciate good cooking of good things, good liquids, and good accommodation generally, when combined, as they are at the Swan, with great civility and a moderate tariff. This makes a capital head-quarter for fishermen, who can command from it the river from Penton Hook up to Old Windsor. My puntsman, Sam Scott, was also duly laid on; and as he signed his letter, according to his wont, "yours trully," I took the extra "l" (I might almost say the extra liquid) as an omen that he would most surely have the all-necessary worms he so faithfully promised for baiting the swims we had agreed upon.

All was in readiness, then, by the afternoon of the 15th, and my attack of "barbel on the brain" was getting more acute. I have had many good turns with our ordinary freshwater fish in my day, but I honestly confess that legering for barbel is my special weakness, or rather strength, as I shall put it. I "fancy myself" at it, and that's something, and I entertain the humble assurance and consciousness that if anyone can "nick" a barbel I can. There is something to my mind specially enjoyable in this method of barbel fishing. You sit on your Windsor chair in the punt with your arms resting on your knees, with rod in right hand and line in left, ready to feel the slightest touch of a fish, and with your eyes at liberty to watch all that is going on round you on land and water, while with your ears you mark the calls and singing of the various birds and the other sounds of nature. It is a deliciously dreamy way of passing a summer's day, and enjoying a succession of soothing reveries, assisted as they may be from time to time by that which Dr. Barclay spoke of to the Bishop of Murray as the "happie and holy herbe." And then the thrilling sensation which like an electric shock passes up the line, through your arms, and pervades your whole self, body and soul, when the barbel "knocks!" And then, again, when your bait is fast fixed in his leather mouth, the grand fight your prey makes! I say fearlessly that no fish that swims, not even the lordly *salmo salar*, is a better fighter, more game unto death, than the barbel. I am not ashamed then to acknowledge my delight in barbel fishing especially when the fish will feed. When "the're on, the're on" I will sententiously observe, and then the fun's fast and furious; but, *per contra*, "when the'er off, they're off," as, but too often, the poor barbel-fisher knows to his cost.

But all this by way of preface; and here I find myself, like

many who handle the pen as well the rod, pretty nearly at the end of the space allotted to me, and painfully conscious that I have not yet said much actually on "The Opening Days on the Thames." Well, the day before the opening day duly arrived, as eventually it was bound to do, and we were ready to make a start for Staines on the afternoon of the 15th, and see to the baiting of the swims in the evening. Alas for the vanity of all things mundane generally, and piscatorial especially! A telegram arrives—a few brief words—to inform me that S. S. had lost all his worms through the heat, and that we had better not come down. You could have knocked me down with a crowbar. Oh, the bitter disappointment, and exhausting depression that followed! Practically I collapsed; and, possessed by a fit of combined sorrow and anger, and oblivious of all the virtues and graces which anglers possess (often in reserve), I would have none of Staines that night.

However, I went down on the 16th, in the afternoon, prepared to make the 17th the opening day, as far as I was concerned, and the best of a bad job. S. S. shook his head dolefully; but as the sky got overcast, and it began to spit with rain, we hoped that the worms would "come up." Some of the railway porters, who seemed vermically inclined, spoke hopefully, and held out prospects of bringing me some quarts before midnight; so did a gardener's man and some boys. I was prepared to pay handsomely for the wretched worms, if they could only be got, but they could not. The tantalising rain would not come down fluently enough to induce them to draw their slimy lengths above ground sufficiently for thumb and finger to give them an unexpected lift. And so the morning of the 17th came, and S. S. with it, and only a pint or two of worms, all told. Hoping against hope, we pitched some little way below the railway bridge, threw in two or three clay balls, with worms in them as few as plums in a "Dotheboys Hall" pudding, and scattered some broken pieces as far as our scanty store would allow. But all to no purpose. Not a barbel would "touch," nor, indeed, any other finny denizen of the Staines district. Where were the splendid tench which I saw the T. A. P. S. representatives—Mr. Brougham, my friend Mr. A. G. Jardine, and others—put into these waters two years ago? Cannot I get one of them? or a dace, a chub, or "anythink," this pleasant morning? No. Two or three hours of most patient legering, and an absolute blank; hardly a floating weed to catch one's line occasionally and produce a little mild excitement.

So home to breakfast in the comfortable and pretty look-outed room at the Swan, where the old familiar oil painting of a 16 lb. barbel, taken as long ago as 1734, meets one's eye, and another of a veritable Thames salmon of 21 lb., taken in 1812. Breakfast disposed of, how were we to dispose of ourselves for the rest of the day? Barbeling? No, it did not strike us as "good enough" under the circumstances, nor indeed any other fishing. Happy thought! It was the last day at Ascot, the "quiet" day. The illustrious Robert the Devil, Peter (the champion kicker), and other equine celebrities, including possibly the famous Bend Or, were to be seen, and many human celebrities both of the male and "fieldmale" persuasion, for on this "quiet" day all celebrities make a point of putting in an appearance. So we made tracks for Ascot, which was not far from our unhappy fishing grounds, and enjoyed ourselves much in most charming weather in wandering about the classic heath, and taking stock of horses and our own kind. Just on leaving the course rain began gently to fall, and once more rose up visions of abundance of worms, and shoals of barbel transported from their native depths to the punt's well.

But disappointment once more—not sufficient rain; and again wormless to bed. Fish, however, I would the next day. So down to yesterday's swim early, and, *mirabile dictu*, a 3 lb. barbel (more or less) to hand at once. Surely a new thing is about to happen,

and we are going to take barbel without baiting. Oh, dear no! not another touch! It was a pure mistake on the part of aforesaid *Barbatus*. He never intended to take the bait. He was not "on" theoretically at all; only, unfortunately, so practically. His fellow *Barbati* and *Barbatæ* were not going to answer to our miserable apology for baiting. While thus musing, and almost in a trance, I hear S. S.'s voice to this effect: "Jack, got any worms?" "Yes," was the answer from Jack, on the tow-path; "several quarts, which I've kept by me." If we had only come across this vermicular proprietor on Thursday evening, how differently matters might have stood! It was too late now, as I was bound to get home that evening. However, I could not resist buying three quarts, at 8d. per quart—the price of the best bitter beer! And so, after breakfast, we baited the swim, and fished as we baited. But all in vain; the barbel would not respond, nor any other fish. So off and away for a bit of chubbing with Nottingham tackle and cheese along the willow boughs. Almost the second run I was in a fish. A good one, too; who required a good deal of *fortiter* and *suaviter* combined to keep him from the boughs, and at the same time not to let him break my light line. Some minutes' manœuvring and of pleasurable fear and hope, and he is in the landing net, and very soon on the steel yard, which registered a full 4 lb. A goodly chevin this, in these degenerate days, in which the multitude of steam launches and pleasure boats have sadly kept down the chub, which, of all fish, will not increase and multiply without quiet. I remember when I was a boy a 6 lb. Thames chub was not considered a wonder; but now it is.

This success led me to hope that a grand day with the chub was about to be recorded. But I must tell the truth. I had not another bite, though for hours I fished all the likely bits down to and around "Penty Hook." In the evening we returned to the baited barbel swim, but only again to find that the barbel were not "on." Not a touch was vouchsafed us, and so ended the opening days on the Thames. I cannot hear that much was done with any kind of fish at any of the fishing stations. Even fishermen who had worms did no good that I know of. Nothing was "on," in fact; and this, perhaps, may partly be accounted for by the state of the water, which had assumed a dirty kind of red tinge as it often does in the summer. Perhaps some reader of the FISHING GAZETTE may explain what is the cause of this tinge. But then! this Thames fishing! How seldom does a good day come off! I believe there are plenty of fish, but each year they seem less disposed to feed, and more wary. Then, again, one day the water is too high, another too low—too bright or too thick—too much wind or too little—always too much or too little something or other; and Thames fishing practically a delusion and snare. It may be heresy to say this, and I will partly purge myself by saying "I love it," notwithstanding. With fish or without fish, to a well constituted and appreciative mind the dear old Thames is "the place to spend a happy day." Many happy days I have had on it, but fishless withal. I hope to have many more, and whether fishless or fishful I don't care much. And now I am at the end of my story—but "story I had none to tell, sir." One barbel and one chub—the grand result of two opening days on the Thames!

J. J. M.

THE "ALEXANDRA" FLY.

"WHAT'S in a name? That which we call a Rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," so says Shakespeare. How the "Alexandra" fly got so named, we cannot say, unless it was actually, as jokingly hinted by one correspondent, because the fly is so "taking."

We last year described a day's fishing with the "Alexandra,"

which description was translated and published on the Continent, and has caused considerable demand for this fly there, and we were informed the other day by a large London fly-maker that the demand was "wonderful"; in fact, he had at that moment orders for more than five gross (700) of these flies, and they retail at 4d. apiece. Why does not some enterprising firm advertise the fly?

We should very much like to have the opinion of some of our readers as to what they imagine the "Alexandra" is taken for by the trout.

We are firmly of opinion, as we said last year, that this fly is supposed by the trout to be a minnow or small fish of some kind. Its body is bright silver, it has half a dozen inch-long steel blue and brown fibres of peacock feather tied at its head, a few shorter ones underneath, also tied at the head to form the legs, and half a dozen shorter ones still tied as a tail, the body being simply plain gold or silver wire or braid; a strand or two of red fibre mixed with the leg fibres is recommended by some.

Now, having got your "Alexandra," how do you fish with it? You put it firmly on to the end of a salmon trace, and then throw it across and down stream, and draw it back over the surface with a series of gentle jerks, stopping for an instant between each jerk. If there is any store of trout in the water you are fishing, you will, if you throw a long line and *keep out of sight*, see a rush and find you are fast in a fish before you know it. He is fast on a line that will hold a dead weight of any number of pounds, and you must be a "regular duffer" if you let him break you; he may get off through being but slightly hooked—that is his fortune, but not your fault.

When trout are feeding on the natural fly, they swim about just under the surface—keeping to one spot pretty well—and gently rise and suck in the flies, and the largest fish often make the least fuss, and in like manner do they take the ordinary small artificial fly. But how do they take the "Alexandra"? Why, with a bang, smash, splash, a regular rush, just as they do a minnow, and a big wave goes over the place announcing the size of your prey. Little trout of even only five inches and less will make their little rush at a big "Alexandra" perhaps a quarter their own size; we have even caught samlets with it in Devonshire.

Any way, the "Alexandra" is a wonderfully deadly lure, though the fish get used to it, and we should much like to hear what any of our readers can tell us of their experience with it. We always use it on a drawn gut line, and that vastly enhances the sport. But even then it cannot hold a candle to scientific fly-fishing proper, as far as real sport goes; in fact, it is fly-fishing with the minnow.

REMINDERS ON COARSE-FISH ANGLING.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PERCH.—*Tackle.* Fine gut paternoster with lead dulled by means of sulphate of copper solution, or by water-green-hued paint; hooks, No. 6. *Baits.*—Scoured cockspur worms (or gilt tail, found in rotten manure heaps and scoured by mixing with clean moss, slightly damped, over which a little fresh milk has been poured), freshwater shrimp, found under stones and in gravel in most streams, fresh shrimps, the white flesh of the tail of a prawn, tail of lobworm, piece of high coloured fresh beef, horse leeches, minnows alive, and all other fry, small gudgeons preferable before any other if procurable.

N.B.—Perch may be found at this season of the year, in the hottest day, under the shade of the osiers and elders fringing a stream. Use a live gudgeon on No. 6 hook, attached to a fine gut line, light Nottingham twist reel line, small piece of cork to aid sight about six feet from bait. Float the latter as near the actual

bank as possible, and on striking urge the fish out stream. Chiefly large perch are thus taken, occasionally a chub also.

JACK are unfit to be taken yet.

BARBEL.—If the water be clear, float a boat over the supposed barbel "pitch," and with face downward reconnoitre the number inhabiting it. Mark the precise *locale* by some object on the bank; observe depth and character of bottom as nearly as possible, generally the fish lie in a hole having a declivity up stream. If the hole has been much fished proceed as follows: Commence baiting with lobworms (fresh picked if possible), about four nights previous to the day of fishing—or, better still, early morning, because the eels are not about. Pitch the worms in so that they, on the first night, fall directly on the hole, next night in the hole, and part out up the declivity, next, some yards from the declivity, next, further up still, and let this last instalment be the most plentiful. You thus lure them from their regular haunt, and immediately one is hooked on strange ground its fellows flee back to their covert, and do not participate in the alarm of the hooked one. *Tackle.*—"Nottingham" throughout—I have seen some capital cheap and good outfits by Slater, of Newark-on-Trent. Sliding float. *BAITS.*—Lobworms preferably, the miniature, or so called *maiden* worm, having no ring near the head. (They both belong to the species *Lumbrica Terrestris*). I know of no better bait.

CHUB.—Chub are chiefly under the "boughs" during hot weather, and no matter how shallow the water may be, provided it is shaded, these fish may be found. Extreme quiet is necessary, the *extremest* quiet I might say. *Tackle.*—Finest "Nottingham" ring line, winch and quill float, sinkers or shots well away from the hook, hook, No. 4. *Baits.*—Tail of crayfish (boiled and shelled) cheese, cheddar or *gruyère*, cut into wedge-shaped pieces, or made into paste with new bread, leeches, prawns, red worms. These for so called bottom-fishing. A black slug is very deadly used without a float, and simply thrown with a light splash under the boughs as the boat passes slowly. Cut the slug open, remove the inside, lay the former in the sun for an hour, and thread on the gut with a baiting needle, using a large hook according to size of slug. Let point of hook be well exposed. A good imitation of the slug is made from the finger of a black or white kid glove, stuffed with wadding and loaded with a shot or two. Let a morsel of the wadding protrude if employing black kid. It simulates the extrusion of the slug's viscera. Keep the fish well out when hooked and do not seek to draw it into the boat during the first few minutes.

(To be continued.)

THE MEETING OF ANGLERS AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE Conference of Anglers who intend to discuss various amendmends in the Freshwater Fisheries Acts promises to be well attended. We trust all who can possibly attend will make a point of doing so.

The place is the room of the Society of Arts, Adelphi, Strand. The day is Monday, June 27, and the time 8 o'clock for 8.30.

AN IMPUDENT TROUT.

I NEVER saw such an impudent fish in all my life. Imagine, if you can, an Eton boy spending his whole afternoon in running in and out of the Christopher when he knows that a master is watching him from the opposite side of the street, and you will have a faint idea of the consummate cheek of this particular trout. For the whole day has he been rising at the natural fly, not above 8 yards from me, down stream; not once would he touch my fly or do more than look at it and follow it a

few feet, yet not once did he seem frightened or leave off rising, though he must have seen me plainly all the time. Vainly did I try at intervals of about half an hour every conceivable variety of fly calculated to suit the most delicate taste; sunshine, cloud or shower it was just the same, the old fellow kept on winking and poking fun at me for nine mortal hours. Vainly did I recite an old charm taught me by a German Professor:

“O liebliche Forelle, nimm die Fliege,
Dass dich das schönste Mädchen essen darf.
Mit corallenen Lippen sei begrüßt,
Mit Perlen sei zerdrückt; unter dem Glanz
Der diamanten Augen sei begraben:
Wäre nicht ein solcher Tod ein glücklich Schicksal?”

which may be thus Englished:—

“Come, juicy trout, seize thou my tempting fly,
And for a maiden fair provide a feast:
By lovely coral lips thou shalt be kissed,
Crushed amid pearls, and 'neath the joyous glance
Of diamond eyes and damask cheeks be buried:
Could'st thou desire a more delicious fate?”

Not even that would tempt him. If I could have got below him and thrown up stream, doubtless he would not have been alive now to wag his tail at me, but an envious wall made this impossible. Seeing a friend, one of the best fly-fishers in the neighbourhood, fishing in the next estate, I asked him to try his hand in punishing such audacity. He tried for some time—and failed. Here was the chairman of one association and the secretary of another being openly cheeked by a rascally fish of under 2 pounds! It was as bad as a Ritualist indulging in his vagaries, and paying not the slightest attention to his bishop or Lord Penzance. His cousins up stream had the grace to move up higher or leave off rising for a time, if they did not take my fly; thus, some of them escaped, while others enjoyed the delightful fate described above. But no, this fellow, conscious, I suppose, of the greater difficulty of hooking a fish well, and playing him successfully with a down stream cast, kept on swallowing fly after fly, and utterly rejected my daintiest imitations. I took out my watch and found that he rose about nine times every minute. That gives—but he has driven me wild enough already, and I am not going to give myself a headache by calculating the victims of his nine hours' (and probably much longer) meal. His stomach would furnish a museum. I hope he will have indigestion.

A week later I paid the same spot a second visit. Why there is the very same fish in the very same spot rising as fast as ever! Has he been at it ever since? Perhaps he fed like the Scotchman's pike “even on the Sabbath.” He must be overeating himself. He takes no more notice of me than before, though his brother, who is feeding about three yards higher up, and exactly opposite to me, is evidently made rather shy by my presence. Does the Ritualist mean to take no notice of me at all? Has he no respect or fear for the “nobler creature,” man, that is making war upon him? I am getting desperate. I will treat him as did the hunters of the snark, and tempt his life with a—may fly. He has never seen one before, for they do not appear, I understand, upon this river. There, my friend—that is something big, but looks remarkably juicy—won't you just try a bite? now do. Not a bit of it. He is evidently interested; he puts up his eye-glass as it were, and follows her about, but as for proposing, that is far from him.

I have but twenty minutes unless I would lose the last train home. I vow, mentally, to give, I don't know what, on Hospital Sunday if I can induce him to come back with me! Hurrah! he has got it; now how shall I play him among these weeds? Bah, he is off! I hope he may be as sick as I feel at this moment. At any rate he has got the toothache.

“Improba trutta, salis, musicæque illudere gaudes?
At, per Petrum, anser mox tibi coctus erit.”

J. T. E.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE West Central Association District Visit was paid the Phoenix Angling Society on Wednesday evening, the 15th. It was very insufficiently attended, the list, as it at present stands, by no means gives satisfaction. The attempt to cram a visit into each week so as to give each club two visits in the twelve months, not only allows no time for the issuing of regulation articles as to date, &c., but the rapidity with which these visits follow one another makes of what would otherwise be a pleasant act of brotherly courtesy, a positive task. The committee of the association must look to this when next the list is revised if they are desirous of their visits continuing as popular as they have hitherto been.

Mr. F. Hill, the secretary of the North-Western Angling Club writes that nearly 2,000 lb. of fish have been weighed-in at the N.W. during the past season, including some handsome specimen fish, several of which have been set up.

What has become of the Thames Rights' Defence Association?

The summer dinner of the Richmond Piscatorial, on the 16th, at the Ship Hotel, Halliford, was a great success. The same may be said of the annual feed of Ye Golden Barbel, the West Central Angling Club, Great Northern Brothers, and Trafalgar Angling Society.

The *Daily Telegraph*, one day last week, had one of those comparatively short leading articles, written in that, what shall I call it?—well, flowery style peculiar to this one paper—setting forth that a whole army of mudlarks should be despatched to search for a certain Whitehead's torpedo, which, to quote your contemporary, might be described as lost, stolen, or strayed, and supposed to be lying hidden in the bed of the river; going on to comment upon the insufficiency of the reward (£5) offered for the recovery of so terrible an engine of destruction, “which might go off upon the slightest provocation or none at all.” Well, I hear you say, what has all this to do with angling? Well, only this—that among other possible frightful things which the imaginative scribe in your lively contemporary's columns, goes on to anticipate is the possibility of some “Gentle disciple of Walton” hooking this terrible monster—too much for your nerves? Well, it nearly proved to much for mine—only that, speaking to a friend about the matter the same day, he read to me a short paragraph concerning the same torpedo in the *Standard* of that date, concluding with the significant words, “It was not loaded.”

Very little was done in the river Lea on the opening day, though many rodsters were out—bright water and a forest of weeds are scarcely conducive to sport.

On the Stort there were no rods at work, yet this is a summer's water. Is it that the continual netting has brought this pretty little river, the principal feeder of the sedgy Lea, so low that it is considered waste of time to fish it? Has any serious and well-directed effort been made to rescue it?

The following will give the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE a very fair idea of what the fishing is like thus early in the season in the Upper Thames. A particular friend of mine, Mr. Julius Harding, and another gentleman, went to Pangbourne on the evening of the 18th, and were out and hard at it a little after daybreak on the 19th, fishing carefully for several hours right away without a single bite. They afterwards walked on to Goring and spoke to some dozens of anglers, always receiving in reply to their inquiries the same ominous shake of the head. Nor had the occupants of the several punts whom they hailed, fared any better. Another proof, if any were needed, of the utter worthlessness of June fishing, as a rule.

Mr. J. Blamey, on the 19th, fishing with Trodd at Dumsey, took, among other fish, some fair-sized bream, which were in such wretched condition—slimy and full of parasites—that, after removing these unwelcome additions, friend B. returned them to the water, literally to grow better. Bravo, Blamey!

From Teddington I hear that Mr. Hewitson, fishing off the weir, succeeded in capturing a handsome barbel (8 lb.), some chub and a few roach—total weight, 13 lb.

From Littleport a correspondent, on whose reports the greatest reliance can be placed, writes:—“There are lots of fish, but they will not feed, nor do I expect they will for at least another week or two.”

From the Wey, in the neighbourhood of Send, I hear of the capture of some good bream, a few roach, and several carp.

From the Welsh Harp some good lots of bream and carp were captured during the week up to 19th, one angler getting 40 lb. and another 20 lb.; but on the 19th, whether owing to the fresh water, the rough wind, or the cold during the early morning, they were right off. We are informed that over 200 day tickets were sold on this day only, quite irrespective of annual subscribers. I went all round the water, and among the numerous blanks gleaned the following items of comfort:—Mr. Randell, some large bream, heaviest said to be between 4 and 5 lb.; Mr. T. Neville, a handsome carp, about 6 lb.; another gentleman, one about 7 lb.; Mr. Underwood, a pretty little carp, about 2 lb.; Mr. Grindley, N.W.A.C., a handsome perfectly clean jack, 6½ lb., and some good well-mended bream.

The West Central Association's monthly meeting was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, on Friday evening, the 17th., Mr. Bonvoisin in the chair, faced by Mr. Murphy in the vice, Mr. Beckett being away on private business. A great deal of important business was transacted, the report of which appears elsewhere in the columns of the GAZETTE. Mr. T. Hoole, the hard-worked secretary, says, thus early, he has issued or has application for 1600 privilege cards, and has hard work to keep pace with the applications each post brings.

To arrange the business to be transacted at the Anglers' Conference

to be held on Monday next, at the Society of Arts, a special meeting of committees from the East and West Central Associations was held at the Portman Arms, on Monday evening last, Mr. Geen presiding, Mr. Metcalfe occupying the vice. There were some 25 gentlemen present. It would be manifestly unfair and unwise to publish the details of a committee meeting, but I do not think I shall be blamed in any quarter for stating that the resolutions which will be moved on Monday next will substantially be the same as those printed in the GAZETTE last week, the only difference being a doubt expressed by a minority whether the close time for jack—six months as proposed, and even five, as ultimately carried—was not too long, the same applying to perch, which it is proposed to fence for five months.

To the conference on Monday each club is invited to send six delegates. Cards to that number will be issued. Many societies in the provinces have promised to send representatives who will require no cards, and invitations have also been issued to the committees of the various river preservation societies on the Thames, Lea, &c. London societies not enrolled either on the East and West Central Associations, and of whose existence Messrs. Hoole and Ghurney have no official knowledge, can have tickets by applying to either of the above gentlemen.

The W.C.A. No. 1 district visit was paid the Prince of Wales Angling Society, on Tuesday evening, the 21st, a general visit to the Royal George taking place the same evening.

NETS SUPERSEDING HOOKS FOR DEEP-SEA COD FISHING.

A pamphlet of great practical value has been published by the United States Fish Commission, compiled by Capt. J. W. Collins, explaining the methods of catching cod with gill-nets. Heretofore, with few exceptions, cod have been caught off the coast of North America with lines. Either single hand lines are used or trawls, the latter being a long line buoyed on the water, from which depend innumerable other long lines, with baited hooks. This trawling takes a large portion of the fish, and, like all line fishing, is laborious and expensive at times, from the character of the bait. Prof. Baird, who has in every way had the practical interests of our fishermen at heart, had long ago thought that netting cod, as in use by the Norwegians, might yield the best results in the United States. In 1880, at the Berlin Fishery Exhibition, Capt. Collins, attached to the commission, had the fullest opportunity to study these Norwegian methods of netting cod. Now it happened that last year bait for line or trawl fishing was almost impossible to procure, so a schooner, the Northern Eagle, from Gloucester, determined to make a trial with cod gill-nets, Capt. Collins having explained to the enterprising skipper the exact methods in use on the Lofoden Islands. During the last winter, 1880-81, the nets had a trial in Ipswich Bay, which lies north of Cape Ann, dividing the waters of Massachusetts Bay on the south. The depth was 25 to 30 fathoms, but the nets were tried in fifteen fathoms, and they were worked with dories, the usual boat of our fishermen. The results attained were most successful. On a trip ending Jan. 11 "35,000 pounds of cod were taken by a smack, 1,000 pounds of which were caught in a single morning." Two other vessels, absent just about the same length of time, but using trawls, only got 4,000 and 5,000 pounds. The same vessel using the nets made another trip, taking in four days 35,000 pounds of fish again, having caught in one single day 11,000 pounds. Now, on this same day another vessel set, quite close to the nets, 10 trawls of 1,000 hooks each, and only caught 2,000 pounds of fish. The total results of Capt. Martin's enterprise, who was the first to use the nets, may be stated as follows: In not quite two months, from November to January, he took 111,000 pounds of cod, while no trawler, with the same luck, had landed one-third of the quantity. Not only does Capt. Collins tell us that more fish can be had by netting, but they are of better quality—larger fish—the average of weight during six weeks' fishing running as high as twenty-three pounds. With such apparent advantages, where the sea bottom will allow it, there is no doubt that nets-for-cod-fishing, thanks to intelligent study given to such matters by the United States Fish Commission, will come into common use.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

As had been previously arranged by the executive of this popular suburban angling club, a goodly number of the members made the sixteenth of June one of the festival days of the year, and so gave to the "opening day" all the importance which is necessarily attached to it, as the commencement of another season's sport. The lower Thames was this year selected for the first campaign, and as the society, under the able generalship of Mr. F. C. Clench, has increased almost fourfold during the last twelve months, it was regarded with no ordinary importance, and a number of competitors entered themselves in the contest for three good prizes, but, as a matter of course, no large quantity of fish were taken, as the fish were scarcely ready for them. Mr. F. C. Clench, with his admirable colleague, Mr. P. Geen, who were not competing, had about the best of it, under the piloting of James Haslett at Chertsey, as they made a good show of fourjack, the largest 7 lb., and a fair sprinkling of roach, bream, chub, and barbel. The day's proceedings were announced to terminate with a good feed at the Ship Hotel, Lower Halliford, and it was ably carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Stone (the worthy host only just recovering from a dangerous illness) and thus the dinner became a conspicuous success. Major Bull, who has from the commencement taken a great interest in the society, occupied the chair, the vice-chair being well-filled by Mr. F. C. Clench. There were present a large number of members and friends, including Messrs. G. Nattress, P. Geen, T. Abbott, H. G. Penney, W. Abbott, Owen Davis, R. A. Rowe, H. S. Giles, H. E. Gaynor, H. Dickinson, W. Goodale, J. P. Houghton, G. Laurence, jun., T. Hoole, M. H. Blamey, A. J. Little, F. A. Crewe, J. Plant, J. H. Gaunt, J. Abbot, J. Bayley, Dyer, J. H. Ford, &c. After the removal of the cloth and the disposal of the usual loyal toasts, the Chairman gave "Success to the Richmond Piscatorial Society," and, in doing so, expressed his gratification at its recent protest against the proposed amendment to the Fresh Water Fishery Act of 1878. He was glad to learn that the Bill was given up and nothing more was likely to be heard of it, but he was quite certain that any measure that was proposed against the principle of true sport would always be opposed by the Society. In the course of some well-deserved complimentary remarks on the labours of Mr. F. C. Clench, he said they all knew how much the vice-chairman had done to bring the Society to its present successful position; and he was

perfectly satisfied, under his auspices, with the assistance of the members, it would continue to flourish. He had, therefore, great pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of its excellent leader, Mr. F. C. Clench. After the toast had been enthusiastically drunk, Mr. Clench, on rising to respond, was received with an undoubted ovation, and, on it subsiding, remarked that it was only a young society, but had flourished to an extent that could scarcely have been expected in Richmond. When they considered that Richmond was the metropolis of the Lower Thames, they would feel certain the members of the Society would take a great interest in the preservation of the fishery, and especially that portion so closely adjacent to their capital club-house. After referring to the great work that lay before them, and the evils that wanted removal, in respect to riparian rights, and the excessive rate of speed of steam launches, he said they desired to hand down the river Thames to their children as they received it, and to repress any attempt that might be made to take away the liberties of either anglers or fisherman. In reference to his visit to the Norwich Exhibition, he might say the fish they saw there caught on the previous day in the river Yare did not reflect much credit on the anglers, as some of the fish were only four inches in length, and full of spawn. Mr. Clench resumed his seat amidst great applause.—The chairman, then, announced the result of the competition. The first prize was won by Mr. Nattress, with a take of 5 lb. 13 oz.; the second by Mr. Dickinson, with 2 lb. 2 oz.; and the third by Mr. Goodale, with 1 lb. 10 oz. In these weights all jack are excluded.—Mr. Owen Davis proposed "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," as an institution which claimed the hearty support of all anglers and deeply regretted the unavoidable absence of Messrs. Spreckley and Brougham.—Mr. M. H. Blamey, whose name was coupled with the toast as a member of the committee, spoke of the work of the society in the netting of rivers, lakes, and other private waters, placing the proceeds in the Thames. They had now several very efficient river keepers, who did all in their power to preserve the fishery, and to see that the regulations were observed.—Mr. William Abbott proposed "The West Central Association of London Angling Societies," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Geen, its indefatigable president.—Mr. P. Geen, who is very popular amongst the anglers, was loudly applauded, and in an eloquent speech of some length, referred to several matters of great interest in the angling world, notably the Bill of Mr. Dillwyn, which is to be discussed at a conference at the Society of Arts, on Monday, the 27th of June, and to which he hoped, they would raise a determined and universal opposition.—The Chairman then, gave "The Treasurer and Secretary," which was responded to by Mr. T. Abbott and Mr. J. H. Gaunt, the latter stating that the Society which was started in September, 1879, with six members, had now eighty on its books.—Mr. Gaunt afterwards proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Mr. T. Hoole, the hard-working secretary of the West Central Association, who on rising so respond to the toast met with a hearty reception, and replied in appropriate terms.—The vice-chairman, in highly complimentary language, gave "The Chairman," who, in responding, said he had always taken great interest in piscatorial matters, and angling was his favorite pursuit. "The Press" having been given, and replied to, the proceedings were brought to a most satisfactory close, and so ended a most pleasant day, which will be long remembered by the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society.

DUSK FISHING.—"Verimago," writing to the editor of *Field Sports*, says,— "Knowing Devonshire rivers well, and with some experience in trout-fishing at dusk, especially in the Dart and Teign, and in the lake district, I venture to recommend "Glaucus," whose articles are eminently sound and practical, to try the effect of using black gut, or horsehair. I have found the result of the change from a white or lightly-stained cast to a very dark brown or black, most eminently satisfactory, both at dusk and in the full glare of a summer's sun, when the water was at its lowest and clearest; and where the stained gut has not answered the horsehair has, even when I have used it in double strands. The black or brown hair can be got of much greater strength than the white or grey; and though not as absolutely strong as even thin gut, it is as elastic, especially when used as a long foot-line, and with a good horsehair reel-line, after it has been well wetted, that one can kill a very heavy fish with it with moderate ease. As a rule, the trout in Devonshire rivers do not run large, a pounder being a very good fish, but they are very game and handsome, both to look at and eat. No one ought to break a good horsehair over a pound fish; very large fish have been caught with single hair. Mr. Stoddart, in the earliest, and in my opinion the best, of his books, "The Scottish Angler," published in 1835, records the feat of a Mr. Paterson, of Edinburgh, who actually killed a twelve-pound salmon in the Tweed with a single horsehair! Droppers I dress on hare's whiskers; they are very strong, taper, and stand out stiff."

A STICKLEBACK IN MILK.—The late Mr. Frank Buckland in his "Natural History of British Fishes," relates that a milk woman served out at a door a pennyworth of milk, and in the milk-jug the servant found a live stickleback swimming about. When the fish, all alive oh! in the cow's milk, was shown to the old woman, she turned round to her boy and boxed his ears. "Jimmy, oh! Jimmy, you lazy rascal," she said, "you never strained the water!"

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Tackles, Artificial Baits, Fly-bobs, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Fluke which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The opening day arrived and passed without any grand demonstration in the fishing line. The fact is, the river is suffering from the effects of sheep washing, and why this intolerable poisonous nuisance should be allowed by the Conservancy, and the various angling preservation societies passes my piscatorial capacity. Sewage is not in the same street as far as infecting the river as the poisonous matter eliminated from the thousands of sheep, and which are washed just now, previous to shearing. Sheep suffer from many cutaneous complaints, become irritated, and can't "keep their wool on," and their possessors dress them with some fearfully and wonderfully made poisonous compound, which eventually finds its way into poor old Father Thames, to the detriment of fish-fishing, and common health. Very few fish have been taken since the first day, the best catch of roach being 15 lb., near Cookham, by two gentlemen fishing by themselves. Godden, of Cookham, has been daily out, also J. White, of Bourne End, but small items have been the daily record. Marlow has done a few small trout, and Hurley (to-day) a pretty fish of five pounds, Rockwell, sen., being the promoter of the punt. At Magpie Island, a trout of 5½ lb. has been had, and from Henley I glean "it is a caution" to see the barbel in various swims. Thursday Evening.

River a fair height, but not a nice colour for roach, chub, or dace. Wind, S.W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in very good order for chub and roach, but roach are not biting much. Fishing with Mr. Hue, of 231, Camden Road, Holloway, London, six days, 50 lb. of chub, 9 jack and some perch.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

I have not much news to send you. I have been out once, caught a small trout, which was returned, and a few chub, small, not weighing a pound. The chub was milky, and plenty of louse on them; the roach have not fed well all this week, and what you get are as slimy as eels. Plenty of small barble jumping out in the streams, but few fish taken from the banks.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

I commenced my season on Monday with Mr. Kilroy, who caught ninety-three splendid dace and one barbel. On Tuesday, with Mr. Bachuss, in a few hours, three dozen dace, one barbel, 2½ lb. On Wednesday, with Mr. Morse, five and a half dozen dace. This day (Thursday), with Mr. Richardson, five dozen of dace. C. Brown, in two days, four dozen dace; H. Howard, one day, three dozen dace; G. Howard, two days, five dozen dace; E. Brown, one day, three dace; H. Wheeler, one day, twenty dace; Job Brain, in five days, sixteen dozen of dace and three barbel; H. Mansel, in three days, twelve dozen dace. The dace are running a very good size, and it looks to me to be one of the best seasons I can remember. I heard of some gentlemen coming to Richmond the other day, and got a wrong man. Now this is entirely their own fault, or perhaps they don't read the GAZETTE. If they would only drop me a line I would find them a good man: and then if they do not get a good day's sport it would be the fishers' fault and not the man.—J. BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Sunbury).

Water clear; wants rain; prospects, fair. T. Stroud, four days; best day, 1 jack and 6 chub. A. Stroud, two days; best day, 2 barbel, and 4 chub. J. Stroud, four days; best day, 2 jack, and 3 perch. Abram Stroud, three days; best day, 8 chub, and 1 dozen roach.—ALFRED. STROUD.

Thames (Windsor).

Some good showers have fallen and water has been greatly benefited. Worm fishing ought to answer well, especially if an old trout is known to be lying in or near a barbel swim. Already a brace has been had ledgering for barbel, but small. Hockley, Esq., of 84, Old Kent Road, was the captor of this pretty brace, and Dick Gray, his fisherman, in addition had about 17 lb. of barbel. James Gray has been getting some good barbel, and gentlemen wanting a day at them should drop him a line; he has now some good swims baited and with the late showers there is a good chance of getting amongst them. His address is 1, Baker's Buildings, Eton. A good many jack have been had, though it is much too early. The only decent fish I know of is one of 11 lb. 3 oz., taken at Bell Weir. Roach are rather shy and but few have been had; the best I have seen weighed 1 lb. 9 oz., and was not in first rate order. There has been a deal of wind, but water is not in bad order, though it is full early for anything, as there is such an abundance of young weed for them to feed on that they care not for the angler's lure.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Bure (South Walsham).

Messrs. Palmer and Varvel, of the East Anglian and Champion Clubs, and Mr. Sheldon, of the Court Minstrels, visited the above spot on Monday in the present week, and were rewarded by a magnificent catch of about 6½ stone. The fish were principally bream and rudd, and were in splendid condition. These gentlemen speak of the river being literally alive with fish, and no doubt as the season draws on numbers of such takes will be reported. Those who have not yet paid this spot a visit will do well to avail themselves of the opportunity at once, not merely for the purpose of angling only, but in order to inspect the remains of what was once a magnificent abbey, viz., that of S. Benedict.—ANGLER.

Bure (Norfolk).

The sport amongst rodsters has been extremely brisk during the last week, reports of good takes coming in from all quarters. Amongst those which have

come under our special notice was a fine show of bream, rudd, roach, &c., which were taken at South Walsham, near the historical St. Benedict's Abbey, by Messrs. Alfred and Robert Palmer and W. A. Campling, members of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society; also about two score of fine roach taken by Mr. Tom Saul, of the same club; Mr. G. Webb and friend likewise showed a very decent basket of bream flats, taken near Coltishall on the same stream. An immense quantity of fish are reported to have been seen at all the fishing stations on the river, but we cannot say that bream are fairly on the feed yet. Undoubtedly, after these magnificent rains, and with the wind in the right quarter, some fine fish will be the result. Several matches are announced amongst the various clubs during the next month. The first being that of the Champion Angling Club, which will take place at South Walsham. A number of costly and valuable cups and other prizes are already on show at the clubhouse, where they may be inspected through the invitation of the courteous secretary, Mr. W. Chettleburgh. The next following is that of the Norwich Piscatorial at Horning. This club has had presented to it a magnificent challenge cup, value twelve guineas, to become the bona fide property of a member winning it twice. Other valuable prizes are also offered. The club contest of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society takes place the last week in July, but the spot to be selected is not yet decided upon. As I write I have just heard of a salmon trout being taken in the heart of the city (in the Wensum) by a member of the Beehive Angling Club, its weight being about 2½ lb.—ANGLER.

Coquet (Northumberland).

AN OTTER HUNT.—The river is very small, although we have had showery weather, but nothing to discolour it. On the 17th Mr. J. F. T. Dance killed 6 lb., on the 18th Mr. Treweek killed nine trout, 4 lb., all with worm, on the same date T. L. Wilkinson, Esq., Neason Abbey, arrived with his otter hounds, and stayed over Sunday, and on the Monday at 5 a.m. commenced hunting. We had a very small gathering until we arrived at Brinkburn, and then the Rathbury and Flamington people added a good number. Just half a mile above the Priory the dogs called, and were on the scent until we reached the Black Burn, and there we were cast up for a few minutes. Then on they went till they reached Rothbury and had another cast up. The dogs refusing to go any further they returned to the Blackburn, and then were off in full cry again until they reached Paperhaugh, and another cast up occurred, when the terrier was required, and soon did Pincher give mouth and a good battle was fought with the otter, but they lost him. Mr. Wilkinson drew the dogs for half an hour, and then put in again, and up the river the dogs went full cry, till again they reached the Blackburn, and another stop took place, when Pincher was required again. As soon as he went in the otter seized him by the head: then one of the hounds got hold of the otter by the hind part and drew them both out clasped together. Mr. Wilkinson tailed him, but he came back into the water, and then all the hounds went to work and soon killed him, which ended a good day's sport. Miss McCabel got the otter.—A. GLASS, Anglers' Inn, Weldon Bridge.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The river is now slightly coloured by the rains of the past few days, which have now washed every vestige of May fly away. Last week and the beginning of this week saw some good dishes of trout taken with the grey, or what is sometimes designated the black drake. Several of which numbered over nine brace. Notably one take on Monday, which numbered nine brace of fine lusty fish, all being trout. This was the closing day of the May fly season, the flies being very scarce indeed. In fact it was generally found more difficult to catch the "live burrs" than to catch the fish. The opening day in the grayling season proved anything but favourable for fly fishing. Towards evening, however, there were a few good fish landed, one of which scaled over 1½ lb. This formed part of a dish taken from the Dove Dale length by Mr. D. Foster, jun. Some good baskets of trout, ranging from four to six brace, were also taken with the May fly, which were then on the water in myriads. Minnow fishers have been having a good run since the heavy rains of the past day or two, more especially upon the tributaries of this beautiful river.

Exe (Exeter).

Horace, the lyric poet of Rome, spoke of the winding stream that hastens through the pleasant fields; and Burns says, charmingly, "The muse, no poet ever found her, Till, by himself, he learnt to wander, Adown some trotting burn's meander, And nae think lang." Rogers, with equal beauty, makes the stream to linger. This is poetry, which transfers to external nature the accidents of human action and emotion. Moving water, in particular, having already a semblance of life. It whispers, it prattles, it smiles, it chides, it chafes, it is angry. (So says that beautiful little book of class poetry issued by the National Society's Depository, Westminster.) Wordsworth also subtly says, "The river wanders at its own sweet will," and Coleridge speaks of "A hidden brook in June, That to the woods all night singeth quite a tune." What angler has not, more or less, felt (even if at a loss to note them down on the loose memoranda sheet that should always accompany his fly book) the beauties of the above lines? And a few pieces of poetry, such as we occasionally get in the FISHING GAZETTE, for instance, the "Angler's Wish," by H. N.; "Welcome Anglers," by T. Crumplen; "Fly-fishing in July," by F. B. Doveton, &c., &c., I am sure would be welcomed by all. The time has now arrived when the seasons give us the greater varieties to select our muse from; and, although our sport may not be of the most successful, there are very few true anglers who return to a sullen mood but are ever ready to recount the enjoyment derived from the beautiful surroundings, and that boon so many crave for, the stimulating and invigorating mouthful of fresh air. The Exe, although it has been very low for some weeks past, owing to the long drought, is not only getting, but is in first-class fishing order, and since the opening day, has been well patronized by the craft. Salmon are on the increase, and several have passed upwards during the fresh, a slight falling off in trout. Perch very plentiful, the most successful up to Saturday being Messrs. Horspool, Sercombe, A. Hete and Connert, the former taking a splendid fellow of 2½ lb., which is the largest taken for some time; the next largest was taken a season or two back by myself, weighing 2½ lb.; the latter gentlemen taking baskets of two and three dozen each, and of fair killing size. Mr. C. Blake, R.M.A.C., with Messrs. Holman and Kenshole, showed a fine catch of bass and flounders from the estuary, and last, but not least, Mr. J. A. Kelly, with a nice show of eels and a beautiful tench nearly 1½ lb. weight, from the ponds at Exminster. A preliminary meeting of the Royal Museum Angling Club was held on Thursday last, when it was decided to give it every publicity possible; and should any of your Devonshire readers, who have not been apprised of the same, and feel desirous of becoming members, we shall be most happy to give them a true angler's reception, as only anglers can do. The rules, which were heartily approved, were compiled partly from rules laid down

in the FISHING GAZETTE of December 11, 1880.—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec., *pro tem.*

P.S.—A splendid dish of nine trout, weighing over 8 lb., were shown by Mr. C. Blake, taken this morning (Monday) before nine o'clock from the Exe, the handsomest of which I have to preserve for the club-room. Mr. Dobles has also just brought in a basket of seventeen trout, the largest weighing 2½ lb., from the Exe.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

Since the opening of the waters we have been favoured with large numbers of anglers from all parts in and near London. The late rains have greatly improved the condition of the waters, they have been full of fish, which fact was proved on Sunday, for most of the anglers had large bags of fish. The weather fine, the country full of natural beauty, with the railways and trams in request at low fares which gave great pleasure to those who started to enjoy the sport on the first Sunday in opening season. A person had a policeman on duty all day for the purpose of keeping people off the grass, which should not apply to anglers, for they go out not to do wrong to any one, but to improve their health and to indulge in fishing. On Sunday last they were not allowed to use the banks of the river, but were driven away, some of them would not go after the policeman told them to go, so they had to give their name and address, and were told that they will be summoned for not obeying the order. Now I am informed that fourteen feet of the sides of the river, anglers can use without any fear of doing wrong, and the space between the posts and the edge of the river is the widow's mite, and not the landlord's, so that is one more reason; but should any doubt be in the minds of anglers, why not have the point settled once and for ever.—S. SEWELL.

Swale.

The river had run very low, but the late refreshing rains have proved a godsend both to the farmer and the fisherman. This is a river which has a very rapid course, hence it soon runs down after rain. One day it is in a state of flood, and the next is often in good ply for fly-fishing, but two days are generally sufficient to bring it down to the coffee-tint so much admired by anglers. Mr. Barker has two flies made from the night-hawk, with which he kills wells. One is made from the top of wing with orange body, the other from underneath the wing and yellow body. The latter he calls Barker's fancy. Having looked into the matter, I give it as my opinion that the former represents the freckled dun, the latter the early brown, or, in other words, outside and inside woodcock. The only difference that I can note is that the two flies are of darker shades. There are now about eighty or one hundred well-known flies on the water, but some of the best are the dotterel drake, yellow drake, light drake, starling drake, black drake, freckled dun, dotterel dun, sanded dun, oak fly, and the ant flies.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

We are glad to say the rain came at last, but it did not raise the river much until Saturday last; it is now like peaseoup; but a few fine days will clear it sufficiently, when we are quite sure there will be splendid fishing. The peal are running now, the cotmen killing from four to six each every day this week. Saturday and Sunday being the weekly close season, and being the beginning of the flood, a good number of fish got up the river. The trout fishing is excellent on all the mountain streams, and several good baskets were got. The killing flies at present are spider wrens and yellow black hackles for day fishing and for evening and night rails.—DORA.

Trent (Alrewas).

At last we have commenced the legitimate season, but I am sorry to say the weather has not been of that agreeable character one would anticipate for the time of the year; rain has fallen more or less every day, while the wind, one, if not the worst, of enemies to the followers of Walton, has proved a regular caution, at times putting one in mind of March instead of Midsummer. Considering all these unpleasant matters, the few who have braved the elements have had little cause to grumble of bad sport, the takes have not only been good in point of condition, but the samples of the different kinds of fish were first class. Dace and grayling are in good order, likewise perch, roach are in much better condition than I expected to find them, in fact, I never recollect finding them so bright so early after spawning, which I attribute to the low state of the water on the scours. Big barbel and chub are knocking about on the shallows, but I do not anticipate their feeding for another month. I took a small one, 2 lb., on the opening day with a cod bait—which, by the way, is a capital bait for barbel this time of the year. The following are a few among the many takes during the week:—Mr. W. Reynolds, 100 roach and dace; Mr. S. Basnet, some good roach and a brace of perch, 1½ lb.; Mr. J. Parker, 7 lb. of roach; Mr. W. Seal, a few chub of 1 lb. each, and a nice sample of dace; Mr. H. Jephcott, 14 lb. roach, the largest fish 1 lb. 5 oz.; and your humble servant on Thursday, thirty nice roach, the largest 18 oz., a grayling of 1 lb., and few nice dace. The weather to-day has a more settled appearance, the wind is also in the proper quarter. Roach and dace are feeding well on both cod bait and gentles, and with our rivers well stocked with fish everything points to one of the most successful seasons for many years.—JAS. GREGORY

Witham and Fen Drains (Boston).

At no period in the memory of the oldest angler in June have such quantities of roach been taken as on the 16th inst. and up to date. The various waters literally abound with well-fed fish of excellent size, although many have not spawned, and others very rough. Some of the takes are marvellous, it being quite an ordinary one of 20 lb. to 30 lb., whilst one Bostonian secured upwards of 50 lb. in five hours; many of the fish scaled from ½ lb. to ¾ lb., and pounders were by no means scarce. The pike season opens on Saturday, the 25th, spinning will be out of all question in the present state of the weeds, but many a victim will succumb to the deadly live bait. Whilst strolling on the banks of one of our favourite drains last Saturday, taking notes, &c., I was accosted by a veteran native of the adjoining village, who had done a lot of netting in his day, thus—"Guvner, yor wrong of the drein (drain); yor see that bed of flags about thirty yards long at the end of the neck (breach), well, I see a few days since seven or eight pike lay there in the sun, and they wor 'skelpers,' " whatever that may mean. Some tench, going from 1 lb. to 3 lb. are daily secured. To those unaccustomed to the habits of this fish, it is a sight worth observing now they are spawning, rolling about by scores, like porpoises amongst the weeds.—J. R. BARNES.

CORRECTION.—In our review last week of the "Practical Fly-Fisher," the publisher's name should have been *Slack*, and the address *Busby Place*.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MUNDELLA ACT.

MR. EDITOR,—I must congratulate you on the sound sense and practical truth of the last paragraph of your editorial article of June 4th. Few anglers who write in public on the subject of fish protection have any knowledge of the great principles on which such protection should be based. There are certain individuals, having a kind of piscatory patriotism, who may be called Protectionist, that blindly rush to any standard bearing the name; albeit the principles involved in the teaching of these dogmatic and unpractical schools is utterly at variance with the truths revealed to the ardent naturalist and true fisherman.

These would-be savants desire to land fish into such a degree of utter wretchedness and multitudinous poverty, with dearth of food, that the half-starving, attenuated and diminutive objects of their pseudo sympathies will be infallibly impelled, by the pangs of irresistible hunger, to gulp down, heedless of bygone warnings, any clumsy, undeftly-wielded baits that these ostentatious instructors of others may themselves place before the fish. When this day comes may I quit the banks of the river! My wanderings at the waterside have taught me too distinctly that fish are self protective from the rod and line. The number of small individuals caught in rivers vastly exceeds that of the large, but it is absurd to think this proportion absolutely indicates the relative number of fish of different ages in the water. Small fish in time become wary, but the older members of the race have such a perfect knowledge of the angler and his ways, that they have learnt to ignore his crudities, his artifices. Let Mr. Mundella essay the angler's task with some aged trout or carp; he will soon have practically proved whether fish are, or are not, self-protective against the abilities of the rod. I could show Messrs. Geen, Bonvoisin, and Keene, rivers abundantly stocked with, for instance, trout one pound and upwards in weight; and I am assured, were I to accompany these gentlemen, and watch their efforts with the fly-rod in one of the best natural fly-streams I know, for a period of three months, there would be few fish of these dimensions found to have entered their creels, owing to the complete wisdom of the fish, and not to any want of skill of the anglers; moreover, every first-rate brother of the craft whom I have met and with whom I have interchanged ideas on the subject has stoutly affirmed that no rod-fishing can injure streams, that it is the nets and other poaching implements which are the destructive agents. It is true, bunglers in the art may suffer by the increased wariness of the fish, but then the bungler should become an expert; if not, he deserves to suffer.

Having been a conservator myself, and having also had a considerable experience of poachers themselves, their proclivities and their ideas, I find all reliable evidence leads to the same conclusion; and I therefore endorse your statement, Mr. Editor, when you tell us (like your Norfolk correspondents) that you know streams or waters so prolific in fish, that neither rods nor poachers, sewage nor natural enemies, can avail much in reducing the supremacy of the fish.

I am aware, too fully, of the frequent cry which is often raised of dearth of fish and a frightful percentage of poachers in some rivers; but I also know that this false cry of "Wolf, wolf," is too often the result of a bad day's fishing of some inexperienced angler, who therefore blames the poacher when he should mentally exorcise himself for not having faithfully followed the teachings and principles of Walton and Cotton, whilst presuming to consider himself no mean pupil of the old teachers. It is, no doubt, aggravating to have bad sport; and this I have at times severely felt; but then, I have at last learnt to know that an abundance of fish is actually present by the behaviour of the fish themselves; having sufficient skill at least for this, and having only once angled in a river where there were no fish whatever; a fact, however, I very soon discovered. Thus I know that if my creel be scantily loaded, its want of weight is owing either to my neglect of some important maxim of fishing with want of skill; or, otherwise, to some temporary inertness of spirit which makes me so idle as to substitute an inferior self for the one which at other times will surmount all difficulties and inconveniences with the one object of attaining all that is attainable.

Again, in relation to your other editorial note of June 11th, I fear this time, Mr. Editor, you are a little too sanguine; for though there is no doubt "that the fear of rod poachers is a bogey" to most hallucinated minds, yet I am afraid it is a little venturesome to predict that London and Sheffield anglers will some day admit their errors: this is not a common attribute of the human mind. The present system of fishing protection throughout the country is conducted mainly on wholly erroneous principles, and requires reorganising from its very foundation.

A close time in relation to coarse fish is no good; is simply a mere farce; several of these fish being altogether unpalatable, and the rest of such a mean and insipid flavour as to be entirely useless as a staple article of food in competition with superior fish. In relation to fish of a higher order, I may merely add the words of the "Trent Otter"—who, though a blacksmith, may be a gentleman for all that—are strictly true, absolutely incontrovertible, "rod fishing will never hurt a river in the least degree." These facts I expressed on October 23, 1880, in a letter in the FISHING GAZETTE, in the Samlet and Parr controversy, but then much more emphatically. I could show the three previously-named gentlemen *burns* in which considerable poaching occurs, even of an utterly vile description, where good fishing is to be had; and therefore I say it may be an easy thing to stupefy the discriminative powers of committees of the House of Parliament with plausible sophistries, such as the upholders of the recent Act so profusely fabricate. But let our hypothetical representatives be so deluded; we are ready "to bide a wee"; yet, at the same time, we will not allow ignorance to override truth by not upholding the latter, for we know that it will come to pass that "Time will, in his own crude way," declare who are the better naturalists, and who the better anglers. Let it do so; of such an exposure of the truth I stand fearless. In the meantime we register our opinions, our convictions, in the FISHING GAZETTE (? for some, the fashionable notion of the hour sometimes leaves its stamp).

There is one point, however, to which I have still to allude, namely "close time," as there seems to be some hard thrusting and parrying going on in this direction. A fish preserved at one time of the year is as valuable a *life* preserved as at any other; but, if not, the value of its life is approximately greatest just previous to or at the time of the first active sign of increase in the reproductive organs; and I challenge any one to disprove the statement. Why not, then, protect at that time, and ensure the greatest number of healthy individuals? This is plausible! In the next place, after spawning, fish are mostly

of little value; probability of life is at a minimum. Why not, then, catch and eat, if eatable, when, possibly, the fish may succumb to exhaustion, and so be lost? This, too, has plausibility. Mr. Keene tells us that all fish are in best condition when the ovaria "are about one-third developed." Even if this were true, it would not alter the fact, that the flavour of fish is better during the whole period of active ovarian development than at any other; for trout retain exquisite flavour until fully in the act of spawning, and sometimes even all through and after, despite a slight emaciation, although this is more rare, and is dependent on relative abundance of food, as opposed to want. But if a "close time" is a thing that must be, it should certainly exist after the act of spawning, as then fish are comparatively valueless, and, though more liable to death, may still to a certain extent be preserved. It is now the general practice to preserve the small fish, and catch the largest specimens which will allow themselves to be caught; despite the fact that it is these very self-same large fish which are the breeders! despite the fact that these fish are seldom in good condition more than three months! despite the fact that small fish are not the breeders, and are always in good condition; that their abundance reduces the size and number of the uncatchable breeding fish, or of similar fish which can only just be caught by great skill! Notwithstanding that it is true that large fish, if once caught, can be returned to the water, comparatively uninjured! whilst the smaller brood is the subject of painful and often fatal injury, and in utter contempt of the immemorial maxim of old anglers, that rivers producing large fish have naturally comparatively few inhabitants; whilst those teeming with occupants are notable for the smallness of the fish! Size of fish must have a direct or inverse relation to number of individuals and food supply taken together, if one of these elements be constant—regardless of the fact that the number of fish uncatchable by the rod always suffices, with fair play, for breeding purposes. One correspondent, attacking rod fishers, practically admits the impossibility of preventing poaching; if this admission be correct, legislation is impracticable. I, however, deny the premise, and say that it is poaching and pollution that must be rendered impracticable.

And now, finally, Mr. Editor, if ever it should be your lot to have to speak authoritatively to Piscatory Commissioners, &c., I would strongly urge that you should advocate the complete expunging of clauses 1 and 4 of the late Act with the uttermost strengthening of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th, with material additions relating to sewage, beds of rivers, planting of trees, &c.; and you might suggest that judicious administration of "Thong" would not be unsuitable for malefactors. I find the *nom de guerre* of an old opponent useful in this place.

THE RAVEN.

SIR,—I have heard it remarked by counsel in courts of law on more than one occasion, "If you do not possess a good cause, vilely abuse the other side," and "E. N.," Mr. J. H. Keene, T. Hoole, and H. A. Haketonian undoubtedly are fine samples of advocates of their individual opinions, possessing extremely weak cases. I will not justify my assertion, but leave it to the readers of your issue of the 16th inst. "Murderers of Lindley Murray," and they are not rare, have opinions of their own, which it is well they should express; it may result in benefit to mankind in general, and the legislator may glean from the thoughts of the ignorant substance tending ultimately to affect the destinies of a nation. Ignorance of London piscatorial club affairs may not entail ignorance of country clubs, or of East Anglian fishing, and Mr. Geen may, as Mr. T. Hoole has it, be honorary president of one club, treasurer of that, and honorary member of a dozen other clubs or societies, which honour is easily obtainable by contributing certain yearly subscriptions, entitling one to the same high distinction as he possesses; yet, as far as Norfolk fishing be concerned, he may be as ignorant of the subject as it is alleged a Norfolk angler is of London Waltonianism. Mr. Geen is an acknowledged authority on Londoners' fishing. With the deepest and most profound respect for him, I say let him be so, and credit him with the knowledge of his own particular district; but, at the same, it should not be forgotten that his knowledge of our waters may be limited, and he should not be suffered to interfere with the regulation of those rivers of which he knows little indeed. London anglers, I leave him to battle your cause, and sincerely wish you success; but I turn to other metal.

One cannot but regret, from the ability shown by Mr. Keene in his letter, that he should have advocated the cause of Sunday fishing, and with frothy words attempt to show that fishing on Sundays is more remunerative to body and soul than devotion to that Supreme Being from whence we derive our existence. However, like him, I leave Sunday fishermen to their deserts. The evident object which a "Norfolk Angler" had in his letter was to oppose the proposed alteration in the Mundella Act, applying it to the Norfolk river, and a "Norfolk Angler" was not without good, true and lawful reason. Notwithstanding friend Haketonian found Wroxham Broad a profitless investment of his 2s. 6d., which payments are applied to the funds of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, it still is the fact that there are abundance of fish to be found in our rivers than may be in Wroxham Waters. The reason for the excessive quantity of fish in these parts is easily arrived at. The county of Norfolk, as a rule, is exceedingly flat, without a single hill of the least magnitude, consequently its waters are extremely sluggish, and there is not the tithe part of the swiftness nor the constant navigation to be found in the Thames and other rivers. The quiet stream, whose bosom undisturbed, slowly wends its way, and stops only with the tide, and then flows gently back. See what opportunities it gives the fish in the spawning season; no rushing of waters to scatter the spawn away in every direction, but like a vast preserved fishing pond, the seed once deposited in Norfolk waters, there is ample opportunity for the male fish to complete the work of genitine. The late Frank Buckland saw, was well aware of, and said as much. Therefore the damage done by the rod and line during the spawning season, and whether the fish caught are full or not, cannot materially prevent any of your London correspondents availing themselves of the loving sport (without breaking the Sabbath), and getting a good catch of fish, if they only know where to go, which, sir, you regularly communicate in your columns.

Sir, we in Norfolk do not require fence months. We have only to look to the clearing of our streams of the filthy refuse coming from the town sewerage, and the poisonous matter emptied into the river from various manufactories in Norwich, which destroy the fish by thousands, and if not, renders them totally unfit for human food. Why, sir, fifty years ago our Norwich river was so clear that you could see the bottom and the big fish swimming about it. 'Tis not many years ago since I bagged fish in the heart of the city weighing from 2 to 3 lb. But, alas, since that period the river has been vilely polluted, the whole of the town sewerage being emptied into its placid bosom, till the river looked more like a wretched stagnant pool than a healthy flowing stream. However, the river is now a trifle better, the sewerage has been to some extent

diverted, and one looks forward to the old times of pleasant days' sport in fishing. As an encouragement, I am told that on Friday last a fine salmon trout was caught quite in the heart of the city.

Sir, I trust you will excuse the length of my letter, but in conclusion allow me to make a suggestion to my fishing friends and to the Waltonian clubs generally. Let each of our clubs call a meeting of its members, for the purpose of discussing the merits and demerits of establishing in their own waters a close season, and to pass such resolutions thereon as the majority of its members think beneficial to the districts in which they reside, those resolutions being forwarded to the proper quarters so well known for that purpose, and every disciple of the gentle art putting his shoulder to the wheel to preserve the privileges and benefits of his own district, will enable our fishing advocates to suggest legislation satisfactory to fishermen in general, and beneficial to the public generally.—I am, &c.,

PIXIE.

SIR,—In answer to various letters contained in your valuable paper of the 18th inst. in reply to my former communication, I will take the first, signed by Mr. P. Geen. He speaks of "angling liberties" being handed over to county justices, and Sunday outing being exterminated.

I consider by what he is advocating that he is not the working men's angling friend. He would take from them their nearly only one sporting liberty left—that is, catching a few fish in the beautiful evenings during the spring, when the labourer has done his work and has an hour or two to spare. Why is Mr. Geen advocating a close time in Norfolk nearly all through the year—viz., from January to July? I would ask him in fairness whether he would prefer a "Yarmouth bloater" with a nice "roe" in it, or, as we in Norfolk call them, "shotten"? I myself not being in the habit of living upon anything inferior would prefer fish in good condition—that is, freshwater fish—to the end of April, as I consider, and so do a great number of other persons, that empty fish are not fit for food; and I am sure I must agree with several of your correspondents that where close time is law, various close times ought to be regulated for different kinds of fish.

As to Mr. Geen's knowledge of Norfolk fishing, I should say it is extremely limited, and all his presumed knowledge is founded on theory only.

The unmerited stigmas contained in the remarks of some of your correspondents are enough to make all Norfolk anglers lose their tempers; and when they read such unadulterated inconsistency, as put forth by persons who ought to know better it is not at all likely they will scruple to use such language as adequately meets the unjustifiable vituperation to which they have been subjected.

I doubt whether Mr. Geen's ideas are endorsed by the twenty thousand London anglers which are so boastfully talked of. He speaks of fishing in the London close time as unsportmanlike. Where such is law I entirely agree with him. Mr. Geen's wishes seem to me to be a morbid selfish desire to use his "pets" for amusement only. In Norfolk many working men anglers go really at times on purpose for a fry of fish. Would they go when the fish are thin and flabby—that is, after they have spawned? Certainly not; they are not knaves, they know when fish are good, that is in the cool months of spring, when Mr. Geen and others would have us stop fishing. I leave it to any man of ordinary sense to say if fish are not at their best up to the time they spawn. But enough of sham philanthropy, I hate it, and will always pertinaciously and uncompromisingly unmask the exponents of it.

I was talking with a very old angler the other evening (a gentleman who has had the pleasure of fishing with "Greville F.," of the *Field*) about a close time for Norfolk; he laughed, and scorned the idea, and also asserted that instead of a close time a little netting of small fish (roach, bream and dace) ought to be done on purpose to reduce the great number of small fish, so that the rest might have more scope to come to better perfection. He likewise considered that a close time for pike and perch was necessary, as there is not enough of those fish to regulate our rivers.

With regard to Mr. J. H. Keene, I am surprised at that gentleman backing up Sabbath breaking. He seems to be "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel, for he would lead us to believe that it is a more heinous crime to catch a few fish in certain months of the year, than it is to be an habitual Sabbath breaker. As regards the wrinkle or two he could show me if I were in London, I very much doubt it. If "elegant tackle," coupled with the want of knowing how to fish, make a crack angler, even in the much-boasted-of metropolitan waters, I opine that the old proverb, "fine feathers made fine birds," would unmistakably be reversed.

I have lately had curious demonstration of witnessing the exploits of some of the London and Midland county crack anglers. One of those gentlemen was fishing at Acle a few weeks ago with three friends of mine, and actually, while our local angler with his Norfolk tackle, which Mr. Keene ridicules, in the same boat kept landing large bream, the London expert with his costly tackle could only land a few eels and ruffs of about 1½ oz. each. I am of opinion that we could show Mr. Keene very many wrinkles. Also I fail to see by what right the London gentlemen arrogate to themselves the claim to interfere or intermeddle with Norfolk anglers. There is nothing like blowing one's own trumpet, and if I were to take for granted one-half what several of your London correspondents say I should put them down as extraordinary anglers and truly wonderful men. Apologising for troubling you once more—I am, &c.,

A NORFOLK ANGLER.

SIR,—In last week's GAZETTE a few letters appeared that seem to me to merit a reply. Mr. Hoole says "that the 'Trent Otter' evidently desires to make Mr. Geen's name obnoxious to the anglers." The "Trent Otter" desires to do nothing of the kind, he is only too glad that there are such men as Mr. Geen, if it is correct what Mr. Hoole says of him. If I did not understand Mr. Geen aright, and attributed opinions to him that he never possessed, I am very sorry. I have no wish to insult either Mr. Geen or Mr. Hoole, but discuss a question in a fair and impartial manner. Mr. Geen's opinion is as valuable to him as mine is to me, and if we differ we will agree to differ, and shake hands over our differences if we ever meet. If I misunderstood his letter, and it is the general opinion of your readers that I have insulted Mr. Geen, why, I am very sorry, and will send him an apology; but still, the question is an important one, and wants discussing freely and openly. Should any angler feel hurt at anything I say, I hope he will speak out freely. Since sending my last letter to the GAZETTE, I have carefully read the text of Mr. Wortley's Bill, and I can say that it does not exactly suit me; it is right a little and wrong a good deal, but no good can come now from discussing it, so I will leave it to its fate, and turn to the true amendment of the Mundella Act. I have read the suggestions of Mr. Geen in this week's, or rather last week's GAZETTE, and I can say that I agree with some of the clauses.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have my hearty support, and as for the others, why, I am open to conviction. And now, before proceeding further, I must turn to the letter sent by Mr. Weaver to Mr. Geen, and also the report of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association, of which Mr. Weaver is the hon. treasurer. The meeting of which the report speaks was nothing like so important an affair as Mr. Weaver would make Mr. Geen believe it was. I am not a member of that association, but members who were there told me that the special meeting referred to was only *very* thinly attended, and they also wished that I had been a member, so that I could have gone to the meeting and proposed an amendment. They said they would have taken care that I had plenty of support, for they would have gone to the members who feel rather sore about the action of Mr. Weaver, which I will explain presently, and requested them to attend; but as it was, they had no one to speak up for them, and as the great majority of the members kept away and allowed Messrs. Glover, Weaver, Curtis, Neal and Co. to have their own way, and the result was a very thinly-attended meeting and the adoption of the report in last week's GAZETTE. And now, so as to let your readers grasp the whole of the difference between working-men anglers here and Mr. Weaver, it is necessary to go back a little before the passing of the Mundella Act. A public meeting was held, and Mr. Weaver was one of the speakers, and there are several of us who have a lively recollection of what Mr. Weaver said. In the course of his remarks he said—"Gentlemen, you will not be entirely deprived of your sport during the proposed close season, for there will be certain fish that you can take, such as eels and flounders." After giving this promise he met with no opposition to his motion, and the result of that meeting was the adoption of a resolution in favour of the proposed Mundella Act; but as soon as ever the Bill became law Mr. Weaver was one of the very first to cry out and say that eels and flounders were included in the close time. This action naturally made the working-men anglers here feel very sore. Mr. Weaver is a member of the Newark Town Council, and some time after this he offered himself for re-election at the November elections. If there had been any opposition, he would most certainly have been defeated, for lots of working-men anglers, who like myself are voters for the North Ward, would certainly not have voted for him then, for they remembered his promise at the meeting and his subsequent action. Mr. Geen says, in reference to Mr. Weaver's letter to him, "That the 'Trent Otter' only represents one side of the feeling in Newark," but I venture to say that I represent by far the greatest majority of working-men anglers here. An old member of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association, in a conversation we held about the meeting, told me he was perfectly disgusted with the action of certain prominent members of that association. "The very idea," says he, "of half a dozen members of that body to over-ride the opinions of about two hundred working-men anglers." "I consider," he continued, "that the promise obtained from our borough members to oppose Mr. Wortley's Bill was obtained in a questionable manner. Why not," added he, "have had a public meeting of all the anglers in the town, and let the whole case be stated, and I am sure Mr. Wortley's Bill would have had a majority of supporters; and," continued he, "I was surprised that no one got up at the meeting and got on to Mr. Weaver about the eels and flounders, and taken steps to have them excluded from Mr. Mundella's Bill." This then is the opinion of an old angler who was there; but I will not commit myself by saying anything about it. Of course that meeting was perfectly legal and the members present were justified in what they did. They had a perfect right to ask our members to oppose Mr. Wortley's Bill in Parliament, but as my words have been challenged by Mr. Geen, I have taken the liberty to state the whole case as far as the working-men anglers of Newark are concerned. The sore spot with our anglers is the eels and flounders; they think that they ought to be allowed to take them with rod and line at any time, for I know that fish have been taken every year during the close season, by both night lines and nets, and yet anglers were not allowed to take a few eels and flounders, which fish are in capital condition during May and June. Anglers naturally feel the injustice of this, and I can say that our working-men anglers would be content if the eels and flounders were excluded from the Act, and a heavy penalty put on any one taking a scale fish during the close season, or netting, and also stop the sale of fish for another month at least. I must now conclude and finish this letter another time.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

SIR,—As far as the benefits supposed to be derived from the "Mundella Act," in this part of England, are concerned, they are not worth much, the angling clubs only adhering to its strict letter by not angling during the restricted time; but as there are no keepers or watchers over the rivers, &c., poaching and snatching is carried on to a great extent, and even when the 16th of June arrives (which date is at least a month too early hereabouts for roach to be in good condition), the very ordinary class of fishermen will take them when full of spawn, at the time they are making for the becks, thus destroying thousands of fish, which it evidently was the intention of the Act to preserve.

I may add, that the proposed amendment of Messrs. Dodds and Stuart-Wortley would be appreciated, I believe, by the majority of Hull anglers, if carried.—I am, &c.,

HENRY BOOTH.

Prospect House, the Arcade, Hull.

SIR,—I am now more than ever convinced it was a mistake to interfere with rods by Act of Parliament. I have always looked upon the Mundella Act as simply a tack on to the Salmon Act, for it certainly fails most completely at both ends against the poachers. As far as club members are concerned, the proposed alterations are good, and few would grumble, especially if extended to include the Easter holidays, in exceptional seasons. Hot weather in April will bring up a few early spawners, but I have frequently noticed a cold night or two and back they go again, and do not complete spawning until the white flower is upon the weed, end of May and frequently well into June; therefore, with jack and perch having a special time, we could angle, at least, a month later without harm; several good reasons could be adduced for June being entirely closed.—I am, &c.,

F. M.

P. S.—I see Mr. Geen has omitted any mention of eels.

SIR,—There has been a great deal said about the Mundella Act. I am convinced that many who object to the Act do so through ignorance. There never was an Act that pleased everyone, and I should feel surprised if I should find myself able to please all those who read these remarks; but I will, with your permission, give my opinion upon the working of it, and the good it is doing in the Worcester district; and I am quite convinced that if it is carried out as it now stands, it will lead to the object aimed at by Mr. Mundella, that is, to stock the rivers with coarse fish, and also there will be more salmon and trout

in our streams. The natural history of all our coarse fish points to their spawning in one of the three months named in the Act, that is, from the 15th of March until the 15th of June. If you want to preserve fish, you must find and pay your keeper; and what club will unless they are the owners of, or have got the right of, the fishery? As far as my experience goes, it tells me none will. I recommend all clubs to discourage the act of showing fish when out of season, that is, during the dates given. I quite agree with Mr. Geen, that it is unpleasant to see small fish killed, or fish full of spawn, as was the case at Norwich. Why cannot all anglers do as the Worcester anglers do; if they see a man offer for sale any freshwater fish during the fence month, they make him answer for it; the law says you shall not sell, or offer for sale, any of the fish known as coarse fish during the fence months. In my opinion, that is one of the best clauses in the Act. As an angler, I should not think any anglers would mind losing a few days' sport if it will protect their favorites only three months in the year, and this it must do if carried out as the law now stands; for what man will be fool enough to destroy by the net fish he cannot sell? Men who toil with the net do not do it for sport. The effect of the Act is, beyond all doubt, good upon the Severn, &c. There are more anglers than ever I remember, and they all get a few fish now—in fact, I have seen more of the trout, dace, chub, and roach kind this season than I have ever seen before in our waters, and I have fished this district for upwards of 35 years, and I hope to see the law remain and enforced.—I am, &c.,

T. A. GRIFFIN.

Worcester, June 21, 1881.

SIR,—The many misapprehensions which appear to prevail in the minds of many of your correspondents on this subject must be my apology for again writing you on the matter.

In the first place, I most respectfully desire to accept the challenge of your correspondent, Mr. F. C. Clench, to prove the condition of the fish exhibited by my society at the Norwich Fisheries' Exhibition.

I still adhere to my former statement, that there was no fish so small as those described by himself and Mr. Geen; and I would, with great deference, refer those gentlemen to the letter of Mr. E. Bicknell, of Bedford, contained in your issue of the 11th inst., who, whilst fully bearing me out, further says, "he saw nothing repulsive or beastly about them, in fact, they were in a far finer condition than they would have been a month later."

I am, of course, sensible of the fact that Mr. Bicknell is not a London angler, but I submit that his opinion is not the less to be relied upon.

I cannot pass over the last letter of Mr. Geen without remarking on the "free and easy" way in which he deals with the assertions made by me, a line of conduct which is only equalled by his characteristic coolness in accusing ME of losing my temper. The flattering and almost too indulgent remarks of several other of your correspondents concerning me conclusively demonstrates that Mr. Geen's opinion with regard to my personal temperament is quite as erroneous as the many others he appears to hold, and which I have before dilated upon.

I, however, thank him for his candour in corroborating me as to the excellent nature of the quality and quantity of sport to be had on the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads—which he admits is almost inexhaustible—and, thereby, indisputably proving the non-necessity for fence months in this district, or anything like the stringent provisions of the Mundella Act. Mr. Geen will, no doubt, agree with me, however great my shortcomings may be, that I have, as a brother angler, done really good service to our cause by giving to our friends throughout England a gratuitous advertisement of the fine and, practically, endless sport we are able to afford them; and I, with him, shall rejoice at the dawn of the halcyon day when the boon we now enjoy can be extended to the thousands of London working men he speaks of.

I very much fear that Mr. Harrington Keene is far too cunning a master in the art of "newspaper debate" for me to cross swords with; but, however dire the consequences, the innuendoes contained in his letter demand some slight recognition at my hands. I most emphatically protest against his insinuation that the "Norfolk Anglers" justify the snaring of pike.

Sir, if Mr. Keene tax his memory, he will find that a friend of mine, under the *nom de plume* of a "True Disciple of Isaac Walton," having seen some uncultivated countryman indulging in the practice, inquired through the medium of your paper as to its legality, and Mr. Keene, in your issue of the 4th inst., recommended him to communicate what he saw to the properly constituted authorities, which, doubtless, he did.

This being the case, it seems somewhat hard now that materials for arguments are wanted to use the circumstance against those who are really legitimate anglers. *O tempora! O mores!*

I do not now propose to enter further into this controversy, but will content myself by reiterating my former opinions as to the harmless result of continual rod-and-line fishing in this district; and referring to the arguments I before adduced, I would also remind your correspondents that the most salient points I put forward yet remain unchallenged and unanswered. At the same time, I cannot help expressing the unfeigned pleasure I shall feel if by these interchanges of opinion the Act now objected to can be altered or modified so as to give satisfaction to anglers as a body, and be the means of increasing the sport we all have so much at heart.—I am, &c., ALFRED PALMER, Hon. Sec., E.A.P.S. St. Stephen's Street, Norwich.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Crewe Angling Societies, held on Tuesday evening last, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—moved by Mr. Houghton, Crewe Waltonians, seconded by Mr. Heckins, Crewe No. 1 Angling Society, and resolved unanimously—"That this meeting of the United Anglers' Societies in Crewe highly approves of the Bill to Amend The Fisheries Act, 1878, introduced in the House of Commons by Messrs. Wortley and Dodds.

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each of those gentlemen.

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of this division of the County, in the hope they will support Messrs. Wortley and Dodds.

Mr. Wallace Lumb, President Crewe No. 1 Angling Society has carried out the wishes of the meeting.—I am, &c., WALLACE LUMB, 23 and 25, High Street, Crewe.

SNATCHING AT SURBITON.

SIR,—It seems a pity that nothing should be done to stop the most abominable practice of snatching fish, which is carried on in our neighbourhood.

Bills have been posted up by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the keepers and watchmen are on the look out, yet snatching is going on here in broad daylight, and nobody seems to interfere with those who make use of this very unsportsmanlike way of nailing fish.

Last night I walked up the Surbiton Promenade, and in the course of half-an-hour saw eight fish caught, one only of which was fairly hooked. This was a perch; the other seven were bream, all hooked by the back fin or belly.

To-day at 3 p.m., that is again in broad daylight, I saw two bream caught in the same way.

In years gone by, a man used to put four or five hooks, and perhaps a couple of triangles, on his line, and, without baiting any of his hooks, set to work without fear of being stopped.

But when the T. A. P. S. stuck up their bills and notices these several hooks were done away with, and snatching had to be done with one hook only.

For instance, a man arrives at the sewer with a line such as many would use for roach fishing, well shotted and with porcupine or quill float, and begins his fishing, hook baited with worm or gentle. This looks very fair, but if you notice him for a short time you find that every few seconds he strikes as if he had a bite, and wished to knock head and shoulders off his fish. The result is that in such places as the outlets of sewers, where the fish of all sorts and sizes congregate in vast numbers, it must occur that some time or other the hook is drawn sharply against a fish, which is, therefore, hooked by the belly or fins, or gets a terrible gash in the side. If well hooked the fish is landed, if not the poor victim gets off with some wound which, in most cases, proves fatal. This can easily be proved by the number of fish, generally bream, which are seen floating down the river dead, and nearly all wounded in the side.

I was astonished to count the large number of rods (fifty-one) on the Promenade this afternoon.

Any one can see at least two dozen at work any evening of the week, and just at the point where the greater number of these so-called anglers congregate there is a board stuck up, by order of the Town Council, on which is notified in good plain English that "It is strictly prohibited to fish or angle from this promenade; that offenders will be," &c., &c.

I should say, therefore, that the greater part of the snatching in this neighbourhood could be done away with if some of the members of the committee of the T. A. P. S. (and I believe that one or two belonging to our neighbourhood are influential men) would ask the Town Council to be kind enough to enforce this bye-law.

The promenade which is, or rather was before the fishing season commenced, one of our pleasant walks, would be restored again to the quiet public.

At present it is unbearable, on account of the indecent language and rough behaviour of the greater part of those whose practice it is to spend the best part of the day there fishing. It is quite out of the question taking ladies to the top of the promenade now.

Should, therefore, angling from this spot be stopped we should be able once more to enjoy our evening walks, and also see the greater part of the abominable practice of snatching done away with.

I must apologise, sir, for troubling you with such a long letter, but seeing that no serious steps seem to be taken to stop this foul angling, I believe it time to ask that the matter should be put before the public, interested in the real sport of angling, through the medium of your valuable paper.—I am, &c., Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, June 18.

FAIR ANGLER.

P.S.—Since I wrote my letter last Saturday, snatching has been going on here without ceasing. Some few fish have been caught fairly. I have seen among others two tench, 2½ and 3 lb., a third and smaller fish caught foul by the fin. Also to-day, caught with gentle in one case and worm in the other, two carp, 3 lb. and 3½ lb., and a small lot of remarkably fine dace.—I am, &c., Kingston-on-Thames, June 23.

FAIR ANGLER.

THE MIDGE THE ANGLER'S CURSE.

SIR,—Everybody knows that anglers are proverbial for patience—at any rate they get credit for having a large share of that virtue. Whether it be so or not I am not going to argue. Most men are patient in pursuing their hobby; but I am an angler, and, I believe, a patient one, but if my patience is tested when I am riding my hobby it is when throwing the flies over a pond alive with trout rising at the black midge. That insect has not been called "the angler's pest" for nothing. I have consulted most of the authorities upon the mode of dressing this fly, and I have tried it in various ways, but I have never succeeded in making a taking fly. The trout pay no more attention to my invitations than they would do to a dead sparrow. I use hair and fish as fine as I possibly can. The whole pond is moving, but a spotted fellow never makes a mistake and seizes mine. Well, now, I'm sure that's perplexing and trying; but the cup is not full yet. My patience has often had to stand as much; but throw in another set of midges—smaller than those just referred to, quite as numerous, and not confining themselves to the surface of the water—the minute pests that settle themselves upon your ears, neck, eyes, face, hands, arms, every inch of exposed skin, are overrun, and you are stung or bitten until you can't hold your rod for a moment, but your hand is wanted to use your handkerchief and clear a myriad off your face. Next morning when you attend to your toilet you see a multitude of small elevations, reminiscences of the previous night's sport! Various are the remedies I've tried to be midge-proof—Eau de Cologne, whisky (externally), benzole, &c.; but there again I've failed. (It's hard for one to write that word, but I'm forced to it.) Now, sir, will any brother angler help me out of either or both of these difficulties? Surely the whole fraternity isn't "licked;" and if any good fellow who has surmounted them can give me a lift I will indeed be very thankful, and I'll promise to pass it on to my son when he is old enough, so that there may be no fear of such important information being lost to posterity.—I am, &c.,

VICTIM.

"Victim" will find Porter's veiled spectacles a perfect protection if tobacco smoke is not enough. He should try the pond with a big fly, say a lake trout fly or the fatal "Alexandra." Hardy Brothers, of Alnwick, make a good "midge," but it is very rarely trout will take the artificial midge. It should be fished "dry"—i.e., made to float on the surface. We hope some of our fishing friends will take up this "midge" question.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR LINCOLN.

SIR,—Mr. W. Moore will find some fair all round fishing in the Ancholme, tickets, 6d. per day. Brandy Wharfe or Brigg may do for head-quarters. Bream run up to 3 or 4 lb., and of the pike it is said—

"Ancholme pike

None the like."—I am, &c.,

Caistor.

THOMAS FORD.

CRYSTAL ROACH HOOKS.

SIR,—Will any of your readers inform me where I can obtain the Crystal bend of hook.—I am, &c.,

CONSTANT READER.

[Crystal roach hooks (the best in the market) are made by Messrs. Williams and Co., Gt. Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn.]

LINES WITH COPPER WIRE IN THEM.

SIR,—Seeing Mr. George James Eaton's letter in your issue of last week, we think one or two remarks would not be amiss in tending to keep those anglers, who wish to have a really serviceable line, in the proper track, and with this view we ask the angling community these two questions—(1) Is copper a substance that will corrode when in contact with the action of air and water? and if so, what will be the effect of this corrosion on such substances as silk and hair? We think acetate of copper very injurious.—We are, &c.,

Alnwick.

HARDY BROTHERS.

[In theory Messrs. Hardy are right, but in practice we can only say again, we have used one of Foster's "Acme" trout lines for more than twelve months, and killed one trout of 2 lb. and one of 2½ lb. with it a few days ago. It is not rotten yet. If you put it in a damp cellar it might soon be so; but if the line is properly treated, dried, and rubbed with Russian tallow now and then, it will last as long as any other similarly fine line will last, and it will cast much further than any line of the same size not wired.—ED.]

FLIES FOR DACE.

SIR,—I have at one time or other fished a good deal for dace with the fly, and have found those flies to kill the best which are made from the starling, dotterel and port (i.e., young grouse). The blue tinge seems peculiarly attractive to these shining ones. Foremost among the list I can, like the Editor, recommend the blue dun; but other noted killers are the blue brown, yellow brown, yellow drake, dotterel drake, light drake, starling drake, dotterel dun, grey goose dun, and oak fly. These can all be obtained at almost any respectable dealers, but if H. S. has any difficulty in getting them I shall be glad to supply him.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS FORD.

Caistor.

THE SMALL GREY DRAKE.

SIR,—We have had no rain since I left London two months ago, so you may judge what state the water is in. I have caught nearly all my fish with a small grey drake that Hardy sent me—yellow body and white mottled wing, the generality of May flies that you buy are more like salmon flies than trout flies, they put them on such large hooks. Thursday, I had a very good afternoon; in the morning we had thunder, so I did not fish till nearly four, commenced with fly, Hardy drake and red drake; after I tried minnow (Devon), caught twelve good fish, six fly and six minnow. I always commence with fly, but, when tired, I use the minnow. Yesterday was very close and wet. I could do nothing only with fly, last night it rained a good deal; but I understand it has made no difference to the water. You might write an article on the proper size and thickness of hooks for trout flies. After what I have seen this last month, I am certain that all flies ought to be a size or two smaller than the original (particularly May fly), and on much finer hooks than generally made. If I had not stuck to what you taught me, used small flies and fine gut, I should not have done anything in this fine water.—I am, &c.,

FERN WEBB.

SEA FISHING AT REDCAR.

SIR,—To what extent do fish feel pain? Fishing off Coatham Pier last week, I felt a fish, struck, and lost him. Almost immediately, I felt another (?), which I landed. It was a billet, or coalfish, minus one eye. I was baiting with mussel, which he had swallowed, along with the eye of the fish I had previously struck, and which presumably was the same fish. By the way, they have a very unfair way of collecting the charge for fishing from this pier. You are charged threepence per day. There is only a short length of pier available for the purpose, and some of the native pot-hunters here come at low water, fix some eight or ten lines at this particular place, ready for the return tide. A visitor with his one line has to pig in where and how he can, yet the man with the eight or ten lines only has his threepence to pay. It would seem more reasonable to charge so much per line but the authorities here do not seem to see it.

W. S. L.

FISHING NEAR BOURNEMOUTH.

SIR,—For the information of E. Clever, your correspondent of last week wishing for fishing at Bournemouth, you rightly state the Avon, but it is preserved from the run to Ringwood, and belongs to John Mills, Esq., J.P., of Bistern, near Ringwood, where you can get free fishing from the first bridge from the station (London and South Western Railway), only here there is a deep hole where three years ago I saw a dozen beautiful roach taken in the course of the morning, and on a very bad day.

This year I was staying near Christchurch, and fished a stream known as Cassey by the inhabitants of Winton Common and Burton, near Christchurch (private, J. Mills, Bistern), and I caught in a week about 1 cwt. of roach, a dozen or more over 2 lb. weight, three perch and half dozen dace, in all 105 fish. This stream runs out of the Avon and Winton, and into it again at Christchurch. The place where I fished is known as Bugden's Hole, where there are also a few jack, tench, and eels.

There is also at Christchurch the Stour, where you may fish from the Quay by obtaining permission, the boatmen there could inform you where to go to obtain it.

I saw some very fine salmon taken while there, and I think that the fee is one guinea per day salmon-fishing within the Stour or the Avon. Although there is excellent fishing in both these rivers, they are private waters.

Trusting that this information will be of service.—I am, &c.,

W. PRICE.

[Many thanks.—ED.]

FISHING AT DAWLISH.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Blue Dun," will find good sea fishing at Dawlish, but the trout and salmon fishing is some distance in the Teign. Tickets, 1s. per day, salmon-licenses, 7s. 6d. I should not recommend "Blue Dun" to depend too much upon it.

As for the sea, it is good, but very exposed. Bass, pollack, whiting, and cod are to be met with, and any of the local fishermen who let out boats will put him upon the spots.

In the rivers he will find the alder fly, the blue with rat's fur body and red tail, the red spinner; the cooh-y-bondhu, black with silver twist, and also his namesake, good for this season of the year.

If he is not bound to Dawlish, he will get some good peel and salmon fishing at Plymouth now, some good baskets being taken this week, and with the

advantage of being able to fish in the sea in any weather, the harbour being so protected.

Boats can be hired here at 6d. per hour, or 1s. per hour with man.

If "Blue Dun" will communicate with me I shall be pleased to put him in the right way for sport.—I am, &c.,
WILLIAM HEARDER.
Plymouth.

ANGLERS' QUARTERS.

SIR,—As many hundreds of your readers in London, &c., will no doubt be very shortly going away for their week or two's country trip, and would be glad to know where accommodation in the shape of lodging, &c., could be found near the streams they may be intending to visit for angling purposes, I would suggest that some of your country agents, if requested, might get many innkeepers (and even cottagers) in their localities to advertise the same in your paper. This would be advantageous, I think, to the circulation of your paper, to the advertiser, and also to anglers.

Your last year's holiday number was a good plan, but I unfortunately found it not quite perfect, and apprised you at the time of two letters of mine to people mentioned therein being unanswered, though stamped directed envelope enclosed in each.—I am, &c.,
EDWARD BEAVAN.

15, Camden Grove, S.E., June 21.

ANGLERS' PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR,—On page 290 of last week's FISHING GAZETTE will be found the sentence, "The cost of the tickets is 2s. 6d. per year, and there is the privilege of cheap railway fares, on production of the fishing ticket, at most of the Great Eastern stations." Will the writer kindly inform me to which stations near the Ouse do the Great Eastern Company grant the privilege from London?—I am, &c.,
NAUTILUS.

23, Clifford Road, N., June 22.

FISHING AT ELSTREE RESERVOIR.

SIR,—Kindly inform me through the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, if in your knowledge, whether Sunday fishing is to be had at Elstree, on the Midland Railway.—I am, &c.,
CIGARETTE.

[We cannot say for certain, but doubtless some reader will know and send us word.—ED.]

June 22.

FLY-FISHING.

Mr. E. Frost wishes us to state that "some gentleman has written to him," asking a question respecting fly-fishing, and forgotten to enclose his address; and if he will kindly supply the omission by again writing to him, addressed to the Gresham Angling Society, Throgmorton Street, he will send a reply."

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, June 15, twenty-six of the members sat down to a very excellent supper provided by the host, Mr. Gray. Mr. Medcalf occupied the chair, with his usual good humour and affability. After the supper, harmony took place, which was ably supported by friends and members, accompanied by a pianist and violinist. After a very pleasant evening, some of the members started fishing. Sunday, June 19, a great number went out, but the result was not what it ought to have been after giving the fish so much rest. Mr. Pedley, perch, bream and roach, 4 lb. 6½ oz.; Mr. Harding, perch, roach and dace, 3 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Shory, dace, roach and gudgeon, 4 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Moir, one bream, from Dagenham; Mr. Wood, roach and dace, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Larkman, some very nice eels, from the Lea.—J. WORLEDGE.

ANGLERS' PRIDE.

On Sunday last the members of the above society contested for three valuable prizes at Pullborough—viz., a very handsome timepiece presented by our worthy host and treasurer, Mr. Fiddes; Mr. Norris kindly presented us with jack rod, and Mr. A. Fiddes, jun., gave a money prize. Being the first Sunday of the season you may be sure the members were eager to select their swims and get to work as soon as possible, and after a hard fought contest (especially for the timepiece), the result was as follows:—Mr. J. Deeley, jun., 1st, with a nice show of bream, weight 6 lb.; Mr. Haines, 2nd, with 3 lb. 8½ oz. of bream; Mr. H. Mallett, 3rd, with 3 lb. bream. The following members also weighed-in: Mr. T. Fiddes, 2 lb. 14½ oz.; Mr. Wall, 2 lb. 10½ oz., Messrs. Dawe, Jones, and E. Mallett, &c. Total weight 24 lb. 6½ oz., being a considerable deal; I am pleased to state, above the average weight that prizes were won last season, and the result gave great satisfaction to the members and friends.—H. MALETT, Reporter.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we had our second annual outing by road, to King's Langley. At night the following members weighed in fish: Messrs. Vincent, Clark, Seymour, Slade, Bastain, Cubitt, Hart, and Leslie. Messrs. Seymour, Slade, and Hart managed to secure a prize each.—H. TAYLOR, hon. sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On June 16, the opening day, very few members turned out. Mr. Anscombe weighed in a small take of roach, the largest fish weighing 1 lb. 10 oz. On June 19 the above association held their first competition in the river Adur, between Henfield and Steyning, being well represented; but the takes were small, the 1st prize being taken by Mr. G. Saunders; 2nd, Mr. Ollive; 3rd, Mr. Hassel; 4th, Mr. Anscombe, all with roach and dace.—JOHN ANSCOMBE, hon. sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Four of our members weighed-in on the 19th, Mr. Mortimer, bream and roach from Amberley, 4 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. J. Chambers, bream from same place; Mr. Perry, roach from the Thames; and Mr. Castell, rudd.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday last, but only to turn up to weigh in, namely, Mr. Willoughby, with 5 lb. 4 oz. of roach and bream; Mr. A. Turner, 4 lb. 3 oz. of carp and roach; Mr. E. Withers took a nice Thames trout on May 15th, weighing 5 lb. 4½ oz. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business. Hoping all members will attend.

June 21.

E. WILSON, Sec.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Roberts and Ernest Holms opened the season with a splendid show of bream, and the members of this club fished on Sunday last for some valuable prizes at Ware Roam of Water, Mr. J. Osborne taking 1st prize (£5 5s.), Mr. J. Gadbury 2nd, Mr. Hellens 3rd, D. Sims 4th, J. Bell 5th, Mr. Ormes 6th, J. Robinson 7th, J. Hadkiss 8th, W. Agambase 9th, 30 members taking fish. It looks well for the opening of the season, some of the fish weighing over 1 lb. each, and in excellent condition.—R. MURPHY.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members competed for two special prizes on Sunday last, the 19th inst., at Pulborough. There was a good muster competed, but the takes were small. Mr. G. Wood won the first prize, given by Mr. A. Rogers; Mr. E. W. Turner won the second, which was given by Mr. H. Butt. The following members also weighed-in for the first time this season:—Mr. C. Green, roach; Mr. J. Baraes, roach; Mr. W. Wilkinson, roach; Mr. H. Butt, roach; Mr. G. P. Rolt, perch. Members who intend being present at either the Sunday or Wednesday dinners, are requested to give in their names at once.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday we commenced the season passably well. We had three prizes competed for and won by the following members: Mr. Letch, 1st prize, bream, 5 lb. 10 oz., one fish scaling 3 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Humphreys, 2nd, jack, 5 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Goods, 3rd, jack, 4 oz. 9½ lb.; Mr. Hopton, bream, 4 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Hurwood, roach, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Mead, 1 perch, 13½ lb.; and Messrs. Somers, Moore and Grey, had takes of roach, perch and dace. We had likewise a few pounds of eels brought in. On Tuesday, July 5th, we hold our general meeting on the central list. We hope to have a goodly muster of our brother anglers.—W. BROWN.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society weighed in some excellent fish on Sunday last. Messrs. Lucy, sen., Lucy, jun., Drew, Gorsuch, jun., also Messrs. Orman and Marles, a brace of the speckled beauties from Pulborough, the latter being rather uncommon from the Arun. The following members also weighed-in:—Messrs. Laundry, Neagus, and our host (Mr. Warren), with two trays of barbel, chub, roach, and dace from the Thames. The first prize fell to Mr. Lucy, jun., and the second to L. Gorsuch, jun.—THOS. WM. LUCY, secretary.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On the 19th the members of this society commenced the slaughter of the "finny uns" in right good style; one of them "shanking it" through the stills night along the banks of the Wey, whilst others took (or rather were taken by) the first "iron horse" on Sunday morning to Weybridge. At the close of the competition Mr. Page was declared the winner of Mr. Steadall's prize with bream; Messrs. Williams, Duke, Gendle and Matthews had bream, perch and gudgeon; Mr. Bignell also made a show.—PIXIE.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A fine collection of Great Lake and other trout from Ireland, caught by Messrs. Sachs, Huggett, Edgar, and Walter Wilkinson were shown and distributed to the members on Monday evening, the 20th inst. Among the fish was a splendid Lough Melvin Gillaroo trout and a charr, caught by Mr. Huggett, the same gentleman being also fortunate in catching the largest salmon, 13½ lb., and the largest lake trout, 6½ lb. Mr. Sachs had hold of a monster lake trout, who run him out 40 yards of line when hooked, but owing to a sudden confusion in the boat, his fellow angler having two lines out, and the boatmen turning the boat round in the rough water, he broke away. Mr. Walter Wilkinson caught his first salmon, a fair share of the lake and other trout falling to him and Mr. Edgar Wilkinson. A consignment of salmon and trout from Lough Conn, near Ballina, were sent the week previous to the Piscatorial by the above named gentlemen, who must have worked hard the whole of each day to secure them, and their bronzed faces and hands testify how well the wild winds and wet agreed with and strengthened their constitutions.—T. R. SACHS.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

Mr. W. Randall has just returned from his favourite Bettws with as fine a show of bream, perch, jack, and roach, as anybody would wish to have at this time of the season. The gross weight was a few ounces under 30 lb. and consisted of six bream, two jack, six perch, and two roach. He had no bream under 1½ lb., and some going nearly 5 lb., jack, roach, and perch in splendid condition, considering the time of the year and the water. Mr. W. Randall has to bid farewell to this part of the country for some time, owing to professional engagements in the provinces.—PIXIE.

June 23.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The majority of the members of the above society fished for a series of prizes at Shiplake, on the 19th inst. The water was very low and not too bright. This being an opening day, we had made extra provision in bait and tackle, feeling sanguine that we should have heavy creels by the time of leaving off. Yet our expectations were not realised. The fish were right off feed, consequently our takes were very small. The weather was beautiful; after being laid by for three months, we enjoyed our first day's outing immensely. First prize,

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The friends of the members of this society, were much delighted and surprised on the 16th, by the display of fish exhibited by Messrs. Hughes, Canton, and Hockley, which consisted of trout, barbel, and chub, from the Thames. Mr. W. Randall also exhibited fifteen pounds of splendid perch not from Bettws Garmon, but from a spot the name of which is well known to all "North-Westerners." The greatest applause on this occasion fell to the share of Mr. Hockley, first; Randal, second; and Canton, third. On the 19th, Messrs. Smithers and Canton visited the Thames and were fortunate enough to get among the barbel and trout. Mr. Dale had some dace. Mr. Randal from his "Bettws Garmon" succeeded in getting some large bream and perch, one bream turning the scale over six pounds and a half. The prizes on this occasion were won by Mr. Randal, first; Mr. Smithers, second; and Mr. Canton, third. In one of my reports of this society last back end, I stated that Mr. T. Hughes had succeeded in capturing four pike, weighing from seventeen to twenty-four pounds. These four fish will shortly be added to the already large collection that decorated the walls of the Society's headquarters.—PIXIE.

June 23.

telescope stick and net, E. Smith, chub 1 lb. 12 oz.; second, 10s. 6d., J. Rogers, roach, 1 lb. 7 oz.; third, 10s. 6d., G. Caborn, perch, 1 lb. 5 oz.; fourth, half a ton of coals, W. Fowler, roach, 12 oz.; fifth, 7s. 6d., A. J. Allard, roach, 8 oz.; sixth, cart-load of chump-wood, J. Sanders, roach, 4 oz. The prizes that were not won will be fished for on a future occasion.—G. CABORN.
June 20, 1881.

THE STANLEY ANGLERS.

As under, allow me to have the pleasure of handing you the report of fish caught by the members of the above society. In the first place, I may mention that our president, Mr. C. R. Wheatstone, has commenced the season in a very satisfactory manner, having captured from the Thames two splendid trout, taken spinning—viz., one weighing 8 lb. 2 oz., and another 5 lb. 3½ oz. I may mention the first was a very long fish, not exactly in condition, but the other was in the pink of condition. He had also 17 lb. 7 oz. pike, one weighing 7 lb. 3 oz.; 5 lb. 15 oz. perch, one weighing 1 lb. ½ oz.; 16 lb. 3 oz. chub, one weighing 3 lb. 1 oz.; and 8 lb. 13½ oz. barbel, one weighing 5 lb. 11 oz. Mr. D. M. Humby, trout; Mr. Tucker, trout; Mr. A. Wrightson, bream; largest 2 lb. 11½ oz.; and also your humble servant with a show of perch and rudd. Total, 69 lb. 9½ oz.—C. LAIDLAW, Hon. Sec.
June 20.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Crown Tavern, Mayfield Road, Dalston, is now the headquarters of the above society. Having a commodious meeting-room and a genial host, it should tend to give renewed vigour to the club. The following gentlemen have also been enrolled:—Messrs. J. King, E. Morrow, S. Wilkinson, J. Wackett, W. Tye, jun., W. Coulthard, J. Hammond, A. L. Watkins, and J. W. Dawson. The first show of fish this season took place on the 19th inst., when the new set of trays (presented by Mr. Thos. Harris) were fairly adorned, the following being the contributors:—Mr. T. Gretton, 4 lb. 2½ oz. bream and a tench 15 oz.; Mr. E. Morrow, 1 lb. 5½ oz. perch and roach; Mr. E. North, 14½ oz. roach. The annual dinner will take place at the club-house on Tuesday, July 5th. Tickets 3s. each; may be obtained of the treasurer, Mr. J. King, or THOS. GRETTON, Secretary.

THE ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIALS.

Thursday last being the first day of the angling season, two members of the above young but flourishing club had a very enjoyable day amongst the roach and perch, and had a very nice show at the club in the evening, amongst them a very fine specimen of roach, weighing 1 lb. 3½ oz., caught by Mr. F. Salmon, son of our worthy host, which he has sent to be preserved.—W. F. FIELD, hon. sec.

THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

The anniversary festival of this society, on the 6th of July, promises to be a great success. There are over sixty stewards in addition to five members of Parliament and a number of invited guests, including Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, the honorary secretary and originator of the National Fisheries Exhibition, at Norwich. Mr. W. L. A. Burdett-Coutts Bartlett, "knowing how much the amusement of many thousands of the working population of London is enhanced by the society," has contributed a donation of ten guineas.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The seventh annual supper of the above society took place at their clubhouse on Wednesday night last, chair taken by Mr. Humphries, faced by Mr. Lord. About forty sat down, including visitors. Among the visitors were Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett of the W. C. A. After a sumptuous repast, supplied by our worthy host Mr. Hadkins, some capital songs were sung by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Rawlinson, Gaze, Smith, Bray, Wilson, Richardson, Cove, Bradley, Raimont of the Mohawk Minstrels, and Gough. A recitation by Mr. Bonvoisin, after a few remarks from Mr. Humphries, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.—R. GAZE, Secretary.

WILKINSON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

OPENING MATCH.

The members of the above club mustered in strong numbers on the morning of the 16th. Some half an hour before the time of starting between forty and fifty had assembled at Host Holbrook's, and by a little after 6 a.m. the party were en route to Brigham, a place some few miles from Driffild—the journey had to be taken in a bus and wagonette. The country to this place is flat and unattractive, though Nature had put on her green mantle and was looking her best, and the morning promised a fine and glorious day for angling. Brigham

was made in capital time, and the ground was soon pegged out, and anglers took their positions, bent on doing execution amongst the finny tribe. It was soon seen, however, that the fish were not very vigorously on bite, though the water was in fair condition and free from weeds; but worse was to follow, for by dinner time a sad change had come o'er the scene, dark and heavy clouds had made their appearance, and soon a terrific shower of rain descended, and those who had left their waterproofs at the hotel had reason to regret their want of forethought. This led to some of the company returning with wet jackets. A succession of heavy showers prevailed until closing time, and under these depressing circumstances only a very poor catch can be recorded. Mr. Thompson came in No. 1 with something like 4 lb., Mr. Freeman as No. 2 was closely followed, so far as weight was concerned, by Messrs. Drury, Haldenby, Hall, Crossland, Venson, Ward, Fairfield and Noble. Some really fine-conditioned roach were taken, and trout were plentiful, dace were small and hardly up to the mark. The ladies, a number of whom had accompanied the party, were very fortunate in another part of the stream, and I am happy to record that they succeeded in taking several trout in addition to a variety of other fish, and are to be congratulated on their success under very unfavourable circumstances.—F. J. H.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen weighed in on the 19th:—Messrs. Roland, Starr, Waltham, Good, jun., Burton, Greenfield, E. Watkins, and a grand show by Mr. T. Watkins, consisting of 12 lb. 4 oz. of roach and 7 lb. 2½ oz. of dace.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 16th, Mr. Howard, sen., succeeded in getting 4 lb. of nice roach, from Boxmoor, which entitled him to Mr. Boalch's prize of £1 1s.; Mr. Howard, jun., landed Mr. Spencer's 10s. 6d. with 2 lb. of roach, from the same place; Messrs. Boalch, Evans and Weatherhead also exhibited fish. On the 19th, the first general outing took place, in a trip to Staines; on this occasion, Mr. Weatherhead managed to get entitled to Mr. Sutcliffe's £2 2s. prize; Mr. J. Bedford, to Mrs. Coleman's £1 1s.; Mr. Pearson, to Mr. Gold's 10s. 6d.; and Mr. Boalch, to Mr. Moore's box of sweets—each of the above named gentlemen having some fair samples of roach, perch, dace and gudgeon. Several other gentlemen also had fish.—PIXIE.

June 20.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1881.

THE CONFERENCE OF ANGLERS AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

A CONFERENCE of anglers to discuss various amendments in the Freshwater Fisheries Acts was held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, Strand, on Monday last. The room was crowded to excess in every part.

Mr. Geen having been voted to the chair, opened the proceedings with a statement of the object of the conference. He presumed there were very few who failed to see the great necessity which at present existed for the more efficient protection of our freshwater fish. That necessity was growing from day to day as the anglers increased. Three years ago the anglers of Sheffield saw the necessity for making application to Parliament for the protection of fish in their rivers, and the result was the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878. Unfortunately there were some gentlemen who did not see the necessity for increased protection. He had a letter from the Piscatorial Society stating that the members of that society did not feel that the present time was a good time to propose amendments. But he (the chairman) thought that the fact of Mr. Stuart Wortley's Bill having been introduced and defeated, the angling interest was brought to the front and gave them a good opportunity for carrying those amendments which they thought necessary for the protection of our freshwater fish. He had received the following letter from Mr. Mundella:—"Dear Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and thank you for the kind terms in which you are good enough to refer to my past services. You are quite right in watching carefully any Consolidating Act. I am inclined to think you will do well to keep your Freshwater Fisheries Act free from all others, and introduce such amendments from time to time as experience may prove to be necessary. I am glad to tell you that Sir W. Harcourt is determined to maintain intact any advantages secured to the anglers by my Act. I am sure he will not oppose any reasonable amendments, and although I cannot take charge of your amending measure, I shall be happy to advise and assist any Member of Parliament who may undertake it. I am, &c., A. J. Mundella." That letter was a distinct invitation to proceed with the resolutions, and they should therefore be prepared to meet him at the House of Commons to-morrow with their resolutions. Anglers were a law-abiding class; they paid taxes, and he did not think it too much to expect that they should have had one little Act to protect the sport of the thousands instead of the few. They had received letters from all parts of the kingdom, approving of the resolutions, and he did think that the amendments they proposed to introduce would efficiently protect every freshwater fish that swam.

Mr. String of Sheffield, then briefly proposed the first resolution that—"In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to empower any Fish Protection Society to appoint by writing, under the hand of their chairman, a sufficient number of water bailiffs who would be authorised to search, seize, summon, &c., &c."

This was seconded by Mr. Guest, who held that it was necessary that the water bailiff should have sufficient power to take any one whom he found doing wrong.

Mr. R. B. Marston said, with reference to the first of the proposed amendments: I think that the duties of the Bailiffs which Fish Protection Societies are to be empowered to appoint should be confined to stopping poachers with nets, wires, &c., but that they should not be permitted to interfere with anglers using rod and line. I ask you, gentlemen—all of you anglers, I presume—what is to become of the charm of angling if it is to be conducted under the noses of a new race of water police—little men made big by being dressed in a little brief authority, who will be only too ready to "search, seize, and summon" any poor devil of an angler who cannot afford to tip them. Gentlemen, whether poor or rich, do not like being treated like rogues and being under police supervision. Fancy our friend Mr. Francis Francis being asked by some novice to show his basket, what would occur? Why, with appropriate language the fellow would be sent to the devil; and that's where he ought to go, in my opinion. Englishmen detest any interference with their liberties.

Mr. Crumphen suggested that the Fish Protection Society should be registered.

Mr. Bonvoisin objected that they should at that meeting go so far into detail. At present it was sufficient if they confined themselves to the spirit of the thing.

The resolution having been put, and carried almost unanimously, Mr. Bonvoisin proposed the second resolution that, "In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that netting should be abolished in all public waters; and that in private waters it should be illegal to net without the written permission of the owner, such permission to have been signed and dated within three days inclusive of the day of netting. The possession of nets on or near any water should subject the nets to seizure, and the owners to penalties." There were, he said, very few really open waters; the majority of the waters that they fished in were what he might be allowed to describe as neutral waters. They were allowed to fish, but there were, no doubt, certain gentlemen who really had the right to the waters. The consequence was that those waters were depleted by vagabonds. If the resolution proposed by him was adopted it would be impossible for anyone to net in a public

water. Every country gentleman would be pleased if such a law were passed, as it would keep away what every country gentleman detested, and that was the poacher; and not only the waters which were free, but also the waters above and below the waters which were now depleted, would benefit by it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Clench, seconding it, said there was a vast amount of netting going on in the Thames, and if they could once get netting abolished they would all be the better for it.

Mr. Spreckley deplored that netting should take place in any water at all, because it was allowed not to be fair fishing; it was not sportsmanlike. They should keep this Bill to themselves. They should keep the Freshwater Fisheries Act entirely separate from the Salmon Laws. (Cheers.) They had a splendid Bill in Mundella's, and with some additions and with the education which was coming to the owners of waters, they might depend if they could keep the two things separate their great point would be gained, and it would give them time to get their amendments to Mr. Mundella's Bill. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried, and

Mr. Beckett proposed the third resolution that, "In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that any one having in his possession a wire, spear, gaff, or other like instrument at any time, or place, under such circumstances as shall satisfy the court before whom he is tried, that he intended at the time to catch or kill fish unfairly by means thereof, shall be liable, &c." To this he apprehended there would be little or no opposition as it left room for no difference of opinion. Yet it was most important, for it would materially facilitate the detection and conviction of poachers.

Mr. Butler, secretary of the Reading Preservation Society seconded this. Under Mundella's Act they had been able to convict more than one poacher, and this would further assist them. And if it were made to apply all the year round they could then leather them all the year round. (Laughter.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, and

Mr. Alfred Jardine proposed the fourth resolution that, "In the opinion of this meeting, the period between the first day of March and the thirty-first day of July, both inclusive, should be the close of the season for pike." He knew a little about pike. Pike spawned from the middle of April towards the end. Therefore to give them more than five months was not necessary. In five months the pike would spawn and recover. In July they were hungry and would dash at any bait. But through July weeds grew apace, and he would defy any one to take pike then—they would take a great many more weeds than pike. (Laughter.) Therefore they were well protected in that month from any one who would catch them.

Mr. Wheeldon seconding said nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see all the amendments carried into effect. The question of the pike was especially one, he thought, of which they should take cognisance, because pike were not increasing in the Thames, for they were killed full of ova and also when they were lean. He had seen brought in and shown upon the lawn at the Crown Hotel, at Reading, little 1½ lb. fish; they were simply more like attenuated eels than anything else. The amendment, if carried, would put an end to killing pike in the weeds. He would include both pike and perch under the one resolution. They were getting very nearly extinct in the Thames and they would become extinct if they did not take more care of them. Their Fisheries Act should have nothing to do with the salmon laws. If they left their Fisheries Act to the country justices depend upon it they would get their Sunday fishing stopped, and if it were stopped it would be a sad thing for the poor angler who had to toil hard in the workshop all the week. Sunday was the only day he could spend by the river side. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. B. Marston said—With reference to the fourth Amendment, which will give pike a five months' fence season, I think we should take into consideration the fact that we are protecting a fish of prey, a most voracious fish, a rapid grower and a great multiplier of his species. I should not like to say that in the Thames and Trent there are too many pike at present, as I don't know; but I am certain that there are hundreds of other rivers throughout England and Wales which have quite enough freshwater sharks already. If it can get them, a pike will eat twice its own weight of fish in a single week, so that a fish of ten pounds will consume twenty pounds' weight of trout, roach, dace, &c., in a week. In Germany the only fish not protected by law is the pike—he is considered an outlaw and a common enemy; a great destroyer of fish life.

Mr. Hugget thought it rather remarkable that the anglers of London wanted to fish all the year round (cries of no, no). In his opinion, if they altered the Mundella Act they would do a very unwise thing. Who were the persons who were not content with the present time? Was it angling societies generally? He had been to several but he had not heard a word of a murmur. He

did not know why the five months close time should be for pike. Three months was a reasonable time. The close time was now more than sufficient for them. By keeping the close time the same for all they avoided confusion. Before they passed this resolution he begged them to consider it from that point of view. The Mundella Act, he contended, had not yet had a fair trial.

Mr. Wheeldon, replying to the last speaker, urged that Mr. Mundella's Act, having the same close time for all fish, was the very evil of which they complained. They wished to protect the fish and not the anglers (hear, hear), and it seemed to him that five months was not an atom too long. Pike, when taken in the autumn, were in an utterly unfit condition for food or sport.

Mr. Guest said his Sheffield friends were of opinion that if the close time ended on the 30th June, and opened the same time as other coarse fishing, it would be quite sufficient. He proposed as an amendment, therefore, that the close time for pike should be from 1st March to the 30th June.

Mr. G. Newsome seconded this, contending that if pike were over-preserved it would lead to the destruction of trout-fishing.

The amendment was carried by a large majority.

Mr. Manning next proposed the fifth resolution that "In the opinion of this meeting, the period between the first day of March and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for perch." Perch, he said, were nearly extinct in the Thames, and in the river Lea it would soon be a scramble among the London clubs as to who should get the last one. (Laughter.) Taking fish at the time when they should be unmolested was accountable for the fact that they could not now get ounces where they used to get pounds. The perch was despised by some who said it was insipid; but, as an article of food, he considered it second to none of the coarse fish. By protecting perch they would bring it back to their rivers.

Mr. Field seconded the resolution, which was carried, making the close time the same for both pike and perch.

The two resolutions were then amalgamated.

Mr. Martin, "The Trent Otter," proposed the sixth resolution that, "In the opinion of this meeting the period between the first day of April and the thirtieth day of June, both inclusive, should be the close season for all freshwater fish other than pike and perch." He complained that the Mundella Act as it was before did not protect several of their fish on the Trent. For instance roach and bream had no business to be protected on the 15th March. They were then in excellent condition and might very well be taken for another month at least. Bream went far into July. This season in the Trent was more forward than others, and bream had been taken close to Newark—a bucket full of them was taken last Saturday full of spawn, and there were two roach among them that had not cast their spawn. The resolution would just about suit the Trent. Let them fish another fortnight for the roach and bream and preserve them a little longer at the other end. They were not fit to be taken at that time. The close season of the whole of the coarse fish should be consolidated.

Mr. Sachs, seconding, held that the roach were not fit to take till the end of June.

Mr. Guest supporting the resolution, claimed the credit of having moved the same thing two or three years ago.

After a few remarks from Mr. Newson, who was anxious that there should not be "one law for the rich and another for the poor,"

Mr. R. B. Marston said, with reference to clause six of the proposed amendments, in common with thousands of other anglers: I am of opinion that the fence time for coarse fish other than jack and perch is much too long. I think we ought to get April for angling, except for pike and perch. (Much interruption.) They know more about the habits of coarse fish in Germany than we do in this country, and their laws relating to fishing are most strict and numerous. They cultivate and like coarse fish as food there, and yet we find they only fence the months of May and June, and permit fishing even with nets in April for all the coarse fish, or summer spawning fish as they call them. The roach is the London and Sheffield club angler's favourite fish; it is in first-rate condition in March and April, and very rarely spawns until late in May or early in June; why then, I ask, should roach fishing be stopped for more than forty days of the fish's best season, and just the days when it gives more sport than at any other time of the year? And what applies to roach applies more forcibly still to barbel, bream, gudgeon, tench, chub, grayling and dace, they are all late spawners with perhaps the single exception of the dace; and in consulting the standard works on angling with reference to this subject of coarse fish spawning, I find Mr. Francis gives May and June for dace. I think he is wrong in this case, but I am not sure. There is another view of the case as regards a three months season, and it is one which I think all anglers ought fairly to take into consideration. There is no doubt whatever that the present Act has

proved a source of immense hardship to professional fishermen, who have to get their living out of angling, and to fishing-tackle makers throughout the country. The Act has already ruined some in both these occupations, and has occasioned very great loss to all, and also to the inns along the rivers. (Much interruption.) I don't think you ought to treat all these interests as of *no account* in amending the Act. How can it act otherwise than to their great injury? After getting through the winter, many of them God only knows how, they find when the waters are getting into good order after ice and snow, that the law steps in and prevents angling for another three months, so that they have only really about five or six months out of the twelve in which to get their living, and autumn floods only too often further curtail the time; and yet anglers expect the fishing tackle maker to have all he wants, the fisherman to have plenty of punts and rods, and the innkeeper to have everything in perfection, and to charge no more than when he used to see his customers all the year round. If the open season were extended, as I have suggested, to the end of May for all coarse fish, except pike and perch, it would prove a great assistance to the classes I have referred to; it would prove a great boon to the poor angler who cannot *pay* to fish in private water, and the angling thus permitted would be perfectly legitimate from a sportsman's point of view—the fish being still in good season. Stop poaching and give legitimate angling for fish in season fair play. In conclusion, gentlemen, there is one little personal matter to which I beg to refer. It has been hinted that I am in the ranks of those who do not altogether like the present Freshwater Fisheries Act, because it acts prejudicially against the sale of my paper. I beg to say in answer to this, that in the first place I hope I am above letting any interests of the FISHING GAZETTE interfere with what I conscientiously think is for the good of the art generally, and lastly that the sale of the GAZETTE increases during the fence months.

The resolution on being put was carried, and

Mr. Bonvoisin then moved the seventh and last resolution that, "This meeting of representative anglers, from all parts of England, are of opinion, that it is desirable that our Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878—so far as it relates to coarse fish—and our Amending Act, 1881, should be kept free from the Salmon Acts Consolidating Bill; and that a deputation from this meeting should wait upon Sir Joseph Bailey, Messrs. Dillwyn, Dodds and Howard, M.P.'s to urge this opinion, and that the deputation should be empowered to place our amending resolutions into the hands of any member or members of Parliament whom they may think most fit, with a view to their being speedily passed into law."

This having been seconded by Mr. Pattison was carried, and names were taken to form the deputation.

Mr. A. C. Butler, of Reading, with the consent of the chair then moved and carried a resolution stating that,

"In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that section 11, sub-section 4, of the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, be amended as follows:—'If any person during this close season buys, sells, or exposes for sale any freshwater fish, or has in his possession any freshwater fish, unless he shall specify the justices that such fish in his possession were taken with the consent of the owner of a several or private fishery, he shall on summary conviction before two justices be liable to a fine not exceeding 40s.', and that section 11, sub-section 6 be amended by the omission of the words 'for sale' after the words 'or in possession.'"

The meeting then separated.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WE ask the special attention of all anglers, all fishing-tackle makers and their employes, all riverside hotel, and innkeepers, and all professional fishermen, to the report of the conference at the Society of Arts, on Monday last, which appears in our columns this week. From the point of view of those who called the meeting, it was a decided success. It was thoroughly well organised, and the arrangements were perfect for the rapid carrying out of the objects of the promoters. The amendments were proposed, seconded, and carried with the precision of clock-work, and anything in the shape of discussion was not wanted, and anything like opposition was cried down. It was a clever idea to catch "The Trent Otter," who believes in rod-fishing all the year round, and get him to propose the three months' fence time for rods, for all fish except jack and perch!

We suggested that in amending the time of the fence months, anglers ought to consider the interests of professional fishermen, the tackle makers, innkeepers and others, numbering many thousands. Every angler knows that the Act has very seriously affected them, and yet the only answer to our suggestion was that they "must look out for themselves," and that the opinion of professional anglers could be made to suit any in-

quirer's views if the enquiry brought a pot of beer into the question.

The thanks of anglers are due to Mr. Huggett for standing up and protesting against giving pike a five months' fence time.

From what we know of the general feeling throughout the country, we are certain that if the votes of anglers could be taken by the ballot there would be a large majority in favour of our suggestion to fence all freshwater fish (except pike and perch) only during May and June, and to allow anglers to fish for them in April when they are in splendid condition.

NOTES ON THE MEETING AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE large meeting at the Society of Arts' large Hall, on Monday, must have been exceedingly gratifying to its promoters; its unanimity on some very important questions being very wonderful.

* * * * *

It is true the chairman seemed to have chiefly selected his speakers with praiseworthy regard to this end, and I noticed with regret his impatience when outsiders endeavoured to raise discussion. Had a little more time been taken in considering some of the amendments, I am satisfied that many in the vicinity of where I sat, at least, would have been better satisfied, and probably the intelligent experience of others than those immediately surrounding the chairman might have found a more varied voice.

* * * * *

In Amendment 2, which was carried with but one dissentient, I think it is said "Netting must be abolished in all public waters." Of course this means utterly, absolutely abolished. Good! in so far as poaching is concerned; but what will Mr. Brougham say when he finds that under no possible circumstances, if this becomes law, neither Mr. Forbes, nor the Thames Angling Preservation Society, nor, indeed, anybody else, may endeavour to procure the Thames trout for artificial breeding, or even transplant fish, for the palpable benefit of a river, from one locality to another? Yet this is the effect of that clause.

* * * * *

As for poaching in the upper Thames, I don't quite agree with you, Mr. Spreckley! I am afraid I could name two or three ostensibly fair Thames fishermen, whose poverty has overcome their sportsmanlike instincts, within the domain of the T. A. P. S. Still it is a matter for gratulation that these "black fishermen," as J. P. W. terms them, are not more numerous. Ten years ago there were more of all sorts of poachers between Staines and Windsor than I care to count.

* * * * *

After coming so many miles, and preparing with such evident intelligent care, it is a pity the chairman did not exercise more patience in authority, and allow "The Trent Otter" to finish his very interesting speech. His observations of the various spawning seasons of fish in the Trent were instructive and strictly germane to the subject in hand, and should, at least, have been uninterruptedly listened to. *Apropos* of this, the following seasons are given for coarse fish by Yarrell *versus* Couch, whose statements (especially of the former) were made from comparisons of reports and observations of fish in all parts of Britain. *Pike*: Yarrell says March or early April; Couch says February, March *et seq.* for three months; the smaller fish first. *Perch*: Yarrell, end of April or beginning of May. *Roach*: Yarrell, May or beginning of June. *Carp*: Yarrell, end of May or beginning of June; Couch, May, June, or July. *Barbel*: Yarrell, May, or June; Couch, early summer. *Tench*: Yarrell, middle of June; Couch, when the wheat blossoms. *Chub*: Yarrell, end of April; Couch, early summer. *Bream*: Yarrell and Couch, May. *Gudgeon*: Yarrell, May. *Dace*: Yarrell, in June; Couch, April or May.

* * * * *

Mr. Geen contributed to ichthyology with characteristic precision during the discussion on Amendment 6. He averred that dace spawned twice—once in early season, and once late in the season—for he had seen them heading up. I have had some twenty years at watching Thames fish and their habits, and I confess this is new to me. I have seen them laden with spawn and in rough scale armour early in the year, and I have seen them congregate in vast herds in late summer, but at this later time they have ever been in first-class condition. Perhaps the chairman's dace were *lusus naturæ*—or, more likely mine have been so.

* * * * *

Bream were said (by "The Trent Otter", I think) to be in a fearfully slimy state, even to the time of speaking. What a difference there must be between the fish of various localities therefore. On Sunday night last I called in at Mr. Hatfield's (Star

and Garter, St. Martin's Lane), and there saw tench, roach, and bream from the Lea, and certainly nothing could be said against *their* condition. Mr. H. even called my attention to the bream.

"The Trent Otter" and our respected Editor both agree as to the innocuousness of rod-fishing. So also thought the late Frank Buckland. Now, I ask, how can this seriously be maintained about any water except the teeming and vaunted Norfolk Broads and rivers, when such an enormous aggregate of fish is weighed in at each of the angling clubs every season. Why even the North-Western Society tabulated over 2000 lb. last season.

[Mr. Keene, please think a moment. How many members has the North-Western Society? We do not know; but say there are only 50, then the average of their sport for the whole of last season was the terrible, truly terrible amount of forty pounds per man! Why, ten jack of only 5 lb. weight each would easily demolish the combined "take" of the North-Western Anglers in the same period. Norfolk anglers get more than this in one day frequently. For confirmation of this, see our correspondence columns this week.—ED.]

One spokesman asserted the perch had *no* homes in the Thames owing to the ballasting of shallows and destroyal of eyots and islands. Of a certainty the continual alteration in the bed and banks of the river is greatly against all sorts of fish, but the ballasting is the effect of this alteration. Steam launches, floods, and increased navigation generally are the causes.

I rejoice that the Sunday question was settled, so far as Londoners are concerned, in such an unanimous manner.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE MUNDELLA ACT, &c.

DEPUTATION TO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A DEPUTATION of anglers waited on Sir Joseph Bailey, M.P., at the House of Commons, on Monday evening last, at 6 p.m. The gentlemen comprising the deputation were all gentlemen that had attended the meeting held the evening before at the room of the Society of Arts, and they were deputed by that meeting to state to Sir Joseph Bailey that in the opinion of anglers who are in favour of the Mundella Act, that Act should stand by itself and not be interfered with by any legislation affecting the salmon and trout. The Right Hon. A. Mundella, M.P.; the Right Hon. S. Walpole, M.P.; Sir Joseph Bailey, M.P.; Mr. Joseph Dodds, M.P., met the deputation in the great hall, and conducted them to a committee room. Mr. Mundella introduced the deputation, and Mr. Geen then briefly explained its object to Sir Joseph.

Mr. Mundella at once stated that as far as he was concerned he would take care that any legislation which threatened at all to cramp, or in any way interfere with the Freshwater Fisheries Act, would not be sanctioned by him. He regarded the Act with paternal solicitude, and would take good care that his child had fair play. He said that one of the gentlemen who were pledged to support the amendment of the salmon laws was Mr. Walpole, his old colleague and assistant in getting the Freshwater Fisheries Act passed, and he was quite certain that he (Mr. Walpole) had no intention whatever, nor did he think Sir Joseph Bailey had any intention, to interfere with the rights of coarse fish anglers as secured to them by his (Mr. Mundella's) Act.—Mr. Walpole then confirmed this statement, as did also Sir Joseph Bailey, he adding that so far from injuring, until he had heard the views of the deputation, he had imagined his proposal to consolidate the fishery laws, and leave the fixing of the close time in the hands of the various fishery Boards, would have met the approval of all anglers.—Mr. Mundella and Mr. Geen, in answer to this, stated that the close time must be general and fixed by statute as, if it were left to the option of the Fishery Boards, it would lead to endless confusion, and anglers would never know whether they were doing right or wrong, and that, moreover, the proposal to place the appointment of these Fishery Commissioners in the hands of the county justices would be giving them a power which it was most undesirable in the interests of coarse fish anglers that such a body should have. They would have the power to take out all the coarse fish in any water under their jurisdiction; and thus, if coarse fish anglers incurred their displeasure in any way, they would simply, under some pretence of protecting salmon or trout, net out all the coarse fish, and thus deprive coarse fish anglers of their sport. It was only natural that gentlemen who were interested only in the protection of salmonidæ would use

their power to the advantage of the latter, and to the disadvantage and damage of the sport of the coarse fish angler.—On being asked to promise that in any future legislation the clauses relating to the coarse fish should not be altered prejudicially, Sir Joseph again stated that he had no intention of interfering with the rights of coarse fish anglers, but that inasmuch as the Act of 1878 was a general one covering salmon and coarse fish, and that only one or two clauses of that Act referred to coarse fish, he could not then say how the proposal of the deputation would affect his measure; he said he would go further into the matter, and asked the deputation to meet him again next Wednesday to discuss the point.—In the course of the meeting one or two other matters of great importance were touched upon. The deputation stated that they felt, and their friends all over the country felt, that if discretionary powers, as regards permission and time of angling were placed in the hands of the county justices Sunday fishing, so beneficial to thousands of working men, would in many districts become a thing of the past.—Mr. Guest, on behalf of the Sheffield anglers, about ten thousand in number, stated that Sunday fishing was a boon they could never part with, and gave, as an instance of the good moral effect it had, the statement of a wealthy and very large employer of labour in Sheffield who said that he found those of his men who went fishing on Sunday always came back to work on Monday morning, whereas far too many of those who did not fish spent the Sunday in the public-house and rarely came or were fit for work on Monday.

Mr. Geen next stated that the amendments of the law relating to coarse fish angling were now prepared, and ready for being submitted to Mr. Mundella in accordance with his promise to consider them whenever the anglers were prepared with them.

Mr. Mundella stated that he was well-convinced there was room for improvement, and promised to get the matter brought before Parliament next session, there being no chance of doing so this.

Mr. Geen, on behalf of the deputation, then thanked the members of Parliament for the very kind manner in which they had been received, and the deputation then withdrew.

The gentlemen forming the deputation were, Messrs. T. Spreckley, president, T.A.P.S.; R. B. Marston, Editor, FISHING GAZETTE; Styring, president, Sheffield Association; T. Guest, Sheffield Association; J. Patisson, The Piscatorial Society; F. Spence, president, Larkhall Angling Society; R. Ghurney, secretary, U.L.A. Committee; Murphy, secretary, Good Intent; Nattress, Richmond Piscatorials; Adeane, W. Park Piscatorials; T. P. Cooper; Field, South London A. S.; Dickerson; Ball; Noble, secretary, Savoy Brothers; Newson; Crumpling, The Gresham; Tibbatts; Rowe; Skeats, Waltonian Angling Society; Otway; Thompson; Richards, Good Intent A. S.; Marriott, Waltonian; Page, Great Northern; Roberts, Good Intent A. S.; Ellis, Beresford A. S.; Poulton, secretary, Beresford A. S.; Starr, Waltonians; Bailey; Andrews; Pledge; Newman, secretary, Carlisle A. S.; and Davis.

[We trust the above is substantially a correct report of the meeting, but any inaccuracies it may contain are due to the fact that it is written from memory only.—ED.]

A MAGNIFICENT WORK ON FISHES.

THE great American publishers, Messrs. Charles Scribner and Sons, of New York, have recently published a simply magnificent work on the Game Fishes of the United States. We have had the pleasure of examining it, and can fully endorse the statement that it is by far the most elaborate and beautiful work of the kind ever issued. It has been received with unanimous approval by the sporting press of the United States, it received the silver medal and diploma at the Berlin International Fisheries Exhibition, and it is published with the sanction of that great scientific body, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington. The work is published by subscription only, and Mr. E. T. Colton, Messrs. Scribners' special agent, will be happy to have the names and addresses of any gentleman who would like to see the work; he is only over here for a short time, and any communications can be sent to the care of the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 12, Fetter Lane London.

EELS AND FLOUNDERS.

WE think anglers ought to make a stand against the manner in which the country magistrates in the majority of cases carry out the law as regards fishing for eels and flounders. Fishing for these fish is perfectly legal all the year round, and Mr. Mundella has frequently stated that this is the case. We refer, of course, to fair rod and line fishing. Mr. Guest, of Sheffield, spoke to Mr. Mundella on this subject on Monday last, and Mr. Mundella again said distinctly that it was legal to fish for eels and flounders. Eels feed well only in the spring months, and don't feed at all in the winter.

THE GREAT MULTITUDE.

ANOTHER angling season has commenced, and all kinds of anglers are at work, from the one who persistently watches his float with all the common patience of fair fishing down to the veriest rough, who foully and disgustingly snatches his fish, but whose numbers are infinitesimally small. There never was a season before this when the multitude of anglers collected themselves together in such shoals on the banks of Father Thames on their first opening day. I do not mean the sixteenth, but emphatically the nineteenth day of June. It was a real sight to see the rodsters turning out at the various South-Western stations, near the different portions of the Thames, and one really began to wonder whether the august body of Directors on that line had the faintest idea as to the immense amount of traffic created by the popularity of the sport. There was certainly no necessity for special trains—no extra arrangements for the anglers—they do not all go to one particular spot—nor do they all go on one selected day—the traffic of anglers is distributed between the sixteenth day of June and the fifteenth day of March, and if a calculation could be made there is scarcely one race meeting that could be compared to the amount of annual traffic supported by the disciples of Izaak Walton. It is true they have made certain liberal concessions of fares to the members of angling clubs, and this liberality is largely prized and enjoyed, but we do not find them giving any pecuniary support to the various preservation societies through whose grand efforts the Thames is protected, and the stock increased for the attraction and benefit of anglers. On the nineteenth of June, so the chroniclers say, there was one united link of fair, honest anglers, between Richmond and Staines—principally members of angling clubs, who are taught and educated to practise the art on true sportsmanlike principles, and having been so educated they can teach and set examples to others. They do this, and by this means anglers as a rule have become a better class of sportsman than they used to be some years ago. There is precious little snatching going on when these men are about. The other day, at that unfortunately well known place of Surbiton, the following conversation was overheard by a friend of mine: one of the anglers detecting another rodster in the act of snatching, called out to him, "You don't call that fishing, catching the fish in that way." The reply was, "I don't mind so long as I get them." "But," said the other, "it is not fair fishing; it is against the law, and if a river-keeper was to come round and find you doing it, he would summon you, and you would find the magistrates would well punish you for it. Don't do it again while I am here, as I am bound to support the law." It had the effect of causing him to desist, and who can tell but that influence and advice had a good result. There is no doubt, as a correspondent in the FISHING GAZETTE said last week, the evil of snatching is practised at Surbiton, and the river-keepers are doing all they can to stop it, but it is a very difficult work to perform. I may have something more to say about this in a future number, and I must now run back to the nineteenth of June, a day in the week when the great multitude can only get out to enjoy one of the most healthy of recreations—one of the most harmless of amusements—and return, it may be, with wholesome food for the family; and yet there are those who would wish to rob them of this day and remove from them that innocent pastime, only to plunge them without doubt into scenes of vice and intemperance. Here is a honest citizen from Monday morning to Saturday afternoon, as the bread-winner of his family working in perhaps some ill-ventilated room all the day, and sleeping in some pent-up dwelling every night. On his only available day he naturally seeks the country air, and as I have frequently witnessed, takes his wife and family with him. The day is one of real enjoyment to all, and as I reflect on the scenes on those occasions, I cannot help saying "What a pity any one should ever think of taking it from them." I never have fished on that day, nor would I, on principle, do it, because I have other days at my disposal, but as long as I can raise my voice on behalf of those who have no other day, I shall support them in it. I am the more ready to do this now, because the anglers of the present day are, generally speaking, men who encourage and practise the true enjoyment of fishing. I never hear complaints now, as there were some twelve years ago; then the complaints of annoyances and disturbances were frequent from residents on the banks of the Thames. Not one word of complaint during the last few years has been received, but, on the contrary, words of praise have been bestowed from those who would have cause to complain if the anglers were any annoyance. I am bound to say this much for them, and I am very pleased to be able practically to do it. There can be no doubt with a favourable season this year, the Thames will be more largely frequented than on any previous year, and there will be a greater regard for the true character of sport. Let us legislate what we can to benefit the anglers, but do not let Parliament put any

check on the sport by the creation of laws which would give power to those who, perhaps, know very little what is required for anglers. Above all let us resist to the utmost any attempt to deprive the great multitude of anglers of their only available day for fishing. The meeting at the Society of Arts on Monday evening last, gave a grand expression of opinion in this respect, and should have a beneficial and influential effect on the promoters of the Bill now before Parliament. B.

FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

THE report of the council of the above association for the past year has just been issued. It alludes to the great loss which the Association has sustained by the deaths of such valued members of their body as Mr. Frank Buckland and Mr. Martin Tucker Smith, the latter one of the founders of the association. It next refers to the powerful deputation which, towards the end of last session, the association formed, and went up with the President of the Local Government Board to urge upon Government the necessity of considering the Rivers' Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, and it records the council's disappointment that the Government should take up the question in the present session could not be fulfilled, Mr. Dodson having on the 8th of February last, in answer to Mr. Birkbeck, stated that owing to the pressure of Government business in Parliament he could hold out no hope whatever of Government being able to introduce a Bill on the subject this session.

The report next mentions the various Bills relating to the river and fisheries, which were or had been this session before Parliament, viz., "The Rivers Conservancy and Floods Prevention Bill," the Bill to "Consolidate and Amend the Salmon and Freshwater Fishery Laws of England and Wales," a Bill introduced by Mr. Wortley "To Amend the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878," and a Bill only awaiting the royal assent to become law "For the Protection of Clam and other Bait Beds."

The council state that before the Rivers Conservancy Bill left the House of Lords the vice-president of the association, Lord Abinger, succeeded in getting a clause (52) added to it, providing that no dam or weir shall be constructed by a conservancy board without having a proper fish pass for salmon in accordance with the Salmon Acts, 1861 to 1876, and that their vice-president also tried, though ineffectually, to obtain the insertion in the same Bill of words, providing that any proceedings for enforcing the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act may be taken by a conservancy board, without the previous consent thereto of the Local Government Board, the object of inserting such words being to get rid of the grievous delay experienced in enforcing the Act by reason of the present necessity of first obtaining that consent, the Council adding that they will renew, in the Commons, the attempt to get the words inserted.

After referring, *inter alia*, to the proposals to legalise the capture of samlets and the use of the spear for the taking of salmon, and to which the council were strongly opposed, and to the recent reports of the English and Irish Inspectors, and to information received from the Scotch Commissioners on the condition last year of the salmon fisheries of the three countries, the report concludes with the announcement of the unanimous election as members of the council of Professor Huxley, F.R.S. (Her Majesty's recently appointed Inspector of Fisheries) in the room of the late Frank Buckland, Mr. J. H. Phillips, hon. sec. of Board of the Yorkshire Fishery District, and Mr. Martin Ridley Smith, in the room of his late father, Mr. Martin Tucker Smith.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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THE
TOURIST AND HOLIDAY NUMBER
OF THE
“FISHING GAZETTE”
WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY, JULY 23.

Advertisements to appear in this Number must reach the Office by 6 o'clock p.m. on WEDNESDAY, July 20, addressed to

THE MANAGER,

“Fishing Gazette,”

12 & 13, FETTER LANE, E.C.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river is now in fair all-round trim, the recent rains having freshened up and washed away the residuum of the sheep water. From Windsor, Monkey Island and Bray I hear of excellent bottom fishing and that the river in these districts seems “alive with fish,” to use the expression of one of my regular piscatorial scribes. Maidenhead, Cookham and Bourne have recently been visited by scores of anglers—bankers and puntsmen—but little beyond roach and perch have come to bag. At Marlow on Monday a pretty trout of 5 lb. was taken by a gentleman from the weirpool, Tom White being the attendant sprite. A piscator, with Rockwell, has also recently taken trout of 5 lb. and 6 lb., the former, I believe, from Newlock and the latter at Temple Pool. Hurley, on Sunday, was visited by a posse of anglers, and no man went empty away, either fishically or stomachically. A lady and gentleman staying at that ancient hostelry, the Bell, at Hurley, are credited with some grand perch, and the lady, I hear, being the best man. Messrs. Bennett and Mott, out with “the Boy” in the Medmenham waters on Wednesday, got a miscellaneous bag of roach, perch, chub and gudgeon. At Henley, since the opening day of the season, excellent hauls have been had, two takes near the town coming up to 27 lb. and 19 lb. respectively; Mr. Witham, five jack, 25 lb. together; Mr. Pritchard, six dozen roach, 24 lb. The funny race at Henley just now, however, are being swamped by the human races, which are taking precedence of other pastimes.

THURSDAY.—River swarming with pleasure boats and steam-launches; back waters should now be chosen for peace, quietness and fish.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low; not in very good order for fishing; want more rain. Not much doing; have been out four days; best day 10 lb. of good roach; one roach near on 2 lb., some 1 lb. Roach are in bad order now.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the late state of the river, the fishing has been very bad, but the water now is getting more clear and the fish are much cleaner, which makes the prospects for fishing much better. I was out three days last week. First day, 3½ dozen roach and dace; second day, 5 dozen roach and dace and 7 bream, all of which were returned to the river again; third day, ledgering 2 roach, 4 bream, 2 perch and 2 chub, the largest fish weighing 2½ lb.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is low; we want rain badly; there has not been much done. From 2 to 3 dozen roach and dace a day, a few chub nothing over a pound, and a few jack, nothing over 7 lb., that I have seen; plenty of barbel to be seen jumping, but they won't feed.—JOHN JOHNSON, fisherman.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

The water is now getting in very good condition for angling; there is a much better prospect for sport now that the fish are getting much cleaner and better on the feed. F. Purdue, one day, 20½ dozen of roach and dace; myself one day 1 dozen of perch, three weighing over 1 lb. each, two bream, one of 2 lb., and one 1 lb.; 1½ dozen of roach and dace.—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Twickenham).

The water now is in splendid order for anglers, having now lost its grassy tint, and the tide will suit well for next week. I am pleased to say I have had a very fair share of patronage since the opening day, and hope to still increase the same. Since the 16th I have had 35 punts out in all, and each day

our takes improved both in size and quantity, and last week the whole of the Teddington weir being open for the day will, no doubt, add to our river stock, now with well furnished punts, and such experienced fishermen as Pert Hammerton, Jem Hammerton, Spiers Moffat, Henry Dobing, &c., I hope to have a very successful season.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water here is not looking in the best of condition, and at Pangbourne and Cookham I saw no difference. At the former place John Rush tells me he has been having good perch, jack and roach, and at the latter Godden has had a slice of luck. Whilst out on Tuesday with a young gentleman, — Bonny, Esq., he took on roach a nice trout of 4 lb. from under the bridge leading to Odney Weir. Seeing him laying up he quietly ran down a lively little gudgeon, and his fate was soon sealed. In this neighbourhood J. Gray has had (Sunday last) over 30 lb. of chub and barbel with a patron, and the day before 25 lb. with a patron. Nottingham George also had a nice brace of chub, going 8½ lb., and at Boveney some good barbel and eels have been had. Roach are not up to much yet, as it is full early for anything except trout. The months for the Thames being August and September, expect then to send some good reports.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

Owing to the low and clear state of these rivers, fishing, during the past month has not been worth anything. We have had two or three small floods down, but as these rivers fine down so rapidly, anglers would only get perhaps, one day after them, when a few good baskets were taken with worm and minnow. The only time to catch fish now is in the evening. The best-killing flies being the black ant, coch-y-bondhn, and coachman. Until we have a good quantity of rain, we shall not have any fishing of importance. No salmon have made their appearance yet.—W.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The water is in splendid order for fishing—not too clear. Every prospect of fine weather and plenty of sport. Mr. Valck, 15 dace, smallest 8 ounces; Mr. Abbott and Mr. Cox, and several other anglers have had some good sport amongst the roach and dace. Mr. Cox took one trout about 1 lb.; bread and bran for roach, and gentles for dace. Anglers wanting copies of our rules can have them by enclosing stamp for reply, or they can be had at most of the fishing tackle manufacturers in London.—E. GODFREY.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Sport has been good during the past week, especially with the minnow. We saw a splendid basket of fish that had been taken with the Derby killer. There was also a take of 6½ brace, on Tuesday, and also another of 7 brace, on the Dove Dale water, both of which were taken by the Derby trout killer. The Windsor bee and universal killer, too, have been the means by which some exceptionally good fish have been taken from both the Dove, Manifold and tributary. As is usual at this period, the fish do not rise much, owing to their having gorged themselves with the May fly, from the effects of which it, generally speaking, takes them a fortnight to wholly recover; and during that period the fly-fisher is often reduced to the necessity of plying the minnow or worm, but, before so doing, there remains still one method of alluring master speckle, viz., by means of the blood-red hairy caterpillar, which artificial is a strict copy of the *Artia Caga* or tiger moth, found amongst shrubs, &c., lining the banks of the streams, from which it falls into the water and becomes food for the trout, chub, perch, and, indeed, every freshwater fish. The artificial in general use here in the Midlands is cast the same as the fly, and then allowed to sink, a slight movement of the hand being requisite to gently work the thing. Some small takes have already been effected by means of this lure, but the natural will not be plentiful for a full week yet.

Exe (Exeter).

We have had a variety of weather during the past week, but mostly suitable to the angler. “They have been able to talk of their triumphs, and boast of their slaughter. How they hooked him, and played him, and killed him so fine, and the battle so gloriously finished in water. Again and again they will fight over in wine,” so says the “Coquetdale fishing song.” Some fine trout have been taken, also roach, dace, perch, and pike, and Mr. J. A. Kelly has shown up as usual a splendid lot of tench, one of 2½ lbs. will be exhibited, duly preserved this evening, at the opening of the Royal Museum Angler's Club. Salmon and lampreys, the latter especially, are very plentiful this season. What a pity these fish are not thought more of in these parts, they treat them infinitely worse than an “adder” or “snake,” mostly on account of their curious appearance, which certainly, at first sight, is rather obnoxious to many, but if these parties would only try them potted, or otherwise, that feeling would leave them. There are no bones to be careful of as in the eel, which, if not properly dressed, are very sharp and annoying. There was a quantity of lampers in the river here lately, but they are all gone, and upwards, I believe.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There are several gentlemen fishing the streams east of Ilfracombe, and the report brought here from them by tourists is very satisfactory. I shall not know the exact quantity for at least nine days or a fortnight, as it takes one all that time, if he fishes the streams properly, before he arrives at Lynmouth. Anyone starting from Ilfracombe to fish eastward should commence at Acle, one mile from Ilfracombe, where the stream runs into the sea. You can fish up stream for a mile and a half here, it receives its two tributaries, each a mile long, the one coming down through Common or Rabbit bottom, the other from Wanscombe Bottom. There are fair-sized trout at the head of these streams, and I have often wondered how they can live in so little water in the summer time. The next stream is Watermouth, two and a half miles from Ilfracombe, here, if you can get permission to fish, you may depend on getting good sport; the fish are large and there are plenty of them. The stream runs through the town of Berryharbour, and trout are to be caught for miles up the valley south of the town. In fishing this stream commence at the sea and fish south up stream. Next is Combmartin, five miles from Ilfracombe, and commences above. There is good fishing several miles up stream south. Next comes Sherracombe Valley, and this stream runs over the cliff and falls into the sea at Hangman Hill, having a fall of 40 feet; I am told that salmon swim or leap up this fall, and, after spawning, return again through the fall to the sea; there is good trouting to be had in this stream. The next is Heddownmouth, about nine miles from Ilfracombe, commence fishing at the sea; there is good fishing for trout and salmon peal for miles up stream. The next is Lynmouth, twelve miles from Ilfracombe, by the coast. It takes one a week to fish the streams about this place properly. Sea fishing has been going on with little variation since my

last report. Bream are increasing in numbers, and bass are now playing in shoals off the headlands; they take a bait well that I have made, and which I have named "the temptation"; it is a combination bait, and represents either a trout, samlet, sprat or smelt. I am told they are dead killers for pike. Whiting pout, tamin, cod and pollack are all being caught in fair quantities according to the season, and there is good sport with mullet dabs and other fish from the piers and rocks in the morning and evenings. Prospects looking good for next week.—HENRY COMER.

Lea (Enfield Lock.)

Mr. Dixon, of Old Ford Road, had a fine bream from the pool at the back of my house to-day, weight 6½ lb., the same gentleman also took a trout. Water in good condition.—W. SWINDEN, Swan and Pike, Enfield Lock.
[Should like to have your report weekly.—ED.]

Medway (Tonbridge).

Water in splendid condition for angling. Roach are well on the feed. Gentles and paste are the best baits. Jack and chub require a shower to bring them on. Messrs. A. A. Bartram, R. H. Bartram, and B. St. J. Wag-horne have taken large bags of roach. The number for four days being 178, the largest 1 lb. 7 oz. In addition to these they have taken a bream of 2 lb. and two pike, the largest 6 lb. 7 oz., and the other 3 lb. Mr. Wood, of Chatham, captured a 2 lb. roach, as well as some good carp. Several good chub have been taken with live bait. The bream will not be well on the feed for at least a fortnight. The prospects for a successful season never looked better.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT. [This came too late for last week.—ED.]

The water is really too clear for thorough good angling, and a good shower would do a deal of good. The prospects never looked better. Pike, perch, roach and chub are well on the feed, and bream will doubtless be so in the course of a few days if the weather continues warm. During the week, Mr. R. Leonard took a chub with a fly near the Old Weir. It was a splendid fish, and weighed 2 lb. 9 oz. One angler exhibited a nice bag of fish—6 brace of chub, taken with a wasp grub; several fine pike have been grassed; and Mr. Wag-horne and friends have been busy amongst the roach, taking 90 on Saturday last with paste besides a good bream and a jack. Mr. Wood, of Chatham, and Mr. Chapman, of Sevenoaks, have also been busy amongst the roach.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

We still continue to have heavy showers, which keep the river flooded with a very dark colour, almost black. We hear of salmon and peal being seen ascending the river from all quarters, so no doubt when the river gets a little lower there will be plenty of sport for every rod. The anglers on the upper waters, who have been idle for the past two months while the water was low, are refurbishing up their tackle and preparing for the peal season, which promises to be unusually good. Already one of the Cahir Club succeeded in killing one. Dr. Donaldson, at Springmount, got four salmon, two of them weighing 16 lb. and 20 lb. respectively. Paddy Keffe killed one of 13 lb. at Newcastle on Monday last on Dr. Cooke's preserves, and the cotmen of Clonmel got 22 for the week of all sizes, from a peal of 2 lb. to a salmon of 26 lb., the majority of them being peal. The trout fishing is at its best; large baskets filled on every stream, and on the Suir every night about nine o'clock numbers of large trout have been caught. The spider wrens still continue favourites for day-fishing and large rails for night, with gold grouse.—DORA.

Trent.

Our rivers have been in capital order for all round fishing the past week. Roach, dace and chub have been well on the feed at both stone bait and gentles, the former doing the principal execution when gettable. Our crack roach angler, Reynolds, had a capital basket of miscellaneous fish last Friday, which weighed 10 lb., in fact, every angler who has visited the river and has understood the Nottingham style of angling, has succeeded in basketing a fair miscellaneous catch. It is positively useless to attempt any other way when the rivers are so low and "as bright as crystal." Another thing anglers will do well to bear in mind, the tackle used should be of the very finest description to ensure any amount of sport. Excellent accounts reach me from anglers who have visited the pools and reservoirs in this locality. Perch, tench and roach are taking all kinds of bait freely. A friend of mine called to see me the other evening with a capital basket of perch, the largest brace weighing 2 lb., and were in first-class order. I am given to understand tench have not been feeding so freely for many years, and excellent sport is in the prospective, so when the pike season commences, I shall look forward to report some excellent takes. At the time of concluding there is every appearance of a change in the weather, as the barometer is rapidly falling, which will prove a source of much pleasure to our trout anglers who have only had but scanty sport since the commencement of the season, owing to the scarcity of water; in fact, some of our streams have been almost dry.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is in capital condition for general angling; weather mild, with occasional showers; wind, west. Roach, chub, &c., are improving in condition, but bream are not yet in very good order; cad bait and gentles are still the best baits for roach, dace, chub, &c., the worm having been tried several times for those fish, but without much success. Dace will rise during the evening at both red and black palmers, and fly fishermen can whip away for these fish, while the water is in its present trim. There have not been any very great catches of fish as yet; a few odd ones have been taken; eels and flounders are taken in the best of condition, and in fair quantity. I saw a lot of roach and bream last Saturday, said to have been taken in fair angling, but they were very slimy, and not fit to have been taken, but they will now rapidly improve in condition.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The water for the last two or three months has been exceedingly low and clear, and when this is the case the channel weed grows very quickly, and consequently the natural insects of the river produces an usual quantity. Then the worm fishers begin to grumble because none of the finny tribe can be persuaded to take their noted fancy bait, which, without a doubt, the worm is, and has been the most killing bait for the bottom fish on the Trent. Now comes the secret I wish to remind the anglers on our river; I remember some few years ago a similar thing occurred as mentioned above, when worms were not worth a penny a thousand, and the men who are generally fully employed in procuring this bait had nothing to do. A private consultation was held among a few of our practical fishermen as to what was the best thing to do. We all agreed that as the fish seemed to be altogether off the worm we must try some other bait, and the final conclusion was that scratching must be tried in still

places where the work could be done with a light quill float. Several of us after preparing the scratching over night (which should always be done) started on the following morning, and the result was, not a single one failed to catch a good basket of chub and barbel. Let the anglers under the present trying circumstances remember these few remarks, and there is not a doubt they will get on better. Keep the worms out of the rivers, and for any of the fish you go after, place maggots or cadbaits on your hook.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

The water here is now in first-class order for fishing, and as the season advances, some capital sport may be anticipated with confidence. Very little was done here during the latter part of the close time, although, as you are aware, we have no close time for angling, nor is it required. During the past week a few takes of roach have been obtained, and also a few nice perch, but the majority of anglers have hardly commenced to fish yet. The Caxton Angling Club have announced a competition for to-day (Saturday), when it is expected a goodly number will turn out. We may state that the spawning this season has taken place under most favourable circumstances, and is said to be the best for many years.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Sport in both of the above rivers during the past week has been middling, and only small baskets have been the order of the day with the artificial fly. The best times for catching a few fish have been early in the morning and the last thing at night, and the yellow's light duns, and little blacks have all killed fish. The little blacks being the favourite. There is such a great variety of different kinds of flies on these rivers now that makes the fish very particular about what fly they take; in fact trout are now very fat and lazy, and are in the height of condition, and show wonderful good sport after being hooked. The best baskets that I have heard of since my last report with the artificial fly has not been more than 5½ brace per angler, and a great many fishermen have returned home with empty creels off of both rivers during the week. There was a trout killed near to Whattandwell last Monday with the yellow dun, that weighed 2 lb. all but 2 oz. Dipping with the natural flies in the middle of the day have killed a few good sized trout. There have been some fine both trout and grayling killed off the Darley Dale Club waters with maggots for baits, during the week. Before there is any good fly fishing in Derbyshire we must have a good flood on these streams to make the fish forget the drake, and give them a good stirring up and set them on the feed again.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Very little doing beyond an hour or two in the early morning or evening, when by very fine fishing with a well scoured red worm, a brace or two of fish may be taken. I wanted a dish for a friend, so went out last Saturday afternoon, and fished my very best for nearly five hours, at the end of that period all that I had to show was a nice grayling ¾ lb., and a large dace, so I wended my steps homewards, ruminating on the uncertainties of angling in summer. On the portion of the river that I was fishing there are no bushes, otherwise I might have done better by dishing with the natural fly. My friend Mr. Ford, of Caistor, has sent me a few of his flies recently, they are all that can be desired both in point and colour, size, and neat dressing, his yellow dun, iron blue don, and Ford's favourite, are the ones that I am not pleased with. The latter named is a fly of Mr. Ford's own invention, as its name implies, I have often had great success on both the Yore and Wharfe with a hackle fly somewhat similar in appearance, made with bright purple silk and snipes feather, and I think that the fly in question should kill equally well, if not better, anyhow I shall be better able to express an opinion on the subject, when I have tried them practically, which I shall do as soon as there is a chance of successful fly-fishing.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

THE doings here have not been anything great this week, most of our anglers reserving their skill until the fish are better on the feed. The New Angling Association had their opening match on Monday last, and was anything but a success, the number of anglers taking part therein being very small, and like the match of the week before. Mr. Robert Spills clearly shows that these early gatherings are not appreciated by the anglers generally. There were several nice trays of roach shown on Sunday and Monday, and most people seeing them expressed their pity as to see them full of spawn, at all places where any show took place it was the same. I heard of a most remarkable incident in "matters piscatorial." Mr. Edward Cowley hooked and lost a good fish early on Sunday morning last having partaken of breakfast, he recommenced fishing opposite to where he had lost his fish shortly before, and after a short time hooked a good fish. Better luck attended his efforts this time, and he succeeded in landing a fine tench of four pounds, with the gut bottom he had lost shortly before hanging from its mouth. This incident, I think, will go a long way towards dispelling the illusion of those parties who believe in the theory of fish not feeding during the breeding time. I heard of one angler (?) who, having been presented with three tench at Boston, for friends in Sheffield, showed two of them in, and took a prize with them. I hope the truth will be found out, and the party punished, as he richly deserves to be.

The question of legalising the fishing for eels and flounders during the close season, I think will be shortly accomplished. The clause to be introduced will read somewhat as follows:—"That eels and flounders may be taken during the close season with rod and line only in tidal waters, no such fishing will be allowed between the hours of sunset and sunrise."

If the above resolution can be carried, I think it will be a great boon to many who live on the banks of tidal rivers, and enable them to provide their families with many a good meal, and others with amusement that will do no harm to other fisheries.—"RED SPINNER."

[We hope anglers will not rest content with the proposal respecting eels and flounders. Why, eels only run at night; ask any eel fisher.—ED.]

TROUTING BY NIGHT.

1.
I stand beneath the fading sky
With my good rod in hand,
The darkening river stealth by,
A hush is on the land.
All noiselessly the swift bats glide,
Athwart the silent sullen tide,
Their dusky figures scarce descried.

2.
For the grand watery giants here
I mean to weave my spell,
And gentle "rises" greet my ear,
Whose music charms me well!
Determined that a trout shall die,
I send the deadly double fly,
Across the waters silently!

3.
A sullen plunge that startles night,
A gallant fish I ween!
His heavy *pull* attests his might—
A monster! yet unseen!
The tardy minutes come and go,
And still my formidable foe
Is darting wildly to and fro!

4.
At length towards the shelving shore
I draw my weighty prize,
And as I feel the fight is o'er,
I *strain* my eager eyes!
Like silver in the net he gleams,
The spotted tyrant of the streams,
To mingle with my future dreams!

F. B. DOVETON.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

MR. HOOLE has made his first start angling for this season, and on Thursday, 23rd inst., under the pilotage of Mr. P. Geen, managed to secure from the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Chertsey, some 30 lb. of large bream.

From the Arun the capture, by an angler, of two handsome carp is reported, the brace weighed nearly 16 lb.; the shorter one scaling considerably more than the other, a long empty fish. A contemporary reminds its readers "That the rudd are now on at Whitstable." To those who are indifferent to quality, and go in only for quantity, this is worth knowing. For my part I never could see any sport in catching such miserable little fry.* I have seen a lot of shows from these dykes, the best being one of 28 lb., which, upon being carefully sorted, yielded 13 lb. odd ounces of fish—2 oz. or over.

I hear that some good tench are being had from Elstree Reservoir. This piece of water is on the Midland Railway; the charge for day tickets, jack fishing, is 2s. 6d.; bottom fishing, 1s. It is some little distance from the railway station, but good accommodation can be had in the neighbourhood of the water.

There is an *on dit* that a local society contemplate undertaking the preservation of the pretty little river Stort. I sincerely hope this may prove true. If such preservation is undertaken, the London anglers ought to give it both moral and pecuniary assistance, more particularly our friends the wise men in the East, whose favourite Lea would directly and indirectly be much benefited if this, one of its principal feeders and breeding grounds, were properly looked after.

The Thames continues to be a very bad colour, a dirty soapy brown, and very low in spite of the showers. On Sunday, in company with Mr. P. Geen, I drove from Chertsey Bridge to Staines, over the bridge round by Penton Hook, over Chertsey Bridge again, to Halliford and Shepperton, and back to Addlestone, by way of Walton Bridge; and by the banks of the river, the greater part of the distance, many punts were out, but they seemed to be doing very little, the bank anglers to whom we spoke, and many of whom we knew personally, had fared worse still, though in many cases they had been at it since sunrise.

Nor had those who fished the Wey, many of whom I spoke to at Weybridge and Addlestone, done any better, if I except one gentleman, who had some 14 lb. of good bream from what he termed a "new shop" on this river.

From Yalding the reports are equally discouraging. A friend of mine, who on the 26th, fished for sixteen hours, succeeded in capturing one bream. He says the river is netted in a most shameful manner.

From the Lea, bright water and lots of weeds militate greatly against good sport. Those who can throw a fly seem just now to be having the best of it, and my friends and brother members, Messrs. Campbell and Billings, succeeded on the 26th, at Ware, in basketing some very fine dace. The last named gentleman losing a good trout, together with his flies and gut cast, through, to use his own words, "the beggar running up the pipe where he lived." The Huntingdon

Preservation Society look after a considerable stretch of the river Ouse, and charge 10s. 6d. a year for the privilege of angling in this water. So far so good. Now, on the 7th day of March, 1881, the receding floods left in the shallow pools sundry fish, among others nine jack ranging from 4 to 9 lb., which jack were quite openly appropriated by some countrymen, and carried off on sticks inserted through their gills, the association's keeper standing by and refusing to interfere. The information comes to me from a subscriber, the secretary of one of our oldest angling societies, who was accompanied on this particular occasion by a friend from London, who will also vouch for the accuracy of the foregoing details. Perhaps Mr. Hawson, the secretary of the Huntingdon Association, can explain. The spot, I understand, was below the Anchor Inn, at Hartford, on the haling side of the river.

From the Welch Harp good takes continue to be the order of the day. On Wednesday, 22nd, a gentleman took 38 lb. of bream and carp, one of the latter scaling over 7 lb. On 23rd, Mr. Stead (the Cure) had a mixed take of roach, bream, perch and jack, 11 lb., and on 26th bream, and perch, eleven fish weighing 18 lb.

Among the North-Western, Messrs. Plumpton and Dr. North, on the 26th, had a nice take, 24 lb. of tench, from a private water.

The Amicable Brothers have their annual summer dinner at the Swan Hotel, Pulborough, on Saturday, the 2nd July. Among the invited guests who will be present is Mr. L. Bonvoisin, the Chairman of the West Central Association.

Mr. J. Lancaster, the fish preserver, of 2, Jeffery Place, Jeffery Street, Kentish Town, tells me that in three days he has received four large carp taken from the Welch Harp for preservation.

To anglers who are puzzled where to go thus early in the season I would recommend the Thames below Teddington, Amberley in Sussex, or the Welch Harp, Hendon.

Of the Anglers' Conference at the Society of Arts on Monday, as particulars will appear elsewhere in the GAZETTE, it is only necessary to say that the big room, capable of containing, I should say, some 500 or 600 persons, was crowded; that the whole of the resolutions as proposed were, with one exception (four instead of five months' close season for pike), carried, and that a more orderly, yet enthusiastic, meeting I never saw. The West and East Central Associations, are to be congratulated in having taken the initiative in this matter. Matters of local interest may interest may safely be left to those hard-working bodies, the preservation societies of the district, but where matters of vital, nay of national, interest are to be discussed, matters affecting, so far as the working men are concerned, the right of continuing to enjoy the sport they love so well, it is the clear duty of the Central Associations to take the lead, unless they are desirous of being charged with neglecting the very kind of work which they were formed mainly to carry out.

CHARGES AGAINST NOTTINGHAM FISHERMEN.—William Leeming and Peter Leeming, both living in the Rose and Crown Yard, London Road, Nottingham; Thomas Keetley, 13, Rose Yard, Bellar Gate, Nottingham; and Walter Bailey, 2, Bromley Street, Nottingham, were charged with unlawfully trespassing in pursuit of fish—to wit, eels and flounders—on land belonging to Sir Richard Sutton, adjoining the Trent at Hoveringham, on the 29th May. Mr. F. Lees, solicitor, of Nottingham, pleaded guilty on behalf of the defendants. He said that the defendants with others were members of an association formed for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act of Parliament under which the present proceedings were taken. Now, he was instructed by the secretary of this society to the effect that any member who transgressed these rules was instantly dismissed. The only object of this fishing association was to provide the sport which its members desired, at the same time so as to thoroughly comply with the Act of Parliament. The defendants had instructed him (Mr. Lees) to say that they had been in the habit of fishing in this vicinity ever since they were lads, and they had not the slightest idea they were doing anything wrong. Under those circumstances he hoped their Worships would deal leniently with the defendants. The magistrates imposed a fine of 15s. each, including costs.—John Bearder, Cavendish Street, Nottingham, John Marshall, 22, Cavendish Street, Nottingham, and Henry Wilson, Bellar Gate, Nottingham, were also summoned for that they did take otherwise than by angling six eels from the Trent on the 29th May, on land occupied by Mr. William Wright, at Fiskerton. The defendants pleading guilty were fined 15s. each.—John Webber, of Carlton Road, Nottingham, and William Forman, of Sneinton Hollows, were charged with a similar offence on land belonging to Sir Richard Sutton, at Hoveringham, on the 29th May, and were fined 15s. each.—Alfred Peters, of Sneinton, William Bellshaw, of Queen's Grove, Nottingham, and James Bellshaw, 9, Queen's Grove, were charged with a like offence on land adjoining the Trent, in the occupation of Mr. William Marriott, on the 29th May. Defendants pleaded not guilty. Police constable Spence stated that on Sunday morning, the 29th of May, he was on duty in plain clothes in company with another constable on the Trent side, in the parish of Bleasby. He saw them stooping forward into the Trent, and Inspector Webster, who was with witness, stopped them. The defendants had in their possession a number of eels and wet lines. Witness did not actually see the defendants fish, as he was a considerable distance away from them. Police constable Stringfellow gave corroborative evidence, after which Inspector Webster stated that he saw the defendants pulling something out of the water. He also saw them put something into a bag, and the eels, which were fresh and alive, were found upon them. The defendants contended that they were drinking from the Trent and not pulling anything out. They were fined 20s. each.

Summer Evening Coaching Trips.—A four-horse coach will leave Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 5 p.m., for a drive through the most charming scenery round London, returning for cold collation at 9.30. Fares for the entire journey, 5s.; box seat, 7s. 6d.

* The Norfolk and Suffolk rudd are splendid fish, and grow up to over 2 lb.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—I fail to see by what right "A Norfolk Angler" arrogates to himself the claim to speak for Norfolk anglers, and I very much doubt "whether" his ideas are endorsed by them. Norwich is not all Norfolk, "not by no means whatsumdever"—and "Pixie," with his "we in Norfolk," is as bad as "A Norfolk Angler."

Now, Sir, "we" in West Norfolk are, practically, as far off the boasted broads as we are off London, and to many of us they are much more difficult of access. This applies to three-fourths of our division of the county, and as we are in much the same position as regards fishing waters as an ordinary English county, I imagine that the lot of West Norfolk anglers would be cast in with the general body of anglers, and not with the anglers of Norwich and the Broad District. However, I have no wish to enter into an argument with "A Norfolk Angler" as he has quite enough to do in trying to land "those Tritons" (Messrs. Geen and Keene), without troubling himself about a

WEST NORFOLK MINNOW.

I am afraid "A Norfolk Angler" is not a good angler, as he possesseth not the virtue of patience and an even temper. W. N. M.

SIR,—For many reasons, I have decided not to answer "The Trent Otter's" letter, which appears in this week's GAZETTE. I cannot see what local politics have to do with the Mundella Act. Misstatements and personal abuse is not argument. Fair criticism on the public doings of any man is legitimate. "The Trent Otter" more than a year ago gave me, in a private letter, a very serious and graphic description of the kind of political persecution I might expect from those who differed with me on matters piscatorial. You now know the result. Seriously, Mr. Editor, I do hope that for the future you will use your utmost endeavour to protect me from similar personal attacks to the one which appeared in your last issue from a townsman, signing himself "The Trent Otter."—I am, &c., H. WEAVER.

Newark, June 27, 1881.

[We do hope our correspondents will endeavour to keep cool in discussing matters of general interest. It must not be supposed we allow a tithe of the "personal" matter which is sent us to appear; but it is an extremely difficult matter to keep correspondents within bounds: anyhow, we invariably let both sides state their views.—ED.]

SIR,—Taking into consideration that alterations are about to be made in the Freshwater Fisheries Act, I sincerely hope that one important fact will not be overlooked, viz., that every inspector or superintendent should have authority to inform the constables in their several districts to warn off or summon any person or persons infringing any portion of the above Act. During the last two years, on account of the fishing taking place in our river, regardless of remonstrance or threat, some of our angling friends applied to the Inspector at the Greenwich Police Station, to ask why the fishing was not stopped, and the answer was, "We have had no orders from headquarters, therefore we are powerless to act."

Now, Mr. Editor, what on earth is the use of having an Act if the police have no orders to summon persons who infringe that Act? During the latter part of last month a friend of mine was at Southend, Kent, and there saw some men fishing in the Ravensbourne, and a policeman standing beside them, looking on, when the following dialogue took place between my friend and the policeman:—

"Why do you allow these men to fish; don't you know that it is close time according to the Freshwater Fisheries Act?" The policeman replied, "That he did not, for he had had no orders from his superintendent, so that he could not interfere." My friend told him he ought to know them. The answer he got was, "If he was to mind his own business, he would have enough to do." Thus you see the power has been kept from those who should be the very persons to put down the bad practices on rivers where there is no protection society or water bailiffs. Trusting this will be a sufficient excuse, I am, &c., DEPTFORD. AN UNITED BROTHER.

SIR,—Would it not be better for those who are so indignant at Mr. Wortley's attempt to amend the Mundella Act, if they would for a moment address themselves to the point, whether it is really a fact in ichthyology or not, that fish do not take bait during the time they are busy spawning, or during the time they are carrying spawn just previous to depositing it? The supporters of Mr. Wortley's Bill allege that this is so, and that anglers, by fair angling, cannot catch the breeding fish, in any quantity, if at all. If that is so, why all this pother about the sentimental part? If the allegation is unfounded, then, why not say so at once and prove it, instead of attributing unworthy motives, &c. Very many, I know, thoroughly believe the allegation true, and I have every reason to believe Mr. Wortley is of the number; and were they convinced to the contrary, they are true sportsmen enough to go in for the amendment suggested in the other direction joyfully. Many of them do think it "hard lines" that owners of fisheries and those having the permission of owners can and do do that which to others less fortunate is forbidden by the Act. Either those who act thus are wrong, and ought to be stopped; or, they are right, and the sooner all are put on the same footing, the better.—I am, &c., L. SHEFFIELD.

[It is a pity this argument about fish not feeding in their spawning time was ever brought up; there is hardly the faintest ground for the assertion.—ED.]

SIR,—Would you be good enough to request your correspondent, anent "Mundella's Bill and the Norfolk fisheries," in future to sign as "Pixie 2nd.," by doing so, will much oblige.—Yours, &c., PIXIE 1ST.

I am requested to ask you if it is possible to get the condition of the rivers, lakes, and ponds within thirty miles of London. June 23, 1881.

[If Pixie will name the places he refers to, and some inn at each place, we shall be very glad to try and arrange the matter.—ED.]

HICKLING BROAD, NORFOLK.

SIR,—A friend and myself had a capital day's sport on Saturday last on this beautiful piece of water. We took with two single hook gut lines 56 lb. of fish consisting chiefly of rudd, a few roach, two eels, each about a pound in weight, and two small perch. These were all taken with red and white paste, and the catch would have been larger had not the wind chopped round to the east for two hours in the middle of the day. The fish were all remarkably healthy, several of the rudd weighing one and a half pounds each, and one two and quarter pound. For the information of those who do not know this locality, I would advise them to write to Mr. Samuel White, Pleasure Boat Inn, Hickling, Norfolk, from whom I obtained my boat, and who has every accommodation for anglers in the way of boats, bait, &c., and, above all, good clean beds. When going from here, book to Catfield Station on the North Norfolk Railway, and drop a post-card to host White, to meet the train with his horse and cart, as it is rather too far to walk when carrying fishing gear.

I would just add, for the information of those who are not aware of it, that by becoming a member of the Bure Fishing Preservation Society (fee 5s.) one can travel on this line, as well as on the G. E. R., to any fishing district, double journey at single fare.—I am, &c., I. W. A.

17, Market Place, Great Yarmouth.

FISHING AT ORMESBY BROAD.

SIR,—A gentleman from Yarmouth had the good luck to take 58 lb. of fish, namely roach, bream and perch, some weighing 3½ lb. Good boats, rods, lines, and bait to be obtained, and every attention a fisherman requires. If you would please to put it in your valuable paper, it would greatly oblige.—I am, &c., S. RICHMOND.

The Sportsman's Arms, Ormesby Broad, near Yarmouth.

[We shall always be glad to publish notes like these from Proprietors of Fisheries.—ED.]

WIRE LINES.

SIR,—I see that Mr. George James Eaton, in his notes on the Wye and Derwent, in your issue, June 18th, strongly recommends a line composed of hair, silk, and wire.

I tried one of these some time ago, and was disgusted with it. In the first place, it was not waterproof; therefore, the line soon got verdigris; secondly, it curls and kinks badly, and, after using it a short time, it got badly knotted; thirdly, it is very difficult to send the line out straight, even in a short cast, and it is almost impossible to throw against the slightest wind.

Surely, Mr. George James Eaton has recommended these lines without giving them a fair trial.

I should advise him to try one of David Foster's "Acme" lines, and compare it.—I am, &c., W. B. GARNISS. Mellor, near Marple.

THE MEETING AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

SIR,—After the meeting of anglers at the Society of Arts was over on Monday night I met a gentleman who had been there. He informed me it was not an open meeting but by admission tickets, and that all the amendments were carried. I asked him if any opposition was made, he answered very little; but they had no chance, for a committee was formed with instructions to vote upon all clauses as they stood; also that "The Trent Otter" was put forward to move that April, May and June be the fence months for all coarse fish other than jack and perch. How do you account for this change, as I believe "The Trent Otter" has said he was in favour of rod fishing at all times?—I am, &c., CAMBRIDGE.

RECIPE FOR MOSQUITO BITES.

SIR,—The following recipe for a mosquito lotion was sent to the *Field* some time ago by Mr. Rae, the traveller in Lapland. He stated that, but for it, he could hardly have carried out his journey. I trust, therefore, that it may be of some use to "Victim" and other anglers distressed in this way. Perhaps he would kindly let us know if it answers.

"Dissolve in a cupful of water as much alum as the water will contain—in other words, make the strongest solution possible of alum and water, add one third proportion of aromatic vinegar, and one-fourth of glycerine; keep it in small flat phials convenient for the pocket, and apply it constantly during the day."—I am, &c., W. P. H.

231, Camden Road, N.

THE ANGLERS' "PLAGUE."

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Victim," will do well to try our "Little Chap," as referred to in Aldam's book. This small artificial is frequently used with immense success here, in the Midlands, in similar circumstances to what he so graphically describes. We have used midges no larger than a grain of mustard seed, on casts as fine as human hair, but if the pond is really as well stocked as "Victim" has been led to imagine, the Alexandra, or what is often even more deadly—the Woolly Bear, or blood-red Caterpillar—which is used in a similar way to the Alexandra, but contains two hooks. This lure has a great reputation for both pond, lake, and river fishing, especially up North, where Sandy designates it a "fearsome beast," but a "reg'lar kill deil."—I am, &c., DAVID FOSTER.

Ashbourne.

THE NEW WIRE LINES.

SIR,—In reply to Messrs. Hardy's queries in to-day's issue of the GAZETTE, we beg to state that the corrosion of copper, in contact with bare silk and hair—i.e., without protection—has the effect of eating through the same in a short time, therefore making the line absolutely worthless.

We affirm that the "Acme" line is perfectly free from corrosion, the wire used being submitted to a special chemical process prior to its being plaited with the silk, and waterproofed in a way so as to enable the line to effectually resist the action of air, water, sea and river fishing, and friction generally.

Owing to the unprecedented success which has attended the use of this article since its introduction by our late father (Mr. David Foster, senior), some fifteen months since, there have been many valueless imitations, which must inevitably

prove prejudicial to the purchaser. The particular line referred to by Messrs. Hardy—who, we presume, have purchased and personally tested a line of this description—was recently denounced in your valued journal (May 25th) by Mr. H. Cooper, of Church Street, Manchester. No allusion whatever, we note, is made by Mr. George James Eaton to this communication, in every line of which the true ring of honest indignation is strikingly apparent. The same convenient indifferent demeanour, however, is not observed by Mr. George James Eaton as regards the important notice you, sir, so generously bestowed upon the "Acme" line in your issue of the 28th August last, as he carefully and studiously makes use of the precise sentences employed by you editorially in the description of the merits of the "Acme" line. We have no trade animosity against either Mr. Eaton or any other tackle dealer, and it was only in response to the queries Messrs. Hardy made public that we deigned to reply.—We are yours, &c.,
Ashbourne. FOSTER BROTHERS.

FISHING AT WEYMOUTH.

SIR,—Perhaps some obliging reader of the FISHING GAZETTE will inform me whether there is any fishing to be had near Weymouth? Pike preferred.—I am, &c., STROLLING PISCATOR.

[There is first-class sea fishing at Weymouth, but we should advise you to write to Messrs. Edmonds and Co., 60, St. Thomas Street, Weymouth. They are fishing tacklers.—ED.]

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

SIR,—Enclosed find 10s. 6d. for twelve months supply of the FISHING GAZETTE to the above society. This society was originally held at the Cock, Clapham Common, but fell through there. It has been reformed here, and we number twenty-four members.—I am, &c., ALF. H. BISLEY.
Duke of Cornwall, South Island Place,
Clapham Road, June 28, 1881.

FISHING AT SUTTON, IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SIR,—Will you kindly let me ask in your paper of this week if there is good fishing at Sutton in Cambridgeshire; if free; and if you can fish on Sunday?—I am, &c.,
June 29. S. F. B.

MIDGES.

SIR,—In reply to the appeal of your correspondent on this subject, I am informed that a little Stockholm tar rubbed up with butter and applied to the skin of the face, neck, hands, &c., is a sure preventive or prophylactic against these pests; in fact, all insects shy at it. The only thing against it is the fact that it may somewhat interfere with free perspiration.

Another preparation is olive oil and oil of cedar, equal parts, to be similarly used.—I am, &c., CHAS. C. CAPEL.

AUGUST TROUT FLIES FOR NORTH WALES.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert the following query in your valuable paper at your earliest convenience?

Would any reader kindly suggest the best trout flies for the small lakes and streams of North Wales during the month of August?—I am, &c., G. B. M.
1, Eastbourne Villas, West Dulwich, S.E.

[The maggot fly, as made by Mudford and Co., Tiverton, will kill well in August; so will Mr. G. J. Eaton's "Little Red." The coch-y-bondhu will always kill on the Welsh streams. These, with the blue-yellow and light duns, will kill if anything will; but there is little use in going to North Wales in August unless there has been plenty of rain just previously.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR WORCESTER.

SIR,—Many subscribers to the FISHING GAZETTE have written to me for information upon fishing quarters, &c., in our streams. I will first treat with the Severn, then with the tributaries in relation, as their value in an angling point of view appears to me. I have fished most with the fly, the minnow, and worm, but the fly is my favourite. The first place up the river from the city is Holt, with its wear and ford, and a fine stretch of deep water. It is six miles from Worcester, and can be got at by steamer on Monday at three o'clock, leaving Holt about eight p.m.; also it leaves the city on Sunday morning at seven o'clock, returning at eight p.m. The next place I will name is Bewdley. There is a station on the Severn Valley line. There are some beautiful fords and swims for the bottom fisher; also you can obtain a boat at a small charge. Then comes Arley; and still going up the river is Highley and Hampton, Bridgenorth, Ironbridge, and other places upon the same line. At all there is good fishing, either with fly, gentle, worm, and trowing for pike, and perch. The fly fisher will meet trout, grayling, dace, chub, and roach in July, take the red ant freely. Often baskets of these fish, weighing 20 or more lb., are taken with the gentle. The fishing is free, only you require a trout licence, 1s. each. I supply them. You can, when at Bewdley, take train for Newnham, on the Teme. There is beyond all doubt as good trout and grayling fishing in this district as can be met with, and mostly free. The host at the inn is an angler, and will give instruction; and also he has trout fishing on the river Ree. I have looked out of my sleeping apartment at this inn and seen the fish rising. I will treat upon the Teme from its mouth upwards next week, June 30th. It is all the angler can desire. The streams are in order, and the wind blowing from the south; dull and showery.—I am, &c., JOHN A. GRIFFIN.
Portobello Inn.

P.S.—I make a small trout fly that I always find to rise when the midges are on thick. I rose upwards of thirty in two and a half hours last Saturday week, from 6 to 8.30. I have inclosed one for your inspection. I call it Griffins fancy, No. 2.

FISHING AT UTTOXETER.

SIR,—Kindly inform me, through the FISHING GAZETTE, what fishing there is within two miles of Uttoxeter; also, whether free, or if not, how obtained.—I am, &c., A TYRO.

P.S.—Also what is best in which to breed worms; for any length of time, that is.

[There is good trout fishing in the rivers Blythe and Dove, but you will have to get permission from landowners.—ED.]

POISONING WATERS.

SIR,—I attended the meeting of the Angling Societies, held at the Society of Arts, on Monday last, and derived much satisfaction and information from what I heard—no doubt your to-morrow's issue will give your numerous readers the report *in extenso*.

It struck me as somewhat singular that, although the controversy as to the fence months, appointing keepers, doing away with nets, &c., &c., were very intelligently disposed of, I waited in vain to hear some of my brother sportsmen allude to what I think requires as great attention as the matters they ventilated at the meeting—I allude to the poisoning of waters by manufactories, individuals, &c. I really think that the net would be found an insignificant engine of destruction in comparison to the poisoning which I know goes on. Our respected Lea (I live within a stone's throw of it) I have several times seen covered with fish of all sorts and sizes, dead, stupefied, and dying. I have seen boats with hundredweights of fish in them taken from the Lea by the hand, baskets, &c., &c.

I am well aware there is an Act, entitled, I think, "The Rivers Pollution Act," and I have certainly read of cases prosecuted under that Act, but still the pollution continues.

The splendid river Roding (or Roden), in its way through the meadows at Ilford, could tell a tale of pollution, and the cause still continues, as is well known to the inhabitants.

I refrain from further comments this week, being pressed for time; and hoping I may be in time for you to insert this in your next.—I am, &c.,

HENRY HOUSE,

June 30.

Hon. sec. Walthamstow Angling Society.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, June 26, several members went to Amberley, returning with some good shows of fish. R. Smith, 12 lb. 8 oz. roach and bream, 1 bream 3 lb. 10 oz., and a roach 2 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. W. Streeton, 4 lb. 2½ oz. bream; A. Glass, 2 lb. ¾ oz.; A. Shakel, bream and roach; C. Daniels, bream.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sunday, June 26, 1881, Mr. Shory, one brace of trout, roach and dace; Mr. Moir, bream, from Dagenham; Mr. A. Lake, bream; Mr. Harding, 6 lb. 6 oz. dace, also roach and gudgeons; Mr. Pedley, roach; Mr. Say, perch; Mr. Wood, roach and dace. The twenty-eighth annual dinner will be held at Mr. Mansel Bayly, the Swan Hotel, Pulborough, Sussex, on Sunday, July 3. Messrs. C. A. Medcalf and W. Say will act as stewards. Total weight, 20 lb.—J. WORLEDGE.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two of our members weighed in on the 26th—Mr. Castell roach and eels from Pulborough, and Mr. J. Chambers bream and eels from Amberley. Blanks were very plentiful. We fish on Sunday next at Amberley for seven prizes pegged down.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last Mr. E. Withers succeeded in capturing two pretty chub from Cookham, weighing 8 lb 5 oz., which are now in the hands of the preservers, and will be added to the collection which decorates the walls of the society's headquarters. Mr. E. Wilson took a nice jack from Earley weighing 5 lb. 11 oz., and 2 lb. 7 oz. of roach, in all 8 lb. 2 oz. Messrs. S. Walkley, T. Smith, T. Sutters, C. Blunden weighing in roach, dace, and perch, altogether making a nice show of fish.—E. WILSON, sec.

June 28, 1881.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

The meeting of this society, formerly held at the Duke of Cornwall, Lismore Haverstock Circus, Hill, is now held at the Wheatsheaf, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, where they had their second half-yearly supper on the 15th, when about 30 sat down to a splendid repast. Great praise is due to the worthy hostess for the way it was served up, and the members seemed well on the feed. After supper the prizes were given away, the successful winners being W. Harriott, Alridge Clark, Hawes, Galloway, Kittle Brothers, Sergeant Patching, Hyde; and a very pleasant evening was spent, some capital singing through the evening by the visitors.—A. CLARK.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

June 19th, Bro. G. Taylor, bream and roach from Amberley; 26th June, two roach, turning the scale at 3 lb., from Amberley, sent to Mr. Millar, of East Street, Walworth; also bream. June 22nd, Mr. Bates, three carp from Welsh Harp, weighing 7 lb. 9 oz.; Bro. Harrison, perch from Aylesbury on the 27th June; Bro. Perkins, fine show of bream from the Welsh Harp on the 29th June; Bro. Champion captured a very fine trout from Walton-on-Thames while ledgering with worm. This society was enrolled in the West Central Association of Anglers.—GEORGE J. NAYLOR, secretary.

FULFORD FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Monday the members fished their first match for this season in the Derwent, at Elvington. By the kind permission of Mr. W. Barmston. The water was in very fair condition for general fishing, and the sport up to the average. At the weighing-in there was a very nice show of fish. Four prizes were given, the successful competitors being:—Mr. R. T. Pinkney, Fulford, 1st; Mr. E. Walker, York, 2nd; Mr. J. W. Davison, Fulford, 3rd; Mr. F. Crammack, Fulford, 4th.—J. A. GREEN, sec.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

A considerable number of the members visited Amberley on Sunday last. The takes were very moderate. Mr. F. Watling headed the list with

5 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. J. Fitch (roach) one fine fish, weighing 1 lb. 8½ oz.; Messrs. Butler, Young, Perkins, Walker, Painter, and Hewitt also showed some roach and dace from Amberly; Messrs. J. R. Fitch, Theobald, Parkin, and H. Watling some good roach and bream from the Wey; Mr. Mayes' jack, from the Welsh Harp, 7 lb. 6 oz.; and last, but not least, Mr. J. Page, a pretty tray of roach, weighing 6 lb. 11 oz. from a new found out!—J. A. FITCH, Junior, Great Northern Bros.' Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton Street, June 28, 1881.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The opening excursion of the season took place on the 20th inst., when some twenty of the members proceeded to Lemymynech to fish the Vyrnwy at that point. Amongst them were experts, both with fly and bait, and, although the water was bad in colour and the weather unfavourable, with skill and perseverance, some fairish trout grayling and chub were taken. At the finish the party sat down to a dinner-tea, served in excellent style at the Cross Keys Hotel, by the proprietor, Mr. Baugh, to which each brought an angler's appetite, and did ample justice to the good things set before them.

Taken altogether, the out was greatly enjoyed by all, and those present will not soon forget the ramble down the banks of the Vyrnwy nor the beautiful scenery and lovely surroundings.

The prize takers were Messrs. Woolfall, Ellis, F. Roberts, and Ramsbottom, the conditions being for the heaviest single fish, barring salmon and pike.

At the usual weekly meeting, held on Thursday evening the 23rd, it was resolved that the next excursion be on the 21st of July, and take place in the same water at Llanymynech, full particulars of which will be duly sent to each member as soon as the arrangements are completed.—I am, &c.,

June 25, 1881.

R. WOOLFALL.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were again successful on Sunday last. Messrs. J. Drew, Lucy, jun., L. Gorsuch (bream, Pulborough), Neagus (roach, Stort), and several others weighing-in. Several prizes will be fished for next Sunday, any water.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

June 28, 1881.

OPENING DAY OF THE TONBRIDGE ANGLING CLUB.

Thursday last was the opening day of the Tonbridge Angling Club and Fish Preservation Society, and the Medway was in capital order for all kinds of fishing. The newly-formed weighing-in club offered three prizes to be competed for, and this added to the attractiveness of the proceedings. As usual, the Powder-mill Lock above the town was the rendezvous, and shortly after midnight two or three votaries of the gentle art put in an appearance, and at once fitted their tackle and commenced operations with a lively minnow. Mr. J. Eller opened the ball with a fine chub of 1 lb. 11 oz. It was netted in the dark and safely brought to grass. Very soon afterwards the same angler succeeded in getting a second chub. By this time it was broad daylight, and no less than thirty anglers were present. For a short time perch were the order of the day, and then Mr. Cox succeeded in getting a small pike to give him a turn. The youngster only weighed about a pound, but had swallowed the hook so thoroughly that it was obliged to be killed to relieve it of the cold steel. Very shortly afterwards Mr. Eller landed a pretty little pike, and then his opponent, Mr. Cox, grassed one of 4½ lb., a fine well-fed fish. A few perch were taken, and by this time Mr. Geo. Gray, manager of the Tonbridge Powder-mills, sent down a basket of provisions, as well as a plentiful supply of new milk, and a drop of something to take the keen edge off. This was, of course, much enjoyed. During the day the fishing was rather slow, but towards night some good execution was done amongst the chub, perch, and pike. There was a merry party present, who were successfully photographed by Mr. Seymour, of Tonbridge. At half-past eight the Union Jack which had been hoisted was lowered, and a move was made to the Bull Hotel, where the weigh-in took place. It was found that Mr. J. Eller had taken the first prize with pike, perch and chub; Mr. J. Cox the second, with pike and perch; and Mr. Geo. Payne third, with perch and a chub weighing 2 lb. Several others of the members also had fish of various kind.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Much judicious activity is shown by this Association in the prosecution of poachers in the neighbourhood of Reading and in stocking the river. Three weeks ago, as we reported at the time, a gang of notorious poachers were convicted by their agency of netting the Kennet. Our readers will be glad to hear that three of these rascals have left Reading—let us hope altogether—being unable to pay the heavy penalties justly imposed by the county magistrates; and no doubt the fourth would have done likewise but that he happened to be undergoing two months' hard labour at Oxford Castle for poaching in the Henley district. Of course, on leaving "durance vile," the warrant against him in the Reading case will be executed. Two more men were last Saturday convicted by an association of fishing in the Kennet during the close season. The one who was using night lines was fined £1, and the other, who appeared a respectable and poor man, was, at the request of Mr. Creed, solicitor (who prosecuted for the association), discharged on paying the costs. On the previous day a man, who was evidently well-disposed towards the gang convicted three weeks ago, was prosecuted by the association for assaulting and threatening William Clark, by whose agency the conviction was brought about; and the borough magistrates, in fining him £1, said they were determined to protect witnesses in such cases, and would visit any future offence of such a character with great severity. The association has this season turned into the Thames over 300 large Wycombe trout, from ½ lb. to over 3 lb. each; and has kept a sharp look out through its bailiffs to see that none of those under 1 lb. are taken. On Tuesday a man was seen to catch one of the smallest of these fish, about ½ lb. in weight, and as he put it in his basket instead of returning it to the river, he has been served with a summons under the Thames Conservancy bye-laws.—A. W. BUTLER, Hon. Sec.

June 29.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

A very nice show of fish was on view at this society to-night (June 29, 1881). They consisted of jack and roach, exhibited by Messrs. T. Hughes and G. Lee, the first-named showing a jack of 4 lb., and nearly 8 lb. of roach, among which were three weighing over 1 lb. 4 oz. each. The last named

gentleman weighed-in 10 lb. 15 oz. of jack. I omitted to mention in my last report of this society, that on the 16th June, 1881, Mr. Dally gave the 1st prize of £3 3s.; Mr. Dally, 2nd prize of £2 2s.; and Mr. Randall, the 3rd prize of £1 1s. On the 19th June, 1881, Mr. Hockley gave £3 3s., 1st prize; Mr. Hockley, £2 2s., 2nd prize; and Mrs. T. Hughes, £1 1s. for the 3rd prize.—PIXIE.

The next competition for prizes will take place on Thursday, July 7th, on which occasion Mr. F. Dale, hon. sec., will give £2 2s.; and the much respected manager of the head quarters, Mr. King, will give £1 1s.—PIXIE.

June 30, 1881.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of the members of the Sir Hugh Myddelton Angling Society were out on the 26th inst. and gave the waters they fished a good character with regard to colour. Roach and dace are still far from being in proper condition at present, and do not take the bait freely. Mr. Caborn captured a very handsome trout of 3 lb. 4½ oz., while chub fishing with worm; also, a nice eel of 1 lb. 8 oz.; roach, dace, and chub, 3 lb. 7 oz. Mr. J. Rogers had roach, dace, and chub from the Iver; Mr. Duncombe roach from the Colne; Mr. Saunders roach from the Lea. Messrs. Smith and Billing had some nice chub, but were too late to weigh them.—G. CABORN, Sec.

P.S.—Last week's report was made to read rather peculiar. On one side of the paper, the report leaves off with the words "first prize," and then other club reports follows: turn over the leaf, then our report finishes.—G. C.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society competed for prizes on the 22nd ult., and the following is the result:—Mr. Duck won Mr. Peter's of £2 2s. for the first, Mr. Murray took Mr. Heyward's, £1 11s. 6d., and Mr. Humphries succeeded in taking Mr. Tue's, £1 1s. Messrs. Heyward and Linstead also weighed fish. At the meeting held on the 29th Mr. Langlois was presented with the £10 10s. cup that he won last season, the reason of his not receiving it before being business debarred Mr. Langlois from attending the society before. The auditors, Messrs. Boalch and Heyward, gave in their report, which was received by all members present with much satisfaction, and a vote of thanks was returned to those gentlemen for the skilful manner in which they had fulfilled their duties, and placing the society's books in thorough working order for the coming season. The next competition will take place on the 13th inst., on which occasion Mr. Langlois will give for the first prize £3 3s., for the second Mr. White will give £2 2s., and for the third Mr. Cridland will give £1 1s.—PIXIE.

London, June 30.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 26th inst. a numerous attendance of visitors awaited the arrival home of the various members of the above society; but the display of fish was below the average, Messrs. Gretton and Morrow having roach from Ware; Mr. E. North roach from Amberly. Messrs. Parrot and Webb tried the Thames, but were too late to weigh in. The annual dinner takes place on the 5th inst., on table at eight o'clock. Friends that intend to be present please communicate with Mr. J. King or secretary not later than the 3rd inst.—THOMAS GRETTON, secretary.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

At the meeting held on the 24th, Mr. J. Collins exhibited some fish from Staines. It was agreed by all present that the penalty clause be reduced to one-half, viz., the winner of a £3 3s. prize, will have to give 1½ lbs. of a £2 2s.; 1 lb. of a £1 1s.; 8 ozs. and of a 10s. 6d. prize, 4 ozs., and such penalties commence at the beginning of this season. The next competition will take place on Friday, July 8, for three prizes; first, a £2 2s. portrait by Mr. Evans; second, a gold pin for a scarf, given by Mr. Fox; and, third, a £1 1s., given by Mr. Green, sen. Mr. J. S. Weatherhead, was appointed to represent the society at the Conference, held at the Society of Arts, on the 27th.

June 27, 1881.

PIXIE.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

THE monthly meeting of this association took place on the 17th inst., and was possessed of considerable interest. The minutes of the last meeting having been passed as read, Mr. Murphy was elected to the vice-chair in the absence of Mr. Beckett.

The Hon. Sec. then proceeded to read a correspondence received since the last meeting including a letter from the Surrey Piscatorials enclosing a cheque for their yearage, and a donation of one guinea to the funds of the association. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed and carried unanimously for such donation.

After some further business of minor importance, Mr. Geen, the President of the W. C. A., addressed the meeting on the Bill introduced in the House by Mr. Stuart Wortley for the amendment of the Act of 1878, and, in a few well-chosen words, gave an outline of what had been done in the matter, and stating that, thanks to Mr. Mundella and other members giving their attention to the matter, and opposing the Bill, Mr. Wortley had promised not to move further in the matter until the angling fraternity had thoroughly decided what should be done with reference to altering the Act of 1878. He (Mr. Geen) then informed the association that there was another and more serious Bill before the House affecting anglers, he referred to the Bill for the Consolidation of the Salmon Acts, which, in its present form, placed the law relation to freshwater fish in the hands of county justices, and put a stop to all Sunday fishing. He concluded by urging the association to do their utmost to prevent such a Bill becoming law.

After some remarks from the Chairman and Mr. Ghurney (Secretary of the E. C. A.), the matter was referred to the standing committee, who, supplemented by Messrs. Adean, Osman, Hitchcock, and Ogden, would meet the committee of the E. C. A., to arrange preliminaries, put the matter in proper form, and frame resolutions, to be passed at a Conference to be held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, on the 27th inst. The Chairman also read a circular which has already been published.

The enrolment of the following societies by the committee was then con-

formed:—The Junior Piscatorial Society, First Surrey, and The Queen's Angling Societies.

A complaint lodged against some members of the society enrolled with the W. C. A. was not gone into, the representative of such society leaving the meeting before the matter could be brought forward.

Some further business of minor importance having been disposed of, the meeting was brought to a close.
CIGARETTE.

21st June, 1881.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members opened the season with an open match on Sunday the 19th inst., and had a most successful time of it. The first prize was won by Mr. W. Buttery, who had a fine show of bream and perch. The heaviest bream, weighing 4 lb. 15½ oz., largest perch, 2 lb.; total, 18 lb. 5½. Mr. Arthur, secured the second with trout, the best fish turning the scale at 4 lb. 3½ oz.; total, 15 lb. oz. The third fell to Mr. Browning, with 6 lb. 6 ozs., which included carp of 4 lb. 1 oz., from the Welsh Harp. Mr. Oatley was awarded the fourth prize, for 6 lb. 2 oz. of fish from the Kennet; and Mr. Stevens landed the fifth, with fish from Warner's, weighing 4 lb. 1 oz. The total weight was 69 lb. 8½ oz., and a finer all round show of fish was never seen on the trays. The prizes were substantial in the shape of cash, and the members are to be congratulated on such a promising opening. The billiard saloon was requisitioned for the occasion, and Mr. Millhouse, the host, was very energetic in securing the comfort of the members and their friends.—I am, &c.,

G. A.

WILKINSON ANGLING ASSOCIATION, HULL.

On Monday evening the members of the above club held their fortnightly meeting at the club-room, Crown Hotel. Mr. Clayton occupied the chair and Mr. Hamlyn the vice-chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and passed, business in connection with a match for the benefit of the General Infirmary was then proceeded with, the match to be held on July 18th at Farnby Sluice. It was proposed and carried that the match be an open one, and that anglers in Hull and district be invited to join in the excursion. The vice-chairman introduced the question of the proposed amendment of the Mundella Act, and was sorry to see the Wilkinson Association had not taken steps to be represented by proxy, if not in any other way, at the meeting then being held by London and other anglers at the Society of Arts Rooms, London. After some discussion on the matter, it was resolved that this matter and a letter in connection with the same from a Sheffield club should be referred to the committee for their early consideration.—F. T. H.

NORTHERN NOTES.

By F. J. H.

SINCE my last communication I have had an opportunity of personally visiting several localities patronised by the anglers of these parts. From my own observation and experience, added to the best information obtainable, I find nothing to give me cause to alter my opinion in respect to what may be looked for this season; all that I can gather tends to show that we are having a very good beginning indeed.

At Brigham some really good takes have to be recorded, the roach show up in far better condition than last year at this time; from what I have seen of the dace I think they are hardly up to the mark of the usual sample to be found in this stream. Trout are pretty plentiful, and appear to take the worm about as readily as anything.

At Cope's Landing there was taken one of the prettiest basket-fulls it has been my lot to see for a long time, comprising some large and very good-looking roach, perch, dace, and trout. It may be mentioned that the perch were principally taken by the not very much used bait—a piece of scarlet woollen.

At Newport, on account of the new railway appropriations, little, or no, angling can be obtained. Anglers will greatly miss this stream should it remain in present condition, it is a handy place to get to, and for years past has been well used by anglers from York, Leeds, and Hull, to say nothing of the smaller towns near these last-mentioned places.

The River Hull, with the various streams and drains running into it, may be said to be in first-class condition, stocked with any number of fish of all sorts, and although the knowing hands go to certain parts for the purpose of trying for a certain kind of fish, you can hardly get wrong if the object be to make a basket.

At Arram and West Beck the angler may rely on having real good sport; the best and most killing bait appears to be good white paste and red worms, but if good maggots are to be had they will be found of great service. The water is in capital condition just now, and free from the angler's source of trouble—the weeds. These remarks apply more or less to all the waters in or about this district. The slight falls of rain we have had have made no very perceptible difference in the state of the water. Anglers who have had the good fortune to spend a day on the bank have generally been able to show a fair catch for a fair day's labour.

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the Scotsman.)

LOCHLEVEN.—The weather was exceedingly changeable on Saturday, and sport varied considerably. The morning was very wet, but the sun shone out of a clear sky in the afternoon, with a hard west wind. Mr. Brown had 15 trout, 19 lb. 8 oz.; Dr. McFayden, Stirling, 15 trout, 11 lb. 8 oz.; Major Moor, Stirling, 7 trout, 8 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. William Henderson, Linlithgow, 9 trout, 8 lb.; Mr. Low, Edinburgh, 9 trout, 7 lb. A number of boats came in poorly fished. One of Mr. Brown's trout weighed 2 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Steel, 14, 16½ lb.; Colonel Richardson, 8, 7 lb.

THE TAY.—On Saturday Mr. Gow, the Earl of Breadalbane's keeper, killed on the Taymouth Castle water a salmon weighing 20 lb. On the Castle Menzies water, Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., killed, a few days ago, a salmon weighing 17 lb., being the third fish killed by the baronet since the opening of the season.

THE LYON.—The reports from this river show that the lower sections have yielded good takes of trout since the recent rains, on the Duneaves water, Mr. Haydsyde, of Edinburgh, having made a number of heavy baskets with fly. On the Chesthill water, Mr. Stanton's keeper killed on Saturday a salmon weighing 17 lb.; and on Friday one weighing 11 lb.

ORKNEY.—Fair sport is being enjoyed on the Orkney lochs and streams this season. At the burn at Sebay the other morning a young lad caught 28 fine trout in a very short time, weighing from ½ to 1½ lb, using worms for bait.

LOCH ERICHT.—On Thursday last Mr. Orde had 12 lb. trout; on Friday, Mr. Mitchell had 9½ lb. and Mr. Orde 13 lb.; on Saturday Mr. Orde had 13 lb.

THE EARN.—The copious rainfall of the past week has rendered the Earn in good ply for fishing, and in the end of the week some good baskets were obtained. On the upper reaches on Thursday Mr. John Ginn killed ten yellow trout, weighing in the aggregate about 6 lb., and Mr. Peter McIntosh secured a basket of two dozen and eight, the weight of which, however, was not ascertained. On the lower waters, towards Kinkell, good sport was also had, a few anglers having baskets of trout of from 5 lb. to 6 lb. each. On the mountain burns and streams in the Crieff district better sport was even obtained, Messrs. John Law and William Donn killing on the Almond fifteen dozen and six dozen trout respectively.

THE EDEN.—Capital sport has of late been obtained on the Eden by fly-fishers. Fishers who have tried small flies have been rewarded with heavy baskets. A few years ago, trout of 3 lb. and 4 lb. in weight were not at all uncommon, but owing to the pollution of the stream such fish are extremely scarce.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1881

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THE forty-third anniversary dinner of this most useful and powerful society was held in the fine banquetting hall of the of the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday, July 6. The dinner was a splendid success in every way. The weather

was lovely. The scene from the balcony windows of the hotel is one of the most picturesque in the world, the silvery Thames looking exquisitely beautiful as it reflected the rosy tints of the sunset. It was a capital idea to get Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., to officiate as president. No gentleman has the interests of anglers more at heart than Mr. Birkbeck, and the gratifying and most unexpected announcements which he so pleasantly made during the evening must have proved to every angler present that though the T. A. P. S. have made many big catches in their time they never caught a more valuable and influential one than the president of the late National Fisheries Exhibition. The grand one of all, being H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, has promised to preside at the next annual dinner of the society, an announcement which was received with tremendous applause from the entire company.

Dinner commenced some time between six and seven o'clock, after the chairman had called upon the Rev. J. J. Manley, M.A., to say grace. Of the dinner itself we will only say that it was excellent in every respect. The printers of the menu created some inconvenience by not sending it until the dessert was being discussed, but this was only a trifle, and Mr. G. R. Hunt, the secretary and manager of the hotel, may rest assured that the company was thoroughly well satisfied with his endeavours to please them.

The attendance was both numerous and influential, and included many gentlemen closely associated with the metropolitan angling world. Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., who, it will be remembered, was president of the late National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, occupied the chair. He was supported by Sir Henry W. Peek, M.P., one of the vice-presidents of the society, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, whose name is a household word in connection with the Thames, Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., Mr. W. H. Grenfell, M.P., and other influential gentlemen. There were also present amongst others Mr. W. H. Brougham, secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, Mr. Joseph Brougham, Messrs. Clench, Geen, Nattress, Munross, Abbott, Gaunt, H. Dickinson, Thurston, C. P. Wheatstone, Francis Francis, R. B. Marston, J. P. Wheeldon, Rev. J. J. Manley, Captain Hobson, Alfred Jardine, Richardson, W. Oldham Chambers, Philip Soman, H. J. Rolfe, R. E. Tyler, E. Newstead, J. H. Brown, T. S. Dovey, T. S. Kidson, R. Hobbs, A. Nuthall, F. Burkett, J. R. Birney, H. Briggs, A. Mortman, T. Nash, A. B. Day, Andrews, Mason, Allcock, Peirce, Gray, J. H. Lemann, H. P. Lemann, Dunfer, W. D. Lewis, W. T. Covier, Walter, Spreckley, G. H. Carthew, Capt. Alfred, T. W. Styles (her Majesty's swankeeper), A. Allison, &c.

The Chairman proposed "The Health of the Queen," and afterwards "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales," both toasts being received with the greatest enthusiasm. Mr. Birkbeck next proposed, "The Health of the House of Commons," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Grenfell, M.P. The hon. member, in responding, spoke of the time occupied by the Irish Land Bill, and expressed a fear that the measure had to a certain extent set aside legislation upon any measures which anglers had at heart. He, however, believed that next session piscators would have greater attention paid to their desires. So far as he was concerned he should be happy to advance to the utmost of his power any Bill brought in calculated to benefit the river and the works of the society whose festival they had met to inaugurate.

The Chairman then rose, amidst the greatest enthusiasm, to propose "Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society." It was almost needless for him to remind his hearers that the society was started forty-three years ago, and it had since that time made rapid strides in public favour. The work it had accomplished he need not mention, as it was well known. He was, however, specially pleased to find that the T.A.P.S. had now taken up the subject of fish culture. (Applause.) The society had done an immense amount of good in the way of stocking the Thames, and he believed that they would yet do much more. This had only been accomplished by the friendly aid and countenance of certain gentlemen interested in angling matters, amongst whom he might mention the name of Mr. Forbes, of Chertsey. (Loud applause.) He looked upon the T. A. P. S. as a valuable medium for making the wants and requirements of anglers known. Agriculture and commerce were represented by their chambers, and there was every reason for piscators having the same privilege of bringing the benefit of their experience and knowledge to bear in the legislature. The speaker then stated that he had permission to announce that the Dukes of Buccleugh and Roxburgh, Duke of Northumberland, Earl Percy, Lord George Hamilton, and Sir William Dyke had intimated to him that they should be proud to add their names to the list of vice-patrons of the Thames Angling Preservation Society (Loud applause). He had a still more important announcement to make, and that was that the Prince of Wales had not only consented, but had expressed his royal pleasure to become a patron of the society. (Loud and continuous applause, during which the audience rose to their feet

and cheered lustily.) The chairman concluded by referring to the exhibition at Norwich, and expressed a hope that the Thames Angling Preservation Society would soon emulate the example by having an exhibition of their own in London. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Henry Peek afterwards submitted the toast of "The Health of the Chairman," and urged that at no previous meeting of the society had the members ever had a better president, a statement which was received with the very greatest applause.—The Chairman duly replied, and in the course of his speech expressed the keen interest he felt in the welfare of the society.

Mr. F. C. Clench then proposed "The Health of the Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, and Committee of the T.A.P.S." In Mr. Spreckley, he added, they had not only an experienced angler, but he was a gentleman who was highly esteemed in his particular business in the City. (Cheers.) He not only gave the society the benefit of his purse, but also of his able advice and help. In every shape and form Mr. Spreckley had helped the society; and anglers, however poor or humble, had but to bring their grievance before him to have them looked to. He coupled Mr. Spreckley's name with the toast. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Spreckley, in replying, spoke to the remarkable unanimity with which the society worked. There could be no doubt of the great amount of work that had been done by the society—work that would live when he was dead, and of which future generations of anglers would feel the benefit; but still there was much to do. He referred also to the efforts of the society in the direction of pisciculture. Mr. Spreckley gave "The Board of Thames Conservancy," coupled with the name of "Captain Burstall." "The Press," was proposed by Mr. Rolfe, the celebrated scaly painter, and responded to by Mr. Francis Francis, of the *Field*; Mr. J. Wheelton, of *Bell's Life*; Mr. P. Soman, of the *Norwich Argus*; and Mr. R. B. Marston, of the *FISHING GAZETTE*.

Mr. Jardine, in a capital speech, proposed the "Visitors," and this was responded to in a very pleasant manner by Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, of Lowestoft.

Sir T. Lawrence, M.P., proposed "The Angling Clubs of London." In doing so he referred to the Freshwater Fisheries Act Amendment Bill. He said he had been requested by the Richmond Piscatorial Society to oppose that measure. (Applause, and cry of "Bravo, Richmond.") All he could say about the Bill was that it contained a number of ridiculous clauses. It would have opened the door to all manner of illegal practices and died a natural death, not a single tear being shed on its decease.

Mr. Geen, of the West Central Association of London Anglers, in replying, said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

This is not the first time, by many score, that I have been called upon to respond for the angling clubs of London, I have felt it to be a very great compliment on each of those occasions; especially so when a society whose whole efforts are directed to the preservation of our fish have invited me to dine, and have then proposed and received this toast as it has been proposed and received this evening. It is now just fourteen years since I was persuaded that it was my duty to join a London angling club which had been started the previous week. I hope and believe that I shall never forget my first evening in that club room; it made a deep impression upon my mind, and possibly affected in no small degree my then future as connected with angling matters. I remember the secretary announcing that the first guinea to the funds was an accomplished fact, and he was about to hand it over to the treasurer with some little ceremony, when a member rose and claimed to say a few words before the money changed hands. His few words proved to be the first speech, and, after this lapse of time, I can say the best speech I ever heard as to the duties of anglers generally, particularly club anglers, in respect to preservation societies. I have often wished, that a reporter had been present and that speech had been preserved, as it deserved to be; indeed, it should be written in gold, framed, and hung upon a wall in every club room. And then, if angling societies, generally, did not do as we did that night, send their first guinea to the T. A. P. S. at least sometimes during the year, the words upon the wall should be repeated, and guineas to this or some other preservation society would be the result. I am bold enough to claim for the angling clubs of London, that they have been the means of educating their members in a most efficient manner, as to what is fair, honest and sportsmanlike. It is not long since, that anglers fished all the year round, having no respect for a close season. Now look how scrupulously the three months are kept; and I would also call your attention to the undeniable fact that we are unanimous in our desire to give another month in favour of pike and perch. Anglers not only fished all the year round, but they also retained undersized fish; now who can find a club man who would not feel ashamed to keep them? I know this society has, during the past two years, detected men snatching, fishing out of season, and also

retaining under sized fish, but when these cases occurred, I felt confident, in my own mind, that these sinners were not amongst those who have received the education which our angling clubs give to their members. Judging from the effect which this toast has upon myself, I think it would be well—were it possible—that every angler who fishes in that portion of the Thames between Richmond and Staines, should be present and included in this toast, then, each of them must perforce ask himself—as I have asked myself—am I doing anything, and if so, as much as I ought, to assist this society which is doing so much to provide me with that sport which I value so highly? The time must come when men can no longer be so selfish as to fish year after year, and thereby reap the fruits of labours so unselfish and generous as those of this and similar societies, without giving some trifle towards the funds necessary to carry on the unceasing warfare against poachers. The angling clubs of London, have during the past month, done that which under ordinary circumstances would have been unpardonable—they have gone in for politics. Our excuse for so doing is, that certain members of the House of Commons have made attempts to legislate in such away as would be fatal to our interests. Mr. Stuart Wortley, has introduced a Bill which would do away with our fence months. I had the honour to be deputed to wait upon him with a view of inducing him to withdraw his Bill, and one of my chief arguments was, that nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand were opposed to it; he replied, "I am sorry to learn this. I certainly must confess that I know little or nothing about coarse fish or coarse fish anglers, but still I fail to see why I should not persevere with my Bill." To ordinary mortals, knowing nothing about a subject, would be a sufficient reason for not attempting legislation; but from a parliamentary point of view, ignorance would appear to be a special qualification. Fortunately for us, Mr. Stuart Wortley has, since then, received a number of letters, petitions, reports of meetings, and deputations; indeed, he has received a very fair piscatorial education; and he now admits that he knows so much about coarse fish and coarse fish anglers, as to entirely disqualify him for persevering with his Bill. (Laughter.) The second Bill which has caused us to think so much about the House of Commons, is one introduced by Sir Joseph Bailey, and which would, if passed, be fatal to our liberties as anglers. A deputation of representative anglers, from all parts of England, have waited upon Sir Joseph, and we have good reason to hope that he will prove as apt a pupil as Mr. Stuart Wortley. At present, Sir Joseph is perfectly justified in attempting to legislate, inasmuch as he has told us that he knows nothing whatever about the subject. We have the pleasure of another appointment to see him, and you may trust us to make the most of this second opportunity to piscatorially educate him, so that he may become totally unfit to persevere with that portion of his Bill which affects our sport. I must now thank Sir Trevor Laurance, on behalf of the angling clubs of London, for the kind way in which he has proposed this toast, and you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for the cordial reception which you have given it.

"The Secretary" was proposed by Mr. Spreckley, Mr. W. H. Brougham responding in his usual pleasant style, and announcing a large number of donations from various gentlemen. This terminated perhaps the most successful dinner ever held by the T.A.P.S.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In discussing any question, we beg our correspondents to remember that they increase the force of what they may have to say tenfold, if they sign their names to it. We mention this, because it has been hinted that most of those who do not agree with the present position of affairs as regards the close seasons, write anonymously, and are ashamed to speak out in their own names. We know this is not true, in many cases, but there is truth in it. Unless you have the "courage of your opinions," do not put them forward. It leaves it open to the other side to say you are an interested party.

THAMES SIDE PENCILLINGS.

A SOURCE OF REGRET.

IT was a matter of great regret amongst those interested in the artificial propagation of fish that the young fry of Thames trout so successfully hatched by Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, have all, or nearly all, come to grief. A sudden change of temperature, from extreme cold to intense heat, will always account for the loss of small fry in closely-confined places, and it was entirely arising from the oppressive character of the atmosphere that the youngsters were lost. Great hopes and

expectations had been formed in the prospect of some fine Thames trout being raised and reared for increasing the stock of those fish in our metropolitan stream, and considerable alterations and improvements had been made at Sunbury for their reception. When the sad intelligence was received from Mr. Forbes that all these hopes and expectations were not to be realised, it caused an unexpected disappointment; and not only had the Thames fish been destroyed, but nearly all the fry of other fish. Another season is therefore lost, and whether Mr. Forbes will be able to get some more ova of Thames trout is at present in obscurity.

A STREAM OF SATISFACTION.

When Mr. Thomas Spreckley visited the Norwich Exhibition he came into contact with Mr. Littlewood, of Huddersfield, who is engaged in the science of fish culture, and this friendship so formed led into correspondence, which culminated in an offer of some fry of trout as a gift to the Thames from Mr. Littlewood and, coming at so opportune a time, was most gladly accepted, and, what is more, there appeared no difficulty in getting them from Yorkshire. Mr. Samuel White, one of Mr. Spreckley's partners in business, is a frequent visitor to the north country, and most kindly undertook to take charge of them from Huddersfield to King's Cross. This has accordingly been done, and two thousand healthy fry of different species of trout, under Mr. White's care, safely arrived at King's Cross, where they were received by Mr. Thomas Spreckley and from whose instructions Henry Walters, the head keeper of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, was also there to take charge of them to the rearing stream at Sunbury, where they arrived the same evening at eleven o'clock and safely placed in their new home, having since given satisfactory evidence that they are fully reconciled to the change. Mr. Littlewood by this act will secure appreciation from the trout anglers of the Thames.

FISH IN TORMENT.

The trout in the Thames, like the other fish, are suffering from a kind of lice, which has more the form of a crab. One of these fish, evidently suffering from the tormenting of these insects, leaped into one of the pleasure boats at Halliford, and a labouring man going past at the time heard the fish jumping about in the skiff took it out, and on examination it was found covered with these lice. The fish weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Not only are trout, but jack and other fish are infested with the plague, doubtless arising from the rank and stale condition of the water. William Milbourne, of East Moulsey, in his report last week, says—"We are getting no fish, only a few jack, and they are covered with lice and are very lean." A good rain and a fair stream will doubtless remove the evil and give freshness and vigour to the finny tribe, who are not yet in the best of form for anglers in the Thames.

SUCCESS IN ANGLING CLUBS.

The angling clubs of London and the suburbs are not only increasing in numbers, but some of them greatly in strength. I attended the last meeting of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, at the club room, Station Hotel, Richmond; three new members were balloted for and elected, four or five others were nominated, and so, under the rule of Mr. F. C. Clench, the club rapidly grows. I think Mr. Munro has some share in it, for that old Scotch whiskey of his has become as popular as the club itself, and it is really so fascinating that the repetition of the dose has become proverbial. A first-rate chairman, a capital vice-chairman, an excellent treasurer, an indefatigable secretary, and a really worthy host cannot fail to make the club—as it is—a very prosperous one. The Gresham Angling Society is another example of success. In a few months it has enrolled nearly 150 members, and such a result must be wholly unparalleled in the establishment of angling clubs and only shows what activity and perseverance can do when all are united in doing it.

THAMES ANGLERS AT THE BROADS.

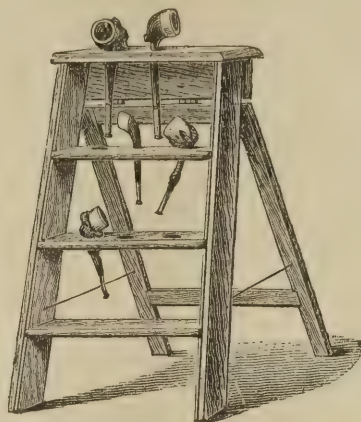
I expect some of our Thames anglers will be soon getting away on their holidays, combining a change of air and a sea side trip with the delights of angling. The manager of the Great Eastern Railway, in his summer and autumn arrangements, makes the facilities to the Broads of Norfolk and Suffolk immensely tempting. The fortnightly fares to Yarmouth and Lowestoft have undergone a reduction, and the trains have been amazingly accelerated. These places are now little more than three hours' journey from the Thames. Once in the train, the anglers of the Thames, for they like a change, will quickly pass Colchester and Ipswich, and in exact time find themselves landed in the neighbourhood of some of the finest fish farms in the world. Mr. Crisp, of Crown-road, Great Yarmouth, has sent me a copy of his "A B C Ramble Round Yarmouth," and included in it,

altogether for sixpence, is a useful "Handbook to Angling and Salt Water Fishing." It appears worth my recommendation, and I have pleasure in giving it.

B.

A NEW PIPE-STAND.

MESSRS. THORNHILL AND Co., who are always bringing out some useful novelty, have sent us one of their new ladder-pipe stands for notice. It is a really beautiful little ornament for the



smoking-room, and thoroughly strong and useful. It can be used either standing on a table or sideboard, or can be hung on the wall. It will hold eight pipes, and the steps can also be utilised as a place for the match-box; in fact, we do not see why Messrs. Thornhill should not place a small drawer for vestas or cigarettes under the bottom step of the ladder; it should be so made that the drawer will not come right out. We can strongly recommend this ladder pipe-stand to smokers, it will save many a good meerschaum from

being "dusted" off the mantel-piece.

ROACH AND ROACH FISHING.

IN that most interesting and practical work, "The Angler's Guide," deduced from many years' practice, experience, and observation, by T. F. Salter, Gent. there are some very useful remarks on roach fishing. As the book has long been out of print, we will quote them for the benefit of those—and their number is legion—who love a day's roach fishing. At this time of the year, when the dog-roses are in blossom and the scent of new-mown hay comes over the fields, when the roads are dry and dusty and the pavement scorches one's feet, the fields are decidedly the better places to be in. For a few pence the London roach fisher can transport himself from the glare and chokiness of town to spots of the most charming rural beauty. Instead of the harsh rattle of millions of London's wheels, he hears the twitter of the swallow and the song of the blackbird; instead of almost fighting his way through the hurrying crowd, he follows quietly the silent river until he reaches a favourite swim—preferably, this hot weather, under the shade of some willow, or "Sally" tree as the country people call them. Here he settles himself and presently the rod is put together and the depth plumbed. The best roach rods in the opinion of Lea fishers are those made by Mr. F. H. Sowerbutts, of 3, Blossom Terrace, Commercial Street, N.E. They are of cane, and from eighteen to twenty feet in length and cost from twenty to thirty shillings and more; they will last a life-time with careful handling and your true Lea roach fisher gets to look upon his "Sowerbutt" as a respected and beloved friend.

Mr. Salter's remarks, although about sixty years have fled since he made them, are, as far as they go, as good a guide as any the roach fisher can have. He says:—Roach are very numerous in most rivers in England, and by some writers they are considered a silly fish, and easily to be taken; but it requires much skill and practice, with a quick eye, fine tackle, and a steady hand, before anyone can pretend to the character of a good roach angler. I will admit that in ponds, where they are half-starved, roach are easily taken, and also small ones in rivers: at such times and seasons they may be taken with almost any kind of tackle or baits; but pond roach fishing affords little sport to the true and general-informed angler, and little more does taking those small ones on the shallows in rivers: but the taking thirty pounds weight or more of roach, from six or eight ounces to a pound or upwards each fish, out of a stream from six to ten feet deep, with very light rod, single hair line, and No. 10 or 11 hook, in a day's angling (which is frequently done by the London anglers), affords as much amusement to some as any other mode of fishing; indeed, I am acquainted with many anglers who seldom wet a line but for roach, preferring it to every other kind of fishing.

TACKLE FOR ROACHING; WHEN AND HOW TO STRIKE, &C.

To take heavy roach (and those only are worth taking) like an artist, you must use a light cane rod, from eighteen to near twenty feet long, with a fine light stiff top, a single hair line, a tip-capped float, and No. 10 or 11 hook; choose them very short in the shank as roach mouths are very small: observe when so

fishing, that the line which is above the float, and is fastened to the top of the rod, must not be more than twelve or eighteen inches long, or you will not hit a fine bite, from the line being too long, and hanging slack on the water; the line should be so shotted with very small shot, that not much more than an eighth of an inch of the float appears above the water; for roach frequently (and very often the heaviest of them) bite so fine or gently, that, without attending to the above niceties in adjusting your line, you will lose the chance of two bites out of three. In angling for roach, a sitting posture is to be preferred, as, by that means, you are more out of their sight: always keep the top of your rod up over the float, and so high that none of the line above the float lies on or touches the water; and when you see the least movement of the float, either by its being pulled down or thrown a little up, strike quick but lightly (the motion coming from your wrist, not from the arm); for if the jerk is too violent you will break the line, which need not be hazarded, as the least jerk hooks those tender-mouthed fish. If you have hit or hooked a fish, raise the top of your rod, keeping him as much under the top as you can, and the butt downwards, nearly touching the ground, and by thus playing him under the point of your rod, he will soon be your own. In this fine fishing it is best to take with you a landing net, particularly if you fish off a high bank or wharfing, or you will hazard breaking your line or hook in weighing the fish out. Roach may be taken with larger hooks and stronger tackle than those which I have described; but they who fish finest will succeed best, besides the pleasure the angler feels while killing a fish with the elasticity of a hair line, and light pliant rod. Those who object to single hair lines, because they will occasionally break and cause trouble and delay while at their sport, must use the finest single gut they can procure, which are certainly less liable to break, and fit them with float-hook, &c., as described, with single hair: some anglers make their roach lines half single hair, and half the hairs twisted, or as much single hair from the hook as will nearly reach to the float, because, in case the line breaks, the single hair will go first; and in that case, having the float on the twisted, you save it: this way of fitting up hair lines is superior to any other, in my opinion.

BAITS AND BAITING.

The best bait for roach, in still waters and gentle streams, is paste made of second day's baked white bread (the crumb) slightly dipped in water, which must be immediately squeezed out again; then place it in the palm of your left hand, and knead it with the thumb and finger of your right, for ten minutes, or until of a proper consistency; or the crumb of new bread without wetting. Roach will take this paste the whole year round, and by adding a little vermilion or red ochre, it will be of a pale pink or salmon colour, which they sometimes prefer; in summer they will also take gentles, and in the spring also cads; in winter and autumn, baked or parboiled wheat, and small marsh brandlings, blood and red worms, and also greaves; but paste is the most killing bait for large roach. Put a piece on the hook about the size of a marrow-fat pea, and before you begin to angle, plumb the depth accurately, and let your bait gently touch or drift along the bottom of the river.—NOTE: always make it a rule, when angling for roach, barbel, chub, and other fish that require ground baiting, to let your line remain, with the plummet attached to it, in the water, while you are preparing and casting in ground bait, by which means the line becomes stretched and softened, and consequently less likely to break, which gut and hair frequently do when dry and stiff; and also, occasionally, while fishing, dip the line above the float in the water for the same reason, especially in hot weather.

FISHING AT VARIOUS DEPTHS.

During very warm weather, roach occasionally swim near the surface of the water, and will then sometimes take the bait at mid-water, or a house-fly, better than at the bottom; but this does not often occur, therefore always begin to fish with the bait slightly dragging, or touching the bottom. After trying this way without success, you then may angle at mid-water; and you may also fish at various depths when angling in a tidal river, during the tide is making and until high water.

HOW TO CHOOSE A SWIM.

And further note, when angling in rivers and streams, especially for roach, make choice of a swim that is shoal at the end of it, because, as the ground bait separates, it drifts down the stream and will lodge there and keep the fish from going further; and the baited hook will also touch the bottom all the way: but if the end of a swim is deeper than the top or beginning, your baited hook will not, then be at a proper depth as it proceeds, which is material, as roach, chub, and dace generally bite at the end of the swim, especially if the water is shallow or bright. When roach-fishing, you should occasionally take the depth again, particularly if the fish leave off feeding, which they will do if you have lost the

proper depth: this happens in rivers from the water rising or falling from tides, opening of locks, mills, &c.; and sometimes from the line drawing through the caps of the float.

GROUND-BAIT.

Ground bait plentifully before you begin; or if the place be baited overnight it might be better, with small balls of ground-bait made thus: work some clay and bran together into balls or pieces about the size of a pigeon's egg; some add a little crumbled bread to it—if you fish in a stream, always put a small stone in each piece before you cast it into the water, to prevent its drifting away. Also while angling, cast in that or chewed bread, frequently close to the float. When angling for roach in a still hole, or gentle stream or eddy, nothing is so good for ground bait as chewed bread, or bread and bran made into small pellets, and thrown gently in by six or eight pieces together; close about the place your float and baited hook move in.

ROACHING WITH THE HOUSE-FLY, &C.

During July and August, roach may be taken in the following manner with an ant-fly or a house-fly, and also a cad, and sometimes with a gentle put on a No. 11 hook, and single hair-line to a fine rod: put one small shot on about four inches above the hook, to sink the bait, then draw the baited hook gently or slowly up to the surface of the water, and so continue till you feel a bite; the roach generally take the bait as it approaches the top. When fishing this way, try round piles, bridges, flood-gates, and deep still holes, where bushes and trees grow over the water. I have found a wasp grub a killing bait in some waters, but not so in all. . . . In Flanders, half-boiled potatoes or paste are the only baits used for roach, as they will not touch a gentle or greaves in that country,

WHERE TO FIND ROACH.

Roach breed and thrive in canals, ponds, and lakes, but best in rivers; in rivers they are found on the shallows and scours during spring, and among weeds in summer; in eddies and in deep holes during winter; also about bridges, piles, and locks, in ponds; search for them near flood-gates, sluices, and at the mouths of streams that run in and out of a pond, and also about those places where the bottom is clean, gravelly, or sandy. They bite all the year in rivers, but best late in the evening in hot weather in ponds, docks, and still waters, in summer only—or say from April to October.

HOW TO COOK ROACH.

When large roach are scored across the sides, and broiled with the scales on, they are considered by many as a well flavoured fish, especially in the autumn and winter seasons. Here we will end our quotations from Salter's remarks on roach and roach fishing, but to make this account more complete we will add a few notes from that invaluable little

BOOK OF THE ROACH

by Greville Fennell,* in our opinion one of the best living authorities on angling matters. Mr. Fennell mentions on page 62 how he discovered what he has nearly always found to be a deadly addition to paste as a bait for roach. He was bank-fishing with the Hon. R. R., a very skilful roach-fisher, and found himself being beaten both in weight and number to a most shameful extent. He was fishing with a single hair line and light float exactly like Mr. Fennell's, and Mr. F. watched him closely while he took a roach at nearly every swim. He was fishing with paste of a dirty colour, filipping every now and then a few pellets of it at his float, and then carefully returning the paste to a small side pocket in his shooting coat. We asked him with an air of apparent indifference for a small portion of this paste, a request which he good-humouredly declined; observing, in doing so, that one of the fundamental rules of angling was to be independent of others, and therefore he advised us to make our own paste, pointing at the same time to his bag on the grass, in which we should find plenty of the crumb of bread. This awakened our suspicions, and we, watching our opportunity, with a playful show of banter, knocked the paste out of his hand, picked it up, and ran away with it. A glance at the lamp sufficed, and it was as quickly returned to its owner. Now what did this observation afford?

CURIOUS BAIT FOR ROACH.

That the half-digested contents of the stomach of a roach had been mixed with the paste. We took the hint, and then, and often since then, we have had recourse to this experiment and found it (although not invariably) effective.

PEARL BARLEY.

Mr. Fennell says, "with this we have also taken many roach in ponds and still waters. Take the barley and simmer it gently

*Every roach angler should possess this little book, it costs only 2s. 6d. and will speedily repay the cost, even to the poorest angler. There are but few copies left, and on receipt of 2s. 8d. in stamps (sent to the Editor of the Fishing Gazette, 12, Fetter Lane, London) we will send the book to any part of the country.

(don't boil it); then when it is about three parts the size required, strain the water well away, and add fresh warm water to take off the gluten; pour off the second water; and then, thirdly, fill up with cold; let it slowly simmer for an hour or an hour and a half, which will make the barley as white as ivory. There is a core inside each grain into which the barb of the hook should enter—use a No. 15 hook, which a grain of barley will just cover. This bait is very successful, and is much used in the autumn and winter months for roach. It has, moreover, the recommendation of cleanliness, and being ever at hand readily prepared. A little salt should be mixed with it, if required to be kept for any length of time. Mr. Francis Francis, in the FIELD, commenting on the above, says “Pearl Barley stands in the place of paste when you can no longer obtain gentles, towards the winier, and it is held in almost equal estimation with paste by the fish, having this advantage over paste, that you do not strike the bait off at every stroke or so and it cannot well be sucked off”

SILK WEED OR FLANNEL WEED AS BAIT FOR ROACH.

This weed is *conferva rivalis* or crow silk. Mr. Fennell says “several angling friends having taken the hint to try the silk-weed (it is a good lure for mullet in rivers) which is found adhering to stones under water and old wooden piles, have from time to time written us of their success with this aquatic product as bait, more particularly for roach. One of these gentlemen says he has found it beat all other baits, with the exception of the small fresh-water shrimp, or “skipjack,” which you have mentioned as an attractive tit-bit. The weed is, however, all-powerful at times with roach, the shrimp with perch, chub, and grayling. Another angler at Richmansworth says, “I am much indebted for this dodge—the weed—I am taking much the heaviest baskets of any about here out of the Colne. I have no difficulty in getting abundance of it. I have but to use the thickest joints of my rod and fish it up from many places. I shake it about a good deal first in the water to wash it, and it is surprising how green and attractive this fish-salad looks. My method of using it is to take a slip of the fibre, as I might take that of floss silk and wrap it in, ou, and over the shank, until point and all are covered, in the shape of an inverted pear. The larger (comparatively) the bait, the bigger the fish.” Mr. W. J. Woods writes, “I fished on July 26th, at Eglam, on the Thames, in the deepest part of the weir pool, but as much as possible on the Middlesex side, and out of the boiling water; with a very heavy Thames float, the shots of which went down straight, and at once; and I took a smartish lot of handsome roach with this weed, put upon the hook in the manner you were good enough to tell me. Seven of these roach were fully a pound, four of them more than one pound and a half and thirteen over half a pound each.

GENTLES FOR ROACH FISHING.

About the use of gentles doctors differ. Mr. Fennell says, “Anglers are recommended to employ them well scoured; now, all our experience goes to prove that the newer and more offensive they are—to our olfactories—the more fish prize them. Therefore, we say advisedly, always use unscoured gentles.”

A VERY ATTRACTIVE GROUND BAIT FOR ROACH.

Old Corbett, a Peninsular veteran, used to bring heavy baskets of roach from the Lea. Mr. Fennell saw him fishing at Ware one day. “The veteran cast in a lump of ground bait, not bigger than a hazel nut, and had scarcely got his hook down when he struck and shortly landed another plumper. There was something, we thought, odd about this ground bait; we therefore picked up a small piece he had let fall, and asked him bluntly what it was composed of. He frankly told us it was nothing but oatmeal—that pollard would do—browned over the fire in a frying-pan and then mixed into a paste with treacle or molasses. He had learned this from his colonel (Williamson), a very expert and successful roach fisher, and he found it the most attractive ground bait he had ever used. ‘Lor’ bless you,’ said he, after accepting an ounce of bird’s-eye, “I could tell you lots o’ them dodges I learned from Colonel Williamson.”

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE Amberley and Pulborough excursions are more popular and better attended this year than ever, and on Sunday, 26th June, over 600 anglers and friends availed themselves of the opportunity of spending a few hours amid some of the prettiest scenery of Sussex, and having a ride of 108 miles there and back—which last don’t the young ones (who, by the bye, travel half-price, 1s. 3d. return) seem to enjoy—for the modest sum of 2s. 6d.

From Pulborough good takes of bream, with a fair sprinkling of roach, continue to be had. From Amberley two or three of the old sort of roach have left their homes in the swift and deep tidal water of

Arun for the wilderness of bricks and mortar, ’yclept London—among others a fish 2 lb. 2½ oz., taken by Mr. R. Smith.

From the Stort there are reports of one or two good takes of roach and some good dace. Heavy tench used to be taken in the by-gate holes in this river, but I have not heard of any this season.

A meeting of the West Central Association’s Working Committee took place last Friday evening, at the Portland Arms, Gt. Quebec Street, Baker Street. Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett occupied the chair and vice-chair respectively. The principal business done was the bringing about of an amicable understanding between two societies between whom there was a difference, which I am pleased to say was accomplished to the satisfaction of all parties; the enrolment of a new society, viz., The Pictorial, the King’s Arms, Tottenham Court Road, W., host and treasurer Mr. Chapman; hon. sec., pro. tem., Mr. Rayner.

It was also decided that all moneys collected for the widow of the late Geo. Foster should be handed to her at once by the hon. secs., Messrs. Ghurney and Hoole. I regret to hear that Mrs. Foster, who since her husband’s death has also lost her eldest daughter, is in deep distress, and I trust secretaries of angling societies and others who have received moneys towards this fund will forward same to one of the hon. secs. without delay.

My colleague, Mr. Harrington Keene, in last week’s GAZETTE says, concerning the recent meeting at the Society of Arts:—“Mr. Geen contributed to ichthyology with characteristic precision during the discussion of Amendment 6. He averred that dace spawned twice, once early in the season, and once late in the season, for he had seen them heading up.” I am sure Mr. Keene will excuse my setting him right. I sat next to Mr. Geen during the whole of the evening, and had a better opportunity of hearing every word he said than Mr. Keene probably had. What Mr. Geen said was:—“Dace make two upward shifts during a season—or rather, I should say, there are two sets of spawning fish.” A statement which was verbally confirmed by several gentlemen in the vicinity of the speaker.

One gentleman remarking that this characteristic was also peculiar certainly to gudgeon, and he had heard it asserted even to roach. Mr. Keene, I am sure, will excuse my setting him right. The difference in words is not considerable, but the difference in purport is.

On Sunday, 3rd July, several angling societies had their annual summer feeds. The Amicable Brothers at the Swan Hotel, Pulborough, the Alexandra at the Pied Bull, St. Margaret’s, and the Edmonton and Tottenham at the Oak, St. Margaret’s.

I am pleased again to congratulate Mr. R. Murphy, of the Good Intent Anglers, upon his success in securing 2½ brace of pretty trout.

The water at the Welsh Harp is rapidly going down, and there will be some big takes of fish here presently.

On Monday evening, July 4th, the monthly meeting of the East Central Committee was held at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury. Some important matters were discussed concerning the preservation of the sedgy Lea, in which Messrs. Ghurney, Beckett, Manning, Murphy, Oram and others took part. Our friends cannot be too careful in guarding their rights on their favourite river—rights which it took many weary years of unceasing efforts on their part to get publicly recognised, and afterwards confirmed by statute.

A correspondent asked, in a recent number, whether Sunday angling was allowed at Elstree Reservoir?—Yes, certainly.

Another correspondent asked concerning privilege of cheap railway travelling to certain stations on the Great Eastern Railway. The privilege to which he refers is a local one, granted to the members of the Cambridge and Ely Association, who are entitled, upon production of their cards of membership (2s. 6d. per annum), to travel to certain stations, including Cambridge, Newmarket, Waterbeach, and Littleport, at a single fare for the double journey.

My remarks in last week’s GAZETTE, anent rudd, applied to the fry, which abound in the dykes about Whitstable. I am aware, dear Mr. Editor, that rudd in some waters attain a very heavy weight. I have myself taken in the Ouse, at Huntingdon, three fish weighing 5 lb., and one weighing exactly 2 lb., and a particular friend of mine, Mr. R. Hawkins, of the Seymour Arms, Seymour Street, Euston Square, has a brace preserved taken in the same river in the neighbourhood of Brompton, which, after being kept on ice two days, weighed a fraction over 6 lb.

AN ABUSIVE FISHERMAN.—Alfred Harris, a fisherman, of No. 2, Shilvony Villas, Laleham, was charged before the Staines magistrates on Monday, 4th inst., with having used abusive language towards Mr. L. Hirsch, a member of the Piscatorial Society. He was fined £1 and full costs, or in default 21 days’ imprisonment. Harris had been engaged by Mr. Hirsch for a day’s fishing, and arranged to provide live bait. Before starting, however, for the day’s sport, Mr. Hirsch discovered that the bait was neither good nor sufficient, and consequently declined to go out with him, whereupon Harris made use of foul and abusive language, which caused his appearance before the Staines magistrates.

The annual excursion of the employés of Messrs. Samuel Allcock and Co., the well-known fishing tackle manufacturers, Redditch, took place a few days since, the metropolis being chosen as the locale of the day’s amusement. A special train was chartered for the occasion, and after visiting the principal of the London sights, which a large majority had never seen before, the party, numbering upwards of three hundred, proceeded to the Crystal Palace. Mr. Samuel Allcock, the senior and principal partner, accompanied the excursionists, who returned about 10 p.m. from Sydenham, having spent a highly enjoyable and interesting day.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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THE
TOURIST AND HOLIDAY NUMBER
OF THE
"FISHING GAZETTE"
WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY, JULY 23.

Advertisements to appear in this Number must reach the Office by 6 o'clock p.m. on WEDNESDAY, July 20, addressed to

THE MANAGER,

"Fishing Gazette,"

12 & 13, FETTER LANE, E.C.

RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My business in this state
Made me a looker on."—

SHAKESPEARE.

The heavy rains of the past day or so have very much improved the river for fishing purposes, and lovers of the rod and admirers of scenery cannot do better than at once pay a visit to old Father Thames, for most fish are fairly on, and the surroundings of the river are grand in the extreme. At Henley, Mr. C. D. Johnson has taken a trout of 5 lb., and other piscators have been on the jack trail with success, although I look upon it as much too early for good pike to be taken, and it is a sin and pity to slaughter the innocents. At Medmenham, Mr. Troupe has been doing execution amid the chub with fly, and has also landed some respectable jack. Mr. S. G. Palmer, on Tuesday, in the Hurley waters, had a pretty take of perch, as in two hours worm fishing he landed nine fish, scaling respectively 1 lb. 10 oz., 1 lb. 1 oz., 12 oz., 14 oz., 14 oz., the remaining four together scaling 1 lb. 10 oz. I saw the fish exhibited in the Bell, at Hurley, and a nicer sample in such a short time I have not often seen.

THURSDAY.—River in prime trim for roach, perch, and chub. Wind westerly, with cloudy sky.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low, and in very good order for chub fly-fishing; roach not much on. I have been taking some good chub with the fly; four days, 30 lb. of chub, two chub weighing 8 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river within the last week has improved very much, and is now in fair order for all-round fishing. I have been out four times since I last wrote: First day, Messrs. Innes and Marshall, four dozen roach and dace, which were all returned to the river. Second day, Mr. Wilson, eleven bream, largest weighing three and a half pounds; two dozen roach and dace, and a chub of three pounds three quarters. Third day, Mr. Matthews, five bream and three dozen roach and dace. Fourth day, Mr. Palmer, three chub, four bream, two perch, one barbel, some roach and dace, and an eel of one and a half pound.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Richmond).

The thunderstorm of Tuesday night has greatly improved the river, and the dace are feeding well, but the barbel are very backward in coming forward—you can see them jumping about, and that is the angler's share; for bait with what you like, you cannot entice them to take it, for every barbel I have taken this season up to now has cost me quite 1s. for worms to bait. The dace fishing this season is very good, the fish being well fed and strong, afford some good sport, more especially when caught in a sharp stream; the average takes during last week were between six and seven dozen each punt per day. C. Brown's two best days, eleven dozen dace; G. Howard's two best days, twelve dozen; H. Howard's two best days, 17 lb.; J. Brain's two best days, thirteen dozen dace; H. Wheeler, one day, eight dozen roach and dace. I have been out myself every day, and averaged seven and a half dozen each day.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Sunbury).

The water is in good condition for all fishing. Prospects, good. Sport during the past week: T. Stroud, five days, best day 2 dozen roach and 6 chub

A. Stroud, two days, best day, 4 dozen roach and 6 bream; J. Stroud, best day, 6 dozen roach and 8 bream; and Abram Stroud, three days, best day, 2 dozen roach and 2 jack.—ALFRED STROUD.

Thames (Twickenham).

The water is now getting into excellent condition after the heavy rains. Since my last report I have had no less than twenty-three punts out, and taking the average they have done remarkably well. The dace are in splendid condition, and as I have only a limited number of punts, and any man sending a postcard or telegram in advance, will secure a punt at all times. N.B.—I shall be pleased to see any of my patrons on Saturday at No. 8, Marquee, in Queen Anne's Ride, Windsor Park, where I am appointed by his Royal Highness Prince Christian to provide for the "inner man."—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

We have had a good storm here with plenty of rain—as a result, water is rising and very thick, and anglers should lose no time in trying the worm, as barbel, perch, chub, trout, &c., may all be had in the same swim and make a very pretty show if one is so fortunate as to get a few representatives of each. In a bad water, which we have had, James Gray has succeeded in showing his patrons some sport; and on the 3rd inst. he had three chub, going 9 lb., with barbel to make the bag bump the scale at 25 lb.; on the 5th inst., he had, after 7 p.m., two perch, 6 chub, and pretty trout, one of the small-headed sort, going 5 lb., taken whilst ledgering with worm, near the Needles, Eton College way. I have noticed a great many chub about, and after this water settles, some good bags would be had with fly from a boat, providing you have a friend well up in the use of a pair of skulls. Jack are very poor—have seen some sorry specimens—give them this month, and they will look better.—R. B. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

Not much has been done yet on this river or, rather, canal. The hot weather has put the fish off the feed, and very little can be done except in the early morning and late in the evening. It will be a month or two before the pike get well on the feed, as they have not yet recovered from the enervating work of spawning. I had a day's coarse fishing in private waters on Saturday last, and made a good basket of roach, perch and eels. The former fish were, however, in very poor condition, being covered with slime. I trolled for an hour or two for pike where there are plenty of good ones, but I neither obtained a run nor saw a fish.—THOMAS FORD.

Avon (Binton).

The water is now in first-class condition for angling, if anything, a little too clear; but, of course, that's not to be wondered at, considering the spell of dry weather we have had, but taking all things into consideration, there is every prospect of our having a first-class fishing season. We have had but little rain here, however—not sufficient to make any difference to the river. Myself and friend have had very good sport among the chub, dapping with the natural fly. We bagged between us about two dozen varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb. each. The bream, roach, &c., are getting into deep water, and I have no doubt we shall be hearing of some good catches.—A. W. WARNER.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are still very low and bright, even after the heavy rains of Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. They did not seem to affect them hardly at all, and now they are as clear as ever. The weather has been intensely hot, with a good deal of thunder, about so very little fishing has been had. Yesterday the air was much cooler and a nice breeze, and some trout were caught on both rivers. Heath caught a nice few in the morning with the worms on the Barle, and I caught a dozen on the Exe in the afternoon with fly and minnow in about three hours, but lost a great many, owing to them taking very short. I am sorry to have to mention that lately poaching (in the way of trammelling) has been going on to some extent in the Barle. It is a great pity that such should be allowed to go on, and that persons who ought to be above such a thing, should so lower themselves. They are not doing any good for themselves, but are simply spoiling the river, and "cutting their own throats" in a money-making way; as it is chiefly the fishing and stag-hunting that brings "grist to the mill," and puts money into the pockets of most of the inhabitants of this quiet little town. However, the river is now being closely watched, and if they continue their malpractices, they will most probably meet their deserts at the hands of justice. The sooner this poaching is put a stop to, the better.—W.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The water is in first-rate condition for angling. Every prospect of good baskets of roach and dace. During the past week some good roach and dace and chub have been taken, and Mr. Hawkins a trout 1 lb., which he turned into the water again; Mr. Drake, 1 trout 6 lb., and there has been a quantity of fish seen lately. For roach and dace, bran and bread and gentles.—E. GODFREY.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On July the 1st the river was flooded, and on the 2nd there was splendid sport. J. Hilton, and John Hilton, of Newcastle; Wood, of Linden; Mr. Scoat, of Linden Hillhead, and W. Mathews, of Longhershley, did well; their baskets were from 5 to 7 lb.; the largest trout $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb., killed by Mr. Scoat, Linden Hillhead. The salmon run freely from the sea, and the river is flooded again to-day, so we may look to have plenty of salmon all the season. A heavy thunderstorm and rain passed over here on the 5th.—A. GLASS, Angler's Inn, Weldon Bridge.

Dove (Derbyshire).

This (Wednesday) evening rain is falling heavily and the river should be much discoloured by to-morrow morning. Some heavy grayling have been taken in the dusk of the evening, both up stream and down, notably one taken at Mayfield, which scaled over 2 lb. The fish now rise pretty freely, particularly at dusk. The July dun, jenny spinner, and pale evening dun have been the taking flies, but when the shades of night have descended, the coachman and the moths have been in full swing. Above Dove Dale, we hear of a dish numbering some 6½ brace being landed, whilst at Hartington the spinners and duns have been killing well. The water has been too bright and clear for minnow spinners, but the present downfall should make up the deficiency. The Henmore brook has again been poisoned. This occurred on the night of the 4th inst., and some large quantities of fish were destroyed.

Exe (Exeter).

The river is very low again, and but very little sport to record, although in the estuary bass, whiting, pouting, flounders, small brills, turbot and

codling are extremely numerous, and are taken as high up as Topsham. Whitebait are also very plentiful this season, and are taken in large quantities daily at Turf. Mr. J. A. Kelly still continues to bring in some excellent baskets of tench, another of which I have preserved, but for himself this time. It is larger than the 2½ lb. fish preserved for the Royal Museum Angling Society, which was so successfully opened last Monday evening, when many members were enrolled, and business will be formally commenced this evening, Monday, July 4th. The following appeared in the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, Tuesday, June 28th: "A meeting of fishermen was held at Mr. E. Blake's, Royal Museum Hotel, last evening, for the purpose of starting a club with a view of offering prizes for successful salmon and trout fishing, and bottom fishing for coarse fish. Mr. Kelly was voted to the chair, and the vice-chair was filled by Mr. E. Blake. A preliminary meeting had already been held, at which the scheme had been warmly taken up by several employes of the Great Western Railway who happen to be enthusiastic anglers. At last night's meeting it was resolved to form a club, and the names of several gentlemen were enrolled as members. The subscription was fixed at five shillings per annum, and the entrance fee 2s. 6d. The election of officers, it was resolved, should take place at the general meeting, which will be held on the 4th of July for the purpose of transacting the business of the club. Mr. Frank Gosden, who is one of the moving spirits in the scheme, was unable to be present through severe illness, but a hope was expressed that at the next meeting he would be able to attend and give them the benefit of his experience. The club would seem to have made a good start, and it promises to be successful." I have not the slightest doubt about the success of the undertaking from the manner in which it has been handled, the chairman and vice-chairman being well up to their work, and those who have as yet enrolled themselves can hold their own against all comers, but for myself I am sorry to say I shall not be able to meet them this evening, but sincerely hope to do so next Monday.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

During this fine weather we have been favoured with a great number of anglers, who have returned to London with huge bags of fish, and now the hay-maker is hard at work, filling the air full of sweet fragrance, and there is encouragement given to lovers of the sport. On Tuesday, July 5, Mr. James Humphery, of Chingford Hall, Essex, summoned Charles Patcher, a poor boy living at Cook's Ferry as potman, and, according to his statement and the wording of the summons, which was as follows—"did unlawfully commit damage, injury, and spoil to and upon certain property there of a private nature, and belonging to William Gilbert, that is to say to and upon certain herbage there, growing in a certain field there situate, in the occupation of the said William Gilbert, thereby then doing injury to the said property to an amount not exceeding five pounds." At the hearing of the case, Mr. Humphery made his statements, and, on being asked if he was the owner, he said no; but he was there on behalf of Mr. Gilbert, and then he was asked if the field was private, and he said it was. The writer of this letter was then called as a witness, when I made the following statement. I told the honourable bench of magistrates that I was the proprietor of the Cook's Ferry, and had been so nearly four years, following my wife's uncle, who had the house for five years. Before my time, and during the whole time I and those before me had been in the house he had proved himself such an avaricious man that he wanted the big doll and all the toys, and because he could not have all his own way he had brought this case before their notice. Assuring them that the boy had done no damage, he being 70 feet from the road, and he walked along a footpath 16 inches in width. After this explanation the magistrates dismissed the summons without costs.

SAMUEL SEWELL.

P.S.—This case should stir anglers, and I for one will work might and main against an invader of the angler's rights.

Lochawe.

A splendid basket of salmon, grilse, and trout has been got at the Portsonachan Hotel. It consisted of one salmon weighing 10½ lb., two grilse weighing respectively 5½ and 5½ lb., and 4½ lb. of trout.—W. J. CAMERON.

Swale.

For those who like night fishing now is the time to try the moths—white, brown, yellow, all will kill through the twilight. The red dun (called in Hampshire the sedge fly), will also do execution—either natural or artificial. Like the moths this fly is best fished at night. The chief flies for the daytime, when the waters are suitable, are the ant flies, crimson brown, dotted drake, sanded dun, and bank fly. In the beck, the bluebottle or flesh fly, fished naturally, will prove most effective. The red ant fly is best made as follows:—Body, orange silk, with four turns of peacock's harl at tail. Legs, red hackle. Wings, starling's quill.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

Scarcely anything doing worthy of report from the river since my last. Owing to the intense heat, very few anglers have ventured forth on piscatorial art intent, and the takes have been anything but brilliant. On Saturday I made an early start, but did nothing till mid-day, and then nothing to brag about. The river was low and a nasty brown colour; the bottom of nearly every swim I found covered with the greatest nuisance anglers have to contend with this time of the year—"flannel" weed. After a deal of patience and perseverance, I bagged 8 lb. of roach and dace, the largest fish 1½ lb., and would have been considerably larger if it had been taken a month later. The same day, Mr. Adams Parker, fishing with the "coroner," had a miscellaneous basket of perch and chub, and, what is a novelty in this locality, a nice carp 4½ lb. Monday was a regular "hot un" as far as the weather was concerned. Reynolds, for once, reports it nearly settled him, and he returned home early with a 7½ lb. basket of good fish, a fair result, considering the tropical state of the weather. Heavy rain has fallen since Tuesday, which has not materially altered the state of the river. And, although the thermometer shows a considerable decrease in the temperature and the barometer rising, it is not my intention, in this erratic climate of ours, to assume the character of a prophet. I am a firm believer in the advice given by the late Mr. Artemus Ward when he said, "Never prophesy unless you know," and frankly I confess I don't know what the next few hours may bring forth in the state of the weather and probable results for the next week.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is very low, and rather a curious colour, owing to the grass being cut down on the banks, and floating down the river; but, notwithstanding this drawback, the water is not in very bad condition; maggots and caddis are still the best baits for roach and dace, while a few bream and tench have been

taken with worm. I noticed a lot of barbel "pitching" last Sunday in a well-known swim a short distance below Newark, but another week or two will be soon enough to bait a swim for these fish in the Trent. As a general rule fish have not been feeding very freely this week; an odd good catch or two have been had, but they have been the exception and not the rule. A good fresh rain is required to clean out the river, for there are such a quantity of insects in the water and on the weeds, and until they are swept away fish will not take a bait freely. Our fish have very much improved in condition this last week or two, even a bream or two that I saw this week were not so very much amiss.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Perhaps barbel fishing on the Trent during the summer months is more important as regards trout than any other description of angling, therefore I will first make a few remarks on the doings of the rodsters in this locality. The water, I need hardly state, has been extremely low and clear, and the weeds cover the bottom in most of the best swims, and those that have employed a travelling float have found the fishing for barbel very difficult; besides, when this is the case, the fish refuse to take worms in anything like a kindly manner; and although several of the noted places have been baited, the catches were not so good as we expect at this season, the sport was doubtless better in some of the spots below Nottingham, and about six miles down the stream several nice barbel were taken with worms for bait, the largest 7 lb., and two others among the rest of the fish weighed 6 lb. This was the best catch I have heard of, though several smaller takes have been made. The bream fishers at Weston and other places up the river seem to have had bad luck, as after baiting the spots with the usual quantity of worms, failed to get the fish on the feed; the same might be said as to angling for roach, dace and perch, some of our best rodsters having been fairly defeated; and the only reason, to my thinking, is that we must have a change of water, which will doubtless make all the difference in the fish feeding; and, until this takes place, the sport is certain to be indifferent. Several nice pike have been taken by spinning, but the weeds were very troublesome. A few barbel have been had with scratching for bait, but roach, as yet, seem to refuse malt and wheat. I am of opinion, from what I have observed, that the bottom fishers cannot do better than stick to worms. The weather at the time of writing is now more favourable, for the temperature is considerably lower than what it was in the early part of the week; and the change has made a wonderful difference to the fish biting, and we hope the weather will continue as it is this day, Thursday.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

The water here has been quite bright and clear for the past few days, but the beautiful rain of Tuesday night and Wednesday will give it again just a nice tinge. Roach are still rather shy at feeding, but perch and jack are quite voracious, and splendid perch fishing may now be had here. Several good takes have been had within the last few days, and an immense number of splendid fish have been observed by several people. Jack are not yet in condition, and roach and rudd are very slimy, but perch seem in first-class fighting order and are affording much sport.—C. B.

Wear.

The much-looked for flood came on the 29th ult., consequently the bottom fishers have had full sway, and there have been really some first-class trout brought to bank, the minnow being the most fatal bait. This lure has been unusually killing on this water this season. The fresh water did slightly run towards the close of the week, which enabled the fly fishers to turn out, but with indifferent success, the trout being evidently glutted with flood feed. M. S. had 19 trout and W. M. 12 trout on the 2nd inst., got on the shallows. The black gnat is going off, which will be a boon to the fly fisher, and will result in better takes being recorded.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had a very great deal of heavy thunder rain fall in Derbyshire since my last report, which has discoloured both rivers a little. Trout have fed much better since the downfall with holly fly, minnow, and bottom, and some handsome baskets of good-sized fish have been killed, both trout and grayling; and some coarse fish have also been killed out of the deeps in the Derwent, both on the Darley Dale Club waters and on the Whatstandwell length. Several healthy trout and grayling, over a pound a-piece, have been killed with maggots and worms. Sport with the artificial fly has been very fair for the last couple of nights, both on the Wye and Derwent, and baskets of from four to nine brace per angler have been made. The killing flies have been the small grey goose duns, yellows, little blacks, sand, and spider flies. The small Derby trout-killer has been the death of some good trout on the Derwent during the past week. The night-line party have taken some fine eels on their lines with large lobworms for baits during this blowy week. Sport on the ponds has been very fair with bottom and top. The killing flies have been claret body, bramble, red spinner, and sand flies. Dabbling with the natural fly has also killed a fair quantity of trout during the week, both on the Derwent and on the ponds, the small blue bottle and downlooker flies doing the trick. In reply to W. B. Garniss and Foster Brothers' remarks respecting "wire lines," I can only say that the "Acme" line I recommended through the *FISHING GAZETTE*, made by Messrs. Joseph Peach and Sons, fishing tackle manufacturers, 10, St. Peter Street Derby, is in every way as I represented it to be, viz., the very best fly line that I have ever used or seen. It neither kinks, or casts, or gets knotted, and for throwing against the wind it is everything that can be desired. All anglers that have used Peach's fly lines and rods are mostly highly satisfied. If they are not, they are very hard indeed to please. I have not seen Foster's "Acme" lines myself, so I can't speak of their goodness until I have both seen and tried them, which I shall do shortly.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Stark-holmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire)

The long-wished-for change in the weather has come at last, and all anglers in this district are expecting to have a few day's real good sport. A tremendous thunderstorm passed over the county on Tuesday night, during which the rain came down in torrents, and it continued to fall more or less heavily during the whole of next day, so that there will be a chance with worm, minnow, and fly. The red and black ant flies, the fern fly, and the orange dun are capital flies for the whole of this month, the latter especially yielding great sport when there is a tinge of colour in the water. Your printer made an error in my report of last week, in mentioning Mr. Ford's flies; the sentence containing the words: "Not pleased with," should have read "Most pleased with." I have, no doubt, however, that your readers would perceive the mistake themselves, as the remainder of the sentence showed it to be one.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. MARKHAM.—See the article on roach-fishing which will appear this or next week.

W. J. CLARKE (Stratford).—In reply to your query as to the fishing at Hunstanton, we think there is no freshwater fish of any account very near, and you had better stay at Lowestoft—a pretty place, splendid air, and close to the best coarse fishing in England.

C. L. BARTLEY.—There is a good barbel and chub fishing at Maidenhead. Write to Mr. John Rush, fisherman, Goring, for information about the river at Maple Durham and Pangbourne; if he does not know, he will tell you who does. Perch don't seem very plentiful in the Thames, but they had a very successful spawning and ought to show up better next season or so. There are plenty at Goring now if you can get them on. But chub-fishing under the boughs is your sport this hot weather.—[ED.]

THE ANGLERS' CONFERENCE AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

SIR,—Perhaps scores of your readers may be asking themselves the same question that "Cambridge" asks in last week's GAZETTE, "How do we account for the change in 'The Trent Otter,' for he has said that he is in favour of rod fishing at all times?" If you, Sir, will kindly allow me a few lines in your next issue, I will explain why I agreed to propose the sixth resolution. I can assure "Cambridge," and all whom it may concern, that "The Trent Otter" has not changed his private opinion with regard to rod fishing. If "Cambridge" asks his friend who heard me speak at the meeting, I think he will remember my using words to this effect: "My experience and my wanderings by the river side, and my study of ichthyology, have revealed to me that rod fishing will not hurt a river in the slightest degree." I was just going to explain why, and give some facts in support of that, when I was told rather abruptly that "Time's up," and the chairman requested me to read the resolution; this was like putting an extinguisher over me. I, somehow or other, cannot help thinking that I was not treated very well. I think I ought to have been allowed to explain my views, and then the meeting could have rejected them, as they most certainly would, for the organisation was complete, and any opposition was met by a storm of interruption. I consider that our respected editor was treated shamefully, he ought to have been allowed to speak, and listened to respectfully; he has peculiar facilities for getting to know the opinions of anglers up and down the country. I consider that he represents some thousands of anglers, and this being so, he ought to have been allowed quietly to make his remarks. I could not help thinking that the delegates of the London Clubs had received instructions to at once put down any opposition to the views of the "Central committee, and so the tempest of interruption that our editor had to contend with during his remarks can perhaps be explained that way. When I was interrupted, I was just going to explain why fish are self-protected against the rod. I again say, fearlessly, as I did at the meeting, that "Rod fishing will never hurt a river in the slightest degree." Fish are wonderfully reproductive of their kind, and I maintain that if a rod is put into the hands of half the male population of England, and they are allowed to fish all the year round, fairly and honestly, fish will not decrease to any extent in a dozen years, that is, if netting, blowing up, poisoning, snatching, and every other unfair means of taking fish, were entirely abolished. Civilisation, in its onward strides, has not spared the fish; they are perfectly wide-awake to the angler's doings during the greater portion of the year, and take particular care that they are not taken by any sort of tackle and baits. I remember once fishing a rare roach swim during the latter part of August. I had well ground-baited the hole, and I fished with the very finest of tackle and the most approved of baits, the water was in rare condition, and I had hoped for a good basket of fish; but, after several hours' fishing, I only succeeded in landing about half-a-dozen half-pound roach. I felt convinced that plenty of fish were in the swim, and so, as evening advanced, I fetched a man who owned a cast net, and told him I wanted to try an experiment, and got him to throw his net directly over the place where I had been fishing, and where the ground bait had settled, and what was the result? Why, at one haul, he secured as many fine roach as would fill a good sized basket, and many of the fish were a pound and upwards in weight; this incident confirmed my former observations, that the roach were exceeding cunning, and were not to be taken anyhow with rod and line; and so I have concluded that fish are self-protected against the rod; and, if this were not so, and all sorts of poaching and unfair practices were totally abolished, the fish, as I before remarked, multiply to such an amazing extent, that the water would soon get overstocked with them, and rods alone would scarcely keep them under, even if, as I have just said, a rod was put in the hands of half the male population of England, and leave given them to fish fairly all the year round. I suppose it is a recognised fact, that a certain water will only support a certain quantity of fish-life in a natural way; and, if the fish are protected and left to increase and multiply of their own free will the water becomes overstocked with fish, why, of course, the natural resources of the water are not sufficient to support the extra fish life, and, as a natural consequence the fish cannot grow to a larger size, and, instead of the water having to support a fish of a pound, it is called to support half-a-dozen small fish of two or three ounces each. I think, myself, that one roach of a pound is worth half-a-dozen three-ounce fish; and, if the water will only support a certain quantity of good fish, how can we expect it to support four or five times the quantity, and expect the increased supply to be as good fish as before. If our rivers are over-protected, I am confident that this will be the result in a number of years; and, what with the wonderful fecundity of fish, and their extreme caution and cunning, we shall, in course of time, catch only very small fish where we used to catch pounders. Holding these views, then, anglers may wonder why I agreed to propose the sixth resolution; and a very few words will suffice. My motto is, the greatest good for the greatest number; and I am now convinced that the great majority of anglers think that, in order to protect fish properly, it is necessary to have a close time for rods, as well as nets, &c., and this being so, I am willing to sink my private opinions, and go in with the majority; and so, on those grounds, I thought I would propose the resolution; but anglers must not think that I thoroughly agree with the resolution; but I am willing to abide by the opinion of the majority. I thank Mr. J. Harrington Keene for his remarks in last week's GAZETTE. I was going to point out the chairman's dace, but Mr. Keene's words are exactly the words I should use, and so I will say nothing more about

that subject, but only ask your readers to carefully consider this letter; and then, I think, the reason why I proposed the resolution, will be made clear. In fact, I have a notion that I should not have been allowed to have spoken at all, if I had not agreed to propose something of the kind; and if I had been allowed to have finished my remarks quietly, I should certainly not have troubled you, Sir, to publish this letter, for what I have said here I should have said there, and also given them the reasons why I proposed the sixth resolution. Thanking you in anticipation for the space.—I am, &c.,
13, Collingham Row, Newark.
THE TRENT OTTER.

SIR,—I was very pleased that you, Sir, at least, said something against the resolutions passed at the meeting of anglers held at the Society of Arts, on Monday, the 27th ultimo, and helped to prevent a still longer protection being given to the tyrant of the streams, which I cannot think is in the least desired by trout fishers, certainly not by roach anglers (who are in considerable majority of all other class of fishers) if I may judge by my own feelings upon this point, and I think I may safely do so.

The two months you suggest (May and June) for all fish other than perch and pike, would, I think, suit everyone; and even the working man, I believe, would conform to such a fence time, as it would give us all the Easter holidays, and the only days we should be shut out would be Whitsun holidays, supposing we could not afford, or did not feel disposed to go in for a shilling's worth at one or other of the private fisheries.

I have fished the Lea for many years, and I've never known roach to begin spawning until the second week in May, this in favourable seasons, but in late seasons it has been the last few days in May or the beginning of June. I was at Dagenham on the 18th ult., and the bream were floundering about near the sedges all day long, undoubtedly cleansing themselves after spawning. Can anyone assert that these fish could not have been taken up to April 30th in splendid condition.

Dace and chub spawn early, and they might be added to perch and pike, I should certainly exempt flounders and eels from the operations of the Act.

The meeting at the Society of Arts represented a certain portion of the anglers, but I am of opinion that it did not represent the majority; and if you, Sir, could see your way to carry it out, I would suggest that you print two tickets on the advertisement page of your paper thus:

No. 1.
For May and June being
fence months.

No. 2.
For April, May and June being
fence months.

to have name and address added or not, as in your opinion best; each angler to send in to you by a certain date, the form which is most in accordance with his views and opinion, the form not sent to be destroyed, and the result to be made known by you, Sir, in your paper. This may not be a perfect scheme by which the true wishes of the anglers can be ascertained, and it is doubtless open to improvement if the suggestion is good; but I leave it, Sir, to your better judgment to put it forward or not, as you please.—I am &c.
E. J. H.

Stratford, July 5th, 1881.

[We think this is a good idea, and will endeavour to carry it out in some way later on.—ED.]

SIR,—In your GAZETTE of Saturday, there is a letter signed "Cambridge," in which is the usual fate of hearsayers and misrepresenters. I am one of the committee of "W. C.," and can write "facts." The meeting was by tickets, of which six were sent to every club on the "E. C." and "W. C.," so one club should be as fairly represented as another, and in papers, I think your own included. Any club not enrolled, or "E. C." or "W. C.," could have them on application. The two committees went over the resolutions very carefully before printing them, and thought they would do. The fact of one only being altered, proved it (four months, instead of five, for jack). Mr. Geen, on each resolution being seconded, asked for any opinion on it, asking any answer to be brief, on account of time, and on two occasions, were speakers called to time. If "Cambridge" thinks the few committee, say twenty, could sit on 450, he must be a (shall I say it) fool.

"The Trent Otter" was asked by Mr. Geen to propose the three months, and was quite agreeable to do so. I suppose a man may change his opinion. I can only say, attending all the meeting, that the committee worked for the benefit of the London and Country Anglers, to the best of their knowledge, and the adoption of the rules proved the anglers thought so, but they may not be quite perfect, yet. I hope "Cambridge" will speak of facts in future.—I am, &c.,
105, Camberwell Road, July 4, 1881.
G. H. FIELD.

P.S.—Mr. Geen said dace did spawn twice in the year, but he also expressly said he could not say they were the same fish; but they do so, all old anglers say.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT.

SIR,—Allow me very cordially to thank you for your practical speech at the meeting of anglers at the Society of Arts as reported in your issue of last week.

I can confidently assure you that your ideas are not only strictly in accord with my own, but nine out of every ten who know anything about the time the fish of different species deposit their spawn will endorse all you stated. I am really surprised to read that my friend, "The Trent Otter," should so far have forgotten himself when proposing the resolution to close for all fish with the exception of pike and perch from the end of March till the end of June, to remark "That the time would about suit the fish in the Trent." If he had given the subject only moment's thought, I feel sure he would have seen his error in even supporting, much less moving, a resolution that would prevent trout anglers fishing through April for the fish I have enumerated, and when, in point of fact, they are not only in the best condition, but the weather more suitable for the angler to enjoy his favourite pastime than any other month in the year. There seems to me only one chance for the anglers in the provinces, and that is, to look after their own interests; and I would suggest that petitions be placed in every fishing-tackle shop throughout the provinces. Get them signed, and presented by the different Members of Parliament. I would suggest that from the last day of April to the 30th June, is quite long enough to cease fishing for barbel, bream, chub, and roach. Dace and grayling spawn the latter end of March and the beginning of April; so the close time from March 15th to June 30th for pike, perch, dace and grayling would be about the correct time. In conclusion, should my views meet the desires of my piscatorial brethren, I will most willingly look after their interests in this district, and ask the favour of our Borough members to give the matter their support when the

Bill is brought before the House of Commons. May I ask, in conclusion, why a delegate from Birmingham was not asked to attend the meeting.—I am, &c.,

JAMES GREGORY,

July 7.

Hon. Secretary Birmingham and Midland
Piscatorial Association.

SIR,—I wish as briefly as possible to say a word on the above subject. First, I will notice your remarks, Mr. Editor, arising after the report in this week's GAZETTE, and in connection therewith, the letter in the correspondence signed "Cambridge," which if allowed to go uncontradicted would leave a very false impression to go abroad. With regard to the meeting being by ticket, how did the West Central people act after discussing the matter at their own meeting, and getting the approval of the delegates to the proposed alterations? They next send a report to the FISHING GAZETTE, so that their ideas may be laid before every angler in the kingdom, next they send circulars to all the clubs, accompanied with half-a-dozen tickets. I suppose what took place in our club took place in most clubs; we had a discussion on the matter, and the six gentlemen who were deputed to attend the meeting received the instruction of the meeting as to what they were to support. The members assembled were almost unanimous in support of the proposed amendments, the only thing it was pointed out was, that although the owners of fisheries would be pleased to have a summary way of dealing with poachers, they would not submit to the three day clause. Owners, no doubt, will retain the right of giving a general permission in writing. What better means could have been adopted to have a truly representative meeting? The tickets merely insured that the clubs would have the best spokesmen present to represent what their feelings were. Mr. Keene in his remarks on Mr. Geen stopping the "Trent Otter's" speech are more keen than correct. "The Trent Otter" is evidently a man of ability, and his speech was very interesting, but he didn't quite know when to stop. The interruption and cries of time compelled Mr. Geen to give Mr. Martin a hint, which he did in a manner that no reasonable man could find fault with.—I am, &c.,

A. J. MARROTT, Waltonian Angling Society.

SIR,—Mr. Mundella asserted a short time ago in a published letter, that our freshwater fish "were fast becoming extinct." I suppose he meant at the time his Act was introduced. Was it a fact or not? According to the weekly statements in first-class sporting newspapers which surely must have some truth in them, even allowing for exaggerations, it used to be just as common to read of large takes of fish in the Thames as it is now. I have never yet heard of any river where coarse fish seemed at all likely to become extinct, or even scarce, except where netting prevailed. If fish are really sensibly diminishing in numbers near London, what a pity it is that the London angling clubs do not devote their funds to stocking their rivers, instead of spending so much money in prizes—an utterly bad system, by the bye. It is evident that at the so called "representative" meeting at the Society of Arts everything was pre-arranged and dissentients were not given a fair hearing.

I am sorry for the poor "Trent Otter," who was neatly trapped.

Can you explain why it is that every one considers saltwater fish, such as mackerel, herrings, smelts, &c. in their prime when full of spawn (of course excepting Mr. Geen and a few others), if freshwater fish in the same condition are unfit for food.

On the last day of last season, March 14th, I met several London anglers by the riverside, one and all complaining of the absurd fence months for roach.

I trust that anglers generally will not be hoodwinked by the Society of Arts meeting, but insist on having April at least an open month for bottom-fishing, though I maintain that they should have the whole year.—I am, &c.,

July 6.

A COUNTRY ANGLER.

THE NEWARK ANGLERS.

SIR,—The attention of the committee of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association has been called to a letter, in your issue of June 25th, signed "Trent Otter." And I am requested to contradict *in toto* the assertions made upon, and the insinuations thrown at, the association, as base fabrication. "The Trent Otter" is not a member of either of the angling societies established at Newark. The statement, therefore, that he is backed by 200 anglers must be looked upon as bounce simply.—I am, &c.,

Newark, July 5th, 1881.

JAMES NEAL, hon. sec.

THEY FLIP THEM WITH SPRAY FROM THEIR TAILS.

SIR,—Anent the letter of Mr. Harrington Keene, concerning the flipping of flies with their tail by the brook trout, we should like to see this subject discussed in THE FISHING GAZETTE; it is a vexed question. Sportsmen all over the States, who wield a fly-rod, have ventilated their ideas about the matter in "Forest and Stream." And seemingly without getting the unanimous opinion of fishermen; our own experience in fishing the closely-matted streams of the North-west has been, that trout when in schools, will jump clear out of the water for flies, so keen is the rivalry existing when in search of food; but when laying hiding behind some log or root, and a fly comes dancing over the surface of the water, "Skip and a jump," then the keen-eyed trout, carefully measuring the rise and fall of the fly's flight, flips a quantity of water into spray, with his tail, and quietly gathers in that little fly. We have watched many times the dancing flight of a small blue dragon fly, that we call "The Devil's darning needle," but the movements have been so quick, that the only positive thing we have seen has been the shower of spray, and heard the peculiar "chug" that is caused by the breaking of the water by a trout. The fly certainly disappeared in the spray, but too quickly for our senses to say if down the throat of the trout. This we, of course, inferred to be the case, others have advanced the theory that this action of the trout was pure sportiveness.

The old story of fishes being found in the milk has been told in many forms. In the village of Boxmoor, about twenty years ago, an old milkman made the rounds, he was noted for his love of beer, and we teased him unmercifully about milking the "Spotted Bull," the public he used to get his beer at. Across his route, close to Two Waters Mill, there ran a culvert that drained some clear cold springs of bright bubbling waters; in the mouth of the culvert we boys could always catch large numbers of young shiners (dace). Old Bates was in the habit of filling up his milk-cans from this water, so we suspected and watched him. One Sunday morning, in the early summer, at breakfast-table we found two lively young shiners in the milk. We instantly transferred them into a large glass jar, containing clear river water. We kept them during the entire week, changing the water daily, and aerating the same with a common water syringe several times during each day.

The next Sunday morning, when the milkman came, all the family was up, ready for breakfast. We brought out the jar, containing the minnows, and almost made the old man wild. We teased him about the fish coming from the "Spotted Bull." At that time, we lived at the Mill House, and as we had many visitors, Bates's minnows from the "Spotted Bull" were objects of curiosity. We kept them some time, until some new freak engaged our attention, then we turned them into the head race of our mill.

Chicago, U.S.A., June 20, 1881.

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

[We cannot say what the 'cuteness of Yankee trout may not induce them to do when hungry. We have fished most of the English trout streams, and can safely say our English trout "go" for the fly straight with their mouths. We never even saw a trout jump at a fly which was more than an inch or two from the surface, we have seen a school of little fellows jumping up at gnats just hovering over the surface. Salmon will jump yards into the air, and fall with a splash, quite a distance from the place they left the water, so will trout occasionally. The salmon is merely restless and impatient for a flood to let it get up stream to spawn; the trout is worried by some parasite; neither do it for food. The peculiar action of the grayling often causes it to appear that that fish knocks the fly under with his tail, and then takes it. We have hooked more grayling by the tail and other parts than any other fish. The cause is, that they, as the Yankees say, "kind o'" roll over the fly, and if they rise at one of the droppers, the stretcher or end fly will often catch hold of them when the angler strikes. A two-pound grayling, hooked by the tail on a fine line, will give you all you can do to kill him. We hope our readers will give us the result of their experience in this matter. We have the deepest reverence for the sagacity of trout, and great admiration for their "impudence"; and, in this connection, it must not be forgotten that there exists a fish, which is provided with a squirt, and that this fish is a deadly shot. He swims under the surface, and when he sees a fly perched on any leaf or stone within range, he fires off a drop of water at him, and when the soused fly tumbles off into the water, as it generally does, he charitably puts an end to its suffering by eating him. Where is your Yankee trout, after this well-established fact, in natural history?—ED.]

LARGE TROUT.

SIR,—I had the pleasure of inspecting this week a fine specimen of a Bull Trout (*Salmo eriox*) which was caught early on Thursday morning, at Ludford Bridge, in this town. The weight and measure of the fish, taken by myself were as follows:—Weight, 5 lbs. 9½ oz., total length from snout to end of tail 24½ inches, girth of body 13½ inches. The fish was male with mandible hooked, fitting in a recess in the upper jaw. The colour of the body was brownish pink, having dark spots on gill and same on body. Although these fish in some waters are very common and run to a great size, I am not aware of their being so in the Teme.—I am, &c.,

A. M.

Ludlow, July 1, 1881.

THE NORFOLK BROADS.

SIR,—Shall be much obliged if some of your correspondents will kindly afford all the information they can regarding the Norfolk Broads, distance from Yarmouth, charge for fishing, and kind of fish, &c., through the medium of your valued GAZETTE.—I am, &c.,

LANDSEER.

3, Landseer Road, Bow, E., July 2, 1881.

[You can get all fish, except salmon and trout; the rivers are all free, boats can be had at 1s. per day. We recommend Coldham Hall, near Brundall Station, then Buckenham, and then Cantley for big roach. The Broads are nearly all accessible by rail from Yarmouth. You should stop an hour or two at Norwich, and consult Mr. Greene, the fishing-tackle maker of London Street, as to places, tackle, &c.—ED.]

GREY MULLET IN FRESH WATER.

SIR,—I have access to a river in which grey mullet ascend in great quantities, bushels of them being frequently taken by net. Will you allow me through the medium of your columns to ask your readers whether these fish can be caught by angling, and, if so, the method to be adopted, best bait to be used, &c.? The people living in the neighbourhood of the river say the fish cannot be caught with rod and line, but I cannot obtain any evidence of anyone ever having tried for them. I intend doing so, and trust some of your readers who by chance may have had some experience in this line will kindly assist me with a few hints, and should anything worthy of note come of it I (should you care to insert it) would send you the result.—I am, &c.,

M. B. CLIFT.

P.S.—Being large game fish, good sport would be the result of hooking them.

POACHERS.

SIR,—I have read with great interest the proposed amendments in the Fresh-water Fisheries Act, as reported in the FISHING GAZETTE. Might I be allowed to suggest that a clause be inserted to empower police constables to search persons on any highway, &c., whom they reasonably suspect of coming from any water where they have been illegally taking or attempting to take fish, and to seize any fish, nets, &c., and to summon offenders, and any penalty recovered to be paid to the Police Superannuation Fund; in fact to give them the same powers as they now have now under the Poaching Prevention Act (25 & 26 Vict. c. 114). This, I am of opinion, would be a great boon to anglers.

In this part of the country the only water in which any fishing can be obtained is a canal which is teeming with very small perch, roach and bream, and a fair sprinkling of carp and gudgeon, and there would be excellent pike fishing, but for the wholesale netting that is practised in this district by a gang of men who net some part of the canal every month, and their depredations extend for miles. There is an arm or wharf in the canal (within a short distance

of this town), about 600 or 800 yards long, which seems to be a favourite place for pike. It was netted about six weeks ago, and amongst other fish 54 jack, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., were taken out, and this sort of thing has been practised for several years in open day, generally on a Saturday afternoon, and all fish, however small, that the net will hold, are killed. I was informed, by a gentleman to whom this arm belonged, some years ago, and who then preserved it, that he frequently took pike up to nearly 10 lb. in weight, and perch 2 lb. and 3 lb., and I have no doubt if this wholesale netting could be stopped there would soon be an abundance of good fish. But the landowners adjoining the canal will not trouble themselves to prevent it, and the only remedy is to empower the police to take proceedings, in these cases. I have no doubt other parts of the country suffer from a similar cause.

On Saturday last I went with a few friends by invitation for an afternoon's fishing to a brook some distance from this town, where, I was informed, there was a good supply of roach and perch. We went fully prepared to do some execution, but were disappointed; but one of the party was fortunate enough to get a nibble. We gave up in disgust, thinking we were the victims of a practical joke. On returning through the village on our way home a labouring man inquired if we had had any sport; we replied in the negative, and he said, "You're not likely to have when these things are about," referring to a net he was then washing. Apologising for troubling you—I am, &c.,

Hinckley, July 6th.

WALTONIAN.

ANOTHER NEW ANGLING SOCIETY.

SIR,—It is with much pleasure I inform you of the establishment of the Godalming Angling Society. President, Major-General Marshall, C.M.G.; hon. sec. Mr. Dawse; treasurer, Mr. W. Hoar, the Sun Inn, Godalming, where weekly meetings will be held on Tuesday evening at eight o'clock. There are at present seventy members.

The society is preservative, having the permission of the lord of the manor and the landowners to prosecute in cases of illegal fishing, &c.; also permission to fish the water of the several owners to the extent of about four miles. The subscription is rather low, 3s., but it suits the working man, and it is hoped, that by setting a good example, there may be no necessity for enforcing the law. "Happy thoughts,"—and surely this is one—the society is thinking of opening its ranks to the young hopefuls at half-price, of whom there is a goodly number.

The hon. sec. of the Portsmouth Waltonians, hearing of what was going on, wrote us, saying that as soon as he knew that the affair was a floating concern, he would willingly send a subscription. You will be able to guess the pleasure such an instance of the good feeling, so inherent in the true angler, gave us; and I am certain it will gratify him, and many others to know of the existence of the Godalming Angling Society.—I am, &c.,

Godalming, July 5, 1881.

G. W. KITSON.

[Shall be glad to see the new bait can.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLER'S PRIDE SOCIETY.

This society went out on Sunday, the 3rd inst., and competed for three prizes, the place selected being Amberley, and the following is the result:—Mr. T. Fiddes, gave a silk umbrella, which was won by Mr. Wall, with 4 lb. 7 oz., bream and dace; Mr. Hurst gave two splendid vases, which were won by Mr. Dawe, with 3 lb. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. bream, one fish scaling 1 lb. 12 oz.; and Mr. Tillman gave half a guinea, won by Mr. T. Fiddes, with 2 lb. bream; also the following members weighed-in: Messrs. Mallett, Austin, Haines, Hayes, Watkins, Scutt, &c. Total weight, 13 lb. 2 oz.—D. MALLETT, sec.

July 5, 1881.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match took place at Amberley, on Sunday, July 3, 22 members competing R. Smith, first, bream; C. Daniels, second, perch and bream; A. Glass, third, perch and bream; A. Shakel, fourth, bream; H. Pieraccini, fifth, bream; T. Bowling, sixth, bream; W. Stretton, seventh, bream.—A. SHAKEL.

July 5.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

The twenty-eighth annual dinner of the above society was held at Mr. Mansel Bayley, Swan Hotel, Pulborough. Forty members and friends sat down to a very satisfactory repast, provided by the host. Messrs. C. A. Medcalf and W. Say acted as stewards in a very efficient manner. Several who ought to have dined were conspicuous by their absence. A great many of the members angled, but with very little success. Mr. Muir was the only one who weighed in the club house at night. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday, July 13, to arrange a pegged-down match.—J. WORLEDGE.

July 3.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society was well represented on the 3rd inst. by the following members, who weighed-in:—Mr. Bennett, bream and roach; Mr. Keys, bream, roach and dace; Mr. Riches and Mr. Pearce, trout; Mr. Wayne, roach and dace; Mr. Jones, roach; Mr. Books, roach; Mr. Finigan, bream and roach; Mr. Leach, roach; Mr. Wellstead, bream; and Mr. Gay, roach and dace.—W. H. PEARCE.

July 4.

CAXTON ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The second competition this year for the prizes given by this little club took place on the Waveney, on Saturday afternoon last. Starting from the boat-house at 2.30, the party pulled down the river for about three miles to a beautiful piece of water, a little way below the railway swing-bridge, when rods were put together and operations commenced, but alas! not with so satisfactory a result as the generality of their competitions produce with regard to the quantity of fish taken, although a number of very good fish were caught. The heaviest roach of the day was caught by Mr. Ulph, and weighed 1 lb. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., for which he was awarded a special money prize. The day was almost unbearably hot; in fact, just such a day as it must have been when a gentleman

who fancied himself a poet, as he was staying in the same house as Byron, wrote—

"The sun's perpendicular rays
Illumined the depths of the sea,"

But being called from the room when he had got thus far with his effusion, Byron, who chanced to see it, added—

"The fishes beginning to sweat
Cried, O Lord, how d—d hot we shall be."

The state of the weather, alas! was against the fishermen, being "as clear as gin." In consequence of this state of affairs, some of the competitors "turned it up" and contented themselves with a quiet pipe. Mr. Chase, whilst angling with worm, hooked a small jack, but, as he was under a pound, he was discharged with a caution. Mr. Godbold, who was fishing from the same boat, having hooked a small roach was drawing it up, when it was struck at by a nice jack, which he succeeded in landing. The heaviest weights in the three hours' fishing were: Mr. Holland, 3 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Ulph, 2 lb. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; Mr. Hooker, 1 lb. 8 oz.; and Mr. Lea, 1 lb. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Several other members also weighed in.—CAXTON.

July 6th.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few of our members fished a pegged down match at Amberley on the 3rd., after a smart contest, Mr. Martin proved the winner, with nearly 3 lb. of bream, Mr. Hales second, Mr. Perry third, and Mr. Mortimer fourth. Messrs. Fowler, Parkins, Castell, Osmond, Plumstead, Head, J. Chambers, and Dunmarsh taking some fine eels. Messrs. Pratt and Hobbs weighing perch from the Lea.—CAS.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on July 3, the most successful being Messrs. Blackman and Smith, these gentlemen having a very fine show of chub, barbel and dace, one of the former being a very handsome fish of about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; we have also just received from Mr. Cooper a case of four very handsome perch, taken by Mr. Hayward, March 11, which may be seen at the club house.—A. THOMAS.

July 5.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The 3rd of July saw the first of our two days' competition in the Thames for three prizes, but the takes were very meagre indeed, doubtless owing to the low and bright condition of the water, steam launches, &c. The second day's fishing takes place on Thursday, the 7th inst., when the traffic may possibly be less, so that I am in hopes of giving a more cheerful report next week. It is with much regret that I have to record the death of one of our old members, Mr. Marsh, who was respected by all who knew him.—VORTEX.

July 4.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., and Mr. J. Hilliar, jun., had bream on June 29; Mr. G. Rolt and Mr. G. P. Rolt had roach on the same day; Mr. W. H. Mecham had some beautiful roach on July 3, from Pulborough; Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., also had some roach from the same place, the largest weighed 1 lb. 10 oz. The Sunday members and friends dined at the Rye House, on the 3rd inst.; the dinner was served up in a very first class manner. The weather was beautiful, and the grounds attached to the house were in splendid condition, which, with the excellent catering, enabled the members and friends to spend a very enjoyable day. The Wednesday members and friends will dine at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, Stanstead, St. Margaret's, on the 13th inst.

July 5.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Treadwell, of 12, Cumberland Street, Barnsbury has been appointed secretary of this society, vice Mr. Emms, resigned. Secretaries of clubs will please make a note of this. Several members out on the 3rd instant; the following having fish—Mr. Morley, roach; Mr. Davis, chub and dace. Gentlemen desirous of joining a society, will find this one of the most conveniently situated in London, the club house being the Albion, Caledonian Road, King's Cross, two minutes from the Metropolitan, Great Northern, and Midland Railways. Meeting nights Sunday and Monday.—G. TREADWELL.

July 5th, 1881.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a handsome show of fish on Sunday evening. The following weighed-in:—Mr. R. Hopton, bream, 22 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. H. Moore, bream, 9 lb. 4 oz., and jack, 1 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Hurwood, roach, 3 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Humphreys, jack, 2 lb. 6 oz., and roach, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. Scott, Roach and gudgeon, 1 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. F. Moore, roach, 1 lb., 4 oz.; Mr. Grey, bream, 1 lb.; Mr. Heelas, dace, 10 oz., likewise a few pounds of eels. Last evening we had our first general meeting on the Central Association, and had a comfortably filled room. We had some capital harmony, the following gentlemen contributing:—Messrs. G. Letch, F. Moore, C. Watling, Julius Harding, Jennings, J. Fitch, jun., Ducrece and L. Rocksby. Our chairman, Mr. Pipe, presided in his usual happy and able manner, and the evening was most enjoyably spent. The next visit on the Central list will go to the Buckland Angling Society.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

July 6.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At the weekly meeting held on Thursday evening, the 30th June, the date of the next excursion was changed from the 21st to the 20th inst., the water to be the same—viz., the river Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech. The members will be conveyed by road free of cost from Oswestry to Llanymynech and back, thus avoiding the vexatious delay through the Cambrian Railway not running their trains to suit those of the Great Western. Members as far as possible are requested to take their tickets (Anglers' to Oswestry) the previous day at the railway office on the Landing Stage at Liverpool, and proceed by the 6.0 a.m. boat to Woodside on the Wednesday morning. By the kindness of Mr. Davies, of the Great Western, a saloon carriage will be provided for the convenience

and accommodation of the party. The prizes to be competed for are as under :—By Messrs. Ellsiger and Boulding: 1. A pair of fishing boots of not less value than 24s., for the heaviest creel of fish; 2. A fishing jacket for the heaviest single fish of any class. By the Association: A one guinea rod for heaviest take of trout and grayling; a half-guinea reel for the next heaviest take of trout and grayling; a one guinea rod for the heaviest take of chub, perch, roach, &c.; a half-guinea reel for the second heaviest take of chub, perch, roach, &c. In this competition no salmon, pike, jack or eels to be weighed in. Weighable fish to be as per scale laid down in the rules. The members on reaching Llanyrnach will assemble at the Cross Keys Hotel, and no one will be allowed to start, on pain of disqualification, until all are ready, the preliminaries adjusted, and the word go given by the chairman who, if present, will have charge of the competitors.—RD. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

Liverpool, July 5, 1881.

A quarterly meeting was held on Thursday evening, June 30, and a goodly number of members were present. The balance sheet for the past quarter, showing £28 4s. 2d. to the credit of the association, was read by the hon. sec., and unanimously adopted. The success of the association is assured, as it now includes the right sort of metal—anglers who not only love the “gentle art,” but who do not grudge their time attending the weekly meetings, helping and encouraging the executive by their presence and advice. The weak-kneed ones have one by one dropped away like rotten branches and left the body firm, vigorous and flourishing. Members of the proper grain are joining weekly, and there can be no doubt that ere another twelvemonth passes away the society will number 200 good men and true, prepared to support the true interests of anglers, and in their own persons prove the softening and humanising effects of being brought face to face with nature in their many wanderings far away in the heart of our own glorious valleys.—RD. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

July 6.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last, Messrs. Theobald Parkin, Painter, Young, and H. Watling showed some very good bream and roach from the Wey, Mr. Parkin having a pretty roach, 1 lb. 1 oz. From Pulboro' and Amberley the following members showed some fair takes:—Messrs. J. Watling, J. Fitch, J. K. Fitch, and Mr. Perkins, dace; Messrs. Cooper and S. Smith, rudd and roach.—J. FITCH.

July 5.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had some excellent fish last Sunday. Messrs. Lucy, jun., J. Drew and Long had bream and perch from Pulborough; Mr. F. Neagus had a splendid tray of roach from the Stort, several weighing over 1 lb.; Mr. W. B. Gorsuch had also chub from the Lea.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

July 5.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out on Sunday last, July 6th, and most of them succeeded in landing some very decent fish. Messrs. Glaister and F. Robson weighed in the heaviest takes, each having some handsome perch. This society, which has only been founded six weeks, has already enrolled forty-one members, and, as it is limited to a hundred, gentlemen desirous of joining are particularly requested to attend the club any Thursday evening at the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., or communicate with the secretary, Mr. F. Robson, 19, Great Barlow Street, Marylebone, W., who will be pleased to forward all particulars.—E. PERCY.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

On the 3rd, Mr. Dale, the well-known secretary of this society, succeeded in getting a nice trout weighing about 2 lb., and some chub from Hertford. Thursday, 7th, Messrs. Hockley and Canton gone to the Thames. [Not yet returned. Telegram: “Messrs. Hughes and Lee. Send for fish per last train, 11:30, Waterloo. Wire name of winner of first and second prize.”]—PIXIE.

July 7.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Buckham, Brewood, Ellis, Head and Palmer went to Amberley yesterday, and had fair sport; and Head two roach, weighing 1½ lb.; Palmer, one bream, 3 lbs.; the other roach from Dorking. Boorman, 4½ lb. roach; Gearing, 3½ lb., ditto; also Mitchell and Frost brought home roach from Datchett. Mr. Sargent, 5 lb. eels, and a few dace; over 25 lb. of fish weighed in yesterday evening. The members fish next Sunday, either at Pulborough or Amberley for an oil painting of “Cremorne,” the Derby winner, given by Mr. Mitchell, heaviest weight to win, bar jack.—G. H. FIELD.

July 4, 1881.

STOCKTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club held their first competition of the season on June 27, in the river Swale, at Morton bridge. The Swale being in splendid condition, good baskets of trout, pike, chub, dace and perch were taken. The following are the presumable prize takers:—Messrs. G. Jarrett, J. Brown, T. Bradley, S. Walters, W. Johnson, P. Clarke, G. Cherici, T. Young. The fish were weighed at the Albion Hotel, where the remainder of the night was spent in songs, &c.—WILLIAM LAWES, hon. sec.

July 4.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members of the above have not yet obtained any large shows of fish. The following being the result of the weekly competition on the 3rd inst.:—Mr. T. Gretton, 2 lb. 1 oz. bream; Mr. A. Parrott, 1 lb. 15½ oz. roach and bream; Mr. W. Webb, 1 lb. 1 oz. bream—a slight improvement on the previous week.—THOS. GRETTON, sec.

THE UNITED BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sixteen members of this society fished a peg-down match at Dagenham, on Sunday last, for four valuable prizes; but the catches were not very great, only

three of the prizes being taken. A few other members also weighed in. Fish taken mostly bream.—GEO. MAY.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following gentlemen weighed-in on the 31st July:—Messrs. Roland, the best take, 6 lb. 4 oz.; M. Malcolm, next, 5 lb. 12¼ oz.; Mr. Packman, jack, 4 lb. 15 oz.; Messrs. Waltham, Jukes, J. Moore, and Good, jun. On the Wednesday previous Mr. W. Putnam weighed-in four bream from the Harp, weighing 14 lb. 1 oz., the largest 5 lb.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

July 5, 1881.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 1st., Mr. Boalch succeeded in getting some roach and dace from Richmond. The same evening, Mr. Pearson and a well-known “pedal ornament maker,” decided to compete on the 6th for the tackle case, given by Mr. Gold on the 10th. Mr. Pearson was entitled to it by the weight of fish he exhibited on that date; but, owing to an infringement of Rule 10 (which states the time for weighing fish on competition days), and as the well-known P.O.M. was the party most concerned, he, with his usual generosity, purposed that they should compete for it at the next competition, the heaviest of their two weights of fish to take the prize. On the 3rd, Messrs. Cain and Bedford visited Pulborough, and managed to get among some nice perch and roach.—PIXIE.

July 6.

CATCHING FLIES FOR DAPPING.

I used to find it a very difficult matter to procure the natural fly (for dapping) in any number, and have often paid river keepers, &c., a shilling or more for a small lot of very stale specimens; sometimes, indeed, I have failed to get flies at any price in sufficient numbers to justify a dapping expedition; in fact, it is as hard a matter to many people to secure the fly as to secure the fish. The following plan is easy, simple, and never fails when the flies are out. Get a light, shallow deal box, say two feet long, with a close-fitting lid, on hinges (I always use an old Coleman's mustard box); take it into the nearest wood, or indeed under any trees, and having placed it, open, on the ground, bait it with some fresh horse, sheep, or other dung; then prop the lid partly open with a short stick, attach one end of the line to the centre of the stick, and retire four or five yards with the other end of the line in your hand. In a very few moments, if the day is favourable, hundreds of flies will settle on the dung; by a jerk of the string release the lid, which falling shuts in the flies. At once place a weight on the top of the box to keep the lid closely shut (for the flies will find their way out through the smallest crack), and you have your flies in the box. All this is easy enough, and I imprisoned thousands before I hit on the plan to get them from the box into the bottle in which I carried them to the river. This is the way to do it. In one of the sides of the box cut a hole a trifle smaller in circumference than the mouth of an ordinary pickle bottle, and having a sliding cover. When your flies are caught in the box, push back the sliding cover, and hold the mouth of the bottle over the hole; the flies will swarm to the light, and about three takes will fill a pickle bottle. Care must be taken to cut the hole in the side of the box, and not in the top, as the flies do not go upwards readily. Should you wish to use a smaller bottle than a pickle bottle, or to provide several fishermen with bait, use a pomatum bottle, or in fact any glass vessel with a wide mouth, only take care to have the hole in the box smaller than the mouth of any bottle you may select. Of course you can cut several different-sized holes in the same box, to fit different-sized bottles. Corked up, the flies soon become half-dead, when they can be shaken into whatever sort of perforated box you may like to carry them in, and with air and enough space will soon revive. For my own part, I think they are quite as good for bait dead as alive, if not stale.

I should not have troubled you with a description of this plan had I not met so many men to whom it is unknown, and who complain of the great difficulty and uncertainty of obtaining flies. Perhaps, however, you do not think dapping sportsmanlike?—WILLIAM F. H. MAJENDIE in the *Field*.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—“The Gregory,” the “Flexible Cleopatra,” the “Oxford,” and the “Colorado,” pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name “Gregory” is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

CARP IN AMERICA.—As the hot weather is now fairly upon us, the excuse is all the better for going fishing, or at least to lounge around upon the banks of some of our beautiful clear streams, bathe in their waters, and feast on the fat country chickens and fresh buttermilk. Charles B. Erwin, R. C. K. Martin, and Julian Cooley left a few days ago for South Harpeth, where they propose rustivating and angling for at least a week. Colonel Griffith and a party are at "Buffalo." From the Cumberland and tributaries goodly numbers of fish are being taken. Since the passage of the fish law there has been a perceptible increase in the number of fish taken in small creeks near the city, which had been almost entirely depopulated. It is astonishing how readily the law has been accepted, and the new impetus given to artificial fish culture. Dr. W. M. Clark, Judge Jno. C. Ferris, and Temple O. Harris are building each large ponds, in which they propose raising carp and game fish. The growth of the carp in this latitude is incredible. Mr. F. Pride, residing near Cedar Hill, in Robertson county, has a large pond sub-divided into six compartments, with an abundant supply of cold spring water, in one of which he placed fourteen carp about one year and a half ago. He reports them as being over twenty inches long, and weighing about three pounds each; last

November he added ten more, which are now nearly a foot long. Of his method of treatment he says, "I feed them as I do my pigs—on vegetables and corn." In the other ponds he has nothing but bass; these he procured when minnows, about two years ago. On the 8th of May he discovered great numbers of small fry in the pond, which he could not believe were the offspring of his two year-olds, but their appearance excited his curiosity, and he caught two of the older fish with hook and line, which happened to be females, full of eggs. He would like to have your opinion about the matter, and also at what age bass spawn in this climate, and what kind of food he should give to the young. As he can draw the water from his ponds, he intends, as soon as the spawning season is over, to do so, and separate the different sizes of his fish. Mr. Pride gave the above information in a letter to Fish Commissioner Colonel G. F. Akers, who, in answering, suggested to the gentleman that the *Chicago Field* and some good book on fish culture was what he should possess himself of at once, and then he could give his funny pets scientific care, and profit largely by it. It is singular that with such a store of information on such matters as the *Chicago Field* contains that anyone owning a pond or a gun should be without it.—CLIMAX, in the *Chicago Field*.

1st AWARD MELBOURNE EXHIBITION, 1881. DAY, SON AND HEWITT'S STOCKBREEDERS' MEDICINE CHEST.

FOR ALL DISORDERS IN HORSES, CATTLE, CALVES, SHEEP AND LAMBS.

In this chest are the following matchless and world-renowned remedies, all that a Farmer can require to cure disease amongst his Stock and keep them in fine, healthy, and buoyant condition:—

"CHEMICAL EXTRACT," for Wounds, Swollen Udders, and Ewes Lambing.

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"CARMINATIVE CHALK," for Diarrhoea in Lambs and Calves.

Price of Chest, with "Key to Farriery," £2 16s. 6d., carriage paid. Each article can be had separately.

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CAUTION.—See that the Name of DAY, SON and HEWITT is on all Bottles and Packets.

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22, DORSET ST., BAKER ST., LONDON, W.,
AND WANTAGE, BERKS.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

—Seaside.—TWO MONTHS' RETURN TICKETS are now issued by all trains to YARMOUTH, Lowestoft, Cromer, Hunstanton, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Felixstowe, Harwich, Dovercourt, Walton-on-the-Naze, and Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea).

Fortnightly, and Friday or Saturday to Monday: First, Second and Third Class Return Tickets are also issued at REDUCED FARES by all trains to Hunstanton, Cromer, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Walton-on-the-Naze, Weeley (for Clacton-on-Sea), Dovercourt, Harwich Felixstowe, Aldeburgh or Southwold.

BROXBORNE and RYE HOUSE every Sunday by any train before 3.30 p.m., and every Week-day by any train before 3.0 p.m. Fares, 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d.

For Full particulars see Handbills and Time Tables.

London, July, 1881.

WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

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Hines' Spring Plummets.

Small size, 6d.; Large do., 7d. Post Free.
The Trade supplied.

AGENTS WANTED IN EVERY TOWN.

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Adelaide Street, Norwich.

THE SPRING PLUMMET.—Mr. T. HINES, the inventor of this useful fisherman's accessory, has received a highly satisfactory testimonial of its worth from the well-known anglers, Messrs. A. G. JAR-DINE and H. L. ROLFE.

FISHING GAZETTE Plummets, 8d. each post free.

(THE DEVONSHIRE RIVERS.)

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DEVONSHIRE FLIES (GOOD IN ANY STREAM), 1s. 6d. per dozen. Flies made to pattern. A large stock of Rods and Tackle of all kinds. Some choice SPLIT CANE RODS by "Copham;" bargains. The Devon and other artificial Baits, Reels, Lines, Gut Casting Lines, Fly Books, Wading Stockings and Trousers, Baskets, and every other requisite. Address, WILLIAM MUDFORD, Fore Street, Tiverton, Devonshire. Ticket depôt for the Tiverton Fishing Association.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FLIES.

J. A. GRIFFIN, Practical Fly-maker, begs to inform Anglers that he has in stock some of the best FLIES, both for natural colours and fineness, combined with strength, at 2s. per dozen. Best Gut Casts, all warranted to lift 4 lb., 9d. each. J. A. G. calls attention to his £1 1s. 6-joint Pocket Fly Rod. Flies and all other Tackle made to order, and forwarded to any part of the Kingdom, Post Free, WITH ALL HASTE.

Portobello, Late 15. Tything, Worcester.

ANGLERS should try "PISCAMANNA," the best bait for Roach, Dace, Chub, &c.; is not offensive. Post free 13 and 26 stamps, A. Tuczek, 33, Brook Green Lane, Hammersmith, W.



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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1881

AN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

MR. BIRKBECK, M.P., at the Thames Angling Preservation Society dinner last week, stated that a movement was on foot for the formation of an International Fisheries Exhibition to be held in London, and he suggested that the Thames Angling Preservation Society should take the matter in hand, and carry it

out. We quite agree with Mr. Birkbeck that such an exhibition would undoubtedly prove a grand success, but we cannot help thinking that it would be somewhat out of the province of the Thames Angling Preservation Society to undertake its establishment. No society can boast of more efficient and hard-working officers than the one in question, but have they not got their hands more than full at present? We are quite certain they will be only too glad to co-operate in every way in their power towards the success of the undertaking, and their assistance will be of immense value.

The work of getting up an International Exhibition is simply enormous, it involves correspondence and arrangements with every nation of the world, from America in the West to Japan in the East, from Greenland in the North, to Tasmania in the South. A wealthy, powerful, influential, and directly and generally interested body should take the matter in hand. In the Worshipful Fishmongers' Company we have a body which possesses all these requirements, and we cannot but hope that they would receive the proposal with the most friendly consideration; in fact, the splendid support they so generously and willingly accorded the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition attests both their interest in the subject and the value they attach to it.

We notice that our Scotch friends are proposing to make their forthcoming fisheries exhibition an international one; this proposal we sincerely and respectfully trust they will now abandon. If an international exhibition is to be held in Great Britain we feel certain every Briton will freely admit that the neighbourhood of the metropolis is unquestionably the place for it. The committee of the Norwich Exhibition had applications from all parts of the world for space, and they might easily have enlarged the scope of their exhibition, and made it an international one, but they wisely and unselfishly decided that an International Fisheries Exhibition held in the British Empire would be out of place anywhere but in the Metropolitan area. If our Scotch friends persist in their proposal and make their exhibition an international one, they will not do themselves much good, and they will certainly do the fishing interests much harm. We do not think they will persist now that they know the idea of a grand International Exhibition is seriously entertained by England, and particularly by all those Englishmen who set on foot and carried out so successfully the recent Norwich exhibition. Apart from any question as to which would be the better place, Edinburgh or London, we venture to suggest to the committee of the Scotch exhibition that they really cannot have an international exhibition in the true sense of the word, that is if they adhere to their present date for its opening—they will have no time to get exhibits from countries on the other side of the world; and if, in the meantime, it is announced that an International Exhibition will be held in England during 1883, what foreign exhibitor will not say to himself. Well, I will wait for that; my goods will then be seen by hundreds of thousands of people instead of by tens of thousands!

The ambassadors of all the countries of the world which are likely to exhibit are stationed in London. Will they, knowing that an International Exhibition is to be held in or near London in 1883, advise their Governments to go to the trouble and expense of sending to an exhibition to be held in Edinburgh in 1882?

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

IN our report of the Thames Angling Preservation Society last week, we made a mistake in announcing that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales would preside at the next annual dinner of the society. This was, at any rate, a premature announcement, as it was necessary that H.R.H. should first become a patron of the society; now that is an accomplished fact, and we sincerely trust the Prince will be able to preside at the dinner next year.

THE NORWICH NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION. MEDAL.

THE engravings which we publish this week will interest all the firms and individuals to whom medals were awarded at the recent exhibition at Norwich. They are engraved by Messrs. Hare and Co., and represent the smallest and the largest of twelve different sizes in which they have engraved them. They have been made for the purpose of selling copper casts, or electros, as they are technically termed, to medal holders who may desire to have them for printing purposes, in advertisements, catalogues, on note paper headings, trade cards, &c., &c. The electros are all taken from extremely fine wood engravings, and will print equally as well as the wood blocks themselves. We advise all our friends who obtained medals to write to Messrs.

Hare and Co., 31, Essex Street, Strand, for their price list of electros of the medals of this and other exhibitions. Their prices



are extremely moderate; for instance, the two small ones which we print from only cost 1s. each, and the two large ones, 2s. 6d. each.

REMINISCENCES OF DOVEDALE.

In the heart's album there are treasured faces,
Our household darlings, friends which are our own,
And with them favourite haunts and cherished places,
So dear, they seem but made for us alone.

THOMAS GOLD APPLETON.—"Places."

"I LAM* on the Dove." What happy memories—how long lain dormant—do those words awaken in my mind! Though it is from eighteen to three-and-twenty years ago, it seems to me but yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that, when my steps were wandering by that "delicate, clear river," in thine enchanting glen, Dovedale! I can, indeed, speak to the truth of the concluding remark of the writer of that interesting article, that the angler who pays the Izaak Walton and Dovedale a visit "will not regret it, but will in after-days treasure up the remembrance of it, as being one of the pleasantest excursions in their angling experience." That the angler must, however, be a *senior-angler*, in order to insure him much sport in such a naturally difficult water, and one so over-fished, has not Mr. Walbran almost, if not altogether, himself premised?

May I, Mr. Editor, give your readers my recollections of the Dale and the hotel? From an angling point of view my experiences of them are, perhaps, a trifle above the average. Not, however, by reason of any great achievements of my own; for I make no pretensions to having ever taken highest honours with the trout-rod, fly or minnow; while at the period of which I propose to speak, so far from being a master-workman, I was not even a journeyman; in fact, during the earlier portion of that period I was one of the rawest of 'prentice-hands at the gentle art.

My first acquaintance with the Izaak Walton and Dovedale was

* Not "Flam," Mr. Printer. But yet you have a *particeps criminis* in high quarters. For, oddly enough, in *Ephemeris*'s edition of Walton's and Cotton's Complete Angler there appears (p. 250) a woodcut of "Islam Hall." One would almost expect from that to see the *Crescent* flying from its flag-tower, and to hear a whisper of a little mosque within the mansion, for use in the devotions of the *Islamites*.

in '58. I was then resident in the neighbourhood. So one sunny, balmy day in the early spring—the lark singing aloft in the blue sky—I set off to see the beauties of which I had heard so much. Rail and steam sped me merrily on to "romantic Ashbourne." Thence I walked along the high road by the hill-side, the five miles to the Izaak Walton, then, as now, if not a Royal hotel, at least a *Prince-ly* one, I was going to say; but I find I must not tax my memory quite so far as to assert that, though I cannot help inclining to that impression. Arrived there safely, and refreshed duly, I strolled up and down the Dale leisurely, admired it freely, angled in the Dove (in fancy), most successfully, chatted with a native neighbourly, dined comfortably, rested moderately, and then, smoking meditatively, sauntered lingeringly along the river, adown the valley, back to Ashbourne, und so *weiter*—as our German friends phrase it—and so on, home again, after—

"One of those heavenly days that cannot die."

My next visit was paid at the end of May of the same year. On that occasion, which was an angling excursion, I was accompanied by my piscatorial master X.—

"A better angler ne'er brushed dew from lawn."

We walked over from Ashbourne, reaching our destination towards dusk. Next morning's dawn (about 4 o'clock) saw us by the river-side. Our exemplars were not the lilies, who, we are told, "toil not, neither do they spin." A complete novice or tyro, I kept toiling and spinning away in the most patient and persistent, but in anything but the most approved, professional fashion. I was spinning in the *pitching*—not the casting—style, with (for want of a better) a ten-foot hop-pole of a pike-rod, and with a line of about a foot less in length. The tackle and the bait were right enough, for they were X's. My sport was altogether of a very tantalising nature, since it consisted in seeing the trout come pretty freely after my minnow, more than once two at a time. But they truned tail as soon they caught sight of me; and that they did catch sight of me, under the circumstances aforesaid, in good time to turn tail was the rule which had not any exception. My companion, however, who worked—with ease, single-handedly—a rather powerful fifteen-foot rod, by the time we came in to breakfast showed that he had not laid his talent up in a napkin, nor lost it in the river. The contents of his basket drew exclamations of no slight surprise from our host (was it really Mr. Prince?) who confessed that, from a word or two which he had heard us let fall over night, he had rather doubted whether we were not a shade too sanguine, making scarcely an adequate allowance for the very highly-trained intelligence of the denizens of the Dove. As Mr. Walbran puts it, "They know a hawk from a hernshaw."

Before our breakfast was over we were joined by two gentlemen who had been whipping the water for a week or more with very scaly, or rather, with very scanty, success. They had seen our fish, and were intensely curious to know how they had been caught. "Minnows!" "Spinning!" "Might they come for a little while and see us fish?" "Oh, certainly!" So, breakfast over, and a fresh spinning-flight or two made up by X. (those Dovedale waters are a little wearing), we, and our new acquaintances with us, were off again to ye bankes and braes o' bonnie Dove. And here I had my best luck, and my worst. In that very pool out of which Mr. Walbran had the "beautiful golden trout just under ½ lb.," something very like a two-pounder came from beneath those same submerged thorns, or their predecessors, and seized my minnow in the open, boldly in full sight of us all. "There's no fool like the old fool," they say. But in angling it is sometimes rather the other way, I fancy. In my youthful impetuosity I struck too hard—with so very stiff a rod far too hard—and the chain went at its weakest link, which, strange to say, was the swivel. That was the first and the last swivel which ever betrayed my trust, although I have always used the very finest of swivels in spinning for ordinary brook and river trout, so fine, indeed, that I suppose they cost quite, and more than quite, their weight in gold. For a sovereign, I should say, would weigh down many more than a hundred of them. At the hooking of that fish those gentlemen became more eager and excited than ever. They would send off at once to Ashbourne and get minnows and minnow-tackle. The outcome of their enthusiasm we left too soon to learn. But even had they obtained the proper baits and tackle, they would have been taught in due course—by the hard logic of facts—that there is no royal road to minnow-spinning. How many years of the closest and most patient practice are needed in order to make a master-minnow-spinner! Nay, after all, *nascitur, non fit*. He is born, *not made*. The gift is Nature's, though its perfection be a work of art.

Later in the day, as X was angling up the Dale, and I was admiring an extra-handsome specimen of *salmo fario*, which he, the serpent, or he with the wisdom of the serpent had just beguiled, one wherein "the elements"—of gold, and vermillion,

and crimson, and pearl—"were kindlier mixed" than is common, even in the case of those gloriously-painted Dovedale-trout, two elderly ladies, whom I had for some time past noticed following us, and watching us intently, could keep back their feminine curiosity no longer. They came up to us, and said: "Pardon us, gentlemen, we are frequently in the Dale, and are constantly seeing people fishing; but they never seem to catch any fish. Yet you appear to have no difficulty. *How is that?*" I did my best to demonstrate to the old ladies the *how* and the *why* of that by a little syllogism (in *Baroko*):

All expert minnow-spinners are able to catch trout.

Some people were not able to catch trout.

Therefore some people were not expert minnow-spinners.

Ere the evening X. had again given most practical and substantial proofs of his expertness as a minnow-spinner. My proof that day in respect of expert minnow-spinning was, I am afraid, principally limited to the theoretical or logical proof which I made of X.'s prowess to the old ladies. I wonder whether they were ancient spinsters?

Next morning, if I recollect rightly, we did not fish, but after breakfast walked back to Ashbourne, following, as far as the village or hamlet of Mappleton,

"The valley's course, the river's winding."

The stream here and there through those reaches is overhung with very fine chestnut trees, which were then out in full blossom—

"Alas! Our memories may retrace

Each circumstance of time and place,

Season and scene come back again,

And outward things unchanged remain;

The rest we cannot reinstate,

Ourselves we cannot re-create,

Nor set our souls to the same key

Of the remembered harmony."*

* * * * *

One other day—another angling day, and with the same peerless angling companion—I have had in the Dale. That was early in July, '63; and I had, by then, I hope, somewhat improved in my practice. We spun on that occasion also. The weather, however, was so extremely hot, and calm, and bright, that—with a clear, low water—our fishing was confined to an hour or two on the evening of our arrival, and to the early hours—from three to nine—of the following morning. The hotel being full, and overfull, and our turning-in being consequently on couch and floor, our turning-out was not quite so arduous an undertaking as it might, possibly, otherwise have been—for one of us at least. From 12 to 2.30 were, I well remember, the limits of our rest *that night*. Our total take in the evening and the morning (the bulk, of course, being X.'s) was some 14 or 15 lb. of fish, including four grayling which would weigh together nearly 4 lb., one of them being a good pound and a half fish. They were all taken spinning the *natural* minnow. There are, I know, those, and not a few of them, who doubt gravely a grayling taking a minnow, except by the merest chance, the veriest fluke, the rarest freak of nature. But "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," though I don't mean to deny that the proof of the eating is in the appetite and the palate. Of course, the proof—in the sense of the cause—of catching grayling by spinning the minnow, lies in the kind of minnow spun, coupled with the style of the spinning. Let those sceptics (if master-minnow-spinners they be) just try spinning—slowly, very slowly—the smallest of minnows, on the finest of hooks and tackle, through a good grayling-stream, when the water is low and clear, and the fish are feeding, and they will very soon prove to themselves, and in the most practical and agreeable manner—by their own success—the fallacy of that opinion of theirs. A large minnow, mounted on coarse hooks and gut, and drawn rapidly through the water, while it is very far indeed from being the best form of spinning for trout, would hardly kill a single grayling in a score of years. For the grayling's mouth is very small. And he *must* be fished for with the finest of tackle. And he will never—or hardly ever—follow a bait *horizontally*. There are my "reasons, as thick as blackberries," as Falstaff has it, for my opinion. Twice I have taken large roach spinning a small minnow on fine tackle; one was a 1½ lb. fish out of the weir by Godfrey's house at West Drayton. G., coming out, and seeing it lying on the garden-lawn, held it up "pour encourager les autres" angling about. "There's plenty more," said he, "quite as good as that, where that came from Had X. on that day in Dovedale of which I am writing fished with as small minnows, and as far off, and as wonderfully fine as he now fishes, he would have taken a good few more fish, both

trout and grayling. Old heads, though, are *never* to be found on young shoulders. Only

"In years which bring the philosophic mind"

is the art of any artist ever consummated.

I recollect that morning our falling in with the old keeper just below the Dale, and on his seeing my companion's basket, his saying: "Gents comes here and says there's no fish; but there's a plenty of 'em for them as knows how to catch 'em. Wouldn't our squire like to see that basket!" What stock of fish there are now in the Dovedale waters I know not, but I imagine that those highly-educated parties still contrive to preserve themselves pretty nearly as well as the old keeper or his successor can do it for them. Moreover, is not Dovedale in the midst of closely-preserved waters, always replenishing it from above and below?

After breakfast we tried again for an hour or so, quite counter to the inclination of X., who knew too well that nothing more could be done before the cool and shade of evening. Not only were the bright, hot, airless weather, and the low, still, glassy water both very greatly against the feeding of the fish, but there was also, involved in those circumstances, a cause of want of sport of no less force, the absolute impossibility of keeping out of the fishes' sight. Spinning in the (now long since by X. abandoned) old-fashioned method of pitching, on a sultry day at midsummer, in an open stream like the Dove in the Dale, where there are no bushes, and stumps and roots—no holts to hide the fish and screen the angler—and when the water is as clear as gin, and as low as love after its labour lost—a minnow-spinner, how good soever he be—the best in the world, in the old fashion—has not a ghost of a chance. He is, *and must be* foiled. Foiled once again, in like manner, years afterwards—on the Monnow at Pontrilas—the effect on the genius of X.—is not Necessity the mother of Invention?—was his discovery—then and there—of a new mode of minnow-spinning, which he afterwards elaborated and perfected, with the greatest of pains until, if I mistake not, it is destined to become the minnow-spinning of the future. That may be defined as "Fly-fishing with the Spinning-Minnow." Forgive me, reader, if I seem to wax enthusiastic, when I say that it is an invention not unworthy of an age of science. For it blends the loveliness of fly-fishing with the deadliness of minnow-spinning. It does more, far more. It more than doubles, it multiplies for ordinary trout-fishing manifold the deadliness of either of the old forms of spinning—the pitching method and the casting method. It is flower and fruit in one. With the same rod and line, and almost in the same style—the whipping out of the bait lying at the base of all—the angler can fish fly or minnow alternately, at his own sweet will. And he can, when he has mastered the art, fish as fine and as far off with the minnow as with the fly; he can, in fact, fish the minnow much finer than most folks fish the fly. For he fishes it with a pliant fly-rod. And most folks fish the fly far too coarsely. But I am digressing.

Finding the game was up, I gave in at last to my companion, who, lying languidly at full-length, face downwards, "under the hawthorn in the dale," kept drowsily urging me to give it up, and let us go off home, before it was too late, and shoot rabbits round the woods of some very good friends of ours, and take them the spoils of our bows and spears, or—to call a spade a spade—of our rods and guns. So away we went about noon, getting home in time to kill a couple or two of the "feeble folk" in the evening. On reaching our friends' house we found them in much distress. For

"In that mansion used to be
Free-hearted Hospitality."

And numerous guests had come in unexpectedly from various quarters; but (to deepen to the tragic the tone of that lamentation of Mr. Walbran's on losing his 1½ lb. trout) *horribile dictu!* there was nothing to give them for their suppers! The only butcher's shop in the nearest little town had just been drawn blank! We got our hospitable friends out of their trouble famously. For what hostess, even in Derbyshire or Staffordshire, often gets the chance of setting before her guests—above all, in such an emergency—a grand dish of Dovedale trout and grayling? And what guest dropping in, in a friendly way, would ever expect such a thing? The surprise and preliminary pleasure evinced by our friends' guests or being shown (under those circumstances) that dish of fish, ere it was entrusted to the cook for their ultimate benefit, may be faintly imagined. Need I say that one toast that night was not forgotten: "Dovedale, and better luck still there the next time!"

And now—a word to the wise. Don't go to the Dale at Easter, or Whitsun, or any other holiday tide! And when you do go there, make the most of your mornings from daybreak to breakfast time, more especially if you spin the minnow. And have every "wrinkle" in your mind's-eye, and every other (or more

* LONGFELLOW, "The Golden Legend."

manual) mystery of the gentle art in your wrist and at your fingers' ends when you are endeavouring to do those canny ones of Dovedale, whether with fly, or minnow, or grasshopper, or what not.

Of the scenery I enter into no details. For, though it is "beautiful exceedingly," I am only just jotting down a few simple angling-reminiscences of old times, with an occasional, fraternal hint to a brother-angler. I will merely say of the scenery: he that hath eyes to see let him see!

But I may venture to remind the reader of "The Complete Angler" that not far from the head of the Dale stood (and I suppose still stands) "in a kind of peninsula, too, with a delicate, clear river about it," that fishing-house of Cotton's, with all its associations of Izaak Walton, and with that immortal inscription over the door—PISCATORIBUS SACRUM. "Why then," said Viator, when he had read it, "I perceive I have some title here, for I am one of them, though one of the worst."

I have but to add that I look forward to the coming of a day when I shall make another pilgrimage to Ilam, on the Dove, with, for angling companion, none other than the one of old, whose right hand has not forgot—and may it never forget! its marvellous cunning; who has, with ever more delicate and deadly angling, filled many a good basket with the best of trout and grayling out of the limpid waters of the Dale, long since those happy days when he and I were there together. A.R.I.E.L.

London, April 19th, 1881.

IN DOVEDALE.

Izaak! still thou anglest near me
By the green banks of thy Dove,
Still thy gentle ghost may hear me
Breathe my reverence and love.

Thou, whose ears drank in the warble
Of all streams in crystal play—
Will thy bones beneath cold marble
Lie in peace so far away?*

O, my kindly old piscator,
See'st thou not these waters clear?
Time, thou changeling, Time, thou traitor,
Give him back—his home was here!

Lo! at yonder bend he standeth,
Where round rocks the wave bells out,
See! with skilful touch he landeth
Now a grayling—now a trout.

Stream of beauty! winding, singing
Through the world's divinest dale,
Ever to thy music bringing
That old spirit calm and pale!

Learned in all honest learning,
Trustful, truthful, pure of heart,
Peaceful, blameless honour earning
By the magic of his art.

In life's fitful turmoil often
Have I longed to be like him,
And have felt my nature soften
Musing on that phantom dim—

Now a trout—and now a grayling—
Luring from the shaded pool,
God's white clouds high o'er him sailing,
All around the beautiful!

HENRY GLASSFORD BELL.

ARISTOCRATIC EEL-FISHING.

A REMINISCENCE.

IT is now, alas! how many July's ago since I wandered through the counties of Devon and Somerset, following the windings of the lovely river Exe, one of the most considerable rivers in that part of the country. Like all the streams of that rocky district, it flows, in a transparent and joyous current, through wooded and romantic vales. For the most part its course is south and in a run of nearly sixty miles, its volume is refreshed and increased by very many tributaries. It took me in all nearly seven weeks to explore its beauties from its rise on Exmoor to the Bristol Channel, which may be considered good travelling when detours had to be made at each of the tributaries to gain a bridge, wild hills to surmount, and in several places dense underwood at the immediate banks to push through. But the verdant meadows which intervened, soft to the foot and gladdening to the eye, amply made up for any temporary opposition to one's progress.

* He (our Izaak) is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Nothing can be more beautiful than where the river Barle unites with the Exe not far from Brushford.

After passing Tiverton, where I stayed the Sunday, the moon being at its full, I determined to make what progress I could by its light, for I was due at Exeter on a given day fast approaching. It was not far from Bamford Speke—where the river Culumb, and, a little further down, the Creedy, run in—that I heard voices distinctly proceeding from the water. At first I thought it proceeded from poachers, and I determined from a hiding place to give them a startle. But upon listening the conversation, or tone, was not that of vulgar men fearing no disturbance, but soft and low, and albeit refined; the faculty of water conveying sound giving me every opportunity for judgment. Approaching closer and closer to the spot from which the sounds proceeded, I saw that there were five boats or punts moored in a quiet part of the stream each with its occupant. Every now and then I heard a knock as if an oar had struck against the rowlocks, but each boat was motionless. What could these men be about at that time of night? There was something weird and ghostlike about the whole picture. My curiosity was soon gratified when, from under the shadow of a tree, I watched their every action. The knock was often repeated from one or other of the boats, and I began to suspect some mystic ceremony was proceeding when I heard one exclaim, "I have just lost one of full 4 lb." So they were fishing for something; but what? Bream? no, they had no rods, but somewhat short staves like mop handles. Eels? yes, they are bobbing for eels. And what a more rational pursuit than, after giving the sweltering blankets the good bye, to pass the whole night here on the surface of the cool waters, the attention sufficiently occupied to keep the eyes open, and the mind awake? Ashamed of being any longer an eavesdropper, I made my presence known to them; and my name being asked and given, I was invited by one of the party to come on board his punt, which, having accepted, he brought it across the river for me to get into, and I became as earnest in the interest of sport as any of the others, although I was not fitted with tackle; nor, had I desired it, could I have had it, as I afterwards discovered these three gentlemen were fishing a match, this competition being among one amongst several eccentric sporting freaks which they often astonished their neighbours. A report of the match—which had been kept perfectly secret until it was decided, and which it was stated was for £100, subscribed in equal parts by each of the persons engaged—which appeared in the local papers, and as a matter of course was concluded by a dinner, revealed the fact that the Hon. Viscount H. D., two baronets, the clergyman of a neighbouring parish, and the agent to the first-named nobleman, composed the little band of bobbers.

I shall not inflict here upon my readers a description of the mode of bobbin for eels; that is too well known to justify space. But there was one provision for the security of the fish, and diminishing their chances of escape which, I think, could be used with great advantage by those who seek the rivers at night for such purpose: hooked to the outside of the gunnel of the punt a pail of the form of a churn was sunk, so as its top rose an inch or so above the surface of the water, when the bobbers felt a bite, and the teeth of the eel was supposed to have got well entangled with the worsted which strung the lobworms together, the bait was raised with great care and caution, and the eel brought over the pail when the tap or knock I have before alluded to, on its side, shook the victim into its imprisonment, from which there was no escape by reason of the form of the utensil.

To the best of my recollection the agent obtained the prize; but what even then surprised me not a little was the ravenous manner in which the eels bit, as they are not generally supposed to rove or feed much during moonlight. The shade of the hanging wood and hills under which the boats were moored may have had something to do with this result. I ought to mention that the four competitors ceased their operations while the kind-hearted clergyman fetched me on board his boat.

CREEL.

THE POACHERS ARE AT WORK.

WE were talking to a club angler who was fishing the Lea at Ponder's End last Saturday week, and we were talking to another club angler fishing at Tottenham on the Lea last Sunday, and we were very sorry indeed to hear that the poachers have been at work, and they had been seen with nets reaching across the river. Mr. Caborn, the secretary of the Sir Hugh Myddleton Angling Society in his report in our columns this week, makes a similar charge against poachers on the Wey, and from what we hear, we feel sure this prolific stream is subject to very frequent netting. What is the use of preserving the fish during the fence months, if they are to be taken wholesale in this way as soon as the season opens?

MY FIRST SAUMON.

A' ye wha try the gentle art—
That pastime dearest to the heart—
To you the news I saw impart,
How I felt stunn'd
Catchin' a saumon naething short
O' twenty pund.

Walton, thy name tho' world wide,
And fishing was thy dearest pride,
I question while the art ye tried
If e'er ye took

A saumon such as I describe
Wi' line an' hook.

To Birnam, on the river Tay,
In early spring I bent my way,
Resolved at least to hae a day;
Syne got a boat,
Then on the waves, swell'd with snaw broo,
We set afloat.

We tried to please the saumon brood,
And tempt them wi' a' sorts o' food;
But when the phantom crossed his hood
He lap, I ween,
And being in a taking mood,
I nailed him clean.

Thus, sittin' in the boat fu' snug,
The reel it gaed a fearfu' rug;
To feel a twenty-pounder tug,
I bawled, "He's on it!"
And just to prove 'twas nae humbug,
Up went my bonnet.

A scene ensued—tho' cold, I trow,
The sweat came tricklin' frae my brow.
The beast he made a fearfu' row,
And off did spin;
It took a hale half hour to cove
An' haul him in.

After a brisk but deadly fire,
It must a leader's breast inspire
To see the vanquished foe retire,
Their courage fail,
And watch a captive king inspire,
In silver'd mail.

I felt a sort of hero now.
The fish lay gaspin' in the bow;
So oor wee boat did landward row.
And then, for fun,
Fired off twa pistols just to show
Victory was won.

We charged again; but, to our woe,
The clouds discharged a shower of snow.
We lingr'd on twa hours or so,
Then wi' our load,
Well pleased, we walked the dead march slow
Along the road.

Whae'er has gout or killin' pain,
Wha's work produces stress o' brain,
An antidote ye may obtain
That's worth possessin',
If ye some way tad tak the train
An' try the fishin'.

Sweet Birnam seek, where on its way
So proudly rolls the noble Tay,
Where a' the fish worth sport and play
In shoals abound there,
And ye, like me, may catch some day,
A twenty-pounder.

GEO. DOBIE.

SOME SCOTCH ANGLING CLUBS.

Name of Association or Club, with Secretary's Name.

The Aberfeldy Club—William Cowper, jun., Aberfeldy.
The Aberfoyle Angling Club.
The Alyth Angling Club.
Avon Conservancy Association—W. Horn Henderson, Linlithgow.
The Bonnybridge Angling Club—Alexander Mitchell, Greenbank Cottage, Bonnybridge.
The Brechin Angling Club—R. Lowdon, 2, Trinity Road, Brechin.
The Buckland Angling Club—William Cross, 41, York Street, Glasgow.
Caddonfoot Fishings—H. W. Cornillon, 130, George Street, Edinburgh.
Callander Angling Club—D. Melrose, Callander.
The Canmore (Forfar) Angling Club.
The Coatbridge Angling Club.
The Cockburn Angling Association—George E. Y. Muir, 1, W. Crosscausway, Edinburgh.
The Coldstream Angling Association—John Tait, High Street, Coldstream.
The Denny Angling Club—Robert Shearer, Dunipace, Denny.
The Dundee Angling Club—D. Ireland, 24, Commercial Street, Dundee.
The Dundee Western Angling Club—Gow, Dundee.
Dundee Walton Club—W. Mudie, 3, Athole Terrace, Maryfield, Dundee.
The Dunfermline Angling Club—G. T. B. Barron, Dunfermline.
The Doune Angling Club—R. Shard, Doune.
East Stirling Hire Association of Anglers—J. A. Miller, 144, High Street, Falkirk.
The Echaig Angling Club—John Clark, 17, Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow.
The Edinburgh Amateur Angling Club—J. Gordon Mason, 34, N. Castle Street, Edinburgh.
The Edinburgh Angling Club—William Menzies, 18, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.
Ellem Fishing Club, Dunse—George Low, The Laws, Chirnside, Berwickshire.
The Esk and Liddle Fisheries Association—R. M'George, Langholm.
The Falkirk Angling Club—J. A. Millar, 144, High Street, Falkirk.
The Forfar Angling Club.
Forfar, Dons Angling Club.
Forth Angling Club.
The Fountain Angling Club.
Gala Angling Club—Robert Hall, 131, High Street, Galashiels, Glasgow Dodgers.
The Haggs Angling Club—George Mirk, Haggs, by Denny.
Kinross Angling Club—Thomas Steedman, Kinross.
Kirkcaldy Angling Club—Johnston, Kirkcaldy.
Lanark Amateurs Angling Club—John Dunlop, 62 High Street, Lanark.
Lanarkshire United Anglers' Protective Association.
Lochleven Angling Association (Limited)—George Bogie, Kinross.
Midlothian Angling Club—Joseph A. Cowan, 33, Frederick Street, Edinburgh.
Motherwell (Star) Angling Club—James Brown, Motherwell.
Perth Angling Club—Fenton, Perth.
The Penicuik Angling Club.
The Perthshire Fishing Club—Robert Reay, City Chambers, Perth.
Sauchie and Whins of Milton Angling Club—William Reid, Whins of Milton, by Stirling.
The Skinflatts Angling Club—William Russell, Skinflatts, Bothkennar, Falkirk.
St. Ronan's Angling Club—Cossar, Innerleithen.
The St. Mungo Club.
Stirling Angling Club—J. D. Mathie, Stirling.
The Strathmore (Forfar) Angling Club.
Trout Preservation Society—D. B. M'Gregor, 51, West Regent Street, Glasgow.
The Walton Angling Club—James Grant, 26, Royal Crescent, Edinburgh.
Waverley Angling Club—John M'Dougall, 3, Rutland Place, Edinburgh.
West of Scotland Angling Club—D. B. M'Gregor, 51, West Regent Street, Glasgow.
The Western Angling Club—John Wilson, 59, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.
Upper Teviotdale Fisheries Association—Walter Haddon, Hawick.

NOTE.—As the Council desire to make the foregoing a complete list, they invite the members of the Association and others, into whose hands the report may come, to forward to the Secretary the names of Associations and Clubs which may not have been included.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Perpendicular rays of the sun
Illumined the depths of the sea,
The fishes beginning to sweat,
Cried dam-me how hot we shall be."

—BYRON.

Perpendicular rays of the sun are just now illumining the depths of the Thames, and the fishes are doubtless indulging in a game of naughty adjectives at thus being prematurely got into hot water, for feed they will not, except perhaps a wee bit in the early morn or dewy eve. Not even gudgeon will wag a fin or be tempted with ever so wriggly a tail of a worm. Perch are very wary, barbel shy, and jack more artful in their weedy haunts than their would-be masters. The only fish that is affording sport just now is the chub, which early and late are freely taking the white and black palmer, white moth, and other barbed delicacies. The Windsor and Eton Angling Association has recently placed some eighty brace of fine trout in their water. This is a most sensible thing to do at this season of the year, for it is useless to attempt to stock a particular water during the winter flood times.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River low and bright and few fish being had. This may be accounted for perhaps by the absence of anglers. Weather blazing hot and dry, and very much ditto—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good condition for round fishing. Prospects, good. Some good perch have been taken; best day four dozen, two perch going 3 lb., one jack 3 lb. Gudgeon are biting well with worms. To-day, Thursday, when gudgeon-fishing, a large snake, 3 feet long, swam across against the boat, but could not get it.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

This has been a very enjoyable week for the lovers of the rod, the weather being delightfully fine, and the fish have been feeding very well. It is not often you have the good fortune to get weather and water to perfection as we had it this week. The fish fell off feeding towards the end of last week, but have begun again in earnest. In two days' fishing yesterday with Mr. Anderson, and to-day, Thursday, with Mr. Macfarlane, I caught a half hundred weight of splendid dace. Most of the fishermen here have been out every day, and, I think, every one has had a fair day's sport, in the fore part of the week the pants arranged between five and seven day dace a day. There have been a few barbel taken this week also, but nothing to speak much about. I hooked a fine fellow this evening, and after half-an-hour fair play he broke away from the hook. I think he must have been hooked foul. Any one wanting a day's fishing, now is the time to have a day while they are on. While fishing at the end of Glover's Island to-day there were some boys bathing. One of the little boys got in, and had it not been for me would have been drowned, as we had to rub him some minutes before he came round. He is all right this evening, I am pleased to say, and I am not much the worse for my ducking.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Windsor).

The bailiffs, George and James Gray, in the employ of the Windsor and Eton Angling Preservation Society, this morning turned in 130 fine healthy trout up to 1½ lb., all of them being of a size, save where jack and perch abound. The most suitable places were selected to receive them, and there is no doubt but that they will do well in their new waters, where there is abundance of feed, and it is to be hoped that when any are taken they will be returned if under 2 lb., as they are doubtless safe till next April. Sport here has been as good as could be expected considering the weather, and chub appear to be most tried, for some good fish being had with fly, notably the Windsor bee, tipped with a gentle, but it is a pity so many small fish are retained. Everyone knows what a greedy feeder the chub is, especially the small ones lying under the banks, with a fly rod, fine cast, and gentles, some years back I used to catch them for live bait instead of dace, thinking nothing of four and five dozen before breakfast, but now that the winter chub fishing is getting poor, this certainly ought to be stopped. I hear of large bags, but know full well they are not large fish. Some good perch have been had in the Windsor weir stream with tail end of lob worm, one gentleman in an evening taking a pretty dish of 9, from ½ lb. to 1½ lb. Barbel decline to have much to do with this bait, and from experience I have found that greaves, if good, are far better this time of year; of course baiting the swim previously. Roach are still small and shy, and require very fine tackle, with patience. The bait I have generally found answer well during summer months has been arrowroot biscuit crushed, moistened and well worked up into a paste, keeping as clean as possible. Use a small hook, No. 11 or 12, short shank Carlisle, on the finest gut, and chew a biscuit, throwing in pieces occasionally. I hear of no gudgeon being had or even tried, and as the season for them is very close they are worth a trial. A good bag might be made, with the chance of a perch or barbel; of course the old twenty-six dozen to a punt cannot reasonably be expected yet. Jack are still being tried for, but are very poor when caught. I have seen some this week that would look better in a few weeks time and afford better sport.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water is still low, but in very good condition for fishing. Prospects of fishing for the next few days are very good, the fish are much better on the feet. H. Purdue, two days, 6 dozen roach and dace and 2 dozen gudgeon; F. Purdue, three days, 5 dozen roach and dace and 7 dozen gudgeon and 6 perch; Mr. Blamey, fishing himself, caught one dozen barbel. Several good

perch and chub myself, four days—first day, five large roach and a perch of 1½ lb.; second day, two dozen roach and dace; third day, 9 dozen roach and dace and two chub; fourth day, one jack, 3 lb., 11 eels, largest 2 lb., fishing for barbel.—W. ROGERSON.

Ancholme.

On Monday evening, in connection with some juvenile members of my family I had a run over to this river. We caught a fair basket of coarse fish and eels. I landed one small pike, and hooked two other fine ones, but both of these, owing to my fishing with fly line, broke away; one was about 1 lb. in weight, and took a good roach of ½ lb. for its supper, with the customary flight of hooks which, I fear, would be too strong for digestion. It is a pity this stream is not well stocked with carp and tench; they would thrive famously. Perhaps Lord Yarborough would, if proper representations were made to him, supply a stock of the former fish from Croxby Lake.—THOMAS FORD.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are still very clear and low. It is useless to fish by day, but during the past week some very good baskets have been taken in the evening between nine and midnight. Heath, who has been out every evening since my last report, has had capital sport with the fly, the smallest number being twenty, weighing over 4 lb. A curious incident occurred to a young man who was fishing the other evening, but one which I have known happen before, and no doubt many of your readers have also. He caught a small trout, and as he was landing it, another trout seized hold of it, and he brought both to bank, the larger trout still holding on to the other; but not touched with the hook. I have not heard any more about the trammelling, so I hope that "our friends" have taken the hint, and stopped their little game.—W.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On the 9th, Messrs. T. Gillespie, Jameson, S. Braben had splendid sport, their creels being from 6 to 9 lb. On the 11th, A. Story of Bathal, had 7 lb.; Mr. Young, Morpeth, 5 lb.; W. Matthaus, Longhorsley, 4½ lb.; all with worm. Mr. Gillespie, thirty-two trout, is the second best basket that has been killed in this water for this season. The river is in a fair condition for fishing. A. GLASS.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The weather this week has been all that could be desired, and trout and grayling have been rising excellently. Great numbers of anglers are now out daily, and the average of takes this week must be from five to six brace. The killing flies are the jenny spinner, the various styles of moth, and the blood-red caterpillar. Some good barbel have been captured at the junction of the Dove and Trent, and I hear of a few salmon having been observed kicking about. The river is running at nice height and in good colour.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is very low and clear, and little or nothing can be done except in the evening, when trout sport very well, and some good sport is being had. The flies that are killing best are the usual ones, viz., fern web, black gnat, red spinner and coachman; the fern web is doing exceptionally well—WILLIAM MUDFORD, Tiverton.

[Are there any salmon in the Exe yet?—ED.]

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

We have had some very good sea-fishing since my last report. There is a variety of fish to be caught here now, viz., bass, bream, cod, pollack, mackerel, whiting pout, dabs, &c. Bream scale from one to six pound per fish, bass 6 lb. each, and cod from one to twenty pound each, pollack from one to three pound each, mackerel from one to two pound, whiting pout and dabs two and three to the pound. Catches vary from twenty to seventy pound per boat per tide both morning and evening. Prospects looking good for the next week.—HENRY COLLIER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

On the 10th we had a great number of anglers (the weather fine and the condition of the water good and full of fish), the result of the day being to send them back to their homes with their arms and baskets all nearly full of fine fish, their health improved, their faces brown, and their pockets lightly taxed; no headache, and ready and willing for their duty on Monday. These are the pleasures of the true-minded angler. As such fishing is near at hand it will be well to prepare your tackle, for I see the waters are full of fine fish. As I sit in the evening I often think how the jack fisherman's heart would move to see them spring in the water. Last season no water in or near London produced more than these waters did, the largest being 24 lb. in weight, taken in the month of September, 1880, by Mr. Smith; this has been stuffed, and no doubt when the London show takes place that will prove the lion of the day, and those who will have the pleasure of seeing it will have but one voice and say that it is a great fish and that the gentleman who took it has a great pleasure in being the owner of it, remembering at the same time that there are as fine fish in the water as have ever been caught.—S. SEWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is really too clear for good angling, and rain is very much needed. The bream are on the feed and the same may be said of roach. Chub are plentiful, and may be taken in the early morning or evening with a fly or a gentle. Mr. Woods, of Chatham, took some good roach; Mr. Chapman, of Sevenoaks, a brace of jack; Mr. Swinnard, of Tonbridge Wells, and I, have taken bream, chub and roach. On Monday, a match was fished near the Railway Bridge, at Barden, between J. Cox, of Tonbridge, and J. Eller, of Tonbridge, for a small wager. There were a large number of spectators. Cox secured a good bream and a splendid dish of roach, and won easily. Eller, who was carelessly run into by a boat, which broke his line, only grassed a bream.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ormesby Broad.

Water here in first-class condition, and fish now coming on the feed. Mr. Linstead and Mr. Vesey, of London, are now getting good sport, consisting principally of bream, rudd, with a few perch and roach; Mr. A. C. Critchfield, of Dalston, can boast of an even take of bream to-day, the 12th, twenty weighing 40 lb., besides some good roach. Every accommodation. Clean beds, boats, bait, &c. Return ticket from Great Yarmouth, 10d., and about 200 acres of water.—SAMUEL RICHMOND.

Severn and Teme (Worestershire).

SIR,—These streams are in fine order for angling, and many good takes have been caught with the fly and gentle. Mr. J. A. Griffin landed and weighed in nine brace of trout and 2½ brace of grayling, with the blue dun and red spinner.

Mr. Hopkins, near 7 lb. of chub and dace, and Emos Bosworth lands 6½ lb. of chub and dace; Mr. Guillham weighed-in 4 lb. 11 oz. of trout; best brace of fish, 1 lb. 10 oz. There was other members of the Boughton Club, caught some large chub, some fish over 2 lb. each. There is upon the books upwards of 27 lb. of trout, taken mostly with the fly.

J. A. GRIFFIN.

Portobello Inn, St. John's, late 15, Tything,

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

The river is everywhere swarming with peal and salmon. The last few floods brought up great quantities of them and happening as they did during the weekly close season, they were enabled to get to the upper waters, while the nets were off the river. We hear of [a good many peal being taken by the rods everywhere, some gentlemen killing to or three in the evening, amongst the most successful were Messrs. R. O'Donnell, R. Hutchings, F. Clibborn, Dr. Cooke, and Thomas Phelan (Kilmainham). The cots are now reaping their harvest, some of them getting from ten to twenty peal, and an odd salmon each day. The Clonmel men got eight together in one haul yesterday, another clear at Derrinland, sixteen. The trout fishing is only middling this week, but there is a very good rise, first about nightfall, which continues for an hour or so.—DORA.

Trent (Nottingham.)

Although the river still remains low and clear, and the weather exceedingly hot, most of the fish have been fairly on the feed, more especially barbel, which, under the present state of things, was not expected, and all the best anglers had come to the conclusion that barbel would not be worth mentioning until we had a change of water. In this, however, we have all been agreeably surprised, for on Saturday last while a gentleman, with very light tackle, at Sawley, expecting to catch dace or bream, hooked and landed a barbel 9 lb., and several others 3 lb. and 4 lb. each. He thought at one time of changing his tackle for something stronger, which would have been a mistake, as he had killed every fish that was fairly hooked, so he thought he would well alone. The hook was only a No. 8, and the tailend of a lob for bait. Several other anglers, while fishing with similar tackle, got the barbel on the feed, and I am of opinion that it is the height of sport to hook a good barbel with dace tackle; not only that they can be frequently caught with a small piece of worm when they would not look at a whole one. But mind this is the case when fish are not very eager to feed, and when the water is bright and clear and no baiting has been thrown in. This, of course, makes all the difference, as the following will show:—One of our anglers baited a place on Monday night with a thousand of worms, and on the next day with the usual barbel tackle took sixteen good fish, most of them 3 lb. and 4 lb. each. The anglers with scratching have also been doing very good work among the barbel, and it has been a toss up among the fishermen which was the most killing bait; and I believe it was decided at some of the clubs that while the water remained in its present condition scratching would prove the most killing; and as 3d. worth is sufficient for a day's fishing, the rodsters do not like to pay the great price now charged for worms. Roach are beginning to take malt and wheat, but not so freely as they will in a week or two. Several fair catches have been made with maggots, both roach and dace preferring them to worms. Bream are biting, but not freely. Weather very hot, and the best time for fishing is early in the morning.—W. BAILEY.

[Yes, send the article on barbel fishing.—ED.]

Trent (Newark.)

The water is very low, and in a fearfully filthy condition, and bottom fishers are tormented with flannel weed; the bait is scarcely in the water above two minutes before it is covered. Weather to-day has been about a tropical heat. I have heard of a few odd barbel being taken down here, with scratchings for bait, and a few very nice catches of bream have been had with worm; chub will now take a big fly or a locust if you can get them; early morning or evening the best time. Anglers will be pleased to hear that the roach are coming on the feed. Several nice fish have been taken with both maggots and plain bread paste, the bread paste being the most successful. Rain is sadly wanted to clear out and purify the river.—TRENT OTTER.

Tweed, Teviot and other Border Rivers.

The angling in these rivers during the past fortnight has been of a pretty good character. The late dry and altogether unseasonable weather for angling having been broken by a few good pluvial descents about ten days, made matters look rather better for the partisans of old Izaak, and advantage was, of course, at once taken by the patient angler. On the Sprouston water, Mr. Waddy had a good dish of 9 lb., and Mr. Robertson killed in Teviot 10 lb., while Mr. Mills, in an hour and a half, had 8½ lb. to his credit with worm. In the same river, on Thursday, Mr. George Malcolm had 7½ lb.; Mr. Baird, 6 lb.; Mr. D. Maxwell, 10 lb., which included about 3 lb. of eels. Saturday's fishing was bad; the same may be said of Tuesday. On the latter day, the glass showed a very considerable fall, and rain fell in torrents late at night, and although it cleared away considerably during the night and early morning, it again came down with a vengeance from four o'clock on Wednesday morning, continued all Thursday with little intermission, and lasted until well on on Thursday morning, with the wind north-east. This very welcome rain will greatly improve the fishing, and cannot but bring down the rivers, which are much in need of a right good clean out, having got very rank and dirty in their bottoms, thus rendering anything like first-rate angling out of the question. In the Jed very little has been done for a month, but the Ewes, Wauchope, and Liddle have afforded fair sport lately, and the same can be said of the river Esk, many good baskets having been killed, one reaching 14 lb., while not a few sea trout have also been killed. A week ago a party of anglers bagged sixty brace of perch and one and a half brace of pike at Yetholm Loch, and the day was a very bad one for angling. To-day (Thursday) the rivers are running full flood, and marked, at the Tweedometer, on Kelso Bridge, between three and four feet of flood water.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The weather here during the past week has been excessively hot in the middle of the day, and very few anglers have cared to turn out; only those that are fond of dibbling with the natural flies. There has been some handsome pound-trout killing all up and down the Derwent in the middle of the day with the small bluebottle fly, by dibbling with it under the bushes and trees. There have also been some good catches made on both the Wye and on most parts of the Derwent with the artificial fly, the last thing at night, the fish rising well from 9 p.m. to nearly ten o'clock; in fact, while even you could see. Fish have been rising freely, and this is the only time that the angler has a chance of getting a few brace. There have been baskets made from two brace to nine and a half brace per angler of a night. The killing flies have been the dun, spider, sand and little black flies. Sport has been very good on the

Derwent in the evening from Whatstandwell down to Ambergate, and some large fish have been killed, both trout and grayling. The bottom fishers on this part have also killed some fine eels, bream, roach, and dace, one eel being over 3 lb. This was killed in the weir hole, near Ambergate, with worm for bait. There are some very large pike in this part of the Derwent, but they have not begun to feed as yet. Minnow fishing has been followed with fair success. In the beginning of the week one visitor, staying at Matlock Bath, killed a most splendid well-fed trout with the natural minnow on the Darley Dale Club Water; that was over 3 lb., besides some very fine trout. The bottom fishers also killed a fair sample of fish during the time the Derwent was discoloured, with maggots for bait; several trout being killed near the Matlock Bridge, weighing from 1 lb. to 2 lb. The Derwent has a good sample of fish in it just now, and they take a very great deal of catching. Rain is much wanted by the angler, as both rivers are very low and clear.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich.)

Norwich anglers of late have fully realised the good the Yare Preservation Society has done for them. Hardly a day has passed during the last few weeks but some immense takes have been shown at the various clubhouses in the city. At every station on the above river numberless fish are reported to have been seen, and great has been the havoc amongst them. Any person watching the different trains as they discharge their human freights will find most of the angling portion of them staggering under their load of fish, the result of one day's good sport. Bream are now well on the feed, and a great many good-sized fish have been secured. In fact, old anglers will begin to tell you that it looks like old times again, when the great "black-backed uns" begin to roll about. Swarms of roach are travelling about, and one gentleman informed me he took no less than 280 fair-sized fish in one day. The various clubs in the city are bestirring themselves, and several contests are announced during the present month. Those who have nerve enough to be at it by daybreak experience the best results.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Both this river and the Wharfe have been in capital trim for fly, minnow and worm fishing during the past week, and there having been some nice breezy days, with the air free from thunder, some grand dishes of fish have been taken; one gentleman in the Ripon club water heading the list on three days. The Yore to-day is a grand colour for the fly, and is not yet run down to its usual summer level, the ant fly (red and black) should kill well until the August brown comes in; the latter is a good killer on the Yore, in my opinion equal to the far-famed March brown, which it much resembles, but is rather less and lighter in colour; some anglers contend that it is a later edition of the March brown, but I am inclined to think not. Weather to-day fine and warm, but not oppressively so.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

SCOTCH NOTES.

(From the *Scot-man*.)

LOCHLEVEN.—The weather was dull and cloudy on Saturday, with a light breeze from the west, and a drizzling rain in the afternoon. The sport generally was fair, and several good baskets were landed. Mr. Smith, Brighton, had 17 trout, 16 lb.; Mr. Isles, London, 10 trout, 11 lb.; Provost Milton, Sr. Andrews, 15 trout, 16½ lb., one a fine fish, weighing 2 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. J. B. Gowans and Mr. Ritchie, Perth, 9 trout, 10 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. G. D'Egville, Edinburgh, 11 trout, 8 lb. 8 oz.; Messrs. Steele and Blackie, Glasgow, 8 trout, 7 lb.; Mr. Harrison, Yorkshire, 8 trout, 7 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. G. A. Taylor and E. P. Dykes, Hamilton, 9 trout, 8 lb.; Mr. Lindsay, Dunfermline, 9 trout, 9 lb. 4 oz. This gentleman came in the previous night, late, with 14 trout, 17 lb., while Mr. Lawrence had 14 trout, 17½ lb.

ANGLING IN PEEBLESHIRE.—Last week, three gentlemen, staying at the Crook Inn, Peebleshire, killed in four days 68½ dozen trout, returning all the small. A fine basket of large trout was taken on one of the burns. Two gentlemen from Helensburgh had also good sport.

THE TAY.—In the Castle Menzies water Sir Robert Menzies' keeper killed on Friday a salmon weighing 12 lb., this being the only salmon reported to have been killed on the upper reaches during the past week. Good takes of trout, however, were obtained on the Strathay waters, and Edinburgh gentleman having made in a few hours a basket weighing over 11 lb., the favourite lure being a black-winged, hare's-lug bodied, and grouse-hackled fly. On Pitnacree water a plump trout, weighing over 4 lb., was killed with fly. This river is now in good form for allowing the river to have an easy ascent. Good sport is, therefore, expected on the upper sections.

THE AWE.—On Thursday, on the Awe, near the Pass of Brande, where the river runs out of Loch Awe, Major-General Campbell had excellent sport, killing a fine salmon weighing 29 lb., and two grilse, weighing respectively 10 lb. and 6 lb.

CRIEFF ANGLING CLUB.—The members of the Crieff Angling Club had another competition on Saturday, the angling water on this occasion being the Almond and braan, both of which were in good order. The following were the principal prizetakers:—(1) John Don, 11 lb. 7 oz.; (2) William Comrie, 10 lb. 1 oz.; (3) Alexander M'Favish, 8 lb. 9 oz.; (4) John Bell, 8 lb. 7 oz.; and (5) John Sharp, 4 lb. 6 oz.

BUN-RANNOCH HOTEL, RANNOCH.—In the river, on Friday, one gentleman killed 16 lb. trout, a second, 10 lb., and a third, 8 lb., in a few hours' angling.

THE BRORA.—On the river Brora, Sutherland, Mr. T. R. Hodge, Balmacoll, is having some good sport. On the 7th inst., he killed 1 salmon, 3 grilse, and 18 sea trout; on the 8th, he had 3 grilse and 27 sea trout, the latter averaging 1½ lb.; also a lot of fine yellow trout.

THE FISHMONGERS' COMPANY.—A special court of this company will be held at their hall on Thursday, the 21st inst., to elect to eighteen educational exhibitions, viz., under series No. 1, four each of £20, £30 and £50 per annum, tenable for four years, in aid of the education of sons and daughters over ten years of age of freemen and liverymen of the company; and under series No. 2, two each of £20, £30 and £50 per annum, tenable for two years, only for such pupils between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years, who have previously held exhibitions under series No. 1.—*City Press*.

MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. KNIGHT (Ryde).—It is legal take jack after June 15, but they are not in good condition before August.
H. ROBERTSON (St. George Street, Langham Street).—We believe that the fact of your not being more than sixteen years of age will not prevent your entering any angling club. Get the "Angler's Diary," price 1s. 6d., published at the Field office, Strand.

THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—In answer to your editorial remarks relating to the controversy on the law of fishing, I hasten to at once comply with your request. Further remarks from me at present are needless, for until I see "The Raven's" gauntlet taken up by those who are opposed to the rights of the rod fisher, and until I see some argument employed by those who advocate the law of force as opposed to that of reason—and who, when they lack knowledge and a good cause, resort to abuse, and with an unvarnished delivery bestow such epithets as "fool," &c., on their opponents—I think one may justly leave the discussion in the hands of a clique which, by self-laudation, headstrong obstruction, and unmanly invective, is a living exemplification of the true nature of its own component elements. At the same time, I will not acquiesce in the doctrine held by "The Trent Otter," which advocates the upholding of that which is wrong—recognised by one's self as wrong—simply because it is the whim of a presumed majority known by its blatant ignorance.

I, on this account, take my stand on the ground taken up by yourself, Mr. Editor, and by "The Raven," and will therefore, in accordance with your wish, whatever may have been my *nom de plume*, append my name in support of any piscatory knowledge I may possess.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON,
Lecturer in the Natural Sciences, late Professor and
Scholar in Science, &c., &c.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I for one am pleased that our friend, "The Trent Otter" has offered an explanation, and trust all roach fishermen will read his letter.

The bulk of London bank anglers fish mostly for roach and bream; I was therefore surprised to find that not one old fisherman was called upon to give his opinion upon the proper time to fence these fish, and that so much valuable time was taken up over the jack. Had it been to exterminate these natural poachers it would have better suited roach fishermen.

I obtained a ticket for the meeting at the Society of Arts, intending to put an amendment (if I had the chance) "that fishing for roach, bream, &c., should be open till mid April;" but from what Mr. Geen said, I felt there was no chance of carrying my point.

I agree with all the present amendments to the Mundella Act, except being made an April fool of in casting my rod on April the 1st, when these fish really spawn much later.

A month before, and a month after spawning should be sufficient for each kind of bottom fish, as the Act is intended for all England. May and June are decidedly the best months, we could make the close season for roach, chub, bream, barbel, tench, &c. Jack, perch and dace having a time to themselves, I fail to see the occasion of so long a close season as the proposed three months, April, May and June, considering what follows.

Twelve of our members, the "Waltonians," visited the Loddon on July 10th, result, about 1 dozen roach, just weighable; and the accounts from the Thames ran quite as bad, few fish being taken. A few chub were caught, but they require a boat, and no doubt this state of things will continue for at least another month or six weeks. So, Mr. Editor, you were quite right in saying the close season is practically six months; and this, time will prove.—I am, &c.,

T. MALCOM.

SIR,—I have been informed that at the recent meeting at the Society of Arts, that the question of the evening was the fencing of jack. I have always been under the impression that jack fishermen were few by comparison with roach anglers; how then, Mr. Editor, do you account for this?

I thought the meeting was called to thoroughly go into the question, viz., "The proper time to fence bottom fish." The Mundella Act, as it now stands, having been proved a failure throughout the country.

Fortunately I am not a member of a London club. I say fortunately, as I have seen several friends alter for the worse since they have joined clubs, and obtained the privilege tickets. One, a good honest angler before he joined, has now turned out a regular prize hunter. I think with "Cambridge," the meeting should have been an open one, and not by admission ticket, if you want to get at the real feeling of anglers.—I am, &c.,

E. WHITE.

39, Gt. College Street, July 13.

P.S.—I wish to put my name down for May and June, being sufficient for roach.

TROUT LICENSES.

SIR,—Please answer through your columns the following, and you will oblige some of your readers, "Is it necessary to have a license to fish for trout in the tributaries of a river, such as the Trent, and what does a license to fish in a river entitle you to?"—I am, &c.,

JAS. DICKSON.

Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

[It is only necessary to take out a trout license when the river you wish to fish is in one of the salmon and trout fishery districts, and the Fishery Board issue the licenses. A license to fish entitles you to fish in such waters as may be under the jurisdiction of the board which issues the ticket.—ED.]

FISHING ON DARTMOOR.

SIR,—Can any reader kindly inform me the best place to stop at in the vicinity of Dartmoor, Devon, to enable me to get some fishing and see something of the Moor and the Tors.—I am, &c.,

W.

July 12.
[We should advise you to go first to Buckfastleigh on the Dart. There is good fishing there after rain, as we know from personal experience. It costs 2s. 6d. per day, if we remember rightly. When there, if there is plenty of water

in the river, you can work on up past Ashburton to Chagford, to the free waters; but it is almost useless to go if the water is low, as the Moor streams are small, and soon run down.—ED.]

FISHING IN NORTH WALES.

SIR,—I have seen the query with respect to August flies, but as I shall visit North Wales during August and September, for the first time, I should be pleased to receive a few remarks on locality, &c.

Our kind editor, with his usual courtesy, has answered the question; but is there no other angler who regularly visits North Wales? If so, I would respectfully ask him to reply to the following. The answers will benefit other gentlemen besides myself.

1. What are the chief fishing stations?
2. Best route?
3. Flies or other bait?
4. Is the river Dee a free one; if not, how far is it so?
5. Can both sides be fished?
6. Which are its best tributaries for sport?
7. What bottom-fishing may be had?
8. Best time to angle?
9. Is there a tackle-maker's at Chester who can be applied to?

My head-quarters will be at Chester, but I do not wish to travel further than Corwen or Llangollen. Apologising for occupying so much space, I am, &c.,

H. T. H.

[If H. T. H. gets the information he requires it will certainly be "useful to others," or else we should not feel justified in giving him so much space. Will A. R. I. E. L. kindly answer a few of the questions? We know he can if he will; but anglers, as a rule, are very reticent about telling all the world their favourite haunts, and we do not blame them. However, it is our duty to give as much information as we can, and we advise H. T. H. to get a copy of the "Angler's Diary" (1s. 6d.) published at the Field office. It gives a list of fishing stations in Wales, hotels, &c., and by writing to the hotels named we have always been able to get a general idea of the places we have wished to go to. There is good trout-fishing at Corwen on the Dee, which H. T. H. can get, and we would advise him to write to the postmaster at Wrexham, and ask him to give him the address of a gentleman who resides in or near Wrexham who publishes an Angler's Guide to North Wales, with particulars as to flies, &c. We cannot find our copy at the moment.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR WORCESTER.

SIR,—We are now upon the Severn, two miles below Worcester, where the River Teme empties itself into the longest river in England, its source is Mount Plintimon, in North Wales; in fact, the Severn and Teme both rise from the same mountain, the Severn on the north-east side and the Teme on the west. The mouth of this beautiful river the Teme is a favourite place for large salmon. I have known fish, 40 lb., taken there with the net. We will now proceed up the Teme to the Powick Bridges. We have fords and deeps continually, until we come upon the weir, this is called Lower Teme; and you can fish if in possession of a trout licence—you must have that to fish in any stream in Worcestershire. The tickets to fish the Lower Teme are for the season, 10s. 6d.; one week, 2s. 6d.; one day, 1s. From the bridge all up the river is private water, but you can get leave from the millers and farmers. I will try to explain the way to go about it. The next place is Bransford; there is a station upon the Malvern and Worcester line, five miles from the former and three miles from the latter. The hostess at the Fox will direct you to the fords. The next place handy for strangers, Leigh Court Station, upon the Worcester and Bromyard line, five miles from Worcester. You must take your refreshments with you for this station, as you are at least three miles from an inn, but you can get leave to fish either the Leigh Brook or the Teme off Mr. Essex, of the Court, or book on to Knightwick; there you cross the Teme by bridge to Mr. Brownning, of the Talbot inn, where you can get lodgings, and all that is required for the inner man at moderate terms, with good fishing free. I have taken in one evening, 8½ brace of grayling, eleven fish, weighing 15 oz. each, the best run of fish I have ever caught, though not the best take as to numbers. Any one staying at Malvern can get to this fishing by driving seven miles, or by taking train for Henwick, then book for Knightwick; there are also excellent fords all up to Martley; by asking the farmers, leave is generally given. We will now pass on up to Stanford Bridge; there is again every thing to make an angler comfortable. The inn is alongside the bridge, and the host, Mr. Smith, will be pleased to see a brother angler; he is one, and I know that he will give instructions to any gentleman.

JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Portobello Inn, St. John.

FISHING IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

SIR,—Would you, in your next issue, kindly tell me if you know of any freshwater fishing in the Isle of Wight?—I am, &c.,

H. H. H.

9, Cork Street, London, W.

[About fifteen years ago we had some splendid sport in the Brading river, not far from Ryde—flounders, roach and carp—the river was then literally swarming with fine fish. We believe that since then extensive drainage works have been carried on at the mouth of the river, and we cannot say how this may have affected the fishing; the water is small, but sluggish, and deep in places. There is good trout fishing near Carrisbrook Castle, but it is not open to the public.—ED.]

FISHING AT MAIDSTONE.

DEAR SIR,—I shall feel extremely obliged if you would be so kind as to inform me what fishing there is to be had near Maidstone? what fish I may expect to catch? and lastly the name of some place where I can put up for a week or so.—I am, &c.,

NORTH BRIXTON.

[According to that invaluable little book, the Anglers' Diary, there is but little fishing at Maidstone on the Medway, but excellent sport can be had at Leed's Castle, six miles off, but permission is required; also at Lord Romney's Park at the "Mole."—ED.]

HAVE FISH FEELING?

SIR,—Having seen letters at various times in your columns respecting the above question, I venture to trouble you with a few lines with regard to a case that came under my notice lately. On Monday last, while fishing at Acle with a friend, I caught a small roach by the eye in striking the fish and extracting the

hook I of course entirely destroyed the eye, and was about to put it out of its misery, when it jumped out of my hand into the water.

I still continued angling, when about ten minutes after this, strange to say, I caught the very same fish with the eye still bleeding and hanging out of the socket in rags. It had taken a small branding worm.

I will leave it to wiser heads than mine after this to say whether fish have any feeling or no.—I am, &c.,

ROBT. H. PALMER.

East Anglian Piscatorial Society, Norwich, July 13.

WHAT WILL CLEAN A FISHING PANNIER OR BASKET?

SIR,—What is the best thing to clean a fishing pannier (basket) with? I thought common soda, but was afraid it would injure the osiers.—I am, &c.,

Tadcaster,

H. T. H.

[Wash it well, first in warm soap-suds, then in clean water, and dry in the sun; do not rub soap into it, as it sticks in the osiers; a little soda may be added.—ED.]

INVASION OF ANGLING RIGHTS ON THE LEA.

SIR,—When I wrote my river report to you last week I was late, and to get the letter in time for post I had to be brief respecting the case that was tried at Waltham Police Court on Tuesday, the 5th July, 1881. Mr. Humphrey was asked if there was a right of way, and he said he had known the place for years, and he never heard of one. Now, the fact of the case is this: Mr. Hunt, of Chingford Mill, let the waters to Mr. Wicks; then the waters were let to Mr. Lewes, and after that to a person who gave to Mr. Hunt part of the money he took from the anglers; but since I have been the proprietor of Cook's Ferry he has acted like a gentleman to me, and being in possession of a generous heart, and wishing to be liberal to anglers, has given me in writing the free use of the waters for myself, my servants, and my friends; so therefore I give the most pressing invitation to members of all clubs and others. Mr. Hunt has to pay yearly a due to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who are the rightful owners; and I can state from the lips of Mr. Hunt that he is prepared to give £50 towards the cost if any one doubts his right, and will try the question in any law court; so I say three cheers for Mr. William Hunt, of Chingford Mill. Long may he live to see anglers enjoy their sport, and I am sure all anglers will join with me.—I am, &c.,

S. SEWELL.

Cook's Ferry, Angel Road, Edmonton, July 11.

GENTLES AS A BAIT FOR ROACH.

SIR,—As I perceive you differ from Mr. Fennell as to well-scoured liver gentles being most tempting for roach, and consider these baits cannot be too rank or foul to suit the taste of such fish, it may be as well to state that I have an article cut from the *Field*, written by that gentleman, under the *nom de plume* of "Old Swivel," which served him as a *soubriquet* for many years in that journal. He therein points out the many objections to the unclean gentles. He says, besides their offensive odour, they are too tender to remain on the hook and in a running stream, they are soon reduced to skin alone. On the other hand, the well-scoured gentles are rendered tough and consistent by the process, and if they are attached to the hook, by their blunt end, will remain living in the most seductive state for a comparatively long time. He, however, elsewhere alludes to the attractive nature of the maggots bred in pigs' dung; and, as these, although they may be classed as carrion, do not require any particularly process of cleansing, they may possess advantages not generally known. He further speaks of an artificial gentle which supplies the place of the natural one, or supplements it as a top-dressing, and the description of this and how it is made—not an easy task, however—may be found in his Book of the Roach, but when once made, it will last for years, requiring only to be soaked in warm water before commencing a day's fishing.

C.

[We think, and have always said, that baits cannot be too sweet and clean for roach. The statement is taken, word for word, from the Book of the Roach; and we thought we were quoting Mr. Greville Fennell's opinion as in favour of the use of unscoured gentles.—ED.]

THE NEWARK ANGLERS.

SIR,—I seem to be the subject of a good deal of comment in your valued paper just now, and I hope all your readers will carefully consider the letter I sent to last week's *GAZETTE*. I expected a reply from that Triton among the minnows, Mr. J. Neal. One of the committee told me I might expect one, as the subject was brought up before the Committee of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association. I won't use the words of that member of the committee, or Mr. J. Neal may be very much shocked. He tries to find a blot on my piscatorial escutcheon, and the only one he can find is that I am not a member of an angling society. He denies *in toto* my assertions; and all I can say is that part of my statement in the letter he refers to I can vouch for by personal experience, and my informant for the other is a perfectly trustworthy man.—I am, &c.,

THE TRENT OTTER.

BAIT FOR GREY MULLET.

SIR,—I see in your last issue M. B. Clift inquired for bait to catch grey mullet. I was a long time in the same fix as he is now; I could see them nearly every day at this time of the year playing about the mouth of streams where the fresh water runs into the sea, and sometimes they would be accompanied by sea-birds. On one occasion when I was cleaning a fish in the stream I threw some of its liver to the birds, and I saw the mullet would take it as fast as the birds; accordingly I rigged my rod and line, and many a 4 or 5-pounder I have landed since, and all over 5 lb. would break away. The bait I use is thornback liver, and I can supply any one twice a week with the liver, all fresh, if required, and give instructions how to keep it and how to use it. I always keep a little by me for my own use.—I am, &c.,

10, Broad Street, Ilfracombe.

H. COMER.

A DISCLAIMER.

SIR,—In your issue of the *FISHING GAZETTE*, July 2, you mention having heard of one angler having three tench given to him to present to friends at Sheffield, and he showed two of them, and took a prize. Now, I was at Boston with Edward Cowley, and caught two tench, and brought them to Sheffield, to Mr. Machin, the White Heart, Wicker, and took a prize; but the fish were

honestly caught, and I will be obliged to you, as the incidents are very similar in outline, if you will please publish the affair in your next issue with my name; as I do not want the public to think I am the rogue you refer to in your *GAZETTE*.—I am, &c.,

Sheffield, July 7, 1881.

JOHN FOX.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members went to Amberley on Sunday, returning with some good shows of fish. Mr. R. Smith, bream; Mr. Pieraccini, bream; Mr. T. Bowling, roach and bream; Mr. T. Bating, bream; Mr. D. Davis, bream; Mr. B. Booth, roach.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

July 12, 1881.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 10th:—Mr. J. Chambers, roach and a pretty jack from the Roding; Mr. Castell, bream and perch from Pulborough; and Mr. Perry, bream from the Wey.—CAS.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

A magnificent show of bream was placed on the trays of the above society to-night, to the credit of Mr. Bates (treasurer), viz., five bream weighing 17 lb. 5 oz., the largest fish, weighing 5½ lb., being sent to Mr. Cooper, Radnor Street, St. Luke's, for preservation.—P. D. MANNING, dept. sec.

July 13.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very fair show of fish on Sunday last. From the Wey the following members weighed some fine dace, roach and bream. Mr. C. Warren 2 lb. 3 oz.; H. Watling, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Parkin, 4 lb. 13 oz.; Theobald, 7 lb. 2 oz.; J. K. Fitch, 4 lb.; C. Painter, 6 lb. 13 oz. From Amberley Mr. J. Fitch, 7 lb. 12 oz.; Perkins, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Young, 2 lb. 12 oz.; Smith, 1 lb. 7 oz.; Major, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Butler, 2 lb. 9 oz.; 1 roach 1 lb. 6½ oz.; Walker, 1 lb. 10 oz.; Reynolds, perch; Patman, 4 lb. 12 oz. from Welsh Harp. Total, 52 lb. 1 oz. Mr. Theobald won the two prizes fished for on the first and second Sunday in July. We have a competition at Dagenham Lakes for a large number of prizes on July 24; three superior conveyances will be engaged to convey about sixty, starting from the club house at 11.30. We shall have a few seats to spare; any member of a club can join us by giving in his name not later than Tuesday, July 13.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

July 12, 1881.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The two day's competition for three prizes was won as follows:—Mr. Hobden, 1st; Mr. Thomas Hoole, 2nd; Mr. Hitchcock, 3rd; several others being close up. On the 7th, Mr. Walters had a good show of trout, roach, &c.; Messrs. Hobden and Reynolds had perch, all from private water. On Sunday numerous members journeyed down the South-Western Railway, but only a few arrived in time to weigh-in, owing to the delay of trains through the Windsor Review.—VORTEX.

July 11, 1881.

HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next eastern district visit of angling societies will take place at the Jane Shore, High Street, Shoreditch, on Monday, July 18, 1881, when we hope to have the favour of your company, and as many of your members as can make it convenient to attend.—R. GHURNEY, secretary.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members of the above society were out on the 10th inst., but were not very successful:—Mr. Davis, having roach, bream and perch from the Ouse; Mr. Morley, roach and bream from the Arun; and your humble servant, roach, perch, bream and dace, also from the Ouse. Mr. Bell was out, but could not get anything more than an eel or two. I hope soon to have a good account to render, as the members have made up their minds to have a good bid for success.—G. TREADWELL.

July 12, 1881.

LARKHALL ANGLERS.

Mr. Croutel, having resigned the post of reporter to our society, you will receive all reports, &c., for the present, from myself. There have been no great catches of fish at present, owing, no doubt, to the water being very low and bright, the only exception being Mr. G. Watkins, who had a splendid tray of fish, from Egham, taken in the rough water under the weir; 20 lbs. barbel, together with some nice roach and perch; Mr. Davison, trout, from Tunbridge; E. Watkins, jack and barbel, from Egham; Messrs. G. Penn and F. Boyce, roach and dace, from Datchet; and, Mr. G. Spencer, our esteemed president, some good chub from Weybridge.—W. TUCKER, hon. sec.

P.S.—I enclose you a copy of our new book of rules and prizes.—[Very neat and useful.—ED.]

July 9, 1881.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday evening we had another handsome show of fish. The takes were as under:—Mr. Latch, bream, 33 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Hopton, bream, 16 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Hurwood, roach, 1 lb. 12 oz.; and the following members:—Messrs. Scott, Wightman, Humphreys and Heeles, roach and dace. In addition to the above we had a couple lb. of eels.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

July 13.

MAZEPPA INN ANGLING CLUB, DERBY.

The opening excursion of the season took place on the 2nd inst. Thirty-five members proceeded to Willington, many more friends accompanying them to see the sport. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent; on time being called

by Brother Henry Poyser, every one was ready, and the sight was a really grand one. The weather was all that could be desired for the comfort of all. There were some crack-fishermen in the match, and the catches were very good. Taken altogether, the outing was greatly enjoyed by all, and those present will not soon forget the ramble, some getting lost on the Burton Road; but they were soon brought right again by some members who went to seek for them. The prize takers were:—1st, George Cotton; 2nd, William Bartely; 3rd, John Marcer; 4th, A. Cormack. Councillor George Daykin, presented a beautiful roach-rod to the first winner, with his accustomed liberality, and Mr. Martin, two dozen of bottoms for Nos. 5 and 6.—G. CLARK, hon. sec.

[P.S.—The landlord takes THE FISHING GAZETTE in every week for the convenience of members.—ED.]

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There were again some excellent trays of fish last Sunday. Messrs. Obbard, Long, Saunday, Drew, Gorsuch, jun., bream and roach from Pulborough; Mr. W. Gorsuch, sen., had some splendid dace from the Lea.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

July 12.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Coronation Day, June 28, a few of the members of the above society organised a very enjoyable pic-nic party to Rookesbury Park, the seat of J. Carpentier-Garnier, Esq., M.P., to whose kind permission to fish the two lakes in the park the members are indebted for one of the most successful days of the season. About forty, consisting of the members and their wives, assembled at Mr. Easton's, Golden Fleece Hotel, Commercial Road. Two commodious brakes and a capital team of horses were provided by Mr. Westbrook, of Portsea, while many of the members chose their own mode of conveyance, in the shape of landaus, traps, &c. After two hours' drive through delightful scenery, the party arrived at the park lodge gates, where evident signs of a good reception awaited us, a path having been mowed through the long grass down to the edge of the lake for the ladies. The catering was placed in the hands of Mr. W. Maybourn (well known in this locality), who provided an excellent luncheon and dinner, comprising all the delicacies of the season. Several prizes were competed for by the members, one of the principal events of the day being a silver belt presented by Mr. A. L. Emanuel, of Ordnance Row, Portsea, our ex-president, to be competed for by the nominees of ladies present, and it was eventually won by Mr. Smith, No. 2, and presented to Mrs. Smith by the president in the evening, amid the applause of the ladies. A handsome prize of a gold locket, presented by Mr. E. Hollander, to be competed for by ladies only, was won by Miss Buck, with 4 lb. of carp. The sport was most excellent, the large lake abounding in fine English carp averaging 1 lb. each, one being taken of 3 lb. 2 oz. At four o'clock, the contest being concluded, the members and their wives wended their way to a portion of the park, where, under the shelter of three gigantic oak trees (with which the demesne abounds), Mr. Maybourn and an able staff of assistants had improvised a dining-table, and a welcome spectacle awaited the hungry piscators. A salmon weighing 18 lb. graced the top of the table, and was flanked by the good old English fare, roast beef, turkey, fowls, brawn, salad, &c. After a sharp drive home to the clubhouse, the Golden Fleece, where the members weighed their fish, it was discovered that a very large quantity had been taken, the total weight being 105 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Smith, No. 2, took first prize, Mr. Tranter the second, and Mr. A. L. Emanuel, third honours, while Miss Buck was the successful candidate for the ladies' prize.—W. TRANTER, sec.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the past week some capital sport has been had by our members. On Friday, the 8th inst., Mr. Percy, our chairman, had the fortune to capture a splendid pike, weighing 12 lb. 15 oz., which was duly conveyed to Mr. C. Short, of Marylebone, for preservation. On the 10th inst. Mr. Aston captured some handsome barbel, one fine little fellow weighing 2½ lb., and his father, a regular "old 'un," who, no doubt, had previously cheated many an old angler, and who scaled just over 8½ lb.; Mr. Porter got among the roach, as did several others; but although they had a good number, there were no specimens among them.—F. ROBSON.

July 12th.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition, which took place on July 7, 1881, Mr. Canton won Mr. Dale's £2 2s.; and Mr. Smithers took Mr. King's £1 1s., with fish, from the Thames; Messrs. T. Hughes and G. Lee exhibited jack and roach. Competition on the 10th for £2 2s., given by Mr. R. Mole; and £1 1s. by Mr. Kelly; Mr. Canton won the first-named prize, and Mr. F. Dale succeeded in taking the second. The next competition will take place on the 21st; first prize, £2 2s., given by Mr. Osborne; second, a fly rod, given by Mr. W. Randall. One night this week, Mr. Wheeldon, exhibited an enormous amount of barbel at this society. Some of the gentlemen present on the occasion assured me that they had never such a show of barbel before.—PIXIE.

July 14, 1881.

ROYAL MUSEUM HOTEL ANGLING CLUB (EXETER).

A very large and influential meeting was held at the above hotel on July 12th, the most particular portion of the business being the election of a "referee," which point had remained unsettled from the previous meeting, although a "referee's" name had been proposed and carried unanimously, it was on account of his absence through indisposition it was not settled forthwith. But upon taking the chair for the evening, Mr. Frank Gosden, ex-conservator of the river Exe, was informed amidst general acclamation to have been duly elected to that very important post. Several fresh members were enrolled, and the shows of fish were most startling, that is in this way:—Mr. J. A. Kelly, the tench champion, with a basket of fine perch; Mr. Geo. Lee, of salmon fame, a bag of large eels, 8 lb. weight, and one 2 lb. trout; and Mr. C. Blake, instead of trout, showed eight fine dace and one trout, taken in twenty minutes at Woodford Bridge, in the glare of the midday sun.—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec. pro tem.

July 12, 1881.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON SOCIETY.

On Sunday, July 3rd, only two members weighed-in. Mr. Caborn took a nice perch of 1 lb. 9½ oz., also roach and dace 4 lb. On the same day Chas.

Irwin, sen., had a nice show of bream 7 lb. 8 oz., from the river Wey. Mr. Irwin informed the members of the society that he saw three men netting the river Wey, in the vicinity of Ripley Lock. One of the men was the lock-keeper. At their first haul they had sufficient bream to fill a sack. Mr. Irwin, being single-handed, thought it best not to interfere with these three rough-looking fellows. Something ought to be done with regard to this wholesale slaughter of fish. Our delegate, Will Fowler, will bring this matter forward at the next delegate meeting. On the 10th inst. Mr. Caborn captured a nice little trout of 4 lb. 4 oz., also a smaller one. This makes a brace and a half in three Sundays. He also had roach, dace, and perch, 5 lb. from the river Iwer. Messrs. Rogers and Fowler had roach, dace and chub, 8 lb. 9 oz., from Iwer.—G. CABORN, sec.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

For the information of distant members and friends, I have to say that we are progressing in a very satisfactory manner. We have made nine new members since the opening of the present season, and we have a very good prize-list, donors not being backward in coming forward. As to the takes of fish I must tell another tale, the only take worth recording being by Mr. G. Monk, who set the ball rolling on the opening day of the season, and managed to capture 8 lb. of roach and dace. It has not been for the want of trying, all members trying, and among the number your reporter, who was on the job the first Sunday from daylight till three o'clock in the afternoon, and not a touch. What do you think?—J. GOUBOT.

July 12.

[Why, that if you rake out a bundle of weed from the bottom of the river you will find it full of live animalculæ, and that the fish have more food than they can eat just now.—ED.]

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Messrs. Head, Mitchell, Palmer, and Ewin went, on Sunday, July 10, to Pulborough to compete for an oil painting of Cremorne, the Derby winner. It was won by Mr. Head, who, among other fish, caught a roach weighing 1½ lb., being the third of the same weight since the season began. Mr. Elliss had a nice show of roach from the Rib, and Johnson roach from Woking. I visited Thorney Broad yesterday. Anglers were very scarce there, but fish were equally so.—G. H. FIELD.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 8th inst., the chairman of this society and some of the members visited Rickmansworth, and succeeded in getting some nice dace, the largest turning the scale at 11½ ozs., the smallest going about 5 ozs. There was also a good supply of roach, among which were five, weighing 2 lb. 2½ oz., which, considering the condition of the water higher up the country, were not bad fish. A competition took place on the 13th, and the following is the result:—Mr. Linstead, 14 lb. 14 oz. of bream and rudd, from Yarmouth; Mr. Pugh, from Henley, barbel, chub, roach, dace and perch, the largest of the last-named, weighed 1 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. Beckett, from Windsor, jack, barbel, chub and dace; Mr. Boalch, jack and chub; Mr. Whitby, chub, 2 lb. 7¼ oz., and some roach; Mr. Hayward, dace, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Duck came next, the gross weight of fish exhibited nearly 50 lb. The next competition will take place on August 1, for £2 2s., given by Mr. Wheeldon; a box of cigars, by Mr. Towers; and a volume of THE FISHING GAZETTE by your humble servant.—PIXIE.

July 14, 1881.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A very good show of fish took place on the 10th inst., some of our members meeting with much better sport than hitherto. The result of the competition being as follows:—Mr. Ed. North, 6 lb. 14½ oz. roach and bream; Mr. A. Parrott, 5 lb. 13 oz. roach and dace, also an eel of 1 lb.; Mr. T. Gretton, 4 lb. 6 oz. bream and roach; total, 18 lb. 1¼ oz. I regret to say that our old friend, Mr. E. Morrow, has disabled his left hand, and was unable to compete. The annual dinner took place at the club-house on the 5th inst. Mr. J. King presided. After a most excellent repast, the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony. Messrs. Parrott, North, Brookman, Tye, Webb, Channell, Hutchins, Wilson and Berry contributing to the success of the gathering with songs and recitations. Mr. Thos. Harris officiated at the pianoforte, ably assisted by Mr. H. Morrow. A unanimous vote of thanks was given to the host, his catering being faultless.—THOS. GRETTON, sec.

July 12.

THE WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

The ordinary general monthly meeting was held at the clubhouse on Tuesday evening last, the president in the chair, when several new members were proposed and others balloted for. A pleasant evening was spent. The general remarks as to angling since the opening day seemed to lead to the impression that very little has yet been done. One member (Mr. Chillingworth) reported having had a good catch of perch—about 22 lb.—several scaling 1 lb. each. Two members reported that they had seen netting going on in the Lea, near the Robin Hood Ferry. When will this be put a stop to?—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

About a dozen of our members had a delightful outing on Sunday to fish for a prize given by Mr. Webster. The competition took place at Loddon Bridge, one of the most picturesque spots I have ever seen, and a very fishy-looking bit of water. However, the Fates were unpropitious, the takes being ridiculously small. The winner was Mr. Togwell, with 1 lb. 3 oz. of roach. A dace prize, given by Mrs. Edward Watkins, to be competed for at the same time and place, was not taken. Some of our members went elsewhere, but the takes were very meagre. Mr. Good, jun., and Mr. Roland were the best with 2 lb. 4 oz. each.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

July 12.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The members of this society competed for prizes on the 8th., on this occasion "Father Thames" proved most liberal to those members that visited him nearest "The Great City" (Messrs. Pearson and Boalch, at Richmond), whilst those members that went to Pangbourne (Messrs. Brown and Co.), their great expectations came to grief, and were not realised. The "Figaro" of our

little village and Mr. Howard, jun., travelled as far as Huntingdon, but the Ouse, like most provincial rivers, was not very benevolent to the strangers at first, they, however, managed to get sufficient to induce them to come again. Mr. Fox visited Boxmoor. Here he says, "I caught a net full of roach, but not one that came up to our standard; and, therefore, I returned them to the water again, much to the surprise of the natives that were standing around me." Our old friend, Mr. Evans, also had some fish. The result of the day's outing is as follows:—Mr. Pearson, won Mr. Evans' £2 2s. portrait, and also Mr. Gold's leather tackle case, beating Mr. Boalch, by 2 oz.; Mr. Boalch came second; he takes Mr. Fox's gold scarf pin; Mr. Delehaye followed third, and is entitled to Mr. Green, sen., £1 1s.; Mr. Brown came next, followed by Mr. Howard, jun. The next competition will take place on July 24, 1881, for £1 1s., given by Mr. Piolaine; and 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Irons.—*Pixie*.
July 12, 1881.

ANGLING CLUB SUMMER DINNERS.

The Summer Dinner of the Piscatorial Society will be held at Mr. Deacon's, at the Ray Mead Hotel, Ray Mead, Maidenhead, on Thursday next, July 21, at 5 o'clock. Mr. Joseph G. Andrew in the chair, and Mr. Norman F. Harrison in the vice-chair. The summer dinner of the Friendly Anglers, Hyde Park, will be held at Mrs. Goddard's, the New Inn, Eton, Windsor, on Saturday next, July 23, at six o'clock, sharp.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

FROM Elstree Reservoir good takes are being had, jack and tench being the chief spoil. Mr. Underwood, of the N.W.A.C., has been having some very nice little lots indeed. The Pulborough and Amberley excursions continue to be well patronised. Fancy anglers with their wives, sweethearts, little ones, and friends, to the number of 900, mustering the other Sunday at the station—a two good trains full. Mr. Excell (what a capital name for an angler), of the Battersea Friendly, has had, with the fly, a good take of chub from the Thames. I am pleased to notice that fly-fishing (undoubtedly the prettiest and cleanest style of fishing) is rapidly increasing in favour among London club men.

The Little Independent have had a return visit, and it was well attended. They deserve it, for a better club at visiting there isn't in London. Apropos of club visits, they seem just now almost at a standstill; and it isn't to be wondered at. No jolly angler will be accused of being a sickly, sentimental, squirming, wriggly æsthete, and most of us can draw our tankard of heavy ale, and honest Sir Walter Raleigh, who first introduced the glorious weed, holds a place in our hearts second only to that consecrated to our patron, Sir Isaac Walton. But with the glass standing goodness knows how high, the bare thought of the blazing gas, the smoky atmosphere, and the hot, close-packed piscators is, well—too utter.

Monday, August 1st, being Bank holiday the monthly meeting of East Central Committee will be held on Monday evening, August 8th.

From Mr. Ghurney, *re* the Anglers' Benevolent Society, a report comes to hand that there is a marked improvement, and that a greater number of members have joined since the 1st of May than in the corresponding period of last year. This is good news, but still not enough, and the committee must keep pegging away until every club angler in London is a member of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

A new society has been started in the City—the Caxtonians, the Falcon, Gough Square—which, by the time this is in print, will have been enrolled on the West Central Association's books. I have been favoured with a copy of the book of rules, which appear excellent; one I could not help noticing particularly, viz., prizes to be given for specimen fish only.

To those members of the West and East Central Association who may feel annoyed at the anonymous letters which have appeared during the last few weeks, misquoting the sayings and misrepresenting the intentions of the trusted and generally respected chiefs of both these bodies, I would repeat the words of Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the respected president of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, at the recent anniversary dinner of that society:—"And now I should like to say a few words about a work which has been done during the past few weeks—not by our society, but by others—and which I look upon as one of the greatest and best efforts ever made to improve the prosperity of angling, and I shall be much mistaken if the fruits of this work do not live to be a benefit to our children and to those who come after them."

On Tuesday, July 12, a deputation composed of Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, president of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, P. Geen, president, and L. Bonvoisin, chairman of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, R. Ghurney, secretary of the United London Anglers Central Committee, and F. Clench, president of the Richmond Piscatorials, waited by appointment upon Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart., M.P., at his residence, 9, St. James Square, to lay before him the views of the London and Provincial Anglers, expressed at the recent meeting of the Society of Arts, with respect to the Salmon Consolidated Acts introduced by himself and Mr. Dodds—so far at least as that Act related to coarse fish or would limit the liberties at present enjoyed by coarse fish anglers.

The resolutions passed at the Society of Arts meeting were laid before Sir Joseph, and carefully explained to him, but the one request, repeated again and again and again, was: "Please leave us out of your Salmon Act altogether—leave us out in the cold; we will look after ourselves, and strain every nerve to get such a measure passed for the protection of our despised scaly ones, as will satisfy 99 out of every 100 anglers in England."

Sir Joseph, in reply, assured the deputation that it had never been his intention to interfere with coarse fish anglers—he represented a

district where, fortunately, coarse fish were almost unknown—but he had been compelled as it were to take the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878 into his Consolidating Act, as it treated principally of trout and bass, but a very small portion indeed being devoted to coarse fish. Moreover, it was therein (Mundella Act) distinctly stated "that that so far as consistent with the tenour thereof, it should be read as one with the Salmon Act, etc." (vide Bill). Now he, Sir Joseph, was quite of the opinion expressed by the deputation that the interest of salmon and coarse fish are so distinct and opposite that they cannot be legislated for in the same Act; adding in conclusion: "I have had to abandon my Bill for this session, it having met with much opposition both from the upper proprietors and the present Government, but in any future action I may take I will carefully consider what you have stated. You would, however, be materially furthering your own interests and clearing my way if the amendments you have laid before me were carried into law, not in the form of an amendment to the Freshwater Fisheries Act of 1878, but as an entirely new Act—repealing at the same time the old Act—taking care, however, to embody in the new measure those few portions of the original Mundella Act relating to coarse fish, of which you appear to approve, and I shall be pleased at any time to be of service to you in any way I can." The deputation then thanked Sir Joseph Bailey and withdrew.

From the Welsh Harp fish continue to be had. Mr. Stead, N.W.A.C., on Thursday had a nice jack—1 jack, 5 lb. 8 oz.; 1 carp, 4 lb. 1 oz.; and bream, 9 lb. 14½ oz. (heaviest 3 lb. 12½ oz.) Messrs. Plumpton, junior and senior, and North from private water, weighed in over 40 lb. tench; Mr. Smarth, of the N.W., is also credited with 15 lb. good bream from the Welsh Harp; Mr. Bonvoisin being credited with 3½ dozen of fine dace from Richmond, which, however, he was too late to weigh in.

I had the pleasure one day this week of seeing the splendid trout caught by Mr. Harry Brookwell in the River Lea. It has been capitably preserved, and will form a splendid addition to his grand collection. The fish weighed 12 lb. 14 oz. I believe, up till now, it is the champion of the season, from our metropolitan waters at least. Will it remain so, or yet be beaten by a Goliath from old Father Thames?

Re rod-fishing all the year round, speaking of the 2000 lb. of fish weighed in during last season by members of the North-Western Angling Club, Mr. Keene is reminded by our editor that supposing the club is 50 members strong, it only gives an average of 40 lb. of fish per man. Very good, Mr. Editor; now let's go a bit further. 2000 lb. is a good deal above the average weight of other London societies, which, for practical purposes, may be put down as 15 lb. 12 oz., or 13 cwt. 2 qr. 0 lb. I allow 12 lb. for fish brought into the club room but not weighed, on account of being under regulation size. Now, by multiplying 13 cwt. 2 qr. by 150, the number of London clubs, we shall arrive at the enormous weight of 101 tons 5 cwt. There can be no doubt that the weight of fish annually killed by persons residing in the metropolis, and unconnected with any angling club, is at least considerably more than double that killed by the, in most instances, poorer clubmen, whose opportunities for angling are in many instances few and far between. If these figures are allowed, (and I feel sure they are rather under than over the mark), we shall have the enormous total of 303 tons 15 cwt. of fish annually killed by Londoners alone, almost entirely from a few rivers in the comparatively near vicinity of London. Such figures speak eloquently for themselves, and I think will induce all thinking men to agree with me that there arrives a time when the heavy spawn-laden fish's life becomes too valuable to be sacrificed to the selfishness of the small number who consider a few hours' amusement of greater moment than permanent interests of thousands, who, thank goodness, hold opinions better worthy of sportsmen and disciples of Honest Isaac Walton.

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

THE angling season may now be said to have fairly commenced, thanks to the fine weather we have had of late having helped the "finny tribe" in their work of nature, and we are now having dishes of fish shown in very fair condition. The anglers here hope that the proposed amendments to the Freshwater Fisheries Act will be carried out as soon as possible, so as to become law for next season. The matches fished during the month of June clearly showed the necessity of extending the close time, the greater portion of fish shown being full of spawn, and anglers, being aware of this, will not enter in these early matches, which accounts for their failure.

On Monday last, July 4th, Messrs. Siddell and Sowater gave £20 to be fished for in Wath Canal. There were 254 competitors, and, as usual at this time of the year, very little fish were taken—Mr. Fieldsend winning the first prize of £6 with 8½ oz.

The New Inn Angling Club, held at Mr. Geo. Turner's, had their annual outing also on Monday, at Crowle Wharf, about eighty members and friends going down. The takes of fish were not large, but running very close together, the first four being respectively 1 lb 6 oz., 1 lb. 1½ oz., 1 lb. 1 oz., and 1 lb. 1½ oz.

At the Suffolk Club, Mr. A. Crofts showed a very nice dish of roach in very good condition, weighing above 12 lb.; Mr. Tomlinson, a dish of jack; several other fair catches were also shown.

At the Cup Inn Club, Mr. Morton Littlewood showed a dish of dace from Laneham—the best I have seen for a long time. The number of fish was fifteen, and weighing about 8 oz. to 11 oz. each. Bream and roach were also shown by the various members, one bream completely bursting with spawn.

Mr. Charles Fry had a splendid show of bream from Dunham-on-

Trent—twenty-two fish, weighing 60 lb., all in good condition, and clearly showing that river fish are at least three weeks in advance of canal fish.

The Napoleon Angling Club held at Mrs. Swift's, Green Lane, fished their annual match on Monday last at Saxilby, 90 members and friends going down, they had a very fair catch considering their fishing in a blazing midday sun, and the heaviest weight nearly 2 lb was taken by a cool customer, Mr. G. Winter, the third and fifth prize falling respectively to H. Frost and T. Frost.

Mr. James Dixon's club, the Crown and Anchor, competed for their annual prizes at Lincoln on Monday last, about 50 of them taking part in the competition.

The Trent is just now in splendid condition, water both low and fine, but by all accounts the barbel have not yet commenced biting, several parties having baited for them with no result.

The Witham also in good condition, but the stream being more sluggish, the fish are not in as "good form" as the Trent fish.

There has been a great complaint made from Boston about the very unfair manner of taking a large quantity of good tench when spawning in the weeds, by men calling themselves anglers taking them with their landing nets. It is time such abominable practices were put a stop to. It is a great pity that such pot-hunting scoundrels were not seized by the water bailiff, and thrown into the water they were despoiling. Would not the proposed amendments to the Freshwater Fisheries Act meet such cases as this?—RED SPINNER.

P.S.—I was very glad to see the second reading of Sir Joseph Bailey's Bill was discharged on Monday last.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1881

SPINNING FOR TROUT.

By W. J. BULLOCK.

SPINNING the natural minnow is not only one of the most certain methods of securing a good basket of trout, but also one of the most difficult of all the arts of angling to thoroughly master. When good sport is practicable with

the fly, then that truly elegant style of fishing beats all others ; but how often is it that the low fine water, bright sky, and hot days of June or July, makes fly-fishing totally unprofitable as regards the creel and sport. It is just under such circumstances as these, that the scientific troller comes to the rescue, finds good sport for himself and good speckled trout for his friends. That there is a vast amount of uncertainty of sport for the angler with the artificial fly, be he ever so clever, is too well known to all experienced anglers. That fishing with minnow just supplies this deficiency and gives good sport, will not be doubted by any but those whose opportunities or angling abilities have debarred them from a trial. It is far wiser to be able to control circumstances, than let circumstances control you. This idea led me to make minnow fishing a study for the last thirty years, with a result that in nine times out of ten I am the master of angling circumstances and not the finny tribe. The qualifications required to be a high class angler with the natural minnow—and the same applies to the use of all the artificial baits (except baiting)—are : I.—Baiting or putting on the minnow so that it shall spin well. II.—The ability to pitch the bait at least ten yards and with wrist action to drop it gently into the water so as not to disturb the feeding trout. III.—A thorough knowledge of the likely feeding places of trout, in any stream, for the same principles applying to all streams where trout do most congregate. IV.—The use of the finest gut, swivels and hooks for the trace possible, compatible with strength to kill the largest fish. V.—The knowledge and nerve to draw the spinning bait at the exact speed through the water and when a fish is seen to run never to increase or slacken that speed. VI.—To know how to fish a stream without being seen by the feeding fish, or for any shadow of yourself or rod to have a similar effect. VII. To have an ability to pitch your minnow into curls, under the bushes, and the very many difficult spots where all the big trout select for their quarters and feeding ground. The angler who is a thorough master of these seven characteristics, can write himself down an M.A. of the trolling art. I very much doubt if my numerous readers of former articles in the FISHING GAZETTE did not find baiting the most difficult point of all, and the most perfect verbal or written description will, without personal explanation and actual example, I fear, in most cases lead to failure. One hour of practical instruction on a river will teach more than columns of written theory. As my description of baiting appeared in the FISHING GAZETTE on August 8th, 1879. I will not repeat it now. The use of one of the many excellent substitutes for natural minnows, the artificial baits, answers every purpose for practising the trolling art, and every angler should have one or two in his book to fall back upon when minnows run short; but, long and wide experience in hundreds of rivers in Europe and America, has convinced me that it is far easier to kill ten brace with the real minnow than three brace with the best artificial bait yet made or invented. In certain brooklets, where the water is rapid and trout are small and fed well, no doubt a cleverly fished artificial will be nearly as effective as the natural bait, but in larger streams where trout are more difficult to get at, I find there is no comparison between the two plans. Next in importance to having a good spinning-minnow on your trace, is the power to pitch it to the exact spot, where a good judge thinks his trout lies feeding. Your rod should be light, rather stiff, and about sixteen feet long. The line should be about two feet shorter than the rod, and the bait is propelled by an under hand pitch, with a peculiar wrist action, and never thrown over hand. Just as the bait gets near the water the hand through the wrist, must make a slight sudden drop, which causes the bait to rather glide than flop into the water. It should be allowed about a second to sink, then drawn down hill or across the stream at one uniform speed, for any increase or diminution in the drawing rate when a fish runs will, in nine times out of ten, cause master trout to stop running. With the natural minnow I never make a halt and start again ; but, when using the artificial minnow, it is often advisable to do so, as trout are not so dashing at this, and will not run so far as they will after the real article. It is also very advisable when trolling for salmon with colley (loach) or minnow to make short stops and start again, as salmon never dash and follow like the trout will, but rather take the bait with a grab as it passes near them. The drawing pace, too, for salmon is several degrees slower than when trolling for trout alone. If a minnow is drawn too slowly a trout will hardly look at it, not so the salmon or pike. In trolling you never need fish the same water twice, and about four pitches is enough to fish an average-sized stream. The part of the stream nearest you should invariably be fished first, then the centre, third the farthest side, and lastly the curls or covered spots most difficult to get at. The lower the level the angler can keep the better will he hide himself from observation, and by wading up stream, an angler can get closer to a feeding trout unseen than from any other position. I have seen a trout not three yards above me in a stream feeding freely, and by pitching the bait about a yard

above him have killed him close to where I stood, for, once a fish makes a start to run, he seems to lose all fear of consequences. In June and July, unless the day be dull or showery, the times for the minnow are early in the morning and from 6.30 to dusk in the evening. Trout, after a hot day, leave the deep water and get out in the shallows and into the streams, and will travel from 50 to 100 yards to a good feeding place, so that places then must be fished, that at other times are always drawn blank. No matter how low or clear the water is, a good troller who keeps well out of sight, will kill fish when the sun has gone down, if his minnow spins properly in what streams there are. As a rule, drawing against the stream is to be avoided, except in such cases where trees or other impediments compel you to do so. It is ten times as easy to induce a fish to rush down stream, or across from his lair than to run him up hill. The proper plan is to pitch the bait above the spot, and draw it close enough, in passing his feeding spot, to be seen. Where this cannot be accomplished of course you must pitch it to where he lies, and draw up stream; but it is in this case that your skill will tell, in gliding the bait into the water, as any flopping will frighten him off his feed. The knowledge, when glancing on a stream, where trout will select for their feeding ground for all kinds of angling, is of the highest importance, but more so in trolling than any other, as this knowledge tells you exactly where you should spin the bait, and how you should pitch it, and afterwards draw it, and the exact position you yourself should occupy. The biggest trout do not as a rule feed in open streams, but rather in some quiet secluded curl near a good hold, or under a shelving bank under which he can hide himself, or at the head of some stub, or trees in the water, or under some bushes where the water comes round. When large fish are killed on the open stream, it is a sure sign that they are well on the feed. Small $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. trout are found chiefly in the slack waters by the side of a stream, and in the open places; or if there is a stake or other impediment to break the water in a stream, that spot is sure to hold a feeding trout. When water is very clear and low it is far wiser to run the risk of being broken by a big fish through using the finest made traces, than frighten your fish away by coarse gut and hooks. When the water is full and slightly discoloured, this precaution is not so necessary, in fact, trout will take the minnow more freely in a stained water, either before a rise or when falling, than at any other time. The artificial bait then, too, I have found to be more effective than in clear water. Trout very often, when caught, vomit or force the minnow off the hook up on to the gut. With care the minnow can be again placed in its proper position without being destroyed, but unless it spins well, cast it off and put on a fresh one. The medium-sized minnows are the best, and large ones the worst, though when a large bait spins well it need not be wasted. In my experience, all the very big fish have been caught with the middle-sized minnow, which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. When the baits are full of spawn, this should be pressed out, after baiting, as, then, they spin more naturally. The dark-backed and white-bellied minnows are far the best, and the stream-pink or red-finned ones the worst. I have now in my house a wonderful example of the longevity of some minnows kept in confinement. When grayling fishing in November, 1878, I left my bait can, with some dozen minnows, in the water, where they remained until the spring of 1879, when I found them still alive. These I brought to London, and put them into a glass globe, about one foot in diameter, with a small hole of 2 inches wide at the top. The water has been changed about every two days, and a few flies, bread-crumbs, and bits of meat have been their food. Three of these minnows are now alive and healthy, and when a fly is dropped into the globe they all dash at it and look for more. Formerly they numbered a dozen, but several were used for baits, two or three died, but three still survive. All there is in the globe are a few shells and gravel pebbles, and for such delicate little fish to live so long in the London water, as supplied to my residence, is no small compliment to its purity. As I am now resident in London, if any piscators who received my traces will bring a few minnows or make an appointment by letter, I shall only be too happy to give them the true method of baiting and making the minnow spin, so that few trout can resist its tempting fascinations.

20, Colville Square, W.

RIVER AND SEA FISHING IN SOUTH DEVONSHIRE.

IF any of our readers require any information about the fishing in Devonshire, we can advise them to send to Mr. Hearder, of 195, Union Street, Plymouth, for his Guide to the Sea and River Fishing. The rivers described are the Plym, Yealm, Tavy, Walkham, Nottar and Inney, Erme, Avon, Dart, Teign, Slapton Lea, &c. It is a most useful guide and catalogue in one.

FISHERIES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Council of this association was held on Wednesday, the 13th of July. His Grace the Duke of Northumberland in the chair. It was called mainly to consider the question of the "Fish Supply of London," and how the association could best assist the present movement to remedy the great defects of that supply—namely, its inadequacy, defective distribution, and excessive dearth.

After considering the subject, the meeting, while most cordially approving of the steps that were being taken to remedy so crying an evil, as under its existing conditions the London Fish Supply undoubtedly was were of opinion that until some definite proposal for redressing the evil was before the public, it was better for the association to defer taking any action in the matter, but that when the period arrived at which the association could usefully aid the movement, the council thought it certainly ought to do so.

Mr. James H. Crossman, who was present, on the invitation of the council, at the discussion, kindly engaged in his capacity of a member of the Fishmongers' Company to bring before the court of that company anything connected with the question which the council might wish to have brought before it, and also generally when opportunity offered, to aid the movement in any way he could.

The meeting considered the short Bill of Mr. Stuart Wortley and Mr. Dodds "to amend the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878," now before the House of Commons, and there was no particular objection to the proposed amendment, which was one to permit fishing for freshwater fish with rod and line during the close time (15th March to 15th June).

The "Rivers Conservancy and Floods Prevention Bill" was then considered, when, finding that the Select Committee had expunged from the Bill Clause A, which empowered Conservancy Boards to enforce the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876, the council thought that though, for various reasons, it was very unlikely the Bill could be proceeded with this session, still some effort should be made not only to get the clause re-inserted, but that certain words should be added to it, to enable the boards to enforce the Pollution Act without the necessity of first obtaining the consent of the Local Government Board.

Mr. Birkbeck, M.P. for North Norfolk, who was present, thereupon undertook to see that a notice was placed on the notice paper of the House of Commons of the amendment desired.

The meeting expressed its satisfaction at finding that while the Bill was in the House of Lords, the vice-president of the association, Lord Abinger, had succeeded in procuring the insertion of a clause (clause 52), providing that no dam or weir shall be constructed in any salmon river without a proper pass for salmon, in accordance with the Salmon Acts, 1861 to 1876.

It was stated at the meeting that the Bill "to consolidate and amend the Salmon and Freshwater Fishery Laws of England and Wales" had been withdrawn. The meeting also heard, with pleasure, that as one result of their inquiry into the disturbances of last winter in the district of the Upper Wye, the Inspectors of Fisheries had reported decidedly against any legalisation of the capture of samlets or the shearing of salmon.

After some merely formal business, the proceedings then terminated.

HINTS TO WANDERING ANGLERS.

By J. P. WHEELDON.

IT is more than likely, that when the present cool and temperate weather (I am writing just after the first great thunderstorm of the swiftly passing summer) has had a spell of its own sufficient to make us all long for its further continuance, it will be succeeded by a second edition of the scorching tropical heat through which we have just managed to exist, most of us panting, and some few weary nigh to death of the glorious beauty of the sun. Then shall we have the rivers low again, and bright as crystal, while fish want an infinity of skill in even approaching, and an almost superhuman exhibition of craft before they can be deluded into nibbling at a hook, be it ever so daintily concealed, with snow white pellet of paste, or luscious yellow bunch of wriggling twisting gentles. In July and the early part of August many toilers cease for a while their constant labour. The ever-thinking, ever-reflecting, many times aching brain, is at rest, the hands lie idle, and many weary plodders in the rank and file of life, —an honourable battalion—taste once again the sweets of genuine idleness. It is only the constant worker, the everlastingly busy bee, who can really appreciatively enjoy thoroughly idle hours. Some tramp, off with a knapsack girded over their shoulders, stout stick in hand, to "do a mountain." Let them "do" it, I'll none of it, rely upon't. Others take long walking tours, for the express purpose of being able to tell Tommy Tiddler, when they get back to "the office" that they have "reeled off" so many hundreds during the fortnight. Well, that is another species of amusement that I am not partial to. Dreaming by the sad sea waves is very nice dreaming, and particularly if one's mind is "set fair," at that ridiculously impressionable

period of one's life when one swears by one's mistress' eyebrows, when bloaters and mutton chops seem repulsive, and one feels equal to slaying one's own grandmother if a suggestion is made that the loved idol is anything short of an immortal goddess, condescending for one's own special behoof and gratification to walk the earth an ordinary human being. With none of these have I anything to do, or a single thought in common. My hints, such as they are worth, are addressed to my fellow craftsmen, and such of them as have been day dreaming for months, as I have done in days gone by, over their dusty musty ledgers, or among the clang and clash of hurrying wheels and ponderous machinery. Thinking, aye, of terrible battles with the finny tribe, perilous encounters, full of strange chance and marvellous incident, and which, as a rule, never—well, hardly ever—come off. I propose, therefore, good readers, with your kindly consent, to drop a hint or two, possibly serviceable, possibly not, *in re* two of the most popular forms of amusement and recreation known to the London angler or to most of those living in large towns. I boldly proclaim, at the risk of being Boycotted or suffering some other direful fate, that roach fishing is the prettiest and most skilful angling in the whole category of sport, while barbell—ah, barbell—is the grandest, the most exhilarating fun in the world. Always supposing you can get 'em on. In that lies the whole secret. If you can, you can snap your fingers at all the expensive luxuries that go to sum up a man's happiness; if you cannot, you can but go home and try to find relief for your disappointment in tea and skittles.

What trout fishing, with all its subtleties, is to the wealthy, so roach angling from the bank, with all its patient *finesse* and delicate attention to the matter in hand, is to the humbler, yet not a whit less true and honest, disciple of the art, the poor artisan or clerk. What salmon fishing is to the noble owner of a Scottish or Norwegian river, what mahseer killing to the wealthy Indian nabob—with his tribe of attendants, fan wielders, hookah bearers and slaves cunning in the mystery of making cooling iced drinks, punkah cooled tents, and an elephant to take him home to tiffin—so is a punt on a lovely Thames reach, with an attendant in the shape of an old fellow with bared arms, the veins and sinews standing out like whipcord, his head covered with a battered straw hat, a gallon of beer in a stone bottle, a long landing net, and a sack of Nottingham lobs, a tub of clay, and a jolly litter of moss and chopped worms, to the man who can screw a sovereign or two together and treat himself to a day or two's barbell.

The mischief is that but few of those who have only a spare day at command at long intervals really know where to go to or what to do to ensure a fish or two when the long-looked-forward-to holiday does come to hand. Thus I offer a suggestion or two; and premising that it is more than likely we may have a repetition of the late sweltering weather, when ordinary well known styles of angling for roach and barbel are next door neighbour to being absolutely useless. I start with a few notions out of the common every-day track. First, as to roach, where to go and what to do. The Lea, beyond all doubt, is one of the best, if not the very best, rivers near London for roach fishing. It has one drawback, however, and that is that it is constantly fished day after day by the very best roach fishers in existence, and as they do not always "score," it is fair to assume that the fish are getting remarkably well educated and up to snuff, or gentles, as the case may be, and a little "too too" on the score of artfulness. St. Margaret's, the Rye House waters, teeming with fish and ancient local associations; Broxbourne, with its acres of loveliest roses; "Cook's," higher up; and that most charming of all the Lea waters, "Ford's," accessible from Park Station, on the Great Eastern Railway, are all favourite roach waters. In a short paper like this it is impossible to enumerate the various "swims," nor would I advise the pick of a well-known and hence much fished sitting, when scores of others may be found that might turn out "very good goods indeed." At Ford's water, as I recollect it, some few years ago, there are some perfectly charming corners, where, on a scorching hot day, a few fish, and generally good ones, may be picked up "dapping" with a grasshopper, a bright yellow cowdung, or a bluebottle. During the heat of summer roach are always in the weeds and the margin of thick tangled beds of them, or the open bits between the pads of water lilies are good and likely places. Use a long light rod, a stout bit of silk "topping," and a fine round gut bottom. Not too big a hook, nor too thick in the wire, and put your bluebottle or grasshopper on "as an you loved him." Keep well out of sight, that is a *sine qua non*. Do not walk straight up to a likely looking spot, and peer over the bank to see if you can spot any basking fish. Rather creep up on your hands and knees, and poking out your rod slowly and carefully, drop your baited hook, light as a bit of thistle down, in and among the open spots, and let your fly or hopper "biz," and make little rings upon the surface of the water. If there are any big roach there, mark me it will not be long before they rise slowly, and after swimming cautiously round and round the baited hook, appetite at last gets the better of reflection, and they do the deed entirely.

Swiftly moving water, or "runs," between banks of weeds are also wonderfully likely places. Here, if the fish are not amenable to good yellow gentles, or sweet clean paste, generally as good baits as can be found, I would strongly advise a trial of the freshwater shrimp. In hot weather they swarm in the shallows, and can be easily caught with a small gauze net. In fishing with this tender bait use a fine wire hook of small size, run the hook point in at the shoulder of one shrimp and draw up the shank. Then take another, as lively a specimen as you can pick, and just "nick" him through the tail, letting the point of the hook come out on the upper side.

Another curious bait, and by no means a popular one either, is *Conferva rivularis*, "crow silk" or "flannel weed," and found

nearly everywhere in the heat of summer. It may be seen adhering to old piles, stones, sluice gates, and large boulders under water, and from its fine silky appearance is unmistakable. Numbers of anglers entirely ridicule this notion of killing roach, asserting that it is preposterous in the extreme to imagine that when the fish have an unlimited supply close at hand, they are likely to take one's bait. I confess there is a good show of reason in the argument, yet how is it, that when baiting, say with carrion gentles, and throwing in many thousands of the wriggling vermin fish instantly, if upon the feed, annex the bait offered them, and many cases when it is not "scoured," but is in precisely similar condition to those already thrown in. One thing is absolutely certain, and that is that many grand bags of roach have been made by the use of this very weed, well washed and freed from impurities, and then simply strung or wrapped round the shank and bend of an ordinary hook.

Again, edible shrimps, and particularly the pink ones, are famous baits for big roach. They should, of course, be used upon ledger tackle of a very fine character. Always peel them clean of any external skin or shell, and put the hook carefully in, so that the bend of it corresponds very much with the bend or shape of the bait itself. Give a fish plenty of time with the bait. He will usually nibble a long time, but when he pulls at the top joint do thou likewise, but t'other way about.

Roch are, of course, found in nearly every yard of Thames waters, but it is a river nevertheless that I cannot conscientiously recommend to the bank fisher. As a rule the catches from the bank run very small, save, it may be, in the winter time. The reason is obvious at once. Nine out of every ten anglers who fish the Thames regularly do so from a punt. Hence the fish are kept constantly hanging about baited swims, and the best of them fall to him who happens fortunately to catch them in a taking mood. Of all places I know of, commend me to Goring, Mapledurham, Streetly, and Windsor, on the Thames; but for a regular paradise for the roach-fisher let me whisper of the Hampshire Avon. There the fishing is literally marvellous, both for size and number, and I have little hesitation in saying that an "artist" could fill his basket with thumpers every day in the week.

Now, *re* barbell. I am quite prepared to find, although I have just had a most wonderful day on the Thames myself, that the present season will be a bad one for this king of all the game fighting fish of the river. The water is so low that there is little, if any, stream in their usual haunts. I am much inclined, therefore, to think that, when it is possible for them to do so, they will head up to the weirs, so as to get the best chance of a mouthful of aerated water. Half the failures in barbel fishing, however, may be traced to three separate causes. In the first place, a good many anglers—simple-hearted, unsuspecting men as they are—leave "baiting a swim" to their puntmen. Well, that, rely upon it, in nine cases out of ten, is a hideous error. I am not prepared to say that *all* would neglect their customers' interests, but I know that a good many would, and laugh in their sleeve into the bargain. Then, say I, do as I do, and bait for yourself. A second fruitful source of disappointment arises from the fact that in scores of cases not one-half the quantity of worms, nay, nor a quarter, necessary for properly baiting a big swim are ever used. From ten to twelve quarts are positively not one too many; but after this quantity the fish should be given at least twenty-four hours' rest, and let not another worm be thrown in in the interval between baiting and fishing. Then, again, there are numbers who bait at night—sometimes the very last thing, too—and fish in the morning. How is it possible, under such circumstances, that one can expect fish to feed? To my mind, it appears like feeding a bilious alderman or common councillor on a tremendous dose of real turtle and green fat one hour, and offering him a dish of fat pork chops swimming in grease the next. Some one may say at this point, Well, I know an alderman or two that would "come on the feed" directly. In answer, I would suggest that although they might do so, barbel wouldn't. In barbel fishing the first thing necessary is a heavy baiting done under your own nose; the second, plenty of time given to the fish before angling; and the third is a pick of a likely locality and a suitable place.

To point out a special place upon the Thames is not an easy matter. Barbel are here, there, and everywhere; but certainly Shepperton, Penton Hook and Laleham, Old Windsor weir, and the old river, Windsor itself, and Boveney, Monkey Island, and higher up, Sonning and Mapledurham are splendid "shops." At the present time, I should strongly recommend weir fishing, for the reasons given earlier. If it be possible to find a deep back run, swift and characteristic of running straight up to the head of the weir fall, and it is found also possible to get a ledger lead to lie there, bait such a place well, and I do not think it will be found to have been labour in vain. On the other hand, if there is no weir close to the scene of your pleasant holiday, find out the swiftest and deepest run close under marly shelving banks. In any event, I wish you success right heartily.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROOKS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

SCENTED BAIT.—HAVE FISH FEELING?—THE
MILLER'S THUMB.

IT would be a source of great interest if somebody would try the various recipes given by early writers on fishing for scented pastes, and report thereon. Oppian speaks of

"A paste in luscious wine the captor steeps,
Mixed with the balmy tears that Myrrha weeps."

Pliny talks of a vegetable gentle termed "the earth's poison" (of the *cyclamen* family), used by the Campanian fulemen. Another later writer gives assafoetida, oil of polybody, of the oak, oil of ivy, and oil of bete, mixed into a paste—a delightful mixture truly. What shall be said, however, of the prescription left by Mons. Charas, which consists of man's fat, cat's fat, mummy finely powdered, cummin seed, distilled oil of spike and aniseed, civet and camphire? Even the powdered bones of a dead man's skull are recommended as a flavouring for worms, as well as oil of whelps or puppies, and fat from a heron's leg.

* * * * *

Do fish become insensible or delirious when out of the water? I fancy some do, but it is a ticklish question. Mr. F. Mather (U.S. Fish Commission) writes me about the blue fish of America, that they are fearfully spiteful when detached from the hook, and only second in ferocity to the shark, snapping at anything within reach. The eel, of all freshwater fish, seems to invariably retain its faculties when out of its element, and the conger is notably fierce and determined in its resistance after capture.

* * * * *

Have fish feeling? asks Mr. Palmer, and instances his taking a roach after its eye had been accidentally torn from its socket. Before replying to his question, I may say that Mr. H. C. Pennell (author of the "Modern Practical Angler," &c.), once caught a perch with its own eye, and an exactly similar event happened to me; moreover (as detailed in my "Practical Fisherman," page 25), I once cut out the eye of a tame carp—which certainly, however, was hanging by a slight portion of nerve or integument—and the same fish, minus the eye, responded to the call of its keeper to be fed at its normal time.

Now, as to the question—perhaps he will forgive me if I quote from my book aforesaid, supposing of course that he refers to the pain caused by ordinary capture. Of the pike, after quoting instances, I say—

In any case, it amounts to a certainty that the struggling fish on ordinary tackle does not suffer the excruciating agony which is supposed to accrue from the anticipation of capture. The foreknowledge of death is denied man, unless he can gather it from his surroundings, or it is communicated by speech—it is never intuitive. The hooked fish can certainly not reason from cause to effect. It seizes a bait; pain of a slightly discomfiting nature warns it of something being abnormal, and it appreciates at once that its movements are not absolutely free. But I conceive that this resistance only heightens the enjoyment of its capture of the bait, which, were it not for the sense of physical discomfort imparted by the presence of the hook to the fish, would be unalloyed whilst it lasted. The hunting spirit is inherently a pleasure in all animals of prey—the pleasure of satisfying hunger—which having been enhanced by its exercise, is its crowning joy. The struggle is not painful, but must be pleasurable, for it is merely an exercise of muscular power, and the exercise of power of any kind is, up to limits dictated by the organism, a pleasure. In man the intelligence, which in some cases foresees a failure to get the object aimed at, becomes helpless in the strife, and then the strife becomes pain. With the athlete, racing, walking, jumping, or wrestling, the *finis coronat opus* is before him. Take away the crowning hope, and the struggle is slavery; and slavery is, to a fine intelligence witnessing the extent of the failure, excruciating torture. Suppose, however, the crown possible of being won, then contest is a natural pleasure, which shows itself throughout animate creation. Thus it is with hooked fish. We have seen that the pliant rod and fine steel hook can cause but little inconvenience—in fact, it simply stimulates the zest in the antagonism at work. The fish, especially pike, with a minimum of nerve material, anticipates no untoward ending and, until its vital force is exhausted, it is not discommoded, and even then its condition seems to me to be more that of a wearied contestant than that of a combatant hopelessly struggling against superior force, yet tortured with a full sight of his inevitable doom. Indeed, I am inclined to the belief that, as the pain of the hook wound is almost nil, the pike enjoys the fight, *per se*, recognising nothing behind or before, above or below, the combat.

The whole fallacy which condemns fishing as cruel consists in

an ignorance of the vast distinction and difference between fish and some other objects of sport.

* * * * *

The derivation of the name of *Cottus Gobio*—Miller's Thumb—is not generally known. Yarrell indicates that it is derived from the fact that the thumb of a miller (being, of course, the most sensitive of all fingers in every case) so frequently employed in the estimation, by feeling, of the quality of the meal, is rendered broader at its extremity, hence its similarity to the chestnut shaped nail and end of the thumb of a practical miller. As an addendum, I may add that there is no doubt but that almost every mill-stream in the kingdom possesses this fish. "Bullhead," its other *nom de plume*, declares itself. Mr. Manley gives a string of verbs showing the obvious derivation: bull-trout, bull-beggor, bull-briar, Bullier, bull-dog, bull-fice, bull-finch, bull-frog; all of which verbs have reference to a real or fancied preponderance of "head and front" development.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE

A NEW FRESHWATER FISH.

ON the borders of Westmoreland, nearly fifteen hundred feet above sea level, the river Greta issues from Stainmore Common, from whence it runs its swift course of some twenty odd miles, joining the Tees near to Rokeby Hall, three miles below Barnard Castle. Its upper portion partakes of the character of many another moorland burn. Nearing the village of Bowes, as if ashamed of itself, the water several times disappears, leaving the regular bed of the river quite dry, and at intervals of about half a mile bursts through rugged masses of stone into its ordinary bed. Below this it is joined by the Sleightholme Beck, a tributary of somewhat similar size, but partaking of a more wild rugged scenery.

Happy are the favoured few who have permission to fish those waters. The fish, though not of the largest, are plentiful and good in flavour, showing good play when hooked, as the disappointed angler finds to his cost, when, hooking a fish slightly larger than his brethren, he snaps some favourite cast and regains his liberty. Half-pounders are by no means uncommon, with a slight sprinkling of much larger fish. They are capital risers to the fly, and it is a thousand pities that in so good a river for the artificial fly, proprietors, when so kindly granting leave to fish, do not restrict angling to that means of taking them, and consign the minnow, creeper, stone fly, worm (especially clear or low-water fishing, with the worm), and all such pot-hunting lures, to oblivion, or some larger stream where their continued use will not spoil the fishing. Owing to its mossy source, the water, even when very low, is coloured, and a slight spate is quite sufficient to give it a deep porter colour. Fishing one summer's day in just such a water, with varied success, I neared Gilmonby Hall. Thanks to the breeze blowing from Bowes Moor, so noted for its grouse-shooting, the day, though very bright, was not uncomfortably hot, and the rises just sufficiently plentiful to prevent the attention flagging. Near Gilmonby Bridge the river falls, by a series of miniature cascades from pool to pool, a very haven for one of those large trout you hook once in a lifetime; and under that ledge there, just where the water is in such a boil, sure enough there he is! Note his beautiful golden colour—the very pink of condition. Rising too, so quietly and regularly. Just as, according to books, a large fish should rise. None of your splash and bluster about that customer. He means business, and I quickly cover him with my end fly. He rises at it, but comes short. I repeat the process with similar results: I change the fly; I try many flies. He still comes, but more warily. At length the truth dawns on me. It is a fish from the pool above, has been hooked, has broken the cast which is now lapped round that stone which is just visible through the dark water. He must be hungry, or he would not rise so frequently. If I leave him he will starve. Could he have broken his hold he would have done so by this. I'll net him. Cautiously I crept along, keeping well out of sight, my landing-net deep in the water so as not to alarm him. I take one more peep to see if he is still there, plunge my net under him, and bring to the surface the tail of a large yellow cat, whose body I now can plainly see laid on that large stone with a brick round his neck.

W. S. L.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

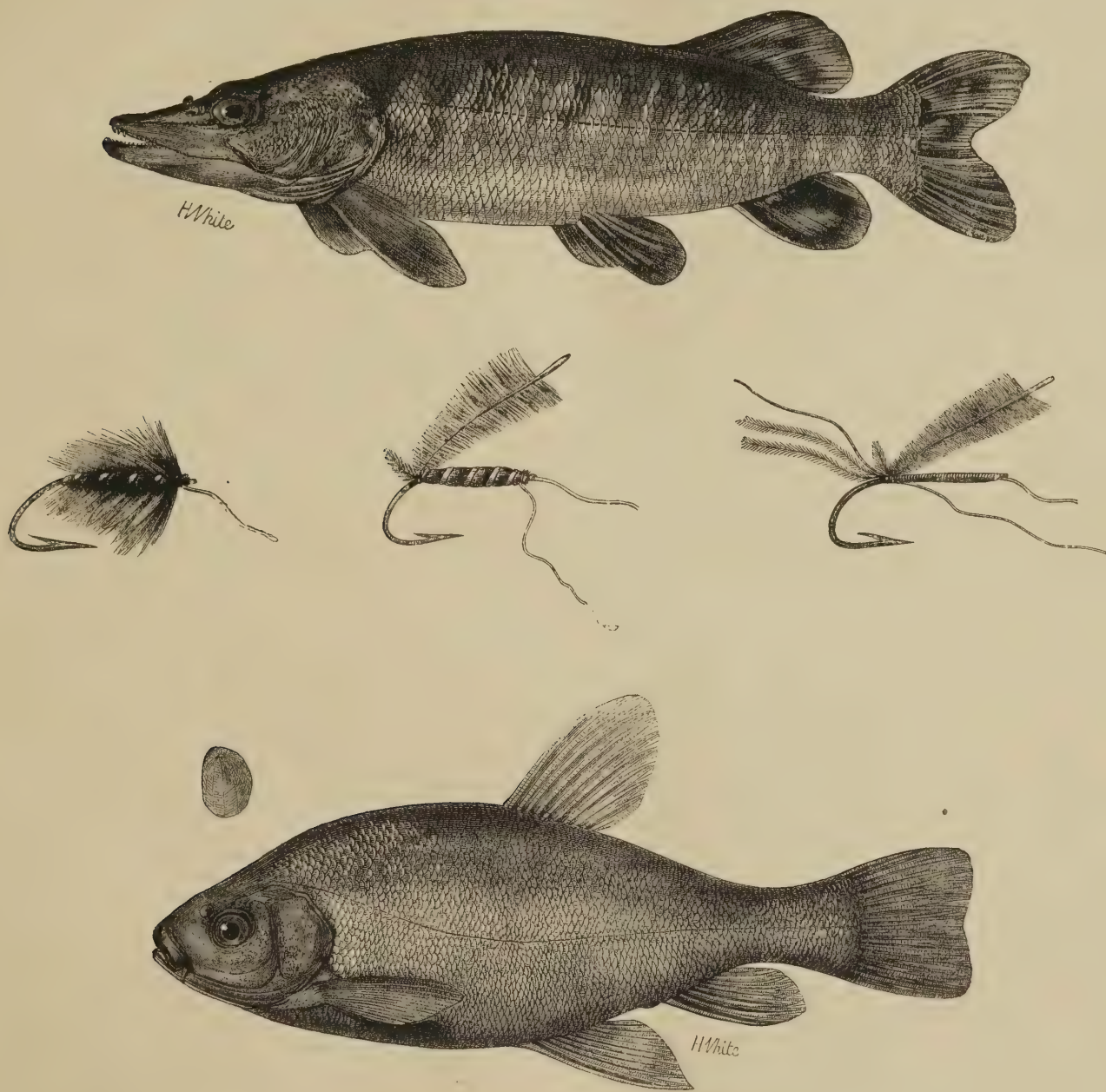
A CAPITAL BOOK FOR ANGLERS.

MR. J. HARRINGTON KEENE'S name is so well-known to our readers that it is with the greatest pleasure we notice a work entitled "The Practical Fisherman" by him, recently published at the *Bazaar* office, 170, Strand, London. We will say at once that, in our opinion, this is one of the best and most complete works on angling which has appeared in recent years, and every angler should add this charming volume to his library. Mr. Keene treats—and in a very pleasant, chatty style—of the natural history, the legendary lore, and the capture of our British fresh-water fish, and of tackle and tackle making. Under his own supervision, a most competent draughtsman, Mr. H. White, has delineated the various fish from nature, as also the best tackle, floats, &c., in vogue. The specimens of the illustrations which we

opinion there is no rod superior to a well-made Japanese cane 'telescope' rod, that is, for ordinary still bank fishing. 'Why?' it may be queried. 'Because' of the following reasons, gentle reader. The ideal of a roach hole accessible from the bank, and not only the ideal but the general character of all the successful swims of the bank angler, is as follows: Chiefly gentle running water, considerable depth, weeds beyond, or a rapid stream, as well, probably, as such inconveniences as sunk stumps, roots or boughs, from which it is desirable to restrain the fish when hooked.

"Take up a Japanese 'telescope,' therefore, and observe the fulfilment of the requirements indicated. You have a rod, when extended, of almost perfectly symmetrical build. It is *light*—very light; it is sufficiently pliant, yet, in proportion to its length (of, say, from fourteen to twenty feet), it is a stiff rod, and is nearly perfect for restraining your fish, when hooked, from entering the 'inconveniences' surrounding the scene of action."

Our want of space forbids our completing the remarks on these Japanese rods, but although we never saw them until we accidentally opened at page 115 just now, we are glad to find



print in connection with this notice will speak for themselves; though, in justice to Mr. White, we must mention that his cuts printed for the book on fine-toned paper, must look better than when printed with the text by thousands in our columns. Except in the case of works illustrated by enormously expensive steel plates we know no engravings of fish better than these, and, as being true to nature, none so good.

Mr. Keene is a practical angler, and a very clever writer. It is a pleasure to read his pages, and we venture to say there is not an angler living, however experienced, who may not learn something, and get much pleasure from his book. Open his pages where you will you will find something good. We did so after writing these lines, and came on the following:—

In speaking of roach-fishing, he says:—"Plunging into this branch of the subject, I may be first allowed to make a selection of a suitable rod. In my

they so entirely coincide with our own opinion as to the proper rod for the bank angler for roach. An ordinary cane rod is a very cumbrous affair, and tires the arms to a degree only equalled by spinning with a hard wood rod. These Japanese rods will easily kill any fish except pike, barbel, trout, or very heavy carp; they are very cheap. The only suggestion we offer respecting them is that the top should be supplemented by a fine lance-wood top, and that light brass ferrules should be put on the joints, and rings and winch fittings. The whole cost of this, including the rod, will only be about five shillings.

The salmon and trout fisher will find Mr. Keene's book of great interest to them, and the instructions and illustrations in fly-making are very good. We conclude by most cordially recommending it, and congratulating the publishers on the very handsome manner in which they have got it up.

THE ROYAL RIVER OF THAMES.

THE royal patronage which has been extended to the operations of the Thames Angling Preservation Society makes the Thames, as regards the fishery of the "City waters," a royal river, and invests the association with a position of the highest importance. It is now to all intents and purposes a royal society, and should secure a more general support from the anglers of the lower Thames, who ought to regard its operations as deserving of their pecuniary recognition. There can be no doubt that the society as the oldest and largest Preservation Society possessed a well-grounded claim on the patronage of royalty, and the act of Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., in obtaining H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as patron commends itself to every Thames angler. Since the attachment of Mr. Thomas Spreckley to the society, its work and character has become manifest to all; the time which he has given, the influence he has bestowed, and, above all, the well known pecuniary liberality with which he has supplemented all his efforts, has without doubt given such an impetus to the society as to make it more popular and more deserving of support; and I am sure nothing pleases him more than to find the anglers rallying round the standard of the society, and by becoming annual subscribers recognising the work of himself and the committee who are his fellow labourers in it. It is generally remarked that the Thames Angling Preservation Society has become a really active institution and a national association. It has now the Prince of Wales at its head, supported by the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Roxburghe, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Percy, M.P., Earl Ducie, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., and Sir W. Hart Dyke as vice-patrons, and therefore, under such royal and noble auspices, its funds should materially increase, and in proportion to this increase the work of protection will be more largely carried out. In these days, when the sport of angling is more largely patronised—when anglers have in numbers increased to an enormous extent—when London and suburban angling clubs are something like one hundred and fifty in number—it is naturally expected that the Preservation Society which has now been established for nearly half a century should so protect the river as to make it safe from poaching, but it is utterly impossible to do this without the generous aid of those who are to enjoy the benefit of Thames preservation. The excuses for netting still going on are of no avail, neither are they supported by facts, and even if a case of poaching goes on by accident who is to blame? Why those who give no support or encouragement to the work of the society. There is a necessity for a larger staff of river-keepers, and only let the income of the society become doubled, and two more wholly paid men introduced, every guarantee would be given that netting would be next to impossible. We are, I firmly hope, coming on to this desired period, and the Thames having become a royal river, will and must greatly strengthen the position of the committee, and enable them to appeal for greater support from the general public on higher grounds than it has ever done before. The Thames Angling Preservation Society has a London office, and has ever been ready to assist in the formation of new associations in different parts of the country and in the resuscitation of those that were dying out. It has, through the liberality of owners of private waters, by the work of netting, increased most considerably the stock of fish in the river. It has completely preserved the spawn of perch from destruction by swans and prevented the escape of fish from the channel of the river. It has now engaged to undertake the rearing of trout, and the stream at Sunbury is now entirely in its charge. It has on the committee representatives from all the angling clubs in London affiliated to the three great central associations; and Mr. P. Geen, who has now become a resident on the banks of the river, as the representative of the West Central Association, holds a deputation to act as an honorary river keeper, with a wholly paid keeper within a short distance from his residence. It has, in fact, all the framework for being made even more useful, and the work of protection considerably enlarged—everything, in point of fact, is arranged for this perfected state of things, as soon as its funds will justify the expenditure; and nothing certainly can be more appreciative to the Prince of Wales in becoming patron of the society, than the voluntary liberality of all anglers, and the general public too, in placing the society in that position. Let there be no unfounded reports of netting, or unfair destruction of fish, which have on recent investigation been entirely disproved, but let all put their shoulders to the wheel and their hands in their pockets—then the work of the poacher will be completely crushed and our lower Thames become a model fishery. One great systematic effort can accomplish this end. The chairman and committee, who are all practical anglers, and the secretary, who has had nearly twenty-two years of experience of the river, will be equal to the greater work, and cause the standard of true and legitimate sport shortly to be erected over the grave of poaching and all unfair practices. One more word

and I have done. The thanks of all anglers are warmly due to Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., for making the "City waters" of the Thames a royal river! B.

THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS' SOCIETY'S PRIZES

FOR 1881.

THE Society of Friendly Anglers, which holds its weekly meetings at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, has recently issued its prize list for the season of 1881, and which, considering they are nearly all contributed by members, is of a highly creditable character, inasmuch as the private prizes amount to no less a sum than £101 4s. One of the principal items is that of eleven guineas, which has been raised for the "summer outing," which takes place this day, July 23rd, in the neighbourhood of Windsor, terminating with what is called the Summer Dinner, at Mrs. Goddard's, the New Inn, Eton, a report of which will appear in the FISHING GAZETTE of next week. Although some of the prizes are for gross weight, there is a large preponderance of prizes for large and specimen fish. The Society has long been wanting to possess a specimen jack of 20 lb., or upwards, and one of the special prizes this year, is one of five guineas for a fish of not less weight than 20 lb., the condition being that it becomes the property of the society. It will doubtless be a stimulant to some of the worthy members, and it is to be hoped that the prize will be won. Amongst the contributors for private prizes should be notably mentioned that of Mr. T. R. Sachs, who is not a member of the society, but a guest at the annual dinner, and on which occasion he displayed his usual liberality by offering as a trout prize one of his largest enamel gold pins of a trout, of the value of five guineas. This unselfish act of generosity will be fully appreciated by the Friendly Anglers. It will not be necessary in a list of forty-eight prizes to detail the particulars of each, but the totals offered for each fish. There are four prizes given for trout, amounting to £18 7s. 6d.; the first being ten guineas for the greatest number over 1 lb. each, caught with a fly. The jack prizes amount to thirteen guineas, including the one previously mentioned. There are three prizes for perch, amounting to £6 5s., the best being one of £4 14s. 6d. for the largest fish. Six prizes are announced for the roach anglers, of the aggregate value of eleven guineas, the principal being three guineas for the largest Thames specimens. The dace fishers have six prizes to compete for, representing a total of £5 15s. 6d. Three for the fly anglers, and the other for what is termed rod and line fishing which may, perhaps, be designated as Dr. Johnson's style, but not with his foolish appellation. Four prizes are offered for chub of the total value of £7 6s. There are only two prizes for barbel, one of £2 12s. 6d., for the largest, and three guineas for gross weight. The members last year were unfortunate with the barbel, and it is perhaps owing to this the competitions are so few. It is the opinion amongst the fishermen this year it will be a good barbel season, and as a word of encouragement to the "Friendly Anglers," it is hoped both the gross weight and largest will prove a glorious realisation. The bream have a couple of prizes, one of £1 11s. 6d. for the largest, and the other of one guinea for gross. There is one guinea for grayling, one guinea for carp, and one guinea for tench. The sum of six guineas appears for the greatest number of specimen fish. £6 15s. 6d. is allotted for three specified days. The lively gudgeon has a prize of half a guinea for gross weight. There is a "Consolation Prize" of one guinea for the unfortunates who have made the greatest number of shows without getting a prize. £2 12s. 6d. is offered for the gross weight of the year, and three prizes of half a guinea each for "best specimens." The rules are exceedingly good, both as regards the prize givers and the prize takers—of the former the order is "all prizes to be paid in before the 30th of November," and of the latter "to take only three prizes." It is evident what the "Friendly Anglers" do, they do it well, and in a business-like spirit. They cannot fail to prosper in such an element, for it is as essential in angling clubs as in all other societies to conduct its operations with a strict regard to business—it is a principle which tests the soundness of all institutions—and having this in view, amongst other things, the great toast of to-night, "Success to the Friendly Anglers," will without doubt be drunk with the greatest possible enthusiasm. B.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

SOME FISHING QUARTERS IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF ENGLAND.

THERE is no time of year, except the actual close season, in which an ardent angler will not endeavour, when opportunity is offered, to try to throw his fly for his favourite trout. But unfortunately for many fishermen—for those who do not live in some quiet country place, where they can nearly always obtain an evenings' trout—the open waters of England are yearly becoming fewer. Among the many parts of England, however, where the casual angler may be able to enjoy his favourite pastime, the south-west is perhaps as favourable as any. For Londoners it has the special advantage of being easily accessible by rail, which places such as the lowlands of Scotland are not. Nor is it the least of the advantages of the south-west of England that it is essentially a picturesque part, though, after all, who does not find something delightful in the bright colouring of the wild flowers which grow by every trout stream. A good headquarters for the fisherman in the south-west is the town of Axminster, where he is close to the Axe, as charming a trout stream as any angler need desire. It is not, perhaps, the most lively of towns, but what is more to the purpose, the express trains on the South-Western Railway stop there, and the George Hotel is one of those comfortable old-fashioned houses which are becoming rarer in these days of limited companies. The Axe is preserved by an association, whose water extends from Weycroft Bridge, above the town, to Chard meadow, in which space there is ample opportunity for the fisherman to show his skill. The price of the tickets is fifteen shillings for a month, and thirty shillings for the season. The Axe flows through meadows, especially delightful in the spring time, with nice open "stickles" and pools, in which capital trout are to be taken. It is true they are somewhat shy, but after all that need only add piquancy to the sport. Light dun palmers are especially favourites of the Axe trout, and no one should go down to the south-west without a good supply of these flies. In addition to Axminster the angler can also fish the upper waters of the Axe by staying at the Tytherleigh Arms, Chardstock, not far from Chard Junction. Here he will have the benefit of a more bracing air than at Axminster; but he will not find the trout so good as regards size as in the lower waters, and he may perhaps prefer his chance of fewer pound-trout to more numerous quarter-of-a-pounders. Again, too, if he likes the sea, some six miles from Axminster he will find Lyme Regis, one of the quietest and most old-fashioned and inexpensive of watering places, where an omnibus daily runs to Axminster.

Let us now go more to the west. Suppose our angler this journey to take the Great Western Railway to Taunton. Thence journeying on the Barnstaple line, he will, in some three quarters of an hour, find himself at Dulverton Station. Here, as the old itineraries, say, is the Carnarvon Arms, where the fisherman may enjoy comfortable quarters and delightful scenery, and if he finds the water in good trim, no mean sport with the trout. It is just below the station that the Little Exe and the Barle unite, forming the stream which henceforth becomes the Exe properly so called, and some three miles of fishing are reserved to the hotel, whilst in addition there are various pieces of free water. A great advantage of this spot is that the hotel is within a stone's throw of the station, and the Barle a few hundred yards from the house. But the passing angler may, perhaps, be disappointed if he finds the water low and clear; these streams run rapidly down, and their normal condition is to be in this state. Both the Barle and the Little Exe are much surrounded by hazel bushes and wading for thoroughly fishing these waters is certainly necessary, and in the larger stream it is the only way to get at some of the best casts. Light tackle and small flies, and careful and thoughtful fishing will, however, even when the water is low, prevent the fisherman from returning home empty, and he may secure a nice basket of quarter and half pounders. Some seven miles from Dulverton—which town, or rather village, by the way, is about a mile from the station—is the picturesque little village of Winsford, charming in the summer time, hidden in trees in the depths of the valley of the Exe, hemmed in by steep hills. Here there is a primitive but by no means uncomfortable little inn, where the fisherman may well spend a few days if the water is in anything like fair fishing order. The Exe is here almost wholly free, but quite a small stream; but there is no doubt that better trout are often to be found beneath the turf banks of the narrower stream than in the wider reaches of a river, where food is really less plentiful. The straying angler may certainly go farther and fare worse if he neglects at some time or other to spend some part of his piscatorial year on the banks of the Axe or Exe. So far as the writer's experience goes he prefers the Axe, in the lower waters of which the vicissitudes of the weather are not so much felt; and there can be no question that this is a considerable boon

for the wandering fisherman who so often spends his few days by the side of crystal streams, or mirror-like lakes, to depart when the stream is rising or the winds are beginning to blow.

REMINISCENCES OF DOVEDALE.

I HAVE read with much pleasure the paper by A. R. I. E. L., under this head. It contains that peculiar charm of attraction which to me has the especial gift of making the reader, for the time, the companion of the writer, sharing with joy in his success and sympathising with his disappointments. Were it not for these disappointments, angling would lose many of its delights. The loss of fish, if taken philosophically, increases the satisfaction, of a capture, and there is more joy over one caught than the many lost, while experience is gradually learned by the several unanticipated advantages taken by the fish, and to which, if we are just, we give them every credit. How often have I had a heavy fish, which after using admirable art to compete with its tactics, has proved itself indomitable in courage, while resisting to the last gasp. I say, how often have I felt that if I were beaten by that unequally-weighted compeer, I was ready to accord it the honour of victory, and rather felt a satisfaction at its regaining its liberty than otherwise. This may be considered by some a Quixotic sentiment, but when it is recollected that I always fish for sport, and not for an eight-day clock, there are those, I know, who will share in the sentiment which others may scoff at.

There is a good deal of excellent advice in A. R. I. E. L.'s letter which ought to be borne in mind by all intended frequenters of the Dove. Keep away from its waters during holiday times. One of the chief attractions of that lovely and classical river is its holy quietness. And next to the presence of excursionists, I know no greater infliction, unless it would be the apparition of a metropolitan policeman on its "beloved" banks. I can corroborate the writer on the fact of grayling taking the minnow; I took seven, weighing $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb., one morning, in the stream at Wilton, above Salisbury, and while fishing with the late Dr. French (the physician who undertook to bring the good Sidney Herbert, when on the point of death, home alive), and these were taken spinning with a small minnow, and very light and almost undiscernible tackle when in operation. Your correspondent says truly, the grayling will not take a minnow when passing horizontally through the water, and that it cannot be spun too slowly (that is, of course, while it does spin). Here I would say that my greatest success has been to mix trolling with spinning—in other words sinking and rising the bait, and this accords with the habits of the grayling which darts to take its prey generally from a lower level, and at an angle described by the bait. It may be that the fish takes the small minnow as it is rising from the deep for one of those insects to which they are so partial, and which pass their greater span of life in the rocky bed of the rivers, ascending to take upon themselves that wonderful transformation which arrest our wonder and reverence.

Should any of my brother anglers desire comparative seclusion on the Dove, and to essay less frequented waters than those mentioned—I do not say more prolific, although I am inclined to believe so, than those that cannot lose by A. R. I. E. L.'s graceful compliments—I would suggest that they made, not more than a couple in company, for a spot about four miles south-west of Buxton, below Axe Edge, where the Dove is joined to a nameless branch, whose course will be found not less beautiful than that of the main stream. Hereabouts there may be not many pounders, but I have filled a pannier during a cloudy sky, with cerulean interstices, with 12 lb. to 15 lb. of trout, averaging from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. These trout are in their native fastnesses, "as strong as houses" (not of the modern construction) giving and taking the best of fun, as though, like hunted foxes, they enjoyed the sport. I don't know what it is now, as the face of England is so changed by the advent of the "miscellaneous" poured out upon the fair face of the earth by the railway. I can imagine from the reports I receive from friends in the Dale that sometimes little short of insult may wait upon the angler by the "do as I like" tribe; but I offer these retreats for what they are worth.

There are, however, parks and private grounds on the Dove, accessible to the respectable angler by a proper and respectful application; and, above all, the voluntary avowal to submit to any restrictions the proprietors may think fit to impose. For obvious reasons I shall not name the privileged spots, but I may safely mention the Bentley Brook, near Ashbourne, and what was in my time called the Henmore Brook, now termed the Schoo Brook, neither not far from Ashbourne, and others which, by intelligent enquiry in the neighbourhood, the necessary information might be acquired. One thing is certain, they all contain trout, are less frequented than the Dove, and there is more chance of being unmolested, or rather bothered, by impertinent strangers, than elsewhere.

THE RIGHT HON. A. J. MUNDELLA, M.P.

AMONGST the London and Sheffield, and other Provincial angling clubs, Mr. Mundella's name is as well-known as that of our patron saint, Izaak Walton, and it is with much pleasure that we are able this week to give a fine portrait of the member for Sheffield.

Mr. Mundella is the eldest son of the late Antonio Mundella, of Italy, by Rebecca, daughter of J. Allsop, Esq., of Leicester. He was born in 1825. He has extensive factories at Nottingham. As a member of Parliament he has turned his attention chiefly to labour and education questions, and to legislation for the protection of the coarse fish. Of fish and fishing, Mr. Mundella does not pretend to know anything, and he frankly stated this to the deputation which waited on him after the recent meeting of club anglers at the Society of Arts.

At the instigation of the Sheffield club anglers, he took up the question of fencing our coarse fish, and every angler, whatever his political views generally, or personal views on the Freshwater

2. All other fish, such as roach, bream, chub, barbel, tench, gudgeon, carp, &c., from the first of May to first of July.

3. Eel and flounder fishing all the year round.

This would give us fair fishing in April, and thus include that great fishing holiday, Eastertide. None of the fish, except the pike, perch, and dace, spawn until May, June, or July, and this we can prove by abundant testimony from all the standard authorities—Couch, Yarell, Francis Francis, Manley, and a host of others.

It should always be remembered in discussing this question that the Freshwater Fisheries' Act really only applies to public waters, and we know for a fact that those anglers who can afford to pay for fishing can get it, and do get it, all the year round in private waters. Thousands of pounds are spent every year by angling clubs in prizes for takes of fish; if but a tithe of this money were devoted to the artificial cultivation of coarse fish, we have not the least hesitation in saying that for every thousand fish caught by rod and line a million could be put into our rivers. To talk of our freshwater fish ever becoming extinct is sheer nonsense. A year or two ago there was not a single carp on the American continent. The Americans imported fish from Germany and now there are



THE RIGHT HON. A. J. MUNDELLA, M.P.

Fisheries' Act of 1878 may be, will, we are sure, admit that nothing could exceed the courteous attention and indefatigable services which Mr. Mundella has given to further the interests of those anglers who have applied to him for help in legislating for what they conscientiously think is desirable.

For our own part, and we are absolutely certain that thousands of anglers—including very many in Sheffield itself—agree with us, we think, as we have before said, that angling with rod and line for fish in season will never do the least harm, if netting is rigorously put down at all times, except for scientific purposes or for keeping down any particular kind of fish. It seems that those anglers who were instrumental in passing the Mundella Act will not at present trust anglers on the waters to fish for fish in season, in case they might take fish out of season, which is, in our opinion, rating the sportsmanlike character of anglers at a very low figure. Is not a compromise possible? We should be content, and we think most anglers would be content, with the following as fence seasons:

1. Pike and perch from first of March to first of July.

millions—the result of artificial propagation. A few years ago there was not a trout in New Zealand: Frank Buckland stocked the New Zealand rivers with trout from ova sent twenty-five thousand miles, and now there is splendid trout fishing there, and also in Tasmania. The coarse fish are more prolific, hardier, and more suited to all kinds of water than trout, and their artificial propagation is a much simpler and less expensive matter. Abolish poaching, breed fish for your waters, and rod fishing will become a necessity in order to keep the fish from starving.

It is not pleasant to be accused of wishing to take fish out of season, and if those who are opposed to us would calmly consider the matter, we feel sure they will admit we have never advocated this. Considering the matter, even from an economical point of view, our proposal to cultivate fish artificially and to stop poaching will be more beneficial than the present drastic fencing system; but the only consumers of freshwater fish, other than eels and salmonidæ, are the Jews, and the arguments about "increasing the food of the people" generally, are puerile, for no English people will eat coarse fish when sea fish, of infinitely superior quality, are more cheaply and easily to be had.

A LIVELY SALMON.

ONE of the most pleasant books of travels published of late years, is "The Two Americas," written by Sir Rose Price, Bart., and anglers will find it of much interest to them from the accounts it contains of salmon and trout fishing in America.

Our readers may remember an article on the Californian salmon which Sir Rose contributed to this paper some two years ago; it was a strong protest against the proposed introduction of that fish into British waters, and we believe it had the effect of stopping the introduction of *salmo Quinmat*, which is very subject to a frightful disease, and which will not take the fly.

The first fishing which Sir Rose describes was sea fishing at St. Vincent. The anglers used stout bamboos, fourteen feet in length, for rods, and baited with legs of small crabs, mashed crabs being used as ground bait to attract the fish. The sport was fast and furious, and the fish caught were of different varieties, nearly all armed with some kind of prickle, some of the prickles being poisonous, and "all of them bit like mad at everything within reach," when hauled out of the water.

THE SOAP FISH AND PORCUPINE FISH.

One black ugly fish caught, about a pound weight, was called

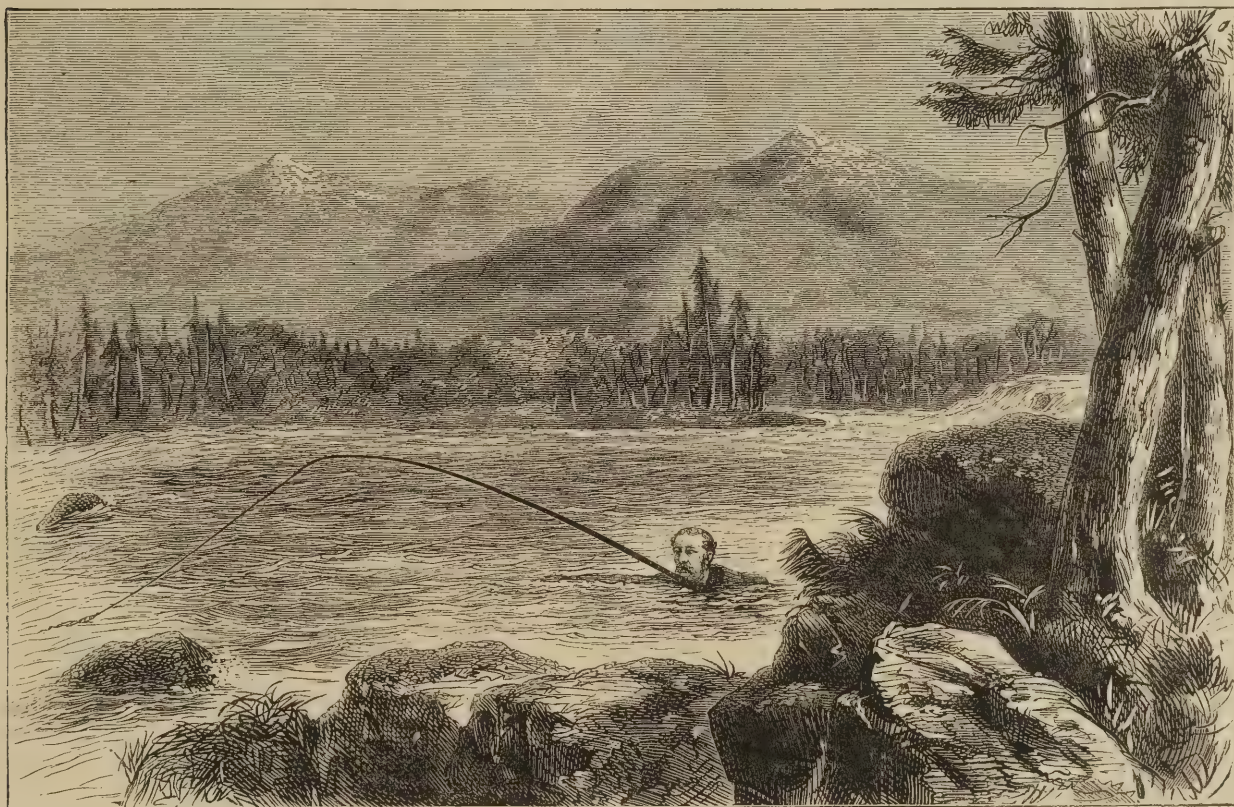
ANGLING IN PATAGONIA.

In Patagonia our author met with some most "fishy" looking rivers, but after trying many kinds of fly, &c., both natural and artificial, with the result of a few half-pound fish something like a trout, thought the promising appearance of the lake and river "was merely a pitfall, a snare, and a delusion, and that the angler has no place for his calling in the lovely, but deceitful, water of Patagonia."

SALMON FISHING EXTRAORDINARY.

We next find Sir Rose wetting his lines in the little fished salmon rivers of California. He thus speaks of the salmon fishing at Soda Springs:—

The river is about a hundred yards from the house, one of the best pools being the nearest spot. We found it full of fish. They would not rise at a fly, but took bait greedily, and were so easy to catch and so little sought after, that, having all the river at our sole command, we took it very easily, never commencing before breakfast, and invariably returning to dinner. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and without entering into any lengthy dissertation on a sport so well known and so enjoyable as salmon fishing, I give the result of a week's work to my own rod, the record for the remaining period I stayed here being very similar—in fine days



A LIVELY SALMON.—(FOR DESCRIPTION, SEE NEXT PAGE.)

the soapfish, and on being stirred about in a small pool of salt water soon caused it to lather like soapsuds. "A porcupine fish (*diodon hystrix*), weighing about seven pounds, was perhaps the most curious fish we caught. The men treated this gentleman with the greatest possible caution, evidently regarding him as a dangerous brute. A more awkward one to handle it is quite impossible to conceive, as he was entirely covered with small spikes, dispersed over sides, back, and abdomen, in such a manner as to prevent effectually anyone touching him. On being hauled up he came grumping out of the water, and, as lay on the rocks, commenced swelling himself out by successive gulps of air, which he inhaled with such noise and vigour that he soon resembled a cross between a distended football and an angry toad. Its skin was so tough that it resisted easily the pike thrusts which saluted it, and only after several efforts was it despatched with a sharp and strong clasp-knife. Its maxillary and inter-maxillary bones are soldered together, so as to render the jaw immovable. Its entire mouth appeared plated with some kind of enamel, and M. told us its powers of crushing were so great that, when fresh from the water, one of them could easily crumble any of the lumps of scoria lying about, were a piece placed between its powerful jaws."

sixty salmon, the majority over ten pounds weight, and the largest 23½ lb.

On only one day did I work really hard, and killed in eleven hours and a half including luncheon, twenty-seven salmon from ten to nineteen pounds weight each, and half of them gaffed and landed without assistance.

This fishing, gentle reader, is yours, if you like to come for it. Without one penny of cost, all the rivers of the West are at your disposal; and when I remember the prices charged at home on the Lochy, the Thurso, Castle Connel, and a host of other places, where the sport obtainable is not one quarter as good, I am surprised ingenious youth does not occasionally find its way out here, where deer, bear, and salmon, are only waiting their disposal.

THE MCLEOD RIVER AND "DOLLY VARDEN" TROUT.

After leaving the Sacramento Sir Rose went on to the McLeod River, which is, he says, "Without exception the 'gamest' river I ever fished on, and in no other water in the world have I ever seen trout so perfectly conditioned or so well fed." "The Dolly Varden" is looked upon by the natives as, if not a *lusus nature*, at any rate, a fish peculiar to the waters of the McLeod,

and they are consequently proud of possessing what they believe to be a peculiarity.

The ordinary McLeod trout are beautifully shaped, and indeed possess the most perfect forms of symmetrical excellence I have ever seen in trout. Their bodies are deeper, their heads smaller, and their general colouring more brilliant, than the trout of our native land; but above all these attributes, they have a gameness and determination when hooked which is only equalled by our sea trout. We killed none above 3½ lb., and they seldom exceed that size. The Dolly Varden which is also found in the McLeod river, Sir Rose describes as an ugly brute, a trout in shape like a pike, and as rapacious. It grows up to 10 lb.

A LIVELY SALMON.

We now come to the description of our author's fight with a salmon, which is depicted in the accompanying illustration. He was fishing the Sacramento, and of the fish, says: "As to their affording no sport, I can only say, that I have fished in Norway, Nova Scotia, Scotland, and Ireland, and have never handled gamer fish.

"One of my favourite casts was at the head of a large deep pool, into which flowed a heavy rapid; close to where I stood a shelving bank afforded good landing ground, but a steep rock and some overhanging trees prevented a fish being followed. The pool was so large and deep that a salmon seldom tried to leave it; still, occasionally they did, I was unable to control their headlong rush. In case this inability might be attributed to either inexperience or personal decrepitude, I may as well state that I have killed salmon for over twenty years, commencing at the tender age of thirteen. That the tackle I used was the strongest and best I ever had, that I walk over 14 stone, and was never a week sick or sorry in my life, and yet no less than five different fish compelled me to swim, with my rod in one hand, this long stretch of water, ice-like in temperature, from the small streams following from the perpetual snows of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and by no means the kind of water one would select for a bath in a shooting coat. I could not get round the bank; I had to follow my fish or lose him, and I preferred to follow.

"On another occasion I saw a salmon, after running out eighty yards of line, take a big backwoodsman a quarter of a mile down the river, and then the fish did not give in till after twenty minutes' more severe play. The Sacramento, Klamath, Shasta, and McLeod rivers, are not more than twenty miles apart, and come into order in succession so that the very cream of each may be gathered by a man visiting them one after the other. In the Klamath and McLeod, the salmon run very heavy, and in the Shasta they take a fly."

We trust our readers will refer to Sir Rose Price's book for further accounts of his sporting adventures. It is published by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co., of Fleet Street; and we venture to suggest to them that if republished at half-a-crown it would sell well among all lovers of the rod and gun.

FLY AND BAIT CASTING TOURNAMENT.

(In aid of the Funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.)

WE beg to state that it is our intention to offer prizes in the shape of first-class fishing rods, &c., to the successful competitors in a fly and bait casting tournament, which we propose shall be held in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, at some Hotel on the Thames which may have suitable ground for the purpose, some Saturday afternoon in August (we should prefer Richmond).

The competitions will be arranged somewhat as follows:

I.—A prize for the angler making the longest cast with a double-handed fly.

II.—A prize for the angler making the longest cast with a single handed fly rod.

III.—A prize for the angler making the longest cast from the reel in the Nottingham style.

IV.—A prize for the angler making the longest cast with line coiled at feet in the Thames style.

The judges will consider style of delivery of the flies or bait, and accuracy, as well as distance, and for this purpose the following scale of 100 points will be adopted.

	Points.
Distance across the wind	20
Distance with the wind	20
Style of delivery of flies and bait	30
Accuracy	30

Competitors will be allowed to use their own rods and reel lines.

There will be an entrance fee for competitors and also a small charge for admission to the grounds, and all money thus received will, after paying actual cash expenses, go to the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The judges and referee will be well known anglers.

Tournaments of this kind are becoming quite popular in the United States, and we are indebted to Mr. Fred Mather, editor of the New York "Forest and Stream," not only for the idea but also for the outlines of our present proposal.

Such an exhibition of skill as this match will afford, will undoubtedly be a most interesting sight, and we confidently ask the angling world to support our attempt to introduce this novel competition into this country. Anglers who want to learn how to throw the fly or the spinning bait, will learn more from an exhibition of this kind than from all the books on angling put together.

If any fishing tackle firms will give second prizes in the shape of rods or tackle, we shall be very glad to announce their generosity in this paper.

We expect a large attendance of anglers and hope to see "the ladies" also present; in fact it would be a graceful ending for the tournament if some lady were chosen to distribute the prizes. This match will not be open to professional anglers; their match will follow we hope.

The rules of the match and further particulars will be published as soon as possible. In the meantime we shall be obliged if all anglers who would care to witness or compete in the match will send a post card, giving name and address, and signifying their approval of the idea, to Mr. R. B. Marston, editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 12, Fetter Lane, London.

The casting will take place over a lawn, or over water, if possible, on which the distance can be readily measured.

We respectfully ask all secretaries of angling clubs to support us and to let us know what they think of our suggestion. We feel confident it will bring in a substantial contribution to the funds of that most deserving society the Anglers' Benevolent Society, which was instituted in 1878 for the relief of distressed anglers and of which we hope shortly to publish a full report. We venture to predict that these casting tournaments will soon become popular all over the country.

Although they will not compete, we propose, if possible, to get one or two "crack" professional fishermen to exhibit their skill in throwing from the reel and in the Thames style.

SPLENDID LINES.

WE have received from the Manchester Spinning Company, of Corporation Street, some samples of their very various silk and other lines for sea and fresh water fishing. The lines are beautifully made, and very strong and very cheap. They also supply a new dressing for lines, which is, in our opinion, simply the best in the market. It is just the thing anglers want, and we predict a great sale for it. We hope to notice the lines and the new dressing more fully shortly, and, in the meantime, we strongly advise our readers to send for samples, mentioning the kind of fishing they want the lines for; and they should also ask to have a piece of line with the new dressing.

ANGLING AT EVENING.

Hot was the day—and still—and bright;
But with the advent of the night
There comes the cooler air:
Gone is the glare, the blinding blaze,
The sun with softer, milder rays
Is setting, O how fair!

His disc is sinking momentarily:
Across the landscape wondrously
The lengthened shadows lie;
Each thing that bars his level beam—
Tree, tower, or mount—o'er mead and stream
Its shade shows far and nigh.

Who lives and feels not fall the power
Upon his heart of this sweet hour—
On-coming—of the eve;
Before the night, after the day;
After Sol's reign, before the sway
Of Dian we perceive?

Yes, there behold! she shines above,
The Queen of Night, the Orb of Love;
But pale and faint as yet
Is thy light that, thou summer-moon,
Shall silver over this scene soon—
For see! The sun has set.

But not yet quite—an interval—
The gorgeous Twilight over all
Its interregnum first
Must hold: the glories of the sky
Be briefly born, and briefly die;
E'en as in Eden erst,

Are blent now with the light-blue West
Pink—crimson—purple: do the Blest
In their own Isles see more,
With heavenly sense, of heavenly sights?
See more celestial evening-lights?
More deeply to adore?

Forgive the doubt! for look! there throws
That crimson cloud its richest rose—
The *After-glow's* full gleam—
Yonder, where runs on—in and out—
Ringed-o'er by many a rising trout—
The valley's lovely stream!

Like to like, there they dart, they dash—
The crimson sport with crimson splash—
A splendid sight to see—
Above the rose they make a bound,
Sub rosa then to the profound
Glance down and dive in glee.

Thus rise they that did not by day;
Come, angler, now, thy skill display!
Cast now thy fairy-flies!
Again—again—again—again
Thy good rod bends—another slain—
Another dares—and dies.

Creatures of brilliance manifold—
The ruby's radiance set in gold—
The sparkle of the star—
Scales that as angels' armour shine
And flash—a dazzlingness divine—
How beautiful they are!

The lilies of the field are fair,
And Solomon—in glory rare—
Was not arrayed like them;
Yet they beside of these as dim
Would be as they were bright o'er him,
Dulling his diadem.

But lo! where, lingering on the bridge,
The village lass o'er pool and sedge
Doth—*nay!* she doth *not*—gaze:
No eyes hath she for handsome *trout*;
She waits to meet her lover out,
What ill-luck him delays?

Ere long beneath yon brightening moon—
With thoughts, words, looks (and lips) in tune—
The youth and maid will rove,
Will wander by the winding stream,
Lit then but by the tender beam
Of Luna's Lamp of Love.

But thou, mine angler, then wilt roam
No more, but wend thy glad way home—
Singing the nightingales,
And glow-worms glittering in the grass—
Gay, elfin sparks—as thy steps pass,
Whilst round the night-hawk sails.

The night-dews rise, charged with the scent
The honeysuckles all have lent,
To waft abroad for thee:
Thine every sense wild with delight,
Thou heavy-laden one this night—
Is Angling vanity?

July 4th, 1881.

A.R.I.E.L.

[We think most anglers will agree that A.R.I.E.L. paints the glories of the close of day in very natural colours. At this time of the year, when there is no real night, we know of nothing more refreshing and cooling and generally enjoyable than carefully wading a *well known* bit of trout water, smoking a good weed, and getting a brace or two of fine trout for breakfast. We have done it many and many a time and hope to again. The presence of the angler at night is a great nuisance to the poacher.—ED.]

THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES' EXHIBITION.

I AM sure that everyone interested in fishing matters, this side of the Tweed at least, will agree with every word uttered under the above heading in the last issue of the GAZETTE. It is eminently desirable that the next exhibition be held in the metropolis, and this especially so if its nature is to be an international one, thereby attracting attention from all quarters of the world, and enhancing the fishing industry to an incalculable extent. I have had considerable facilities for ascertaining the feeling of the London tackle-makers and others in reference to the Scotch exhibition, and can safely say that it will receive but sparse attention from them. The considerations which urge such people to exhibit are purely of a commercial character, and it is generally felt that a journey to Scotland would by no means result in the increased trade and distinction which is necessary to pay the cost of transit. It may therefore safely be predicted that the suggested Scotch exhibition will be to a great extent local, and ought in no sense to lay claim to being even a national—much less an international—demonstration. Large and truly representative exhibits, such as that of Little, Farley, &c., at the late Norwich event, would find no place therein; and however much the deficiency might be supplied by Scotch firms, the affair could not be nearly so satisfactory in any sense as a metropolitan truly International Fisheries' Exhibition.

The time is furthermore ripe when an international assembly would be in the very highest degree stimulative of the hitherto inadequately recognised interests of fish and fish-culture. Our Scotch friends would partake in the benefit, which would be immediate and permanent, arising from the emulation of many nations, including those deeply imbued with piscicultural importance, such as Germany and the United States. Exhibits of appliances from America would be specially interesting, and would run some of our best manufacturers very closely in the race of competition.

The Worshipful Fishmongers' Company is unquestionably the best executive in the organisation and general ordering of such an exhibition, and State aid would, as a matter of course, be offered and accepted. The present time is not a whit too early wherein to begin the task of formation. Admirable and generally satisfactory as was the Norwich Exhibition, much would have been improved had less haste been observed, and some very reasonable grounds for complaint existed in the cases of more than one important competitor; moreover, though from a numerical and financial point of view the exhibition was a success, the standard of excellence in some classes was far from being as high as might have been expected—in a so-called national gathering.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

A DAY WITH THE PERCH.

NEXT to fishing with the fly, I think the most enjoyable sport is catching perch with the minnow, and I generally take a field-day after them about the middle of July, when the heat and brightness of the sky and lowness of the water give but little hope of trout. Accordingly, on the 12th, I started with a good kettle full of minnows, for a spot which has seldom failed to reward patient labour. The day was broiling hot and I had two hours to go by rail, but I was able to refresh my tender charges twice on the road, so that we arrived without many casualties. Here, as I expected, everyone was so busily engaged in the hay field that not even a boy could be found to carry my basket and bait-can, and, as the heat made it necessary to keep the latter sunk in the river, at least half my time during the day was taken up with pulling up the bait and lowering it again every time I had a bite. With heart fluttering between hope and fear I began in the water at the tail of a mill, and was rewarded by an immediate response. I had, however, apparently hit upon the infant school of the needle-finned tribe, and half a dozen babies in succession were restored to their anxious relations to become bigger and wiser fish. I have my doubts, however, as to the appropriateness of the last adjective, for I once caught a perch in the afternoon with the hook in his mouth, of which he had broken the gut when I struck him about four hours before, whence I gather that a perch does not, like a trout, derive practical lessons from experience; nor is he so easily frightened, for I have repeatedly caught a fish after he had danced away with my hook merrily but unsuccessfully three or four times. But to return to our history.

Leaving the infant school, I next tried the spot where adults might with most certainty be expected; a delicious little angle receiving a slight eddy from the stream which rushes past from some huge hatches, where the bank is protected by camp-shedding (or camp-sheeting, or sheathing, or shooting, whichever is the right term), just high enough to cast about a foot of shadow upon the water. Cautiously and stealthily I approached, and the first touch of the bottom with my plummet was answered by a vigorous pull, and suddenly half a dozen beautiful fairy forms, plump, and with well marked bands, rose to take an affectionate farewell of their captive sister as she ascended to the upper air. The farewell, however affectionate, was not for long; they were rapidly promoted to form part of nobler bodies. One merry tumbler, while on his last journey, escaped from the upper hook in mid air, but the fates were against him; the lower hook gaffed him as he fell, and he found his appropriate resting place in the basket. By this time the foot of shadow had diminished to an inch as the sun moved round, and the striped darlings were evidently losing their appetites, while I had long ago found mine, so I had no difficulty in arranging an armistice for three hours, which I employed

in burying the dead and regaling the living. I confess with shame that the sight of a well-fed family lying among some thin weeds tempted me to violate the terms and to drop a bone of contention in the shape of a minnow among them, but they were far too honourable to break their side of the engagement in the full blaze of the sun, and scarcely took a contemptuous glance at the glittering tempter. At 5 p.m. the ashes of the calumet of peace were knocked out and the battle recommenced with ever increasing vigour on both sides, and the lower the sun sank in the sky, the bolder was the enemy in charging and the more numerous were the casualties. Ammunition, however, began to run short, but while there was a shot left in the locker, or a minnow in the can, I stood to my colours bravely, taking as many prisoners as possible, while they seemed to race for the honour of sharing the fate of their brethren. At 8 p.m. the last cartridge had been fired, just as my watch warned me to beat a hasty retreat if I would sleep in my own bed. The steel-yard at the station told me I had 11 lb. of perch in my creel—not a bad result, considering the time I was compelled to lose by being alone on so hot and bright a day.—C. C. J.

NIGHT FISHING FOR BREEM.

THERE is no doubt but that the old enactment still exists rendering it penal to angle beyond an hour after sunset or the same period before sunrise, but the salient reasons that influenced the legislature in passing such restriction are now lost in obscurity, and may merely be left to conjecture. It is obvious that one of these considerations referred more to the system of netting to hold in cheek the professional fishermen, still the clause is plain and unmistakable as including all modes of taking fish whether by rod and line, night lines, nets or other description of engines. Eel baskets were, however, exempted in most of the acts, particularly in reference to certain rivers, chartered rights, &c. That all fish feed more during the stillness of night than during the hubbub and human traffic of the day, there is no doubt. Those who have indulged in a night's sport for bream, &c., or used the white moth for trout are well aware of this. And whether during these tropical days when not a nibble can be had the practice can be justified must be left to the conscience of the angler who is pretty safe from prosecution under this almost absolute injunction of our forefathers. I have always considered the presence of anglers upon the water during the still hours of the night one of the very best preventives to the incursions of poachers, between whom and the illegal marauders there is a natural and wholesome prejudice. It is a question, therefore, whether the good that might accrue by the annulling this effete act would not result in more good than harm. I have mentioned bream in particular as feeding at night, and those whose experience is derivable from the Ouse, the Trent, and other highly stocked bream waters are fully aware that during darkness or semi-darkness—for there is seldom decided obscurity on the waters in the summer months between night fall and early morning—that the bream are ravenous until the first tinge of azure appears in the east when the fish gradually fall off, and the sun seems to be the signal that it is a proper time for them to cease their meal. Then the bream, their appetites satisfied, if not satiated rise to the surface, and have a gambol in that exuberance and satisfaction which a full stomach engenders. This is called "priming," and the effect is as if the whole school was indulging in a game of leap frog. This is the signal for the night angler to leave off, for he knows that scarcely another bite will be got. He therefore quits the stream for his inn, and perhaps a siesta, loaded with a hundred-weight or more of mostly sample fish, and probably meets a brother or two who have come down by an early train, bent upon an awful slaughter, but upon comparing notes upon the afternoons departure of the train for town the contrast between their respective bags is simply ounces for pounds, if that.—F.

AMATEUR FISH STUFFING, &c.

THERE is nothing at all difficult or beyond the reach of moderate well-directed practice in taxidermy as applied to fish. The specimen to be preserved should be wrapped, as soon as is possible after quitting the water, in silver or tissue paper, which will adhere to the fish by its own moisture and greatly preserve the delicate scales and evanescent colours of the surface. Those examples intended for scientific examination are best preserved in spirits, with a label of block tin or lead, having a number cut or engraved on it, having reference to your note-book, in which each specimen should be entered at once, with a memorandum of where taken, date of capture, and weight when taken, to ascertain afterwards the proportion of loss by what a learned professor terms "imperceptible perspiration." Perhaps one of the most simple plans of making a collection is suggested by Dr. Parnell, of Edinburgh. He tells us to divide the fish longitudinally, so as to preserve on one side the skin and fins in an entire state, also the dorsal and caudal fins. Begin at the head and work downwards to the tail, removing the skin carefully. The coating of tissue paper will greatly assist the operator, and when the skinning has been effected, the paper can be removed, after being damped with a wet sponge. Reduce the bones of the head, thin down the base of the fins, and anoint the whole with arsenical soap. Then take a sheet of pasteboard larger than the fish itself and covered on one side with stone-coloured paper; sew the skin by its lower edge to the pasteboard, using a fine-pointed saddlers' awl as a piercer. Now stuff in chopped tow till the skin is

filled to the natural size, sewing the upper margin to the paper as the work proceeds, from the tail to the shoulder, and glue the head to the pasteboard. The fins may be supported in their natural position by means of slips of paper gummed to them, and these may be removed after the skin is dry by wiping them with damp sponge; then two or three coatings of copal varnish are given to the skin, and this finishes the operation. The scientific name should be written or printed in the left hand corner of a card below. The skin may be simply glued to the pasteboard and then varnished. If the fins of perch, for instance, are painted, they should not be over-coloured, as is too often the case, which gives the fish an unnatural look, especially if the pigment is heavy and opaque instead of being light in the coating and transparent.

Any apothecary can prepare arsenical soap from the following recipe:—Camphor, 2½ oz.; arsenic, powdered, 1 lb.; white soap, 1 lb.; salt of tartar, 6 oz.; chalk, powdered, 2 oz.

Cut this soap into very thin slices, put them into a pot over a very gentle fire with very little water, stirring with a wooden spoon. When dissolved, add the salts of tartar and chalk, take it off the fire, add the arsenic, and stir the whole gently; pound the camphor in a mortar with a little spirits of wine and mix.—F.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

I HAVE to congratulate Mr. Gourbot upon his confession of fishing from early morn until dewy eve without a touch. If we had a more general admission of blank days, our information would be better to be depended upon, and abject disappointment less. But while the professional puntsmen compete with each other who shall salt their reports to the highest state of kipperism, and the gentleman angler is reticent, men will be attracted like flies by the system now known on the Thames as "Catch 'em alive O!" Your note, which is appended, to the effect that Mr. Gourbot should "rake out a bundle of weed from the bottom of the river and he will find it full of live animalculæ, and that the fish have more food than they can eat just now," are words of wisdom founded on experience. There is no greater fallacy than to suppose you can attract fish, to any extent, with any other description of bait than that by which Mother Nature, at this particular period, has provided them. Many a tyro, who has taken down to the river some special treat, as he called it, has found this out. Let, therefore, Mr. J. Gourbot and others, if you will permit me to supplement your editorial note, lookout these same animalculæ—take the largest, more particularly those of a shrimp form, and fish with a minnow hook, placing two or three thereon. Mr. Wix, of Clay Hall House, Leytonstone, who wrote a clever brochure upon roach fishing, always, at this season of the year, went down to the Lea or Thames, perfectly unprovided with any bait than paste, depending entirely upon his observations upon what the fish were feeding. This is easily ascertained by opening the first that is caught with a sharp knife, spread the contents of the stomach upon the palm of the hand, and it will be seen that that nearest to the gullet is less digested than the rest, and therefore its character more readily discernible. It has always appeared strange to me that while this practice is almost universally pursued by the fly fisher, to whom it gives so obvious an aid to certain success, no attention whatever is paid to it by the bottom fisher. You hold a fish in your hand, and you find an exudation of aquatic vegetation proceed from its vent, yet no thought of trying the silk weed of which this discharge is composed occurs to you, and you go on with paste gentles, or worms, until the close of the day without adding to your bag, when, if you took a hint from your own gastronomic inclination, with the temperature at 90°, you would or ought to consider that a salad would be as acceptable to fish as it is to man.—F.

A GARDEN OF WILDINGS.

MY GARDEN WILD AND WHAT I GREW THERE. By Francis George Heath, editor of the new edition of Gilpin's "Forest Scenery," author of "The Fern World," "Sylvan Spring," "Peasant Life," &c. London: Chatto and Windus.

THIS new volume of Mr. Heath's is suggestive of delightful possibilities. What genuine angler is there who has not a thousand times been charmed by the wealth of floral beauty in his piscatorial surroundings—meadows flushed with the hues of ripening grass, blue where the speedwells lie and golden with the buttercup, or river banks rich in colour by the presence of many clustered wildings. The active sparkling streams, full of pebbly shallows, and loved by trout and graced by ferns, either on their rocky margins or upon the boulder islets against which their impatient currents murmuringly splash; the river of quiet deeps where tench lie under the great leaves of the water lilies confess the crowded presence of flowering rush, of willow herb, of purple loosestrife, forget-me-not, and pimpernel. But the flora of river or brook side is far too abundant for us to indicate even what is most prominently typical of it. The angler who has eyes and a keen sense of the beautiful—and what true angler has not?—ought to be an accomplished naturalist. But, be he so or not, perhaps a perusal of Mr. Heath's "Garden Wild" will at least induce him to take a new interest in the wild plants which fringe his path on almost every fishing excursion he makes. If the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE follow Mr. Heath's advice, and have natural instead of stiff, formal and conventional gardens around their dwellings, they will add a new attraction to the pleasures of angling—for

they have such peculiar and exceptional facilities for the nature-teaching upon which the author of "My Garden Wild" lays—and very properly lays—so much stress. Mr. Heath does not make the particular suggestion to anglers, but we venture to think that they might do much worse than fill empty creels—when their fishing luck has gone the wrong way—with wild flower and fern roots for the garden at home. Such a practice might greatly mitigate the bitterness of disappointment in the matter of "sport;" and the plants brought home would furnish pleasant reminders of many spots where the scenery was beautiful, even if the fish did not "bite." But even where the "takes" have been good, if the weight of fish to carry be not overwhelming, a root or two at least might be added to the cargo, and the stock would soon accumulate in the "Garden Wild." We advise those of our readers who would like to know how to enjoy this especial kind of delightful pastime to obtain Mr. Heath's book, which contains some three hundred pages, and can be had for less than the price of a bottle of good port.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W.—We do not think there is any free trout fishing on the Darenth, Cray, or Roding worth having.

H. GREENWAY.—No charge. You will find Lowestoft a first-class place to stay at, and by rail thence you can get in five minutes to Oulton Broad. You should row up the Dyke, which runs into the Broad, until you meet the Beccles river, and just at the spit of land at the junction you will find ten or twelve feet of water, and we have always had splendid sport there, and got larger fish than in the Broad or the Dyke. You will get good perch on the Broad. For big bream you should go by rail to Cantley and Buckenham, on the Yare, and also for splendid roach. There are very fine bream in Ormesby and Wroxham Broads.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FISHING IN NORTH WALES.

SIRE,—

"When a pretty woman shows her hand
What can a poor man do?"—

but adore it—the old song says. And when an Editor, with even only his forefinger, beckons up a contributor to answer a few of the questions of a correspondent, what can he *loyally* do, but obey his liege? Therefore, although I am not an "angler who regularly visits North Wales," and consequently am not, I feel sure, nearly so well qualified as many of your readers are for the office, I will do my best towards answering *some* of the queries put by "H. T. H."—subject always to correction by any one speaking with more authority.

My angling experience of the district indicated by "H. T. H." is limited to having—as a learner—watched my piscatorial teacher "X." fly-fish with the spinning-minnow "the sacred Dee" at Corwen for three days at Whitsun, '80. I did not, except for a few hours, angle at all myself. Under the most adverse circumstances, "X." got upwards of 40 lb. of trout in the three days, which *rather* astonished the natives, who—as the saying is—couldn't catch a fish. You recollect the weather, and the water on the Coquet then? No rain since Easter, no water, all flannel-weed, north-east wind, sharp frost at night, bright sun by day! No angling, save the very highest, had the slightest chance of success. And so, and in order also to make one less spoiling the river for "X," I did not angle, but looked on at his little game.

There is an Angling Association at Corwen, and another at Llangollen. The Corwen water extends some six miles, with angling from both banks over the greater portion. Tickets are 1s. 6d. a day, 4s. a week, and so on. There are printed rules of that association. "H. T. H." should write the secretaries. The trout angler who finds fault with the run of the river at Corwen, or the charge for fishing it, must be hard indeed to please. But what fish he catches, that, of course, is a question which none but he can answer. "Therein must the patient minister to himself."

We stayed at the Owen Glendower Hotel, Corwen, and were made very comfortable. A Mr. O. Jones—a jolly fellow, fond of gun, and rod, and all the rest of it—was, and I trust still is, and likely to be, the landlord; for I hope to pay him a visit again before very, very long. The way in which "The Only (of course, The Only!)" Mrs. Jones shows off a stranger-angler's big dish of trout to a local expert is *wickedly bewitching*. Poor Mrs. O. J., I doubt she doesn't often get the chance. "Hard, hard, hard is it" upon the innkeepers by all of our best trout-waters that their guests so often—owing only to their own 'prentice-hands—go "empty away," and then give the beautiful and abounding stream a bad name! How she begged us to come again when things were at their best, instead of at their very worst! And how delighted we shall be, Mrs. O. J., whenever in this work-a-day world we can do so, and X. can sing the Corwen experts "a more excellent song than the last!"

About April is the height of the season for river-trout in the Dee, and all over North Wales. The lakes are a little later. But there is good fishing both in lakes and rivers in September, given only proper weather and water.

I cannot speak to the special flies for the Dee.

Mr. Huggett's letter on the angling at Corwen, which you published some months ago, should be consulted, as well as the little Wrexham book which you referred to. I have it, but cannot find it. The cost is only 1s., I think. And there is a somewhat larger work which I have read. In the catalogue of the London Library it is entered as "Cliffe (T.H.) Notes of an Angler among the Mountains of Wales 12mo., 1860." That work gives the results of the author's fishings of a good few of the lakes and streams of the Principality.

As regards bottom fishing at Corwen, I have reason to hope that coarse ground fish are not quite "as thick as herrings in a barrel" thereabouts. Some grayling might be had, no doubt, either with worm or gentle, as well as with fly, or grass-hopper, or spinning minnow. The pike are kept down pretty fairly by the keepers' nets. But higher up, towards Bala, I fear they have it rather too much their own way. In Bala Lake—a short run by rail from Corwen—there is said to be good pike, perch and roach fishing.

In the autumn there is some salmon-fishing at Corwen.

The scenery is charming, a portion of it being the celebrated Vale of Llangollen.

Hoping the above information—partial and defective as it is—may be of help to "H. T. H." and trusting,

"Now my task is smoothly done,"

I may retire—with further fealty respited—I am, Sire, your tricky spirit
A. R. I. E. L.

"Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough."

TO A. R. I. E. L.

SIR,—It is always a pleasure to read the communications of your correspondent A. R. I. E. L., whether in prose or verse—they are always graceful, full of healthy feeling, and so bright. May I venture to ask him to lay us under a further obligation by describing the tackle he uses when "fly fishing with the spinning minnow, and also what is the line he finds equally useful for both fly and minnow?—I am, yours, &c.,
A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.

Bradford, July 19, 1881.

FISHING AT HATFIELD PARK.

SIR,—Can any reader give me any information as to what fish are allowed to be taken out of the above water at this time of the year, and more particularly if there is good roach fishing?
H. P.

Regent's Park, July 18, 1881.

FISHING IN THE WARWICKSHIRE AVON.

SIR,—Will some one kindly inform me of one or two good places on the above river for fishing, and say if there are any trout and grayling? I think there are many heavy pike?—I am, &c.,
FALSTAFF.

Falcon Court, July 19, 1881.

FISHING IN NORTH WALES.

SIR,—If "H. T. H." does not intend visiting North Wales until August or September, he had better try the mountain lakes, the rivers will be mere threads at that season. Barmouth would be a good place to make his headquarters, there being a great many lakes easily accessible from there. There is also some fair sea fishing, and large quantities of bass in the estuary of the Mawddach, they may be taken from the viaduct between the Barmouth junction and the town.

Pritchard, of Wrexham, is the publisher of "The Angler's Guide to North Wales."

If "H. T. H." has decided on fishing the Dee, he cannot do better than go to Corwen; there is a very comfortable hotel there. The "Owen Glyndwr," and the river Alwyn, and other tributaries of the Dee are within an easy distance. It is best to get flies from the "local talent."—I am, &c.,
Budleigh Salterton.
E. GOSLING.

FISHING AT MAIDSTONE.

SIR,—In answer to "North Brixton," I may tell him that three years ago I was troubled with the same query, and went to Maidstone, so as to personally investigate. I found that there was very little, if any, fishing to be had there, in consequence of the water being polluted by some oil mills a little further up the stream, so I continued my walk until I came to Watlingbury, a very pretty little place, four miles from Maidstone, and suitable for headquarters. Good accommodation can be had at Mr. Woolley's, close to the railway station; or if a private house is preferred, "N. B." can put up at one of a row of cottages close by; this is very handy, being opposite the boat yard, where good boats can be had, and at a moderate charge. The fishing is free and very fair, both up and down the river, for roach, chub, bream, pike and eels. The small charge of 1½d. per rail will convey him to Yalding, and in a back stream, called the "Bult," in the far corner of a meadow, close to the railway station and sluice, is a deep pool, in which the finny tribe abound. I have fished this place for three years now, with very fair success, *vide* FISHING GAZETTE reports for August, of last year, in which my catches are reported. Any further information I shall be pleased to give. Apologising for trespassing on your valuable space.
ROYER.

P.S.—There is also a large nice pond at Watlingbury, full of carp, chub and roach, &c., belonging to Mr. Tumlin, who readily gives permission. Try the upper pond, not the lower one.

[Many thanks for the information. Yes, should much like to have the reports you refer to.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR WORCESTER.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. J. A. Griffin, writing under the above heading, in last week's GAZETTE, says that the "Teme" rises on the same mountain as the "Severn," viz., Mount Plinlimmon; this is incorrect, it being the "Wye" and the "Severn" that rise on this hill. The "Teme" and the "Ithon" both take their source on the Kerry Hill, about nine miles to the south-east of Newtown, on the borders of Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire, the latter river taking a southerly course through Penybont and Llandrindod, and emptying itself into the "Wye" at Newbridge, the Teme taking a contrary direction, flowing easterly through Knighton, Ludlow, and Tenbury into the "Severn" below Worcester.
E. A. STEVENS,

Belle Vue Road, Leacombe,
Liverpool Angling Association.
July 18, 1881.

FISHING AT DOVERCOURT.

SIR,—Will you inform me, through your correspondence, which is the nearest and best river by Dovercourt, Harwich, for a day's fishing, the river Stour or the river Orwell, and what fish is to be obtained in either of them and would there be any particular bait to use for them there? By supplying this information in your issue of the 23rd (as I am going on the 27th) you would greatly oblige,
A YOUNG PISCATOR. u

GREY MULLET.

SIR,—Mr. Clift will find a great deal of useful information about the capture of this fish in "Useful Facts and Hints on Fishing and Shooting," Field office, Strand.

Thornback's liver is very good bait, also small bits of mussels or rag worms. They are, however, a very uncertain fish, and rarely to be taken in shallow water, which they much affect in hot weather. I have, however, caught a few in four or five feet of water, by using a Nottingham dace rod, line and hook, and taking very long swims; ground bait of some sort is necessary, green crabs pounded, fish or fish refuse chopped very small, is the best.

The best places are in deep eddies, by piers, &c., or at the mouth of a sewer,

in these places use a floated paternoster, with small hooks of stout wire; if fine, like roach hooks, they will draw with the struggles of the fish.

FOSTER FUND.

SIR,—This fund is now closed. Secretaries who have not yet handed over their collections will please send direct to "Mrs. Foster, 19, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C."

The committee decided the fund should be closed and cash handed over to Mrs. Foster at once.

Messrs. Hoole and Ghurney waited upon Mrs. Foster on the 18th inst., and handed over to her the following subscriptions, viz. :—

Mr. T. HOOLE'S LIST.					£	s.	d.
Good Intent	..	..	..	..	2	11	6
North-Western	..	..	..	..	1	14	3
Social Brothers	..	..	..	..	1	2	0
Royal George	..	..	..	..	1	1	0
Westbourne Park	..	..	..	..	1	1	0
Cadogan	..	..	..	..	1	1	0
Mr. P. Geen	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
City of London	..	..	..	..	0	19	0
Hammersmith United	..	..	..	..	0	17	0
Cambridge Friendly	..	..	..	..	0	16	6
Hampstead	..	..	..	..	0	16	3
Waltonians	..	..	..	..	0	16	0
Amicable Brothers	..	..	..	..	0	16	0
Golden Barbel	..	..	..	..	0	14	6
Marylebone	..	..	..	..	0	14	6
Prince of Wales	..	..	..	..	0	13	6
Norfolk	..	..	..	..	0	10	6
Duke of Norfolk	..	..	..	..	0	10	6
Bostonian	..	..	..	..	0	10	6
Acorn	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Silver Trout	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
South London	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Penge	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Mrs. Williams and friends	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Clapham Junction	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Sir Hugh Myddelton	..	..	..	..	0	9	0
United Brothers	..	..	..	..	0	7	0
King's Cross United	..	..	..	..	0	7	0
Kenningtonian	..	..	..	..	0	6	6
Bloomsbury Brothers	..	..	..	..	0	6	0
Metropolitans	..	..	..	..	0	6	0
Stepney	..	..	..	..	0	6	0
Mr. T. Spreckley	..	..	..	..	0	5	0
Cobden	..	..	..	..	0	3	6
Mr. C. Hatfield's two friends	..	..	..	..	0	2	0
					£24	3	6

Mr. R. GHURNEY'S LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Carlisle	0	1	6
Edmonton and Tottenham	0	5	0
North-Eastern	0	10	0
Bridgewater Brothers	0	4	0
Woolwich Brothers	0	6	0
South Essex Piscatorials	0	8	0
Walworth Waltonians	0	11	0
Alexandra	0	8	0
Izaak Walton	1	4	6
Reform	0	12	6
Cavendish	0	16	0
West Ham Brothers	0	9	6
Burdett	0	4	0
Alliance	0	3	0
Hoxton Brothers	0	13	0
Canonbury	0	10	6
Anglers' Benevolent Society	£7	6	6
	5	0	0
	£12	6	6

Mrs. Foster wishes to return her most heartfelt thanks to those gentlemen who have so ably assisted her in her great trouble.—We are, &c.,

R. GHURNEY, }
T. HOOLE, } Hon. Secs. to the Fund.
July 19.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I doubt the correctness of your correspondent's figures, signed "L. B." (Bonvoisin), and "H. K.," with regard to the weight of fish taken by members of the London clubs, &c., and, as Mr. L. B. mentions, from a few rivers round London.

I am, therefore, led to ask the following questions, as those legislating for us must not be misled.

First: how many miles of water are there in the few rivers, subscription waters, reservoirs, &c., that are visited by London anglers?

Second: did not a great many of the fish, viz., 2000 lb., weighed-in by the members of the North-Western Angling Club, come from the Welsh Harp (not fenced), Elstree, &c., and were not many of these fish bream full of spawn, after June 16, 1880?

Third: did not Littleport, Cambs, help to swell the total?

Fourth: the N. W. A. S. is said to have fifty members. Will Mr. L. B. inform us how many members have not weighed 30 lb. of fish each during the season?

Fifth: would not half the calculated weight be considerably more than the actual, perhaps some other club or clubs will inform us how many of their members weigh-in under 20 lb. of fish during the nine months they have open?

Sixth: who is right, Mr. Editor, L. B., H. K., or you?

To arrive at the truth, it will also be necessary to extract fish taken from strictly private waters, as they considerably swell every club's gross total.

It may interest your readers to know I travelled over 1000 miles, including the return journey, in the early part, eight weeks, of last season, and only weighed 10 lb. of fish, yet many of our members did worse.

Our best takes, both this season and last, were had by members who fished the Welsh Harp water, a water continually fished by hundreds of anglers, and a water practically unfenced, but then it is not netted. I think this speaks for itself.—I am, &c.,
F. MALCOM.

40, Ludgate Hill.

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR,—Can you tell me the nearest angling club to Waltham Green? Is "The Angler's Diary," published once a year? [Yes, Ed.].—I am, &c.,
3, Cedar Road, Waltham Green, London, S.W.,
July 18, 1881.
H. BELWARD.

A KEEPER ON THE MUNDELLA ACT.

[Mr. Geen also asks us to publish the following.]
SIR,—I feel fast to express myself to you through been uneducated, but I know you will excuse me when I tell you I could not scarcely write my name when I left school. I want to tell you I can fish, and have been a fisher all my life, and my mother's, family, and father's also, so I think and hope you will condescend to read my few remarks. First, I sent a letter to the FISHING GAZETTE aprechtateg your letter wich apeired June the 4th, and in veariance with the editor's whear, he says fish for eel all the year, and roach, breem, &c., when in season I do think and that he, Mr. Editor, do not know much about the nature of fish, or he was saying so as party feeling, and as if I could have him at the rive with me, say from first of March untill the first day of July, I think I could convince him that what he says is very wrong. Now, burbot spawn in March, and that's the night liners season to catch them in the Trent, but you know that class is allways after eel, make eel a migratory fish, and then look how you can protect any other fish. I hope no other place is trubled as we are on the Trent, with a lot of vagabonds and men that I know can use the rod well, "nets, blows up, night lines, spears," comet's robbery's, and snares of all sorts. I am sorry to say I know lots of them, thears twelve of them somnosed to Southwell for next Friday for night lineing in the Trent betwixt Hoveringham and Fiskerton, they have a lawyer, the case came on two weeks ago, and put of, in order to make eel migratory. I should like to see a time when no night lines would be legal at night, or fishing of any sort that could be done by daylight, and thears only one sort, that's eel netting, it cannot be worked to any advantage in the day-time, back to size and season; if I was the law-maker for the Trent, I should have no pike taken, either by one or the other, from the first of March untill the first of August, and pirch March first to July the first. I would not allow any one to take by any means any roach, breem, chub, barbel, &c., from the first of April to the first of July, when I would then allow all but pike. I wish you was with me, sir, "My late master, Rd. J. Hardy, Esqr., of Nottm.," has fished with Mr. Jardine and Mr. Wheelodon's best schoolers in the neibourhood as a poor man's, "and I can assure you that non of them would either catch a fish or eat one out of season or out of size." My hand trembles, I have take could, and I have got a very bad back, with getting wet last Thursday, fishing with my new master, Charles T. Jacoby, Esqr., Nottm. Park. Please excuse my bouldness, and beleve me to rest.—I am, &c.,
JOHN FOSTER, Fisherman.

P.S.—I said in my letter to the FISHING GAZETTE, that I was at the exebition, and the only thing that did not please me was men goin fishing, &c. I have taken in the *Field* over twenty-five years, I have also taken *Land and Water* sometimes, and now I have taken the FISHING GAZETTE for over two years. I have had every *Field* for over twenty-five years, and all my children has lern thear first letters out of the *Field* newspaper. I have got a few artickes put in it, but not a quarter of what I have sent. I have a son named Izaak Walton, I gave his mother the choise, either Francis Francis or I. Walton. I can bost of my childeren, to give you an idea I am fond of fishing. What bosh one hapens to see, for instance, wheare a cospondant sineing, "W. H. L.," in a leader for this GAZETTE. I am writeing from wheare he says the Trent is not much polluted. "Now, sir, I can asure you it is to the reverse, but I think you now, that theares plenty of filth, and very little fish in it. If you don't, I am sorry to say I do. For, if theare was anything aproching the number of fish as used to be, I should then be well of," for then I should have a dozen gentlemen to one, now. Gess, then, the result.—I am, &c.,
SPORTSMAN'S FRIEND.

[We put this amusing epistle in as it stands. We should think this keeper must be very good company, and we should like to have a day's fishing with him, when he gets his Trent a little cleaner. We do not want to catch fish out of season, and we have no great desire to eat even the best of the coarse fish when in season. After what our friend says of the state of the Trent, we should decidedly not like either to catch or eat any of his fish. We might suggest to this Trent keeper who looks after a stretch of preserved water on the Trent, that, perhaps, he is not quite so unbiased as he thinks, he probably (and his master also) objects to the presence of poor anglers on the river. Against such a formidable array of piscatorial knowledge, including apparently his maternal ancestors and his own children, we admit our knowledge of the subject has no chance. He seems to think that the Trent is the chief river in England, and that any legislation should be made to suit his views and those of his burbot.—Ed.]

THE MUNDELLA ACT.

SIR,—The committee of the above association have unanimously passed the resolutions adopted at the Conference of Anglers in London, on June 27th, in respect to the Freshwater Fisheries Act, and would wish that a clause should be inserted as follows: That it shall be legal to take eels and flounders during the close season in tidal waters with the rod and line only from sunrise to sunset. If this proposed alterations is allowed, I think there will be no necessity for either Mr. Wortley or Sir J. Baily's Amendment Act, as it has given the greatest satisfaction here, and I think will also give universal satisfaction to all honest and fair anglers, but may not stop the mouths of the pocket filling and pot hunting party who call themselves anglers. Wishing you every success.—I am, &c.,
T. WALKER, Sec.,
Sheffield Anglers' Association.

24, Blue Boy Street, July 3, 1881.

HOW HE KNEW IT WAS A BARBEL.

SIR,—Last week one of the oldest anglers in our club—the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society—invited me to join him in a punt, bream fishing in the Thames. This offer from a noted bream fisherman was not to be sneered at, especially as I had never taken a Thames bream or knew where to find

one; accordingly, away we went in the evening to spend a night on the Thames. Who has spent a summer's night on the Thames that does not wish to go again? The glory of the setting sun, the magnificent scenery—lit by a thousand gorgeous and ever changing colours; the stars, as they appear at first, one by one, lit by some invisible hand. Here and there the tall trees, like giants, stand between us and the horizon—their motionless forms reflected deeply below the waters—the solemn silence, save where the ripple whispers under the dark bushes or the trout rises, breaking the surface of the water into a ring of ripples—with the silver moon rising behind while the sun is going down in our front—not straight down in the east to rise in the west. Oh, no; he goes obliquely down a little below the horizon, never withdrawing his light completely, and appears again apparently, from our view, about 500 yards from where he disappeared. To endeavour to portray the glory of the rising sun were folly. So to earth again.

The reward of our patience was two bream, 6½ lb., and four eels at five in the morning, not a touch after. About twelve o'clock in the day, after having had a nap in the punt, B. suggested it was very hot and quiet and wished we might have an adventure. "If only," said he, "some big fish would run away with my rod and you were to fall in the water getting it out." I agreed with the former proposition but objected to a bath with my clothes on, and hoped something might turn up. About half an hour later, while lying down attempting to keep myself cool, Mr. B. exclaimed "Look here!" I jumped up. I just saw about three parts of a rod with a great fish on it and nearly caught hold of it. Said he, "It must be a big fish; it pulled the rod up stream too fast for me to get hold of it. Keep a look out for the rod. Somebody's broke away, rod and all; I'll get my drag out." Out came his drag with a strong cord attached, and for a quarter of an hour Mr. B. dragged, first from the boat and then from the island, while I was looking in all directions for a sight of the rod. Mr. B. finished up by hooking the root of a tree, and lost his drag. "It's a barbel," says B.; "I know it's a barbel. They're so strong. No other fish would take a rod up stream like that." We settled down again for half an hour—not a bite. "Well," said I, "I shall go minnow fishing; if I can get one I may get a perch," and got on the island, where I had previously tried, but could only get bleak. I looked for a little rod I had left on the grass; it was gone. "B.," said I, "seen my rod?" "What rod?" says B. "Why," said I, "I fitted up one to catch minnows. It was the landing net handle with a top joint, screwed in, a drawn gut line, float, and very small hook covered by the chrysolis of a gentle." "Oh," says B, "that explains all," and we were pitying the poor fellow who got broke away. I may explain I had laid my rod on the grass with the tip just over a shallow place about an inch deep. For some time we wondered how a big fish could get to the very small bait, but came to the conclusion a minnow must have found it and, becoming hooked, went out into deep water, where some large fish—not a barbel—must have seized him and pulled the rod into the river. So we had our wished-for adventure—without a ducking—with no more harm than the loss of tackle. If any one of your readers should hear of such a rod being found at Shepperton he may find an owner in the secretary of the Westbourne Park Piscatorial Society.—I am, &c.,
H. ADEANE.

11, All Saints-road, Westbourne Park.

TENCH FISHING.

SIR,—I started last Thursday week for a few days' pond fishing in the Weald of Kent. Arriving by the South-Eastern Railway at my station about half-past eleven a.m., I had a delightful walk of seven miles through roads and lanes bordered by high hedges, glowing with honeysuckle and wild roses in profusion—the hop gardens on all sides looking flourishing and the crops, particularly oats and beans, very fine. In the afternoon I strolled out with the rod and had rather bad luck, losing first both hook and bait with a large fish, and then another fish—a tench of at least 4 lb. weight—which I succeeded in getting to the shore, but broke away whilst I was endeavouring to get my fingers into his gills. I had no landing net with me, unfortunately. However, next morning I did better. In a neighbouring pond my brother advised me to try, as he had turned in there some thirty tench about two years ago, I took three tench weighing ¼ lb. and lost another. This pond, which is an isolated, dark, and melancholy-looking place, has been fished by us very often for years past, but nothing taken there except one or two large roach. The fish, when turned in from a pond in an adjoining field, were no longer than one's hand and weighed, perhaps, some two ounces each, so that it is really surprising that they should have reached 1 lb. and 1½ lb. each in so short a period as two years.

A day or two afterwards my brother and self landed from the same water, in about two hours, seven fish averaging about a pound each. All these fish were in splendid condition, and when baked with veal stuffing (the fashion of the country) formed, I can assure you, no mean addition to the good things of the table. I took during the week, besides some other smaller tench, several nice eels and some perch and roach, but the conclusion I have come to from my visit is that it is well worth while, when, during tench fishing, you find a pond overstocked with small fish, to turn what you take into another pond, no matter whether your own or your neighbours, with the certainty in a year or two of having good sport if no one has found out your bank, or rather pond, of deposit.—I am, &c.,
AN OLD ANGLER.

170, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, N.

BY THE THAMES-SIDE.—Let the tourist angler, while rambling along the Thames-side, near Caversham (Reading), cast one loving look towards the hill where now stands the residence of one of the Crawshay family. It was here, abouts, though nearer to the river, that in the then mansion upon this property the unfortunate Charles I. took his final farewell of such of his family that happened to be staying at Caversham. There, a little higher up the Thames and over the chalk hills of Mapledurham, Charles II., while hiding from his enemies, wiled away the time by playing at bowls. It is a good many years since I visited this charmingly-retired spot, and the walk thereto is a good "pipe-opener," but the beauty of the surroundings more than compensate for this wayside trip. Monarchy in those days somehow or other got into a mess; but we all ought to be grateful to our ancestors for struggling so bravely to win some of the liberties we have since enjoyed. The "Merry Monarch" doubtless was first charmed by the wit and beauty and talents of Nell Gwynne, and afterwards loved her as much as he was capable of doing. Ah! Nell was no vulgar, common-bred girl, although she had once sold oranges on the steps of Drury-lane Theatre, then played upon its classic stage, and finally induced the king to leave a noble inheritance to England's soldier pensioners at Chelsea.—W. F.

CLUB REPORTS.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

This association held its usual monthly meeting on the 15th instant. Mr. Bonvoisin and Mr. Beckett in the chair and vice-chair respectively. The meeting was not so well attended as usual, owing, no doubt, to the tropical heat of the last week, which has, I think, had to answer for a great many laches amongst all ranks of society; twenty-three clubs were represented notwithstanding. After the minutes of the last meeting had been passed as read, the chairman, addressing the meeting, stated that at the last committee meeting the differences between the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales Angling Societies had been explained and settled to the satisfaction of such committee, therefore the matter would now end. The Pictorial Angling Society having been provisionally enrolled at such committee meeting, such enrolment was confirmed. The Society of Caxtonian Anglers was also enrolled with this association. Mr. Murphy then called attention to the "Foster Fund," and asked the hon. secretary whether the money subscribed to such fund had been handed to the widow, whom, he informed the meeting, was in very deep distress. The hon. sec. in a few words explained what had been done in the matter and what he proposed to do. Secretaries having lists still outstanding are earnestly requested to forward them to either of the hon. sec.'s of the fund (Mr. T. Hoole and Mr. R. Ghurney) without further delay. It may be interesting to many to know a little as to the number of tickets issued by the association, the hon. sec. announced that 1728 had up the paesent been granted. The question having been raised whether anything had been done relative to an earlier train on Sunday, on the G. W. R., it was ultimately proposed by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Claydon, "that the secretary be instructed to communicate with the G. W. R., asking for an earlier train to be run to the stations on the upper waters of the Thames." The chairman then informed the meeting that on the 12th instant a deputation consisting of Messrs. Spreckley, president of the T. A. P. S., P. Geen, president of the W. C. A. L. and P. A. S., Clench, president of the Richmond A. S., R. Ghurney, secretary of the U.S.A., C. C., and himself, waited by appointment on Sir J. Bailey, Bart, M.P., and were most courteously received. The resolutions passed at the conference recently held at the Society of Arts were laid before him, and the deputation urged him to strike coarse fish out of his proposed Salmon Consolidation Act altogether, and leave them to shift for themselves. He, in reply, informed the deputation that was impossible owing to the mixed up nature of the Act of 1878, but if they could get another Act passed embracing such resolutions and such clauses only of the Act of 1878 as were of any use to the angling interests, and let the old Act go, he should be most happy to be of service to the angling fraternity. There being no further business to bring before the meeting, the hon. sec. then proceeded to call the roll, the following societies answering thereto:—Anglers Pride, Bostonian, Cadogan, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Cobden, Caxtonian, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Hammersmith United, King's Cross United, Norfolk North-Western, Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Pictorial, St. John's Wood Piscatorials, South London, United Marlborough Brothers, Waltonians and Westbourne Park Piscatorials.—G. TREADWELL.

18th July.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

A great many went out to try their skill, but owing to the extreme heat left off early. Messrs. Thorpe and Wood tried together, the former got 7 lb. roach, the latter 6 lb. ditto. Mr. Arnold, roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. Howlett, 3 lb. roach from the same water, one roach over 1 lb.; Mr. Patrick, 6 lb. roach and bream from Dagenham; Mr. Moir, 3 lb. tench; Mr. G. Carrington, 2 lb. 2 oz. perch.—J. WOBBEDGE.

July 17, 1881.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society was well represented on the 17th inst. by the following members, who weighed in:—Mr. S. Wall, with 6 lb. 13 oz., one roach scaling 1 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. J. Deeley, jun., 4 lb. 5 oz., bream and roach, one bream 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Haines, 2 lb., bream; Mr. H. Scutt, 1 lb. 14 oz., chub; Mr. Soar, bream; Mr. T. Fiddes, roach; Mr. Mallett, roach; and Mr. Marshall, bream. Total weight, 18 lb. 9 oz.—E. MALLETT, sec.

July 19, 1881.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 17th:—Mr. Mortimer, 5 lb. 4 oz. of roach and bream from Amberley; Mr. Castell, near 4 lb. of bream from Dagenham; Mr. J. Chambers, roach from the Roding; and Mr. Perry, bream from Amberley. The next return visit of the United London Anglers will go to the above society on Tuesday, July 26th, at Coger's Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, where they will find everything cool, but the welcome. We are fifty yards from Ludgate, and five minutes' walk from Farringdon Road Stations.—CAS.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above Society were out on Sunday last, July 17, the most successful being Mr. C. White with a handsome tray of perch; Tudenhams, roach from Woking (by the bye, he brought word that a great quantity of fish were lying dead on the water. Can you account for this?) J. Smith had also a very handsome show of rudd (about 7 or 8 lb.), also roach and perch; Mr. Blackman, perch likewise.—A. THOMAS, sec.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Annual Dinner of this society will take place on August the 14th at the White Horse, Bery, near Amberley. On Sunday, the 17th inst., there was a capital show of fish, Messrs. J. J. Holmes and C. Russell having some very fine roach and bream from Amberley.—J. CHURCHMAN.

July 18, 1881.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed some very fair roach and bream from Amberley:—Mr. J. Watling, 5 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. J. Fitch, 4 lb. 13 oz., 1 roach 1 lb.; Jennings, 2 lb. 11 oz.; Painter, 11 oz.; Hewitt, 1 lb. 13 oz. From the Wey:—W. Theobald, 5 lb.; Parkin, 1 lb. 6 oz.; J. K. Fitch, 2 lb. 3 oz.; H. Watling, 2 lb. 2 oz. From the Welsh Harp:—Mr. Patman, 8 lb. bream and carp. From the Mole:—Mr. S. Smith, 3 lb. 6 oz. A sad occurrence

took place at Broxbourne on Sunday last. Mr. C. Perkins (better known as Bumpy), a very old and respected member of the society, fell dead when in the act of casting his fly in the New River. Another sad event has taken place in connection with this society. Mr. Mayes, father of a young family, an energetic member of this society, died on Wednesday last, after three days' illness. He leaves a widow and ten children. Mr. W. Mayes is the eldest. A joint benefit is in contemplation for Mrs. C. Perkins and Mrs. Mayes, for which we have offers of great support.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

President: the Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P.; vice-presidents: Major the Hon. E. R. Bourke and Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Fowler, M.P. Season 1881-2.—Arrangements have now been made by which members have the full right of fishing Mr. Godfrey's water, Thorney Broad, West Drayton, and Messrs. Day's water, known as Ford's, at Park, one station beyond Tottenham. In both cases members have precisely the same privileges as are granted to the regular subscribers to those waters, free of any payment, but the Gresham railway privilege ticket must in all cases be produced when required. Prizes.—A considerable number of prizes are offered for competition, arrangements for which will be made by a special prize committee, and the prizes distributed at the close of the season. Gentlemen desiring information or wishing to compete, are requested to communicate with the secretary, or, if possible, attend the meetings of the Society. Meetings.—Monthly meetings having been found inconvenient, the interval being too long for practical work, the members now meet weekly, each Thursday evening, at 7 o'clock, and a resolution will be submitted at the meeting on the 4th of August, making this one of the society's rules. The committee trust members will attend largely, that the weekly meetings may be rendered as successful and useful as possible. Subscriptions.—Gentlemen who have not yet paid their annual subscription are kindly requested to forward the same at once to the secretary, that the list of members may be made complete, and the railway privilege tickets duly issued.

July 21, 1881.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Only a very few of our members have ventured out during the hot weather, and takes have not been heavy, mainly consisting of dace, perch and bleak. It is proposed to have an excursion by road into the country early in September, and as the number is limited, members wishing to go are requested to send in their names immediately to Mr. H. G. Penny, hon. sec.—VORTEX.

July 18, 1881.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 10th inst., Mr. E. W. Turner had a nice tray of roach, the heaviest weighed 1 lb. Mr. C. Green also had roach on the same day. The Wednesday members dined at Mr. Lyndsell's, the Pied Bull, Stanstead, St. Margaret's on Wednesday, the 13th inst., the chair was ably filled by the treasurer, Mr. A. Rogers, faced by Mr. H. Butt, a splendid repast was placed on the table, and was very much enjoyed by all present, after the cloth was cleared, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Lyndall for the manner in which he entertained the members of this society. Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., showed some beautiful roach on Sunday the 17th inst, the largest scaled 1 lb. 7½ oz., he also had perch. Mr. W. H. Mechem had roach on the same day, Mr. T. Ward had bream, Mr. G. Bliss had bream, Mr. E. W. Turner, bream. On Wednesday, 20th inst., Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., had 9 lb. 10½ oz. of bream; Mr. J. Hilliar, jun. had 12 lb. 15½ oz. of bream, the heaviest weighed 1 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. G. P. Rolt had chub.

July 17th, 1881.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The takes of fish for the week are as under:—Mr. G. Watkins, jack, perch, roach, and barbel, 15 lb.; Mr. King, chub, 8 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Caplin, barbel, from Sonning, 18 lb. 9 oz., one fish scaling 7 lb. 6 oz., which is in the hands of Mr. G. Watkins for preservation, and will shortly be added to our rapidly increasing collection.—W. TUCKER, hon. sec.

July 19, 1881.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At the ordinary weekly meeting, held on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., it was resolved that there be a competition on Bank Holiday, August 1st, in Marbury Mere, Northwich. Members who intend taking a part in the excursion must inform me at least seven days beforehand as arrangements will have to be made with the keeper in time; other parties will no doubt apply, and we must be first in the field to secure what boats there are.—RD. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

July 19th, 1881.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of this flourishing club had a variety of fish last Sunday. Mr. Obbard chub and dace from the Lea; Mr. Neagus had excellent sport again with the roach in the Stort; Messrs. Edginton, Laundry, Drew, Lucy's (two), had roach, bream, and perch from Pulbore. Quarterly night, Monday next, July 25.—THOS. WM. LUCY, secretary.

PATRICROFT SOCIAL ANGLERS SOCIETY.

The first angling contest in connection with the above society took place on Saturday last, 16th inst., in the Bridgewater Canal, when 280 anglers took part in it. The day being bright and clear with a very slight breeze caused many residents to crowd the banks of the canal to witness the unusual sight of 280 anglers entering into peaceful rivalry for the prizes (23 in all) which were given by the treasurer of the society, Mr. Adam Oldfield, Spinner's Arms, Liverpool Road, Patricroft to the value of £10, viz., £6 10s. in money, and £3 10s. in value. The arrangements were very satisfactory, but owing to the late arrivals of the Oldham and Hollinwood Anglers, it was 4.30 before the draw commenced, this took an hour, and after allowing an additional quarter of an hour for each angler to get to his place, time was called at 5.45, two hours being fixed upon for the duration of the match. It was soon apparent that small captures would be the result, for although during the week the roach had been well on the feed very few were taken during the match, the highest weight (the first prize) being only 7 oz. and 8 shot, and the lowest prize taken 2½ oz. and 5 shot. The prizes consisted of a cruet stand, rod, copper kettle, clock, teapot, knives and forks, carver and fork, basket, reel, bait can, canary and cage, spoons, landing net, looking glass, garden seat, pocket knife, comb and brush, and cork seat. The successful competitors were:—1st prize, William Atherton, Farnworth, £3 with 7 oz. and 8 shot; 2nd prize, E. Withnall, Bardsley, £2 with 6½ oz. and 3 shot; 3rd prize, R. Shilleta, Eccles, £1 with 5½ oz. and 8

shot; 4th prize, R. Platt, Bolton, 10s. with 5 oz.; 5th prize, J. Clare, cruet stand, 4½ oz. and 5 shot; 6th prize, T. Sunner, Plank Lane, 4½ oz. and 9 shot; 7th prize, J. Matthews, Ringley, 4 oz. and 9 shot; 8th prize, J. Heaton, Salford, 4 oz. and 7 shot; 9th prize, R. Banks, Bolton, 3½ oz. and 9 shot; 10th prize, J. Humphrey's Clifton, 3½ oz. and 4 shot; 11th prize, J. Flitcroft, Bolton, 3½ oz. and 7 shot; 12th prize, J. Westhead, Plank Lane, 3½ oz. and 2 shot; 13th prize, Grundy, Tyldsley, 3 oz. and 8 shot; 14th prize, J. Thompson, Oldham, 3 oz. and 1 shot; 15th prize, E. Roe, Clifton, 2½ oz. and 6 shot; 16th and 17th prize, left without names, 2½ oz. and 1 shot; 2½ oz. and 11 shot; 18th prize, J. Clegg, Plank Lane, 2½ oz. and 11 shot; 19th prize, J. Fish, Patricroft, 2½ oz. and 10 shot; 20th prize, W. Walker, Farnworth, 2½ oz. and 3 shot; 22nd prize, C. Douglas, Oldham, 2½ oz. and 10 shot; 23rd prize, H. Dunbar, Pendleton, 2½ oz. and 5 shot. The 21st prize was not claimed, 2½ oz. The last eighteen competitors selected their own prizes; an arrangement which met with general approval.—W. R. R.

July 19.

PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club held their first match this season on Saturday last in the Eggington Canal, the following members being the successful prize takers:—1st prize, J. Bland; 2nd prize, W. A. Martin; 3rd prize, W. Tunncliffe; 4th prize, J. Hutton; 5th prize, F. Tunncliffe; 6th prize, J. Newsem; 7th prize, J. Grimley; 8th prize, W. Elliott; 9th prize, C. Hardy; 10th prize, T. Stafford.

[Very glad to hear it, and hope you will recommend the paper to anglers who don't take it yet.—ED.]

July 20, 1881.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had another good show of fish on the 17th inst., and great credit is due to the members for their perseverance notwithstanding the tropical character of the weather. The following is the exact result of the competition:—Mr. Edward North, 9 lb. 10½ oz. roach and bream; Mr. T. Gretton, 6 lb. 8 oz. bream; Mr. W. Webb, 1 lb. 10 oz. roach and bream; Mr. E. Morrow, 14½ oz. dace; Mr. T. Millington, 7½ oz. perch; total, 19 lb. 2½ oz. Again an improvement on the previous week.—THOS. GRETTON, Secretary.

P.S.—On the 19th inst. Mr. J. Wakett had a fine take of bream, weighing 17 lb.

July 19th, 1881.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Head was at Amberley yesterday, and got nearly 4 lb. roach; Messrs. Buck, Gearing, and Goody went to Thames Haven fishery, once famous for its quantity of rudd, but found, owing to a high tide in January, the sea came in water, and killed the rudd. They found some eels. They say they are the only fish in it now. I should not have troubled you with such a short report, but by letting the state of the water being known, save any other anglers loss of time and trouble.—G. H. FIELD.

July 18.

THE EXETER ANGLING CLUB.

It was expected from the numerous post-cards forwarded to members and friends we should have had a very large meeting last evening, but owing to the excessive heat, and a counter attraction in the shape of a "circus" troupe, which is generally well received by Exonians, our gathering was but limited; at any rate, business proceeded favourably, and some half a dozen names were placed upon the minutes for next Monday to be enrolled as members. The club, as you perceive above, has for various reasons, and in accordance with the members' wishes, been altered, and for the future will be known as the E.A.C. A few dishes of fish have been shown, but to "plod through sunshine or through rain" is all very well, but when you add the excessive heat and sunshine, together with the rivers and ponds very low, it is not encouraging, and accounts for the small sport.—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec. *pro tem*.

July 19, 1881.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The return visit of the Eastern District in connection with the United London Anglers' Central Committee was paid to the Hoxton Brothers, Jane Shore, High Street, Shoreditch, on Monday evening last, July 18th. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. Du Costu, Hoxton Brothers, the vice being ably filled by Mr. M. Say, of the Amicable Brothers. Though the night was intensely hot, there was a very full meeting, twenty clubs being represented. The next visit will be paid to The Great Northern Brothers, due notice of which will be given. A revised list of the Eastern District Visits will be ready by the next Central Committee Meeting on Monday, August 8th. Secretaries of clubs who wish to be enrolled on the new list will oblige by informing your humble servant, R. GHURNEY, 10, Baaches Street, Charles' Square, Hoxton, N.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

'Tis easier to deserve than to command success. Several of our members out, takes very poor. The best by Messrs. Malcolm and Roland about 3 lb. and a half each from Pulborough.—C. J. MARRIOTT.

July 19th, 1881.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The return visit, No. 1 District, will take place at the above house on Tuesday, August 2, when members of angling clubs are invited to spend an evening with the members of this large and flourishing society.—H. ADKANE, sec.

WEST CENTRAL.

A fine show of fish, and the best this season, were exhibited in the club-room of the above society, Cross Keys, Theobald's Road, on Sunday last, from the catches of the following members:—Mr. Berry was the champion of the day with a splendid take of trout, 17 in number, from Tunbridge Wells; Mr. Taylor came next with a good catch of bream from Amberley, one weighing 3 lb. 8 oz. and another 3 lb. (this is not Mr. Taylor's largest bream this season, as he took one a fortnight ago scaling over 4 lb.); Mr. White had 6 lb. of roach from Pulborough, all good fish; Mr. F. Beard also had a nice take of roach from the same place, weighing from 4 oz. to 1 lb.; Mr. W. Wilcockson weighed some fish from Byfleet, one being a fine bream of 3 lb.; Mr. Mathie, fishing at Kingston on the previous Wednesday took 7 lb. 8 oz. of dace and a small barbel 1 lb. 8 oz.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Give me mine angle. We'll to the river."

SHAKESPEARE.

A pleasant change has come o'er the spirit of the elements, for the weather is cooler, the water is ditto, and the fish are evidently grateful, and are accepting freely the good things wily piscators are offering in the shape of lobs, blood worms, gentles, paste, frogs, and rotten cheese. Gudgeon are biting at last, as I hear of takes of 20, 25 and 30 dozens within the past few days. Chub are affording good sport, the best bags being made with the fly, early and late in the day. Roach are still shy and out of condition, and jack should not be attempted until late in August. Tourists, campers and pic-nic-ers should now come down and see the river, for old Father Thames is looking his best, and his surroundings just now are simply glorious.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low; want a few days' rain. Perch are biting; taking about 3 dozen a day, very good ones. Gudgeon are biting very well; jack not on much.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

I have done a little better this week, morning and evening—four to five dozen roach and dace, from five to eight in the evening. My son has been chub fishing early three mornings; seven, five, and twelve fish from 1½ lb. to 3 lb. a fish. A private boat has got some nice chub. I saw five fish that would weigh close on 4 lb. each. I have not done anything with the barbel. I have heard of one punt having two that would weigh 8 lb.; I did not see them. I hooked five, but lost them; I should say they were hooked foul, as no tackle was broken, and we were fishing with all drawn gut.—JOHN JOHNSON, sen.

Thames (Richmond).

This has been a fine week for the followers of Izaak Walton, and all those who have patronised our old river Thames have been very successful (at least, in the tidal waters), the dace feeding well with a camel barbel. To live up the sport all the punts have been out most days with good success; and I think I can say that each punt has averaged 8 doz. dace each day. Any club member wishing to have a day's fishing with me will have a good opportunity next week, as I am only ordered for Tuesday, which is a little unusual, though I am sure to go out, but I should like to go out with Club members, so as they can produce their takes at the various club rooms, as the gents I fish with are nearly all people who don't belong to clubs. My charge is ten shillings for a day's fishing, and find bait and tackle, but I have an objection to more than two gentlemen in the punt.—JOHN BUSHNELL, Fisherman.

Thames (Windsor).

Water here is as low as I ever remember it, and as a consequence, angling is bad. The only things worth trying are the chub and perch, the latter in the weirs with worm, former with fly or whipping. I have seen no good bags this week. Richard Gray, with Hockley, Esq., had about 20 lb. of chub, and Pace, at Etonwick, with a patron, had a brace of jack, about six pounds. Lumsden has been taking some capital dace with one of 'which I managed yesterday evening to get a nice conditioned jack (male) in the old Windsor Weir, scaling when weighed this morning, just nine pounds. This was the first wetting of a line by me this season and until there is a good drop of rain shall not try the barbel, of which we have plenty, but at present it is useless trying them.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

In connection with a few friends I paid another evening visit this week to this river. We caught a few small perch and eels, but no roach or bream. These fish are evidently not yet on the feed. Not being able to obtain in a dace or roach for bait, I trolled awhile for pike with a small perch. I had one run, but failed to land the quarry, as the fish was never hooked.—THOMAS FORD.

Coquet (Northumberland).

On the 16th, Albert Dobson killed a salmon, 6 lb.; George Wharrier one, 3 lb.; Stephenson Thompson killed a good creel of trout with minnow; George Wilson a splendid dish of ten trout, 4½ lb. The wind blew from the west. A good ripple on the water for fly-fishing.—A. GLASS, Angler's Inn, Weldon Bridge.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The river is now low and clear, but some fair sport has been had with the red caterpillar at dusk of evening. Scarcely anything has been taken at midday since our

last; but the moths, dun, cut, and coachman, as also earlier the pale wing duns and whites, have been instrumental in landing some fair takes upon all the most frequented lengths. The netting fraternity are now busy almost every evening, and great numbers of fish are daily exposed for sale in the small market towns. Good sport with the coarse fish at Rochester. Several heavy pike (from the Dove) of 7 to 10 lb., taken with Gregory's Windsor bar spinner; 5½ brace chub, scaling 15 lb., were taken with the red caterpillar on Friday. Rain is badly wanted for minnow spinning and midday fishing generally.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

In the first two lines Courtley graphically says:—

"The thirsty earth drinks up the rain,
And drinks, and gapes for drink again."

But "query," when shall we get the rain? After the long drought, angling is looking quite forlorn, and the prospects at present have a gloomy aspect, and for the sake of those Waltonians who really make fishing their sole study, as well as for the general prosperity of us all, we sincerely hope that gentle showers with the present almost tropical heat, will, combined, mature the produce of the land, as undoubtedly it would the water, by giving an impetus in the way of freshets, and causing the speckled beauties to take a wider survey of their, at present, "hole-in-the-wall" quarters. Above the tidal portion of the river little or nothing doing; plenty of salmon waiting to go up, and as this is the season for cleaning out the head and tail race of the mill, also the leats, numbers of trout and so-called "truff," also "parr," pike, roach, and dace have been taken *ad lib.*; one fine trout of 5 lb. was among the number. I really think these men should allow a royalty on all fish that are salmon. Trout and parr to be returned to the river as soon as taken, at any rate, all those of undersize. The net fishermen are doing very well in salmon, and the estuary men in all kinds, from small turbot to dabs, &c. Mackerel are more plentiful, but very small (tossies), and fetch a long price. Prawns are coming much finer, but in lobsters and crabs a great falling off. Thermometer, in shade, 90°, in the sun, 124°; wind, N.W., and not the slightest indication of rain.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Lochawe.

Lochawe, as regards salmon-fishing, has given great encouragement to anglers, in spite of the many steam-launches that ply unceasingly on the lake. As an instance of the good fortune anglers have had, we may say that on the Port Sonachan Hotel waters alone last week seven salmon have been landed. All the above have been caught with trout rod and fly.—W. J. CAMERON.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is clear and low, and rain is very much needed, as we have not had a run of water since the opening day. The sport, though tolerably good, is nothing like it will be after a good rain. Bream and roach are well on, the former taking a well scoured worm. A large number of exceedingly heavy fish were captured during the week; owing to the hot weather they are caught best in the early morning and late in the evening. One angler this week, before breakfast, secured a dozen bream and perch. Good sport may now be had in either of the swims above the town if properly ground baited.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

North Lincolnshire.

My son, from London, caught a fine dish of twenty-one trout on Wednesday last. I landed six on Saturday, and caught a large dish of perch in capital condition from Croyby Lake. I am glad to say the small beck which I began to stock in 1876 now shows fruits. I got up by moonlight on Monday morning last, and landed thirteen nice trout before six o'clock. Amongst them was one *fontinalis*, raised from last year's fry. This weighed ½ lb., and is the first I ever caught. It was a beautiful little fish, in the pink of condition. By the way, the trout caught on the Wednesday were preserved in glacialine, advertised in your columns. They were sent to London on the following Monday, and my friends declared they were perfectly sweet and wholesome. If the fish can be kept in this way during the present tropical heat the Antitropic Company has achieved a triumph indeed.—THOMAS FORD.

Ormesby Broad.

The weather this week has been all that could be desired. Bream, roach, and rudd are now well on the feed, and many gentlemen down fishing. Amongst the most successful are two gentlemen from London, Mr. G. A. Liastead and Mr. Whitby. They are landing large lots of bream, roach, and rudd; bream from ½ lb. up to 3½ lb. weight. On the 16th, 50 lb. of bream, besides roach and rudd. On the 17th, 98 bream, weighing 80 lb., and some good roach and rudd. I wish all those visiting our broad would follow the example set by these two gentlemen—that is, by returning all small fish caught to the water again. Any gentleman desirous of a good day's fishing had better give the Ormesby Broad a look up. Good boats and bait are to be obtained, and every attention.—S. RICHMOND, Proprietor, Sportsman's Arms, Ormesby Broad, near Yarmouth.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

There are great numbers of peal still running up the river, and some have been caught with rods, but the last few days the water has got so very low that very little sport has been had. The cots are only getting a few odd ones. The corresponding week last year we had a fine flood, and great numbers were caught. The river wants a little fresh again now, both for the salmon and trout fishing. There is a desperate amount of poaching going on at present, both day and night. There was some good trout fishing on the Anner this week. The favourite flies are spider wrens.—DORA.

Swale.

The tropical weather proves unfavourable for day-fishing, but good catches may be made with worm in the early morning and late evening in the Becks. Dabbling with blow or flesh fly will be found most killing under bushes and in shady places. Few trout are ever caught during sunshine except with the green drake, and that fly is now nearly over for this season. Have your readers tried the grey goose dun? It is a capital fly for both trout and grayling just now. It is made as follows:—Body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark dun goose tackle; wings, starling's quill, varied in shade with yellow and straw-coloured bodies and lighter tackles. It may be fished almost to the end of season.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

We have had a beautiful and agreeable change in the atmosphere during the past week. The almost tropical heat has been succeeded by more genial summer weather, and our anglers are beginning to reap the advantage of the present change. With the water as bright—if not as pure as crystal—and the

thermometer standing at 145 degrees, fishing has ceased to be remunerative in every sense of the word. Roach and dace are now getting in better condition, and afford good sport; some excellent baskets have been had from the Trent at Alrewas, weighing from 7 lb. to 20 lb. each, and the fish of excellent sample. On Monday Mr. Seal had from this noted spot ten good perch, a brace of chub 4 lb., and a lot of fine roach, some over 1 lb. A friend fishing with him took a brace of jack—the largest fish weighed 9 lb., and was in capital condition for the early season, ten eels and some fair perch—the latter, by the way, are excellent in colour, and entirely recovered from spawning operations. Two good days are reported of Mr. Thornton, who basketed on the first day nearly 20 lb. of roach and dace, and on the second 11 lb. of the same fish, principally with stone bait, which are now, I am sorry to say, almost out of season, for I consider it one, if not the best, all-round baits used for angling; every kind of fish will take them, and the sample is always better than when maggot fishing. It was reported to me on Thursday that the river, although very bright and low, the fish are fairly on. Mr. Bullock had a capital basket of roach on Wednesday, and succeeded also in landing a good trout $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. on fine roach tackle; a capital performance. Barbel are still knocking about on the shallows. A nice fish of 6 lb., besides some good chub and perch, was taken at Alrewas last Saturday, by Mr. Adams Parken—worm fishing—worms now are at almost starvation prices, owing to the continued dry weather, and gentles will be found the best bait for all-round fishing for at least another fortnight. A friend of mine writing from Newark on Wednesday remarks of the good salmon fishing in the Trent in his neighbourhood. On Monday 14 fish were taken; the largest fish weighed 36 lb., the remainder averaged 12 lb. each fish. He winds up by inviting me to share his hospitality, bring my tackle, and go in for salmon fishing. This looks very well on paper, but scarcely good enough in the Trent for me.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is remarkably low, and is in middling condition for all round fishing. The weather is rather more genial than last week, and rodsters are now in full swing. Most kinds of fish seem to be biting very nicely, and the prospects for the next few days are pretty favourable—that is, if the anglers operate in a proper manner and in a suitable swim. Several nice catches of roach have been had during the week, with both gentles and plain bread paste, the latter killing the biggest fish. Choose a moderately deepish swim, just over a lot of weeds, and the water not very rapid, and if the ground baiting has been attended to, I think a basket of roach will be the result. Barbel have been taken with scratchings for bait, but not in any very great quantities, a few odd ones being the extent of the takes as yet. Worms, as far as I can learn, have not yet succeeded in deluding the barbel, and so I should advise anglers not to go to the expense of a lot of worms yet, but stick to the scratchings. Chub are now beginning to get under the boughs, and can be taken both by bait and fly, the wasp grub being about as good a bottom bait as any if getable, or a small piece of white scratching or a bunch of gentles. A large blue bottle fly or a humble bee on the surface during the heat of the day will perhaps be as seductive as anything for chub. Some fairish catches of bream have been had with worm; but as an old angler remarked to me the other day, they are yet very soft and flabby, and will be all the better for another week or two's rest.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham.)

Although the river still remains very low, the temperature during the last few days and nights has been much better, which has caused the fish to take more kindly to worms, more especially the barbel and bream. The former are now getting so numerous in the Trent that I feel satisfied that some great catches will shortly come off; in fact, the fish are now biting well, and the effects of a moderate baiting seems to answer the purpose very well in places where the water is not deep and plenty of stream. In the locality of Hazelford, which is perhaps one of the best spots for barbel fishing at this season of the year, during the last few days some capital sport has been had. One gentleman took fourteen nice fish without a baiting, and another, ten with only a small quantity of worms. Bream, on the upper part of the river, are now fairly on the feed, more especially at Weston Cliff, and the rodsters who are fond of bream fishing should take the present favourable opportunity. Roach are beginning to take malt and wheat, but not freely; the maggot seems to be doing the most execution. I have nothing to report as regards pike and perch fishing—both fish seem dead off feed.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both the Wye and Derwent are very low indeed, and the greatest care must now be taken to keep the fish, or a serious loss will be the consequence. Extra strength at night is now required; in fact, I may say these rivers should scarcely ever be left, especially in the night time, as both rivers have a very fair quantity of fish in them, both trout, grayling, and a great number of coarse fish. Sport still continues very bad with the artificial fly in the middle of the day, especially on the Wye; but still some few anglers have been picking up good fish of an evening, chiefly off the Derwent, and baskets from 3 to 8 brace per angler have been made, especially by those that have been wading and fishing up stream. The killing flies have been the honey dun, bumble, black, and sand fly, dishing with the little black fly has been followed with good results in the middle of the day, and some fine pound trout have been taken all up and down the Derwent, several baskets having from three and a half to seven brace per angler. Those gentlemen that have ponds will never kill. Their display of trout of an evening with the following flies, viz., red palmer, ribbed with gold twist; body, peacock head, tail, with orange silk, and pure red, cock's hackle over it. The fern fly, orange silk of a deep colour; wings from fieldfare, with a pure red hackle for legs, bound twice round the head, and brought once behind its wings. You may rib this fly with gold twist, and it makes the red spinner. Trolling with the natural minnow has been followed with fair success on the Derwent, and some fine trout have been killed late in the evening, chiefly off the Darley Dale Club water. The bottom fishers have fished very little during the past week. Rain is much wanted; in fact, we shall have no really good fishing before we have a regular good downpour.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

This river has again run down to its summer level, and there is consequently very little doing in the day time. There are, however, some few anglers who are killing a brace or two of trout in the early morning and the evening, one gentleman telling me that on Tuesday night he got three very nice trout and half-a-dozen dace with fly, there being a slight breeze to ruffle the surface of the water. As a rule, however, at present the game is not worth the candle.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SUMMER DINNER.

THIS popular dinner took place on Thursday evening at the Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead, on the banks of the Thames. Mr. Deacon's hotel is most charmingly situated, and the room set apart for the guests was a long one with French windows opening on to the lawn. Mr. James Lander, the hon. sec. of the society is to be congratulated on his very able and complete exertions for the comfort and pleasure of the visitors. From all we heard every one was thoroughly well pleased. Dinner commenced at six o'clock, with Mr. J. G. Andrews in the chair, faced at the other end by the vice-chair, Mr. Norman F. Harrison. After dinner, Mr. Andrews proposed the toast of the Queen, and most enthusiastically was it responded to. He then gave the society, and spoke of its great success, and regretted the absence of some gentlemen who had been unable to attend, especially one who had been most successful in introducing new members, Mr. W. B. Adlington. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Rolfe next proposed the press, and Messrs. J. P. Wheeldon, W. H. Brougham, and R. B. Marston responded.

Mr. Pearce, the venerable and highly respected father of the society, in a few pleasant words, proposed the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and Mr. Brougham replied in his usual happy manner by alluding to the Royal feather which the Thames Angling Preservation Society had now got in their cap in the shape of the Prince of Wales.

The Vice-president then proposed the Chairman, and the company gave Mr. Andrew's abundant testimony of their appreciation of his "jolly good fellowship"; in replying Mr. Andrews said that the only thing he ever regretted in connection with the Piscatorial Society was that he had not joined it sooner, and had thus missed so many pleasant meetings like the present.

Mr. Goodger next proposed the vice-chairman, Mr. N. F. Harrison, mentioning that it was at Mr. Harrison's suggestion they had made a change in their place for the summer dinner, and every one he felt sure would admit that nothing could be more pleasant than the place they were in. (Hear, hear.) And also the dinner had been first class. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Harrison replied that he was very glad the members were pleased at his suggestion of the Ray Mead Hotel. He was sure Mr. Deacon would do all in his power to make anglers comfortable, he was a man of the right metal and would have great pleasure in trying and taking their metal to any extent; but he (Mr. Harrison) trusted, for the honour of the society, none of the members would try and return the compliment and take Mr. Deacon's metal, in the shape of the "spoons;"—(laughter)—if they did, he should advise them to "run" for it, and hoped they might not get "caught." (Laughter.)

The speeches were all commendably brief. At a signal from the chief, smoke began to curl up from every wig-wam, or rather angler, and the company then dispersed into the garden and strolled about, listening to Messrs. Harrison and Victor Emmanuel's fine singing. Some few went fishing, but after such a dinner the fish were tolerably safe.

As the shades of evening came on Mr. P. Rocco sent up some splendid rockets, which had a very fine effect over the water.

Amongst the gentlemen present were Messrs. H. L. Rolfe, J. P. Wheeldon, Pearce, Huggett, Wheatstone, P. Rocco, H. Gray, J. Lander, W. H. Brougham, R. B. Marston, J. G. Andrew, N. F. Harrison, P. Lemann, Dr. L. Thomas, Dr. Coates, Dr. Corfield, Captain Alfred, J. Hirsch, Turner, Goodger, Cross, Victor Emmanuel, H. H. Brown, Gillatt, F. Walker, and many others whose names we were unable to get.

Much regret was evinced at the absence of Messrs. T. Sachs, W. B. Adlington, Ross Faulkener, M. Hazeland, Dr. Brunton, and other well known members.

THE CLEVES EXHIBITION OF SPORTING APPLIANCES.

THERE is being held at Cleves an International Exhibition of Hunting and Sporting Appliances, which, though it has not attracted much attention in this country, is worthy a passing notice in the columns of this journal, from their being there exhibited a very fine collection of fishing appliances. These are contained in a large case, and form an interesting and instructive display. Some of the fish hooks are very curious, though the Redditch manufacturers are entirely unrepresented, which seems somewhat strange, considering the goodly show they made at the Berlin and Paris Exhibition. On the Central Committee of the exhibition are to be found the names of Lord Claud Hamilton and Mr. Charles Henry Parkes, the chairman of the Great Eastern Railway; and the Great Eastern Railway Company, with their usual consideration and kindness, have afforded increased facilities for all who may desire to visit the Cleves Exhibition.

We may mention that Cleves is celebrated for its mineral springs and for its old castle, built in 1346, and which stands on a hill in the centre of the town, and all our readers will remember Anne of Cleves. One thing in the exhibition is worthy of special remark. In one group there is not a single picture of any merit that is not English.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

HOTEL CHARGES TO ANGLERS.

ONE of the best attractions for riverside houses is undoubtedly moderate charges combined with good cooking and attendance, and without this no hotel keeper ought to complain if he is wanting in support. If there is an excessive charge a day's fishing becomes a really expensive luxury. There is an evidence of this in an angler's statement who caught 5 lb. weight of fish at an expense of £2 13s. 3d., the odd money representing a little over the puntman's charge. The party consisted of two anglers who went down one night, slept together in a small room, and the meals they had were supper, breakfast, and lunch in the most simple style, and they returned home early in the afternoon of the second day. As a matter of course they paid their *little* bill, and with a determination to make no quarters there again. If the anglers are to be inflicted with these charges, it is no wonder the river should be deserted, and fishermen should complain that no one comes down. If the Thames is to be made popular to the punt anglers, the proprietors of hotels should adopt a tariff of charges that would attract them to their houses, and punt anglers, whilst they are not of a niggardly turn, thoroughly detest overcharges. Take, for instance, a supper with only cold beef and bread, and a charge of half-a-crown each, and a breakfast of underdone bacon and two eggs at the same price. These items are too much, especially as the anglers, as a rule, do not rest there, they go in well for lubrication, and an hotel keeper should bear in mind it is not the meat only on which he should look for a profit, but it is the wine and sundry glasses of grog that comes after it. The object of referring to hotel charges to anglers is not to be regarded as a general complaint—although a special case is referred to in this instance, as it has been sent by an angler—it has rather to be looked upon as “a word in season” to those who practise expensive tariffs—and to stimulate, if it is possible, a most necessary supplement to the efforts of the various preservation societies who are making the river so attractive to anglers—that is moderate charges to anglers by all the proprietors of riverside houses. B.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE River Lea, beloved of wielders of Sowerbutt's eighteen-foot poles, continues very bright and low; and what is as bad, if not worse, the want of a push of water has caused the weeds to grow to such an extent that below the surface presents the appearance of an aqueous forest. With such a state of things it is not to be wondered if there is almost nothing doing. The anglers of some of the favourite reaches are not, however, to be denied, and at such a place, for instance, as the broad water, above the lock at St. Margaret's they positively swarm.

The water has been drawn off at Tottenham and Waltham, during which time it was carefully watched by Messrs. Ghurney, Bick, High, Bagley, Scott, and Oram, members of the Lea Preservation, and holders of the Conservancy warrants.

Apropos of the last-named place (Waltham), the public right of fishing from the tow-path in a certain portion of the river has been challenged, the fishery rights has claimed by a Mr. Arthur Wheeler, of the King's Arms, Waltham, at one time a prominent figure at London club meetings, one of the original founders of the East Central Committee, secretary of an old-established angling society, and an indefatigable worker in obtaining the preservation of the Lea. As Mr. R. Murphy, supported by the East Central Committee, and representing the public angling interests, has, after due notice, fished the water, refused to pay for so doing, and been duly served with a summons, it would be manifestly unfair to comment upon what is really and acknowledgedly a friendly test case.

It was only the other day Mr. Harry Brookwell received the congratulations of his friends upon the capture of the champion trout of the season, and now this excellent and fortunate angler is credited with the capture of a handsome trout 9 lb. 10 oz., also from the Lea, at Hoddesden.

A sad piece of news reaches me from the banks of the said Lea. On the 17th, while fly-fishing, Mr. Parkins of the Great Northern Brothers Angling Club, dropped down dead. Deceased who was better known among his intimates as “Bumpy,” leaves a wife and little ones; he was a member of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and I trust the Committee will deal with his case as liberally as the state of the funds and other considerations will allow.

From Yalding some very fair takes of roach and bream have been had, the first-named fish particularly running a good size.

The monthly meeting of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies was held on Friday last. The provisional enrolment by the working committee of the Pictorial Angling Society was confirmed, and the Society of Caxtonian Anglers was enrolled; some routine business was also gone through, but nothing of moment was before the meeting.

Some enormous takes of bream have been had from Huntingdon and the Ouse district. When I say enormous takes, I mean eighty, ninety, or 100 lb., and more at one sitting. The annual subscription to the Huntingdon Water is 10s. 6d., which, I believe, includes the privilege

of introducing a friend, but if further particulars are wished for no doubt they could be obtained upon application to Mr. Howson, the Secretary of the Huntingdon Preservation Association.

From the Stort, at Burat Mill, I hear of one or two very good takes of roach.

Last Sunday I went over and paid a visit to Mr. Greville Fennell, who has been very ill indeed, but is, I am pleased to say, getting better. Mr. Greville Fennell has kindly promised to paint a picture each year for the Anglers' Benevolent Society, to be utilised by them in a manner most likely to be advantageous to the funds. In anticipation, I see Messrs. Ghurney, Beckett, Murphy, and other members of the committee, their faces wreathed in smiles as they read this, or hear it announced.

Mr. F. C. Clench, the Chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial, has been elected on the committee of the T. A. P. S., the chief ground for such election, apart from his undoubted ability and zeal, being that Mr. Clench is a representative man. This is as it should be. The more purely representative men the T. A. P. S. and similar bodies have on their committees the stronger in every sense, and the more entitled to claim public support will they become.

Apropos of the river Thames and the T. A. P. S., how progresses the scheme first mooted some years ago of obtaining the abolition of netting in the lower waters, I mean towards Kew and Isleworth? From all sides I hear that in spite of the perfectly legal netting continually going on, the fishing is, if anything, better than in the jealously guarded water above Richmond Bridge.

ANGLING AT LOCHINVER.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Those who have once found their way to Lochinver are pretty sure to find themselves there again, particularly if they happen to be devoted to angling, admirers of scenery, and capable of appreciating pure, bracing air. For all these Sutherlandshire will hold its own against most counties, but as a resort lovers of angling have found, and probably will always find, it beyond comparison the best fishing region of Scotland. To say a word of and to anglers who come to Lochinver appears expedient. Some ply their rods in the lakes and get trout in abundance, trout of every size, salmo ferox, and so forth. This amusement being free, however, is not appreciated by the class of “sportsmen” here referred to, and they rush away to the Kirkaig or the Inver, paying twelve shillings and sixpence a day for the privilege; but although they flog the pools with the utmost ardour, the fish do not seem to accept their part of the entertainment, and the day ends with an empty basket; while probably the smoking-room of the hotel rings with grumbling of “Only saw one, two, or three fish,” or perhaps, “Did not get a single rise.” The fact is, however, and every true angler knows it, that much patience and considerable judgment are necessary on the banks of a river, let that river be where it may; but some men go at their angling as a matter of business, looking for the value of their 12s. 6d. or more—threshing the water when the sun makes it a perfect blaze of gold, and not a breath of air is stirring it.

On the other hand, those who choose the early morning hours and those of shady evening, fishing patiently and judiciously, will seldom or never come back without salmon or grilse, unless, indeed, as not infrequently is the case, an accident occurs to rod or tackle through some defect in either, or the fish being insufficiently hooked, several instances of which happened in the writer's experience in three days' angling on the Inver and Kirkaig—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last. Of course, in dark days, when there is a westerly wind, success is probable at any hour; and indeed the writer, who is more eager than he is proficient in the art, got all his fish between noon and 5 p.m., there being some exceedingly bright hours during which attempting to angle were folly. There are twenty-one pools each on the Kirkaig and the Inver, and it is here frankly stated that on almost all of them fish were seen to rise to the fly, although they did not “take” it.

To give some idea of what has been done during the last week, on most days of which a cloudless sky and hot sun with still air prevailed, the following details may be given:—On the 4th inst. Mr. Maitland, Dundee, landed a 7 lb. grilse on the Inver; Mr. J. Brown, Hamilton, had three sea trout, aggregating 9 lb., on the same river. Next day the Hon. C. Erskine got two grilse, of 5½ and 7 lb., on the same stream. The same gentleman, on the 8th, had a salmon weighing 9 lb., also on the Inver. On the Kirkaig, Mr. Campbell Ross had a salmon weighing 8½ lb., and a grilse of 6½ lb., on the same day. He also lost a grilse which was not sufficiently hooked. On the 9th inst. Mr. Ross, on the Inver, landed two salmon of 7½ and 6½ lb. respectively, and a sea trout of 2½ lb. He lost a very fine salmon after six minutes' play—a similar misfortune happening to him on the 7th inst. with the only fish he hooked on the Inver. It may here be stated that the most effective fly on the Kirkaig was the “Highlander;” while the “Jock Scott” divided honours with it on the Inver. The Hon. C. Erskine, who is one of the most devoted and patient anglers seen in Lochinver this season, lost a fish on the Kirkaig on Saturday.

It is worth noting that the river Culag, which is at the door of the hotel of that name, is free, and, probably because it is so, is not fished on as it deserves to be; for although a short and rather burn-like stream, it is rarely without salmon, which are frequently seen on it working their way up to the loch (Culag), and good anglers get fish on it, while those who are indifferent at the craft and go further afield “come empty away.”

On the flags in front of the Lochinver Hotel are a series of drawings cut on the stone—profiles of salmon caught on the rivers in the imme-

diate neighbourhood, and also of fine trout got in Loch Shimas-kaig. In some instances the weight of the fish, the date, where, and by whom caught are given in this somewhat unique arrangement; and Mr. Brown has ordered the "pictures" to be renewed.

Quinaig and the Suilvein mountains attract the notice of all visitors, and ascents to them have been attempted by members of the Alpine Club, but mist has interfered with some. The view from the top of Suilvein is something very remarkable.—*Scotsman*.

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

NOTHING doing this week is all the cry; the water too low and fine, and certainly they are quite right in that cry. The tropical weather we have had the last week or two has made fishing during midday almost impossible, fishing early in the morning and late at night being the only time that one can take fish. The water, too, is in a very bad state, so much of the fine flannelly weed having grown of late that your line is completely covered with it every throw in, that a good day or two's rain is a thing "devoutly wished for."

The Woodland View Angling Club, Turners' Anvil Inn, fished their match on Monday last, at Saxilby, 40 to 50 taking part therein. Mr. Crawshaw winning with 2 lb. 13 oz.; 2 lb. 11½ oz, taking second prize. One of the members, Mr. Rhodes, during the match hooked a fine bream of about 6 lb., but only having very fine roach tackle on, unfortunately lost it. One man, after the match was over, and the sun a little less bright, took in a very short time, over 16 lb. of good roach.

Mr. Deakin's, the Old Mill Tavern Angling Club, competed for their annual prizes in the Fosdyke, near Drinsey Nook on Monday last, from 60 to 70 friends and members going down; the first prize, a very handsome timepiece, being won by Mr. William Londe, with 4 lb. of fish. The wives of the members and friends spent a very pleasant afternoon at the Drinsey Nook Inn, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

At Mr. Jos. Westnadge's, the Brave Old Oak, Mr. Henry Barlow showed a very good dish of roach, caught at Saxilby, weighing over 31 lb., many of the fish weighing 1 lb., at the Rose and Crown Club, Paternoster Row. Mr. John Tomlinson had also a good show from Saxilby, 10 bream weighing 28 lb., and 16 lb. of roach.

The only barbel I have seen this season was caught on Monday last in the Trent, near Laneham, by Mr. Storrs, who had also a bream of the same weight, viz., 5 lb. His other fish was a miscellaneous catch, weighing 30 lb.

RED SPINNER.

GRAYLING TAKING THE MINNOWS.

SIR,—A.R.I.E.L., in his interesting article on Dovedale in last week's issue, introduces the above subject and mentions the fact that very many anglers are incredulous about it being the case, but, as a grayling fisher of many years' experience, I can vouch for the accuracy of his statement, for, at the very least, I must have caught a score of these fish at different times when spinning the minnow for trout. Since reading his article I have "looked up" the subject, and find that in all the instances, with the exception of one, they were taken in low, bright water with the finest tackle and the smallest of minnows; on the solitary occasion, however, the water was coloured, and with a small phantom I killed three large grayling in one stream. I believe that A.R.I.E.L.'S. solution of the mystery is the correct one, and have always had that opinion myself, viz., that it lies entirely in the anglers' style of spinning, as I have met with very old fishermen who said that they never heard of such a thing; in fishing for grayling you must strike at the moment or it is of no use, and when fishing upstream in low water I have always seen the gleam of their white throats as they turned at the minnow, striking at once; not so, however, when I have seen the yellow side of a trout, for I always let them turn away with the bait before I strike, so that possibly this may in some measure account for the diversity of men's opinions on the subject, but I hope that this will bring forward some other grayling fisher's experience on the subject.—**FRANCIS M. WALBRAN**.

THAT PIKE.

TH' other neet a lot on us geet tawkin abeaut fishin' an' among other wonderful tales tow'd as *facts* wer th' follerin':—"It's a gud mony yers sin, i' fact aw wur a lad at th' toime, but aw' believe it's a fact ut it did occur, fur aw dunno think as th' chap ut tow'd me ud tell a lie at any price, an' aw remember it as weel as if it were bu' yesterday. Well, yoa o' know wheer Delamere Forest is, if yoa dunnot yoa owt do. Well, ther a pit i' th' forest as wer once't fill'd wi' o' soarts o' fish as afforded gud sport an' amousement to mony a follorer o' owd "l Zack's," till o' sumheaw a lordly pike geet introdooed into th' pit, as gradually grew not only i' bulk bu' authority, till at length he'd driven every other fish eawt—or takken 'em in, which yoa loike—an' wer laft wi' th' whol pit to hissel', sich a supreme glutton wer he that not even ducks appeas'd his voracious cravins, an' mony a one as bin seen to suddenly disappear, well, yoa may just think what soart of a fish he wer when aw tell yoa ut one day one o' th' keeper's childer wer passin' th' pit, an' he actually jump'd up an' snap't at th' child, this so zasperated th' child's fayther ut he determind ut Mester Pike should no longer "lord it uncontrolled above his betters," an' decided that th' moost fittin' way to put an eend to o' his pranks ud be to shoot him; bu' bless yoa, that fish hadn't lived o' them years for nowt, it knew that mon's murderous intent, an' though he fair haunted th' pit bi neet an' day, double-barrel loaded gun i' hond, ne'er a glimpse o' th' fish cud he get, an' it wer bu bi akcident 'at th' pike wer nabb'd at th' last. A donkey as wer o'erta'en by thurst made to this pit to slacken it, and whol i' th' act o' drinkin' th' pike made a dash at, an' seized owd o' th' donkey's nose, to which it held fast, an' tugged hard to drag him into an untimely and watery grave; but his donkeyship stubbornly refusin' to be led thus by the nose backed off, an' th' pike, still hangin' on, wer drawn on to th' bonk, wheer it're discovered next day stretched stark an' stiff in a poo' o' donkey's blud, whol th' donkey itsel' lay full length gaspin' for breeath, wi' th' pike's teeth still fixed i' his nasal organ. Moor hist'ry sayeth not, nobbut this pike weighed *seventy-eight pounds; neww then!!!*

AN UNREALISED DAY-DREAM.—I thought as a boy how I should like to be Lord Craven, if only for a day or two, just to go to his lordship's water with an unlimited number of live minnows and my rod and line, just to astonish the shoals of perch between the "first bridge" and the lock at Hampstead Marshall. I feasted my eyes often and often upon the serried rows of these handsome fellows, but dared not wet a line. I even envied the boatmen who "laid up" for the night in the private water, and wondered if "bargy" ever dropped a few night lines around his "vessel" and got all to rights very early, before the two watchers behind the bushes in the side stream could see what was up. A few of these perch got away in the Newbury water at times, and then—I had my revenge.—**W. F.**

TAKE OF BARBEL FROM THE KENNETT.—Mr. Fred Hurley and Mr. F. Goslett, fishing with Holdway in the Kennett on Friday, July 8th, caught upwards of 70 lbs. of barbel, besides perch and roach.

A NATURAL FISH TRAP SPOILED.—For twenty years and more there has been near the head waters of the Little Sulphur Creek a peculiar rock formation in the bed of that creek, known as the "Natural Fish Trap." It was a place salmon could reach by darting up the rapids, but once in, they were secured prisoners, and the first lucky person who happened along after a spring freshet was sure of a prize. As many as fifteen salmon have been taken out of this trap at one time. After this, he who captures a salmon in that creek has to work for it, for the fish trap is no more. During the late heavy rains, the earth beneath the immense boulders that formed a part of the trap was washed away, and the huge mass of rock, weighing more than 30 tons, moved its ponderous form down stream a few feet, greatly to the regret of the ranchmen living in the neighbourhood.—**The Healdsburg Flag**.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1881

A GRAND INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION
IN LONDON IN 1883.

A MEETING was held at Fishmongers' Hall on Tuesday last, at which the Marquis of Exeter, Sir John St. Aubyn, M.P., Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., Sir Cunliffe Owen, Sir Andrew Lusk, and other gentlemen attended, for the purpose of considering the

advisability of holding a Grand International Fisheries Exhibition in London in 1883. A sub-committee was appointed to arrange further details, and to convene a public meeting, which it is expected will be held at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. A large number of noblemen and gentlemen have promised to support the movement, and the Fishmongers' Company have voted liberally towards the expenses and the guarantee fund. Government support is expected, and also royal patronage; under these very favourable auspices, and judging from the great success of the Berlin and Norwich Exhibitions, we have no hesitation in saying that the London International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883 must prove an enormous success.

WHERE SHALL THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES
EXHIBITION BE HELD?

WHERE shall the International Exhibition of 1883 be held? One gentleman—the originator of the Norwich Exhibition—asked our opinion on this point, and at the same time suggested the Crystal Palace. We told him at once that, if it could be secured, it would undoubtedly be by far the best place, and the mere fact of the exhibition being held there would contribute in a very high degree to its success. In the first place, it is a building which is known all over the world; secondly, it already possesses one of the most attractive features of such an exhibition—a splendidly appointed and stocked fresh and salt water aquarium; thirdly, its spacious courts afford every facility as regards space; fourthly it has so many attractions, apart from any the fisheries exhibition would hold out, for inviting visitors; and thousands who might not care sufficiently for a purely fisheries show to travel far to see it, would do so if they could combine a visit to the far-famed Crystal Palace at the same time. The lakes in the grounds would afford abundant room for the practical exhibition of all kinds of fishing boats, models, fish-passes, fish-hatching apparatus, &c. But we might dilate to any length on the peculiar and special advantages which the Crystal Palace offers the promoters of a grand International Fisheries Exhibition, and we will only add that we are certain the Crystal Palace Company, as well as the promoters of the exhibition, would find it a very paying affair, especially as, from the interest he always evinces in the subject, it is quite probable that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales who opened the Norwich Exhibition, would willingly do the same for an International affair of the same kind.

MY FIRST GRAYLING OF THE SEASON.

ON a fine June morning, accompanied by a brother of the angle, I was marching along the high road leading from the railway station towards a little rural village situated on the banks of my favourite stream (the Wiley). We were disappointed, in not meeting a trap at the station, as we expected, and as we turned each corner of the road looked out eagerly hoping it would make its appearance, as we found it hot work walking, loaded with our rods, creels, &c., but a draught of new milk obtained at a roadside inn put us all right, and we made light of the four and half miles of good road which we had to cover before reaching our destination. It was a lovely morning, all nature was dressed in its gayest apparel, the skylark was trolling its morning song as it hovered over the luxuriant fields of wheat and barley through which our road lay; the thrushes and summer migrants which tenanted the hedgerows in the meadows, and the withybeds, which here and there fringe the clear pellucid stream (of which we got occasional glimpses), were vieing with each other in their outbursts of melody.

When within one hundred yards of our goal we met John and the expected trap, the letter announcing our coming not having arrived in time for an earlier start.

The usual greeting having been exchanged with our kind host, and the inner man again refreshed, it was only a short time before we were by the riverside trying to kill the first grayling of the season.

We commenced fishing some splendid water running alongside of the Sarum Road. It was a dull morning with a westerly breeze, but the water was as bright as gin, and although I saw several good fish rise I got nothing worth basketing for the first half hour, the banks being encumbered with willow pollards, and the wind, which was strong, was blowing across the stream against me, so that I could not get out line enough; but by and by a bend of the river put me in a more favourable position and I had the advantage of a bed of tall rushes through which I crept, and they formed a capital screen. The spot I knew from past experiences to be a favourite one for grayling, and there they were, four or

five of them, one after the other, rising splendidly, their big dorsal fins showing above the water as they came to the surface. A long line was wanted to reach them; again and again I tried, but my fly would fall a yard or two short; I let out more line, then I got hitched in the rushes behind; but at last, after several failures, I got well over a beauty. There was a gentle rise, the fly was sucked in, and I found I was fast in a good fish, which, after a sharp fight, was brought within reach of the net, and I landed a nice grayling upwards of 1 lb. weight; two more good ones, and a well conditioned trout of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., fell victims to my rod before I was joined by our host and my friend. The contents of our baskets having been displayed and commented, on we proceeded to lunch; that duty fulfilled, we indulged in a quiet smoke and watched the fish as they lay in the crystal stream. At one spot near a foot bridge we counted thirteen grayling ranged along by the tail of a weed as orderly as soldiers on parade, and under the shadow of a willow bed, we could see huge fish lying, both trout and grayling.

After this rest we once more made a start, and tried every known means to entice these fine fellows, but without success; and beyond a lazy movement of the tail, they remained motionless, until a bungling cast sent them scuttling away to the shelter of a weed. We then fished up a tributary of the main river, but the sun was shining brightly, and the water was low, it was hard work to get a rise; and it was only by fishing with a very long line, using the finest tackle, and an exercise of that quality for which anglers are proverbially noted, that I managed to kill three nice trout, varying in weight from $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 1 lb each. About four o'clock old Sol once more hid his face, and we returned to that part of the stream which we had fished in the morning, as I was anxious to basket one of the leviathans we had then seen. I had just got well into work, when I heard a tremendous shouting proceed from my brother piscator, who, in attempting to follow in my footsteps across a bit of boggy land, and forgetting that what would support ten stone would not fourteen, got stuck fast, buried in black mud up to his waistcoat and there he was obliged to remain, until released by the strenuous efforts of our host, who dragged him out, none the worse for the mishap, if you except the detriment to his new knickerbockers which he sported for the first time on this occasion. After this little episode, I again devoted my attention to the grayling, and succeeded in killing a beauty a trifle over 2 lb., it was a noble fish, but, on comparing, I found I was beaten by our host, who had taken one 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and my friend another an even match for mine. At half-past five, John arrived at the river side with the trap, and I was compelled to bid a reluctant goodbye, and rattle away to the railway station.—RED ANT.

FISHING NOTES FROM GERMANY.

(Translated from the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung*.)

THERE is a very appreciative notice of the late Frank Buckland in the *D. F. Z.* for July 5.

There is also an account of a Fisheries Exhibition at Speier.

An American dodge for preserving artificial flies and gut from moths and decay, is quoted from "Forest and Stream." The writer recommends the use of a glass bottle, and the idea will at once recommend itself to every angler.

Dr. Sedlitzky, of Salzburg, recommends the addition of four drops of a solution of 1 gram of salicylic acid in 300 grams of water to every 100 grams of water in the aquarium, and says this will keep the fish healthy without changing the water. Those who sell live bait should make a note of this; the addition of even a little plain salt is said to be of great benefit.

SUMMER DINNER OF THE FRIENDLY ANGLERS.

THE "Friendly Anglers," which, as an angling society, is considered second to none in London, held its summer dinner at its favourite old quarters, the New Inn, Eton Square, Eton, on Saturday evening last. The chair on the occasion was occupied by Mr. F. Hoblyn, and the vice chair by Mr. T. Barwell. The attendance, which was over forty in number, included Messrs. W. Paine (Treasurer), C. M. Le Good (Hon. Sec.), A. H. Hunt, L. Brown, W. Hodgkinson, H. Craggs, W. B. Taylor, N. Henderson, W. Barwell, G. Gillatt, W. Grant, G. Newson, T. King, H. E. Blockley, G. P. Batson, Victor Emanuel, Thomas Cliff, R. A. Hoblyn, J. Page, T. A. Allard, J. Bloxam, W. H.

Brougham, C. H. Woodhall, W. B. Korner, G. Clark, W. Dawson, F. Berry, F. H. Howard, J. P. Wheeldon, C. Little, Dr. Thomas, A. R. Newson, S. Peet, P. Sharp, F. Sharp, R. L. Pugh, E. G. Griffiths, J. Mitchell, &c., &c.

Of the dinner itself it would be impossible to award too much praise—it was of a thoroughly English character of fish, joints, poultry, &c., placed upon the table in the highest perfection of cookery—Mrs. Goddard, the proprietress of the hostelry, being her own *chef*, thereby guaranteeing to the "Friendly Anglers" a complete continuance of the same excellent spread for which the New Inn, in the days of the late Mr. Goddard, the well known and respected fisherman, has for a long period of years been conspicuously famous. It was first of all arranged, from the extreme heat of the weather, to have a cold dinner, and instructions were sent to Mrs. Goddard to that effect, but she would not hear of a departure from the old custom under any circumstances, and the instructions were not, therefore, carried out. The wines were of the best vintages, and everything was accordingly satisfactory.

The Chairman, after giving the loyal toast of "The Queen and the rest of the Royal family" and the hearty singing of the National Anthem, gave the important announcement that all who wished could smoke, and the weed was soon profusely indulged in, the exception of non-smokers being remarkably few. In the midst of a general atmosphere of smoke, the Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "The Friendly Anglers," which, he remarked, was simply drinking "our noble selves." They were the oldest and most efficient angling club in London, with a museum of fish and of members that could hold their own against any other society. Indeed, without any degree of arrogance, he could lay claim to its being second to no other angling club in England, and for a period of forty-five years it had fully maintained that high position.

The toast, being coupled with the name of Mr. Henderson, was drank with great enthusiasm.

Mr. N. Henderson, in his reply, said that fishing had always been his delight, and it was the greatest satisfaction to him to know he was connected with so good a society in which existed so many efficient anglers in the most perfect bond of good fellowship.

The Vice-Chairman, in brief but appropriate terms, gave "The Visitors," who he was glad to see amongst them on that occasion, and after bearing further testimony to the efficient position of the Friendly Anglers, coupled the name of Dr. Thomas with the toast.

Dr. Thomas, in a few well-chosen words, replied.

The Chairman then gave "The Press," to which they were all indebted, and he had the pleasure of calling upon Mr. W. H. Brougham to reply first, and then Mr. J. P. Wheeldon to follow, who, he had no doubt, would tell them about torpedoes and steam launches.

Mr. W. H. Brougham said he felt from the remarks of their excellent chairman, he had to keep on the silent waters of the Thames, leaving the troubled ones to his friend, Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. He would first of all tell them that about three weeks ago the Thames Angling Preservation Society had received 2000 young fry of trout from Huddersfield, and the report from the river keeper that week was they were all healthy and strong, and the place at Sunbury so well suited them, they had already doubled themselves in size. A further consignment of 1500 trout, and some acclimatised char had been received the day previous from the same neighbourhood. The Thames had now become a royal river, and he hoped the prospects of the fishing were all that could be desired. He had been connected with the London Press for over fifteen years, and it would always afford him pleasure to record the doings of the Friendly Anglers. It was the first of their summer dinners he had attended. He had never sat down to a better dinner, or enjoyed himself more, and he hoped they would give him another chance of coming again.

Mr. J. P. Wheeldon said he had been connected with *Bell's Life* for eight years, he had done all he could to record his doings in a profitable manner, not omitting to tell them of his bad days, and when he had got good ones he always tried to make the best of them.

Time was now fast gliding on, as most of the guests had to leave at ten o'clock. Mr. Berry proposed "The Chairman," and Mr. Newson "The Vice-Chairman," in brief but flattering terms, and they were both as briefly responded to.

Mrs. Goddard was called into the room, and received quite an ovation, the chairman assuring her they were all well satisfied with her capital catering, and she had given them a most excellent dinner. There was a generally expressed wish she would long be spared to cater for them, and so make their summer dinner, as it always had been, an event to look forward to. Some excellent songs were contributed by Messrs. J. Bloxham, T. Cliff, F. Berry, J. P. Wheeldon, Victor Emanuel, &c.

HARDY'S PATENT WINCH-FITTING.

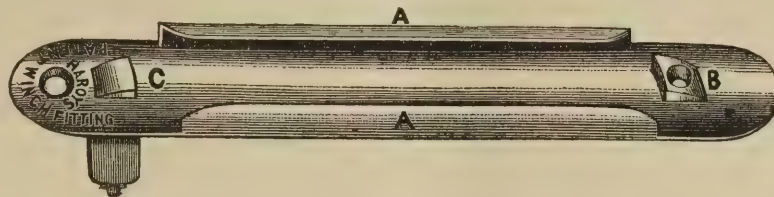
AT the late Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition one of the best of the new inventions of interest to anglers was the new winch fitting of Messrs. Hardy Brothers, of Alnwick, Northumberland, the patent for which has been purchased by Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, who will manufacture it, and put it in the market as soon as possible.

The accompanying wood-cut so clearly illustrates the affair, that we shall not require to say much about it.

It will be seen at once that the brass plate on the winch for holding it to the rod, instead of being held by brass rings, as is now usually the case, is slid along the grooves, A A, in the new fitting (which is let into the butt of the rod), and is held in place by them and by the locking bolt, C. Here, then, we have a fastening which offers the following great advantages:—

1. The winch can instantly be attached to or detached from the rod. Every angler knows what a nuisance the old rings are, very often either too loose or else too tight. Now fishing with a winch which feels loose and may fall off at any moment (when wading, too!) is worrying, and breaking one's knife or nails over a "stuck" ring to get the winch off is worse.

NO. 1203.—HARDY'S PATENT WINCH FITTING.



A A, Grooves to hold Plate of Winch. B, Plate Stop. C, Locking Bolt.

NOTE.—Slide the reel plate under grooves, A A, till bolt, C, springs into its place.

2. The winch is held perfectly firm, and the ordinary blister raising brass rings are absent, so that one can grasp the rod quite close to the winch.

In its present form it cannot be applied to a rod having a cane butt. We think, by making springs B. and C. of a little different shape, it could easily be adapted to all rods. We have written to Messrs. Hardy suggesting one or two little improvements—at least, we think they are improvements.

Of course there are some drawbacks. Fortunately, nothing is perfect in this world, and anglers who use this winch-fitting in future (that is, in its present form), will have to have their winch plates made to fit it; but any brassworker will do that for a few pence. We advise Messrs. Allcock to sell it by itself, apart from the rod, as few anglers will care to get a new stock of rods in order to get any special winch-fitting. That there will be a great demand for it here and in America we are quite certain. Messrs. Hardy are practical men, and have another good thing in store for the angling world.

OUR FLY AND BAIT CASTING TOURNAMENT.

WE are glad to say we have received many promises of support in getting up the above, from influential anglers and others, and we trust shortly to be able to announce when and where the tournament will be held. See last week's paper for particulars of the affair, which is to be held in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

A NEW FRESHWATER FISH.

A FACT.

THE description by W. S. L. of how he secured a "cat fish" in the Tees near Rokeby Hall, calls forcibly to my recollection a circumstance which has a lasting impression upon my prejudices respecting most advertisements of the blandishments of "preserves" to be disposed of by unconscientious proprietors. I went down into Hampshire with the late Rev. W. C. R., who, being attracted by a seductive advertisement in a sporting paper, was desirous of taking a mile and a half of trout water, in which it was stated that the trout abounded in considerable numbers, that a net had not been in it for several years, and reference was made to names of gentlemen who had made prodigious catches of fish. My advice was that we should visit the water without any previous intimation. This we did. The miller was the lessee of the mill, the tail, &c., which he claimed rightfully, to the extent named, and his landlord was a gentleman of undoubted probity on the hills close by. We had no permission to fish, and,

therefore, appeared on the scene without any tackle. A little below the mill tail was a wooden bridge. On this we posted ourselves, and while there, to our no little admiration and surprise, we observed at least twenty brace of trout apparently on the feed, with their heads up stream, watching for food coming down with the current.

Suddenly the mill water was turned off, and the mill tail became shallow. Three undoubted trout were seen, like rats, to bolt and take to their holes—a well known habit. But the larger majority fell upon their sides and lay on the sandy gravelly bottom, without apparent life or motion. Our suspicions were aroused, but not to the extent of the exposure that resulted. We waded into the stream and found, what? That every one of the majority of these trout were artificially secured by silken thongs or by single hair to pegs, and that the action of the current gave them all the appearance of vitality. We took the liberty of bringing one away with us, and afterwards found that they were sold by an india-rubber manufacturer at the west end of the town, who was likewise a successful simulator of decoy ducks, towards which many an aspirant yokel has expended much shot on the broads of Norfolk and elsewhere.

As I do not expect this statement will receive ready credence,

my name, in confidence, is in the possession of the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, who has free permission to give it as corroboration to any one interested beyond idle curiosity. But I may further state these artificial trout, without any purpose to deceive, have, in certain waters, and under the windows of large mansions, been adopted as a decoration. *Verb. sap.* CREEL.

[This is almost as good as a Yankee story about a bull-frog, which will be found in our columns this week. "Creel" is a gentleman, and we believe him.—ED.]

ALMOND BLOSSOM.

Love, will you regret the flowers that lie
Scattered, and wet with tears from April's sky?
They are not dead—the flowers can never die.
They are the gladness of a world unworn;
They sleep and waken with it, night and morn,
And laugh our dreams of ancient days to scorn.
O'er the wide gulfs that part us from the past,
O'er ruins of great works designed to last,
The lightly woven chain of flowers is cast;
And odours of old gardens, faintly blown
From legendary days and shores unknown,
Blend with the breath of those our hands have sown.
Of Milton's world how much was doomed to pass!
And yet we linger on the daisied grass,
And pluck the flowers he plucked for Lycidas,
And still the spring-time crowns a waiting land
With tender bloom. Nay, Love, 'tis you who stand
With almond clusters in your clasping hand,
And all the sunset heaven behind your head;
'Tis you must pass, an unknown way to tread,
And leave the flowers. If I had long been dead.
Yet came from sleep of twilight centuries,
The almond blossom 'neath these vernal skies
Should welcome me again, but not your eyes.
The rosy petals, drifted on the breeze,
Might strew, as now, the turf beneath the trees
As now? No, not as now. Because to these
Pink spray of almond, for a little space,
Your musing smile, your blossom-perfect face,
Give a supreme and solitary grace.

—Harper's Magazine.

ROYALTY AND FISHERIES—ORIGIN OF THAMES— CASTING TOURNAMENT—CHUB-FISHING.

EVERY ONE desiring the advancement of our fisheries must see with pleasure the marked interest our future sovereign takes in them. The Norwich Exhibition owed much of its *eclat* to the presence of His Royal Highness, and now we find his name associated with the welfare of the Thames. I felicitate B. on his pleasant announcement of this fact, for to me it augurs many prospective benefits anglerwards—if not immediately, certainly at some future time, when the prince's *bonhomie* and goodwill shall have merged in the King's favour, practical intent and power.

But, dear friend B., why did you head your article "The Royal River of Thames?" Why the preposition? Says John Stuart Mill, in his "System of Logic"—"A stone is not the stone of anything; the moon is not the moon of anything, but simply the moon." So, say I, as far as the word Thames is concerned, the "Royal River" is not *of*, but simply *the* Thames.

Possibly, however, B. fell into the error which has been, and still is, common concerning the origin of the name of our grand old river. In Spencer's time it was even supposed that the joining of the upper stream with the Thame at Porchester—this upper part being termed Isis—furnished the word Thames. But this is a distinctly erroneous impression. In the earlier documents relating to the river the term Isis is never found, and its origin probably comes from the Latin word which named the river *Tamisis*.

The river was, as the reporters say, "from time immemorial" called Thames or Tams, even when reference was made to that upper part, far away from the junction with the Thame. According to Gibson's Camden's Britannica, 1772, "in an ancient charter granted to Abbot Aldhelm, there is particular mention of certain lands, *cujus vocabulum Temie*, near Somerford, which is in Wiltshire. Moreover, the Saxons spoke of Temese—whence our Thames, without doubt, and further, all historians who mention the incursions of Æthelwold into Wiltshire (A.D. 905), or of Canute (A.D. 1016), tell us that the troops passed over the Thames at Cricklade. No thought of the junction with the Thame occupied the mind; and therefore, friend B., if you supposed our Thames to be *of* that Thame, disabuse your mind in the future.

Bye the bye, in the King's Library at the British Museum, there is a remarkable old print, republished in 1624 by J. Norden, and said to be of Elizabeth's reign, which depicts the existing London Bridge, with its shops and other buildings. Written on the seemingly rapid water, wherein are some struggling individuals, evidently just turned out of their boat, are the words TAME-ISIS FLUVIUS VULGO TEMS.

The republisher of this print thinks fit to tell us in a note that the first London Bridge was supposed to have been built by the daughter of a ferryman who had amassed considerable wealth by the plying of his trade. This bridge was, however, burned in 1136—Stephen's reign.

Capital idea that, of a fly-casting tournament, Mr. Editor. I am given to understand that these events in America are productive of rare amusement; but then the Yankees never do things by halves. English anglers, on the other hand, are so smug and easy-going that it requires a strong dose of Geen or Francis to raise even a sleepy eyelid. Where a German or Frenchman would tear a passion to tatters in the discussion of a political measure bearing on the most trivial concern in which he is interested, your English angler allows himself either to be led by the nose, like a sleek, sleepy fat bull as he is, or openly professes he doesn't care a big D which way it is. *Ergo*, I'm sadly afraid as to the success of such a competition as you suggest, though I'm sure I wish it every success.

Chub-fishing ought now to be in full swing, and as it is a fish which can almost always be sought for and captured in the Thames—during the season, of course—I think it is a pity more brothers of the rod do not learn the Nottingham style of fishing for him. (How is it that Thames chub seem running smaller than of yore? Three and four pounds seem the limit. Wm. Bailey, of Nottingham, says he once took a chub of 6 lb. 14oz.)

I have been trying these fish myself at Walton of late, and got excellent sport under the boughs the other side of Sunbury weir.

I was exceedingly pleased with the behaviour of a new rod built me by Mr. Slater, of Newark-on-Trent. I have had Nottingham rods galore from all the makers, but I don't really think I ever handled such a prettily behaved weapon. Mr. S. was a medallist at the Norwich Exhibition.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERY EXHIBITION AT BERLIN, 1880. Part I. FISH CULTURE. Part II. MARINE FISHERIES. Berlin: Paul Parey. 1881.

THE high expectations which were raised by the announcement of the forthcoming series of official reports on the International Fishery Exhibition held at Berlin last year are doomed to some disappointment. In the first place it was impossible not to hope great things from the experts and specialists charged with the duty of writing these reports. But to some extent such hopes still seek fulfilment. In the second place, although these reports have already tarried over long on their way to publication, no one would be likely to regret a little additional delay if the interval had been spent in closer revision of the press. For the text, as it now stands, is sadly imperfect and harbours a larger number of irritating and misleading inaccuracies than should be found in official publications issued by authority. And further, if we are justified—as there is some reason to fear—in assuming that the two parts just published are fair representatives of the intended scope and purport of the series as a whole, it is not easy to banish certain uncomfortable misgivings with regard to the stability of the memorial which is now being erected in commemoration of one of the most successful of recent international exhibitions. So far as concerns the actual material employed, there is no cause for complaint either on the score of quality or insufficiency of bulk; it is the manner in which it is built up that will provoke wonder and remark, and these not of the most favourable kind.

The series is divided into five parts, of which the two named above are now before us; the remaining parts being promised during next autumn. In the first part, Herr H. Haack, director of the Imperial Piscicultural Establishment at Hünigen, in Alsace, deals with the subject of fish culture, so much only excepted as refers to the United States, which portion is undertaken by Herr Max von dem Borne, who also describes the principal objects connected with angling. Herr K. Michaelis compresses all he thinks fit to say on fish passes into four pages, but in the absence of diagrams of every kind, he must not wonder if his remarks fail to reach the audience which they would be most likely to benefit. The second part, on Marine Fisheries, is written by Dr. M. Lindeman, the recognised standard authority on this subject in Germany. Dr. A. Metzger will describe the present condition of Freshwater Fisheries in the third part, to which Professor H. Nitsche will append his report on Pearl Fisheries. The whole of the fourth part will be taken up by Dr. H. Dohrn's reports on the heterogeneous collection of articles known by the name of Fish Products. And lastly, the scientific division will be represented in the fifth part by means of papers on ichthyological and cognate subjects by eminent authorities like Drs. Hermes, Magnus, von Martens, and Wittmack, &c.

Neither must we forget to mention an anonymous *deus ex machina* who assumes editorial functions, and modestly slips in a foot-note here and there. Nevertheless we fancy most persons into whose hands these official reports are likely to fall, would rather he betrayed his existence in a bolder and more imposing form—one more in keeping with the generally accorded privileges and bounden duties of an editor. For instance, had he provided some semblance of uniformity in matters of constructive detail, how vastly more pleasing would be the general effect of his labours. At present, for want of a well-devised plan, accepted and agreed upon by his collaborateurs beforehand, the diversity of method pursued is distinctly the reverse of charming, while in point of convenience it leaves much to be desired. Moreover, each contributor being left to his own devices is apt to encroach on the domains of his fellows. Thus, we find included among Marine Fisheries, a detailed description of the gear employed in dragging for coral. If pearl-fishing is deemed worthy of a separate report, justice demands that a similar distinction should be awarded to the no less important industry of coral-fishing. Elsewhere the angling tackle exhibited by the Chinese is summarily dismissed from notice on the plea of its exclusive use by working fishermen. Yet only two pages back may be found a detailed account of angling tackle used by the Malay population of the Dutch East Indies, which is most certainly not used for sport, but for profit. Inconsistencies of this description are frequent, besides other

blemishes which might have been prevented by the exercise of a little forethought and care. In some reports, the catalogue numbers, whether taken from the official, or some one or other of the special catalogues issued at the time, are carefully reproduced, in others, these useful aids to reference are dispensed with altogether. The first method, for many and obvious reasons, is the better one by far; if only because it affords readier means of correcting the too frequent mutilations of exhibitors' names and addresses. On an outer page we are informed that the publishers have desired to consult the convenience of such persons as might be specially interested only in particular sections of the exhibition, by issuing the official reports in separate parts, each part singly purchasable, and therefore presumably complete in itself. The result, however, is not so satisfactory as the attempt was praiseworthy, for in the two parts before us, it is no easy matter to discover where the completeness comes in, seeing that neither contains the faintest trace of a table of contents, or an index of any kind whatever. It should not be left for us to point out that in a work like the present, teeming with proper names and isolated facts, a full alphabetical index is an adjunct of prime and absolute necessity. The illustrations accompanying the text are tolerably numerous, and on the whole well done. Some drawings of fishing vessels, evidently copied from not too carefully proportioned models, are harsh and formal in the extreme; and if in some cases the intricacies of standing and running rigging, and the nice adjustment of sails, have passed the comprehension of the draughtsman altogether, we suppose that must be set down to the fact that the great soldier-city on the Spree is not precisely the spot whence exact knowledge of nautical technicalities may reasonably be expected to proceed.

But the absence of the looked-for excellence and completeness of the reports in the sense specified above, does not entirely diminish our gratitude or delight at their appearance. After all, imperfections apart, they must perforce contain a vast amount of admirable matter, which, if not presented in the most desirable garb, is much too important to be lightly cast aside or neglected. On a subsequent occasion therefore, we propose to bring forward a few remarks on the present condition of fish-culture, for which we have been unable to find room at present.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

A SPECIAL meeting of the committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association was convened by circular for 21st, Simpson's Hotel, Strand, at 4 p.m. Neither secretary, chairman, nor committee men, excepting Messrs. Clench and Bonvoisin, turned up. These two gentlemen, after waiting exactly one hour, left their cards on the table, and adjourned to the "Gaiety" Buffet to imbibe a cooler and exchange views on the extremely evanescent nature of certain prominent piscators' zeal. Some grand lots of fish continue to be had from the Norfolk Broads, the London anglers' cry, however, is we can't get them up to town so as to show them at our clubs. Why not try "Glacialine"? A gentleman on whose veracity I can rely, assures me that during the recent tropical weather, with its help, he kept a large piece of salmon so that it ate quite sweet, and cut perfectly firm after many days.

Bank anglers are having a bad time of it in the Thames just now. Launches, row boats, weeds, and, above all, low and bright water, so that the few fish which will bite are mostly out in the stream where long lines and long rods won't reach them. Those who can afford punts and attendants, are versed in the mysteries of the Nottingham style, and fish fine and far off, are here and there getting fish, and deserve them.

The wily lobworm is just now at a premium, and the happy possessor of two or three mossy tubfulls of wriggly ones is a man whose friendship is to be carefully cultivated. I know such a one, and hope next week to avail myself of his frequent invitations and have a day with him.

What the search after that great chimera, the "Philosopher's stone,"—in which numberless fortunes were swallowed up, and many valuable lifetimes wasted—was to the middle ages, the attempt to stock the Thames by means of artificially bred or purchased trout may be said to be in the piscatorial world during the present decade.

It was only a few months ago that we heard of the imminent dissolution of the Eton and Windsor Association, two neighbouring associations, however, came to the rescue. Advice, and, unless I am much mistaken, assistance of a pecuniary nature was tendered and accepted, the angling fraternity was appealed to and responded more or less handsomely. Now we hear that about 130 Wycombe trout of various sizes up to 1½ lb. have been turned into the Thames by the Windsor and Eton Society

about Monkey Island and below Boveney, Windsor, and Old Windsor Weirs, and that more are expected shortly.

If these fish have been given to the association, of course there can be no objection, but if they are to be paid for out of the association's publicly subscribed funds—all I can say is it is pitiful, and puts one in mind, say, of a man who spends his substance, to the detriment of his wife and family, upon the culture of lilies and sunflowers. When the association have an efficient staff of really well paid keepers; when their ditches are all carefully watched in spring and at flood times; when the laws respecting undersized fish are strictly enforced; when they are in a position to offer and pay substantial rewards for the detection of wrong doers; when they have seriously considered the rapid decrease of that game fish, the perch, the artificial breeding of which is easy, and which even if purchased of a certain size would only cost a tithe of what the trout do; when they have satisfactorily solved the question whether, as bream are a fish which grow in weight and increase in numbers rapidly, and in running waters afford fair sport, a serious attempt to stock their portion of the river with them would not prove beneficial; when they have done all these things, and many others which the welfare of the river may require from time to time, and have, moreover, an ample balance in hand, then, and not till then, it will be time to consider the advisability or otherwise of launching forth upon trout-culture experiments: at present it is not merely my opinion, but I positively state that I know it to be the opinion of nearly all Thames anglers with whom I am brought into contact, that the so spending of money is waste, and waste of the most regrettable kind, since, as I stated before, it is so sadly wanted for other purposes.

On 24th at Monkey Island, Mr. Alfred Mayman had a splendid take of dace, about 12 lb. Messrs. Job and Bonvoisin, at Richmond, did not fare so well, their joint take amounting to about 4½ dozen of roach and dace. The united efforts of Messrs. Geen and Hoole fishing, continuously, in a previously well baited portion of the Mole from 5 p.m. on Wednesday till 5 p.m. on Thursday, resulted in a catch of two bream, four perch, six roach, and about 4 lb. of eels, total weight 10 lb. Mr. T. Hoole had also some hours' fishing in the Reading waters on the evening of 24th, and morning of 25th, and though Mr. Butler, the courteous secretary of the Reading and District Preservation Society took him to some of the most likely spots, the result was, to use his own words, Nil! I mention the above to give the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE a fair idea of the sort of sport the bulk of Thames anglers are getting just now. I don't mean to say that professional fishermen's reports are purposely misleading; but in their very natural anxiety to make a fair show they too often record two or three really good takes, omitting all mention of the numerous microscopic bags and possibly still more numerous blanks; the anglers take the two or three good catches recorded as fair samples of the general sport, go down expectant, and come home disappointed. From the Welsh Harp good takes continue to be had, though the cooler weather of the last few days has knocked the bream off a little.

I had intended to have answered Mr. Malcolm's questions *re* club gross-weight this week; but I find them so full of misquotations, so irrelevant, and that in two or three cases inferences are drawn from statements considerably at variance with facts, that doing so would entail the writing of a very long letter, and I must therefore ask Mr. Malcolm and your readers generally to give me till next week.

TRENT SALMON.—Mr. W. Kelly, fishmonger, Newark, exhibited in his shop on Tuesday, eight fine salmon, caught in the Trent by Mr. Losco Bradley, in the North Muskham and Holme Fishery. The largest scaled 30 lb. The whole lot were in good condition and colour. We understand that on last Friday evening, Mr. Kelly received notice that Mr. Bradley had had another take of twelve fine salmon, which were on view in Mr. Kelly's shop on Saturday. The largest weighs 31 lb.

ANGLERS should always be provided with something to take away the swelling and poisonous effect of the bites of insects. They should also have with them something to apply to a cut or sprain. Pond's Extract reduces the swelling and inflammation, stops bleeding and pain, and hastens the healing process in case of any wound or sprain; and it has no equal for application to the bites and stings of insects. Therefore never go on a fishing excursion unprovided with a bottle of Pond's Extract. It is for sale at all chemists, at 2s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 8s. 6d. per bottle.—[ADVERTISEMENT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"O, the gallant fisher's life,
It is the best of any!
'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,
And 'tis beloved by many."—I. Walton.

Heavy rain storms in the valley of the Thames have much improved the height and colour of the river, and nearly every class of summer fishing is fairly successful. Chub can be obtained early and late with the fly, and are in every district of Mid and Upper Thames, thereby affording good sport to experts, but do not refuse cheddar, stilton, or gorgonzola for luncheon, or a baby-frog or an enticing slug about kettledrum-time. Roach are very wary, and the better ones located fast in the weeds; but still a little coaxing fetches them. Perch are to be had with minnows and red worms, from well-chosen boughy or piley swims. Barbel want, as yet, a lot of coaxing; and this class of fishing wants not only a well-lined rod, but a "too awfully utter" well-lined pocket to present much attraction for the ordinary impecunious angler. Dace, in sharp streams, are feeding well, and seem to be more of herrings than usual of late seasons. At Bray, Maidenhead and Cookham, fishermen have been very busy, decent takes of roach, chub, and perch coming to hand. Colonel Cox has been very successful amid the trout in the Thames and on the Wycombe stream, and I am promised a detailed account of his sport, which shall be duly chronicled in "Ye Gazette." At Hurley, Mr. Sykes is daily slaughtering big chub and perch, and being run hard in bloodthirstiness by a Mr. Palmer.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River in fair height and colour for all-round fishing. Weather—simply real jam!—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear. Perch have been biting very well. Six days' fishing with Mr. Hue, of 231, Camden Road, Holloway, London. Best day, 15 lb. of good perch, one trout, 2½ lb. On Tuesday last four jack and some good perch. Roach coming on better; jack not much.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

River very low, and water getting bright; good for allround fishing with judicious baiting. Some heavy bags can be had; I have been out six times since I last wrote. The first day Mr. Yarborough caught five eels, seven bream and some roach and dace, ledgering. Second day: two barbel, eleven bream, one jack, seven eels, two perch, and roach and dace, ledgering. Third day: Ten perch, one eel, three dozen roach and dace, and five bream. Fourth day: Mr. Palmer, thirteen bream, three barbel, three perch and two dozen roach and dace. Fifth day: Mr. Balentine, seven dozen roach and dace, two perch and three bream. Sixth day: Mr. Palmer and friend, four jacks and five dozen roach and dace.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

My son in three days got 7 lb. 5 oz. and four dozen of roach and dace a day. I have only been out after four o'clock, and averaged four dozen fair fish, and a stray chub 2½ lb. There are plenty of large fish showing themselves, but will not feed.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in splendid order for fishing now, and the prospects are very good. The fish have been feeding well all the time the tide water is running, but as the tide gets low the fish drop off feed a little. C. Brown has been getting some bream and a few barbel. Since my last report, I caught 17 barbel and a great quantity of dace. All the punts have been doing well during the week.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Prospects of fishing are very good. Mr. F. Purdue, two days, 11 doz. roach, dace and gudgeon; Mr. H. Purdue, one day, six bream and 3 doz. roach and dace; W. Rogerson, fishing with Mr. Cooper, of Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, two days—first day, 7 jack (two of 6 lb. each, the smallest 2½ lb.), and 8 perch; second day, 5 perch and 1½ doz. roach and dace; fishing with another gentleman two days, 9 doz. roach and dace and 2 bream.—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Sunbury).

T. Stroud, out one day, six dozen roach, and 10 bream; A Stroud, two days, eight dozen roach, one trout, 3 lbs., and six bream; J. Stroud, four days, best day, twelve dozen roach and bream; Mr. Lukyn took a splendid trout with a fly, 5 lb. ¾ oz. There have been three more trout taken at Sunbury this week by different gentleman, average about 3 lb.—ALFRED STROUD.

Thames (Windsor).

Water here still presents a sickly state, in many parts appearing quite stagnant and as low as I ever remember the Thames in the neighbourhood; notwithstanding, very fair sport has been had, though very many have gone empty away, but this arises chiefly from being strangers to the water. When in the hands of good fishermen, very few have had reason to complain, considering the unhealthy state of the water. Richard Gray, with Hockley, Esq., of 84, Old Kent Road, has had some good sport, one day taking 30 lb. of chub and barbel, besides a nice show of gudgeon, which are too early to try with the hope of a good bag. From that quiet, old-fashioned quarter, Cookham,

Godden tells me the roach are or have been very well on the feed; last Sunday, he had, with Jones, Esq., 20 dozen of good roach and dace; Tuesday, with Sharp, Esq., of London, 12 dozen; and on Wednesday, 10 dozen, with a brace of perch, largest 1 lb. This, to many of your readers, may appear extraordinary, but when I remember how madly they came at it in a short afternoon I tried them with Godden last winter, they would think nothing of it. I brought away over 23 lb., and this on a rough, unfavourable day. To those who like roach, chub and perch fishing, I say, Cookham is the place, and, in my opinion, Godden is the man, as a better roach fisherman never trod a punt—this not my opinion alone, but the opinion of a great many whom I know. In that small piece of jack water, where I had the pleasure, the other evening, of landing a nice jack of 9 lb., Lumsden has had two more, from exactly the same spot, going 7 lb. and 5 lb. At Surly Hall, three jack, going 10 lb., 4½ lb. and 5 lb., have been had; and very close here, some good ones have come to grief. At Datchet, the landlord of the Morning Star (Skelton), an enthusiastic and good fisherman, has been showing his patrons sport, with two gentlemen, taking about 20 lb. of roach and a nice chub of 4 lb. From Egham, I learn the trout have been getting into trouble. Mr. Rowles, a well-known local enthusiast, taking three in the Weir, going 2½ lb., 3½ lb. and 4 lb.; and Mr. Heard, of the same place, a jack of 12½ lb.; there must be a happy family in that weir. Some nice perch have been fancying the taid end a lob worm, and paid dearly for it, as I have been some very nice dishes taken from the Windsor and Old Windsor Weir, and among the roach was one scaling 1 lb. 3 oz. Chub have not been had of any consequence as regards size, but a goodly lot in numbers. Gudgeon are coming to the rake, though they will be more worth trying in about a fortnight, when Water Oakley Reach, Datchet Reach, Windsor Weir, and many other well known places, will undoubtedly shell out well, though rain is sadly wanted to improve all Thames angling. Soon after we get it we shall expect something big in the way of barbel, of which there are plenty; and not many yards from Windsor Bridge, I hope to get among the brown of them some fine mornings in August and September.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The roach are now getting into condition and beginning to feed. My little boys had a good catch on Saturday last; gentles seem to be the favourite bait at present; later on they will take worms and paste. The bream as yet are hardly on the feed; a good fresh is needed to benefit the all-round fishing.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Notwithstanding the frequent showers of the past day or two, the river continues very bright and clear. Should, however, the present weather prevail a little longer some rare sport may be safely anticipated with both fly and bottom fishing. Several heavy dishes have been taken this week with the brandling worm, bush fishing, i.e., casting live worms at the extremity of a fine fly cast; the said worm being impaled upon a Stewart's worm tackle of three hook power. Nine brace was the numerical strength of one creel from the Dovedale water on Thursday. These were chiefly extracted from the surging waters at the foot of the numerous falls; several baskets of almost equal calibre have been since taken upon the same length in a similar manner. The evening flies, viz., the pale evening white and dun, and the red spinner continue to tell well after 6 p.m., baskets ranging from four to six and a half braces nightly.—MENTOR.

Exe (Exeter).

Tis raging noon; and, vertical, the sun
Darts on the head, direct, his forceful rays
O'er Heaven and earth, far as the ranging eye
Can sweep, a dazzling deluge reigns, and all
From pole to pole is undistinguished blaze.

JAMES THOMSON.

The weather for some weeks past during the middle and after-part of the days has been excessively hot, and very few anglers have cared to turn out, even "the very streams look'd languid from afar," but thanks be "Pluvius," in the shape of gentle showers has come to the rescue, but not of sufficient quantity to have slaked the thirsty earth, therefore, we have no fresher down yet; but the old proverb says: "It is an ill-wind that blows no one any good, therefore, at this time of the year, when rain is short and the river low, a clearing out of the head and tail race of the mills, and leats takes place, and with regard to that portion of the work, much good is done, and what was done was duly set forth in THE FISHING GAZETTE, of last week, to which I now wish to add the more necessary work that has been completed, and about to be completed at the various weirs on the "Exe," from Thorverton to St. James's Weir. Salmon pool, these weirs I have inspected, with our late lamented friend, Mr. F. Buckland, whose ideas and suggestions were kindly imparted to me, and I only wish he could have known what alterations were being made. J. M. Martin, Esq., O.E., of this city, and to the Board of Conservators has kindly informed me that the following weirs have received every attention as to repairs, &c., at which we must all feel pleased. Thorverton weir has been completely repaired and finished. Cowley Bridge pass will also be completed in a day or so. Stafford's weir is about to be considerably improved, which will be a grand improvement. The dam at Blackaller weir is being touched over; this dam, or, as I term it, playground, seems to answer very well; but for all that, I think, Mr. Buckland's idea of a diagonal board would yet be of great service. Trews's weir is to be repaired forthwith; and, although the ladder is efficient at certain states of the water, salmon, &c., still persist in jumping at the weir at their old spot, between the ladder and the wall on the west side, where there was originally a dip net. Salmon pool ladder, which has always been condemned by Mr. Buckland, is to be taken away, and a diagonal board placed in its stead, and take it in any light you like, as there are several ideas upon it, it will be a decided improvement, and in the hands of Mr. F. M. Martin, must prove a decided success; better news of sport next week.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

In reading the remarks made in THE FISHING GAZETTE, of last week, speaking of roach, the writer selected the river Lea as the best waters near London, which was fully proved on Sunday, for most of the anglers had large takes of every fine roach, many scaling over one pound. The members of the Edmonton and Tottenham fishing club turned out on Sunday, and went in for roach; some took to the Hide, some the old river; and at the meeting in the evening, there were a great show. Mr. George Stephen, surrounded with roach; Mr. Collyer went in for perch, and got three; Mr. Munro, perch and tench that made them look again; Mr. Richard and Company, with roach and eels, and a fine show he presented; and considering the great pains the last-named member always displays in his work, and as there are many young

members in this enterprising club, it will be well for them to follow his example, and from him they will learn how to do it.

P.S.—On Sunday last we had a nice bream taken from our waters small, but in good condition.—S. SEWELL.

Lea (Enfield.)

Mr. Dixon and a friend had a nice basket of chub from my pool on Saturday. Water then low, a little fresher now.—W. SWINDEN.

Medway (Tonbridge.)

In the early part of the week there was a good deal of execution done amongst the bream and roach, but after a thunderstorm on Tuesday the wind was very cold, and prevented the fish hanging on at all as they should have done. On Monday night Messrs F. Roser, G. Payne and B. St. J. Waghorne took 17 large bream after 6 o'clock, and the next morning, before the rain, Mr. Waghorne got near Barden a carp of 3½ lb., as well as some bream, and a second carp dealt with him in tackle. A match was fished on Wednesday below the town. The place was a bad one, and the weather altogether wrong. As the result, Mr. J. Eller, who took one roach only, won the first prize. When the weather becomes warmer and the wind changes there will be good sport.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

North Lincolnshire.

More rain is needed to give the water-courses a thorough cleansing. The green drake is over, but a few representatives of this fly in its second stage (the grey drake) remain. My London friend to whom I consigned the first *Pontinialis* caught by me, speaks of its edible qualities thus:—"It was like salmon both in colour and taste, only if anything richer." I am making arrangements to supply both ova and fry of this fish and the common trout during the coming season, and shall be glad to book orders for best strains, only at reasonable rates.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland.)

Notwithstanding the extreme lowness of the water there are quantities of peal still running up. The nets during the day do not fish at all, but there are such numbers of peal selling about the town every morning that it is quite evident the poaching is going on worse than ever. Some few fish have been taken by the rods. Mr. Clibborn was successful every day last week at the Bridge stream, and another gentleman up the river got nine peal in one day. The trout-fishing isn't very good at present; late at night a few large trout are killed, but as we have had some rain last night and to-day, we expect some good catches to be had.—DORA.

Swale.

The recent refreshing rains and lower temperature proving a blessing to the angler, and some fair baskets have been made by local fishermen, chiefly with the dorel and ant-flies. The second hatchings of the spring flies will soon come on. Amongst these none are better than the freckled dun and blo brown.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas.)

Our Midland rivers may now be considered in first-class order for all round fishing. Heavy storms of rains have visited this district since my last report, which has materially benefited the river, and our trout stream, which, by the way, in some places had almost ceased to run. Our keeper writes that the water is a little higher than the preceding week; plenty of fish to be seen, but rather shy at feeding, which cannot be wondered at, considering the cold nights we have lately experienced. The following takes are reported: Mr. Sam Mee, some good roach, two dozen perch, and a fine grayling; Mr. Thornton, 9 lb. roach and dace; Mr. Savatard, 7 lb. roach; Messrs. Ricketts and E. Fletcher, 25 large roach; and Mr. Phillip Antrobus, 9 perch, and a couple of brace of trout. The latter was taken from one of the tributaries to the Trent. A spot which has proved a fish El Dorado to Mr. Antrobus this season, both in point of quantity and quality. Messrs. Adams, Parker, and E. Hooper had their usual day's legering last Saturday, a miscellaneous basket of barbel, chub, eels, perch, and roach was the reward to the diligent and patient Waltonians. With favourable weather a strong contingent of our Birmingham anglers will wend their way to the various reaches on the Trent. I anticipate the pleasure to chronicle great successes of my piscatorial brethren. Barbel should now feed if the spot is well selected, and properly, and judiciously baited with some good lobworms, which by the way, are now plentiful, and I have no doubt, prove the most killing bait the next week.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark.)

We have had several very nice showers during the last few days, and the water has risen a few inches, but only a very few. A good four or five feet rise would do the river a world of good; but I suppose we must be thankful for small mercies, and wait patiently. The water is still very clear, and the very finest tackle must be the order of the day for all classes of angling. The report I sent last week will do very well for this, only anglers might try creed wheat and malt for roach, in addition to the plain bread paste and gentles mentioned therein. Some very nice roach have been taken with the before-mentioned baits this week. Chub can be taken with the wasp grub, and fly fishers ought to be in it, as the water is in capital trim for that class of sport. Barbel fishers can now ply their avocation until further orders, scratchings and worms being the bait for that class of fish. I have not yet seen a good catch of barbel, but I have heard of one or two good takes with worms and scratchings. The angler can take his choice of these two baits, but one thing I will say, use the very finest tackle you dare. The bream have been biting very nicely this week or two at worms in the dead water of the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association, and some of the members have been having a rare time of it. Mr. Cubley had a very nice basket last Saturday, the majority being fine fish, and I was informed that several more of the members had baskets as good, and I believe the sport continues good up to the present time. I, like several more anglers down here, would ask the question, where are the dace? Up to the present I have only seen two dace, and anglers who have done a lot of fishing since the season opened tell me that they have not yet seen a single dace this season. Pike fishing will now commence in earnest, and those anglers who spin the natural bait would do well to use one of "Gregory's Archimedean spinning tackles." They are the very best flights that I have ever seen or used, and anglers after once using them will never use the old sorts of flights any more, but stick to "Gregory" for ever. The salmon fishing mentioned by Mr. Gregory last week was netting, not rod fishing. I enclose a cutting from the *Newark Herald*. If Mr. Gregory will bring his tackle down here, and come and share my hospitality for a few days, I think he will be able to have some good fishing, and he will also get a cordial welcome.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham.)

We have had some heavy rain in the neighbourhood of the Trent, but not sufficient to effect the river, the only difference it made was the weather was more favourable for rod fishing; and, although the water did not rise by the frequent showers, it seemed to sweeten the water, and the finny tribe must have felt the change, or they could never have come on to feed in the manner they have done during the last few days. The roach fishers, who visited Willington and Burton-on-Trent, were not prepared to find the fish so eager to feed at malt and wheat, and were agreeably surprised when they were catching them nearly every swim. The anglers with worms have also been doing good work among the bream, and at Weston some very good catches have been made; one basket contained ten bream, averaging 3 lb. each; and a tench, 2 lb., the latter is seldom caught out of the river, but are to be found in most of the backwaters. Now, we come to the doings of the barbel fishers, who have been very busy with worms. At Sawley, a gentleman took one of 7 lb., besides several others, without any baiting; but the best catch of the week comes from a noted spot, about three miles below Nottingham, the professional being, Mr. J. Roper, in company with a gentleman. The place had been previously baited, with a thousand worms; and, on the following day, the fish bit in about six feet of water that ran fast, the fish bit nearly every swim. The result of the day's sport being thirty-three barbel, weighing 120 lb., quite enough for one day. I could mention several more smaller catches that have been made with worm, but what I have just stated will be sufficient to show that barbel are now well on at worms.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire.)

Since my last report we have had a very great deal of thunder-clouds hanging about daily, with very little rain falling, which has caused the fish to feed very badly at either bottom or top during the week, and only small creels have been the order of the day. Grayling are beginning to rise nicely both on the Wye and also on the Derwent; seven brace of decent sized grayling were killed near to Whatstandwell last Saturday afternoon with the honey dun bumble and small Derbyshire red flies. I hear of one of the members of the Chatsworth Club killing a fair basket of good trout with the small house fly by dibbing under the bushes and trees. The bottom fishers on most parts of the Derwent have killed a few fish during the week, chiefly with wasp grubs and gentles. Wasps' nests are very scarce this year in Derbyshire. Rain is much wanted, and we shall have no really good fishing until we have a fresh on these rivers. Barometer falling; rain threatening.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire.)

This river remained low and clear until Monday, in the afternoon of which day a nice fresh came down, the result of a thunderstorm which passed over the district. There was a grand water for both fly and minnow fishing on Tuesday, and some good dishes of trout were killed, but no very large fish have come under my notice or that of my correspondents. The Wharfe was also flooded on Monday morning, but was too thick for anything beyond worm fishing; the orange dun, black silverhorns and red ants are the most likely flies to afford good sport at present, and the fern fly sometimes kills well during this month.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. D.—When we tie hooks on to gut or hair, we do it thus:—First, wax with shoemakers' wax a piece of floss silk very fine, then give it three turns down to the beginning of the bend of the hook; then bite the end of the gut (after wetting it well), so as to flatten the end a little, then place the end so flattened, along the inside of the shank, and bind it to the shank with the waxed silk. Get a perch hook on gut tied at a shop and carefully unfasten it by cutting one end of the binding thread, you will then see how the thing is done.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

MULTUM IN PARVO.

SIR,—My last letter was closed in the fond hope that I was free, and so I was as jubilant as a manumitted sprite could be at the delicious prospect of an outstretched idleness under the rustling leaves of summer during the rest of that hot weather. But 'twas a hope too good, it seems, to be true. However, 'tis a little cooler now.

The request of your correspondent, "A Constant Subscriber"—that I should describe the tackle I use when fly-fishing with the spinning-minnow, and the line I find equally useful for both fly and minnow—is a very natural and reasonable request. And I hope to comply with it before very long.

In the meantime I have a suggestion to make. You assure me I am quite mistaken in supposing X. to have been the first inventor of overhand fly-fishing minnow-spinning. You say that it—and with it the use of the finest of tackle—has long been practised on the Yorkshire streams. Now you and I, mine Editor, shall not fall out over those affirmations or either of them. *Palmarum qui meruit ferat!*

"He who would adorn
His envied temples with the Isthmian crown
Must either win, through effort of his own,
The prize, or be content to see it worn
By more deserving brows."

But I must (*cum permissu*) venture just to whisper in the editorial ear—not so awful as that of *Dionysius*?—that X., though no underhand fellow in general, is decidedly not so over-hand a minnow-spinner with the fly-rod as you imagine, and that the absence of a lead is no part of his system. And now for my suggestion, which—not in a whisper—is this, that any angler who claims, either for himself or for any other, the earliest invention of fly-fishing-spinning should now come forward, and describe in distinct and complete detail that art of arts in which he prides himself on being a proficient. Then your readers—when my description of the art, as invented and practised by X., is added—will possess the advantage of having before them—so I venture to think—two or more widely-differing systems, from which to take their choice.

And X. and I shall perhaps then learn a wrinkle or two; for neither of us pretends to be infallible, nor is either too old to learn.

Lastly, I desire to acknowledge my deep sense of all those kindly-cordial compliments with which the last week's FISHING GAZETTE presented me. I felt there was a most delightful more than "double number" of them; and, for a final confession, I own that, their sources considered, they have made me very proud, and perhaps slightly vain.

"Fit audience let me find, though few."

But yet a very large, if not, indeed, the lion's share of them—nearly all that practical part which relates to grayling taking the minnow—I could not but know was the due of X., and I have, therefore, passed on all that heavy parcel of praise to him—the Master—with as much appreciation and pleasure as I would feel were I retaining it all honestly, as my own especial perquisite.—I am, &c., A.R.I.E.L.

July 25, 1881.

[We do not for a moment wish to rob A.R.I.E.L.'s friend of any of the credit that may be due to him—we merely mentioned to A.R.I.E.L. that the system of fishing very finely indeed with the natural minnow, without lead, and by throwing overhand or in the ordinary way, has been practised by many anglers for a long time past; and, in fact, on the Wharfe especially is it the case, we understand, when the water is very low and bright. We doubt not A.R.I.E.L.'s friend's method is peculiarly his own, and we, as well as hundreds of our readers, await impatiently good A.R.I.E.L.'s recital of the nature of this gossamer spinning tackle and deadly spinning style.—ED.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—As I am not a member of any angling club—their late hours not suiting my habits, and from little other motive—I may perhaps be considered presumptuous in a desire to penetrate yet farther than does Mr. F. Malcolm into the leaves of the weighing-in books of these friendly associations.

Mr. F. Malcolm asks whether, "Did not many of the fish, viz., 2000 lb., weighed-in by the North-Western Angling Club, come from the Welsh Harp Fishery (not fence), Elstree, &c., and were not these fish bream full of spawn after June 16, 1880?"

I am at a loss to see the force of this question; for under my convictions, impressed by those unwritten laws which instinctively influence the actions of a true sportsman, such fish ought to have been returned to the water, whether it was during the fence months or otherwise, and I should have been very sorry to have sat in company, in either boat or on bank, with a man who would have retained them.

Doubtless L. B. has raised a question of great value, and one which will, like all enquiries into truth, bear good fruit. He may have outstript his numbers; I doubt whether he has. But Mr. Malcolm is doing good service in challenging his facts.

One of the bearings of such an investigation is the oft-repeated assertion (and to me fallacious postulate), that no water can be "fished out" by fair angling with rod and line. I could name numerous instances; some thirty becks and tributaries, once of great renown in Westmoreland and Cumberland, in which the proprietors have not only closed the angling for from two to four years, to let the water recover, but have been propagating new stock during twice as many. To come nearer home, have not the fisheries of the Rye House and Beningfield's, at Broxbourne on the Lea, Godfrey on the Colne, been so depleted as to require supplies from various sources? Again, is not the Thames an example, where at Windsor, Reading, Abingdon and Marlow, adult trout at considerable comparative expense, have been introduced into the stream, to supplement the chances of the sport of the angler, to say nothing of the literally hundreds of thousands of poor salmonid fry, which have been sent adrift without mercy or thought, to become the prey of predacious fish.

And what does L. B.'s, H. K.'s and Mr. Malcolm's contributions directly point to if we are to get a close approximation to the truth of the gross weight of fish caught by London anglers in Metropolitan waters? viz., that the weighing-in books of the respective clubs should require and enter the locality where captured, as well as date to be stated, and the weight of undersized fish unduly introduced into the club.

While upon this latter subject I would say that, although few members of a well-conducted club would hazard the introduction of undersized fish into the club room, there are many whom it is known basket almost anything, and know where to get rid of them before entering the tavern where the club holds its meetings. This is notorious, but the "honour" and character of the respective clubs—I am not speaking of all—is concerned, and therefore any member is "mum" when this leprosy is alluded to.

Not many months ago a man was brought up at one of the East-end police courts, who stated that he made part of his living by going round to the various taverns in which angling clubs were held, to buy up the fish left or ready for sale by the members. The landlords and waiters were naturally glad to get rid of the offal, and this being known the more needy were not long in entering into an agreement with the collector (an agent of the Jews), and now, the "gaff being blown," even boys and women go angling, as a new source of profitable occupation.

Doubtless we shall have next week a reply from L. B., who would scarcely never have ventured to fish in such deep and troubled waters without plumbing his depth.

You will doubtless see, Mr. Editor, that the whole question, which threatens greatly to develop itself, bears forcibly upon the gross weight system.—I am, &c., CREEL.

NEAREST ANGLING CLUB TO WALHAM GREEN.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, H. Belward, I beg to say that the nearest one I know of is the Hammersmith United, an old established club, held at the Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith. The meeting night for election, &c., is every Thursday, at about 9 o'clock. Any information may be obtained from the hon. sec., Mr. H. G. Penney, jeweller, King Street, Hammersmith. H.

NETTING AT AMBERLEY.

SIR,—I think it my duty, for the information of the readers of your valuable paper, to bring the following to their notice:—Having spent the last week at Amberley, in Sussex, for the purpose of a week's fishing, I noticed, while fishing with a member of the Izaak Walton Anglers, on three successive days, three men netting the river and selling the fish which they caught. This happened in the afternoon, and they boasted that nobody could stop them. The

size of the net was about 30 to 40 yards in length, and, I believe, the property of Mr. Lee, of Houghton Bridge.

I shall be pleased if you will kindly publish, so as to bring it before the several angling associations, who, no doubt, will take the matter up.

Mr. Bates exhibited, July 23rd, a splendid take of bream from the Welsh Harp; Mr. Rudkin roach from the river Abbey.

Mr. G. Taylor, a splendid show of roach and bream from Amberley, one roach scaling 2 lb. 6 oz., sent to Mr. Miller, of East Street, Walworth, to be preserved.—I am, &c., GEORGE TAYLOR, sec.

Club Room, 1st Surrey Angling Society, Warner Road, Camberwell.
July 27th.

JAPANESE ROACH ROD.

SIR,—I quite agree with your remarks as to a Japanese rod 14 to 20 feet long, and strengthened as suggested, being first-rate for roach, but do not know where to procure one of the requisite length. Can you, or any of you readers oblige me with the information?—I am, &c., T. H.

[We bought the last Messrs. Carter had a fortnight ago, but doubtless they can get them to order.—ED.]

WHERE CAN THE JAPANESE RODS BE HAD?

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me where the Japanese cane telescope rods can be had, and whether there is any angling club in London for youths.—I am, &c., ROACH ANGLER.

[We think it would pay some good firm to get a stock of the Japanese rods put brass ferrules and winch fittings on, and a stronger top, and sell them at 5s. or 6s. each. Messrs. Carter of St. John Street Road did one for us for 5s. the other day.—ED.]

FISHING IN KESTON LAKES.

SIR,—Will you inform me through your correspondence whether there is any good carp or roach fishing in Keston Lakes (Bromley, Kent).—I am, &c., PECKHAM RYE.

[We believe there is good fishing there.—ED.]

FISHING IN SHROPSHIRE.

SIR,—Will you or any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE be kind enough to tell me what sort of fishing there is to be had at Coalport, in Shropshire, on the Severn, and the best baits to use for bottom fishing and spinning, also do you require a license?—I am yours, &c., W. ILLINGWORTH.

Summer Hill, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent, July 7th.
[You will get good coarse fishing of all kinds—perch, jack, roach, dace, &c. You must get a license to fish for trout, but it only costs one shilling, we think, for the season. The Severn is a capital river for the coarse fish anglers.—ED.]

WHERE CAN WE DINE?

SIR,—Would any of your numerous correspondents and brothers of the angle kindly recommend an inn or hotel where about a dozen or more club anglers could obtain a decent plain dinner within about twenty miles of St. Martin's Le Grand?—I am, &c., A. W.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Medcalf, 3½ lb. of roach and bream, from Pulborough; Mr. Moir, 3½ lb. roach and bream, from Dagenham; Mr. Patrick, 2½ lb., from the same water; Mr. Howlett, 3 lb. 10½ oz., from the Thames, one very nice roach, weight 1 lb. 3 oz. The members will fish a pegged-down match at Dagenham on Sunday, August 14.
J. WORLEDGE.
July 24.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th inst. members went to Amberley, returning with a splendid show of roach and bream. R. Smith, 8 lb.; A. Shakel, Mr. Scott, W. Streetan, D. Davis, C. Daniels.—A. SHAKEL, sec.
July 25th.

BATTERSEA FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this old-established club fished their first match of the season on Sunday last, at Woking, for prizes presented by the host, Mr. T. Pettit, Queen's Hotel, Queen's Road, Battersea Park. Thirteen members competing, all being ambitious to win the opening. On weighing-in at the club-house it was found Mr. F. Newton was first, with 2 lb. 13½ oz.; Mr. G. Mumford, second, with 2 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Sewell, third, 1 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Martin, fourth, 1 lb. 6½ oz. At a special, on Tuesday, the secretary read out the names of donors of prizes to be fished for during the season, as follows:—Mr. Burgess, £2 2s.; Sir T. Lawrence, £1 1s.; Mr. T. Pettit, £1 1s.; Mr. F. Duncan, £1 1s.; Mr. G. Mumford, £1 1s.; Mr. H. Martin, £1 1s.; Mr. W. Excell, £1 1s.; Mr. Bulmer, 10s. 6d.; Mr. A. Ansty, 10s. 6d.; Mr. T. Gloster, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Milsted, 10s. 6d. The committee has fixed dates for the contests for the above prizes, which can be seen at the club-house. The next match takes place at Wraybury on August 14th.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed fish on the 24th. Mr. Castell, bream, from Dagenham; Mr. Mortimer, bream and roach from Pulborough; Mr. J. Chambers, roach, from the Roding; Mr. Hales, carp, from a pond in Kent; and Mr. Fowler, roach and perch, from Henley-on-Thames. Our return visit on Tuesday, 26th, was a success. Our large club-room being well filled with company; Mr. Langdon, in the chair, faced by Mr. Shearman. After some capital songs, by Messrs. Langdon, Shearman, Head, Hales, Benning, C. Watling, W. Hewett, Boyce, Jennings, Ghurney, Page and Juchau, the roll was called. The following clubs being represented:—Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, Hoxton Brothers, Great Northern, North Western, City of

London, Waltonians, Odds and Evens, Convivial, Star, Little Independent and Bermondsey Brothers; also the following clubs not on the United Anglers' list, Bostonian, Buckland, Clerkenwell, Piscatorials, Duke of Norfolk, Jolly Piscatorials, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorials and Peckham Brothers. Nineteen clubs being represented. We will return their visits at the first opportunity. Copies of Mr. Benning's last new song, called "Fisherman's Luck" can be had at the above club, at a small charge.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members were out on Sunday last, but only one turned up—Mr. Turner, with a very fine take—3 bream weighing 9 lb. 1½ oz. and 10 lb. 14½ oz. of roach, in all 19 lb. 15½ oz. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business.—E. WILSON, sec.
July 25th.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We fished at Dagenham on Sunday last for seven prizes. Fifty members and friends started overnight by road. A most enjoyable day was spent, but the throw of fish was very bad. The winners of the prizes are named in their order. Messrs. Cherry, W. Watling, Hutchings, R. Watling, J. Fitch, W. Jennings and W. Parkin. The following members also had fish:—Messrs. Hewitt, J. K. Fitch, Painter, Young, C. Hill, C. Warren, Walker, Butler, J. Warren, Patman, Cooper, Reynolds, sen. and jun., Theobald, S. Smith, Phillips and H. Watling. The next Eastern District visit will be paid to this society on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

J. A. FITCH, jun.

P.S. In your report last week signed "B.," you state that it was Mr. C. Parkin that died on the banks of the New River. It should have stated Mr. C. Perkin.

[We should be much obliged to Mr. Fitch, jun., if he would kindly describe the Dagenham fishery. How large is the water, average depth, what fish does it hold, and is there any charge? Also, if there is an inn there, and how one gets there?—ED.]

EXETER ANGLING CLUB.

The weather much improved, having had a few showers, and the air is much cooler. The fishing not up to much, and several members have gone in for perch fishing with minnows, Mr. C. Blake and a friend taking between four and five dozen between them on two consecutive afternoons, Mr. J. A. Kelly also taking some capital creels of fish, and many of fine size. He continued to take them as long as there was a shot in the locker (minnow in the bait can) and had to give up for want of more bait, thus showing that the welcome change has put them on the feed. I hear of some dreadful doings near and about Salmon Pool, numbers of dead fish being seen floating about, including salmon and trout. Many are the versions abroad, and as I am not in possession of the facts at present will refrain from giving you my own ideas this week, but hope to do so in my next. It has caused quite a sensation amongst others beside the angling fraternity.—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec. *pro tem.*
July 26.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were out on Sunday last, Mr. Paine having an excellent show of perch and tench, one of the latter scaling about 2½ lb.; Mr. Hopkins, a good show of barbel, roach, and dace; Mr. Tudenham, tench and dace; Blackman, a very handsome tray of barbel of about 14 lb., one fish weighing close on 4 lb. On Saturday, 16th, from four to eight, Mr. Snow fishing with Richard Watford, at Weybridge, had 7 barbel, weighing 21 lb., and 3 bream, 7 lb., a large perch, and a very fine eel. On the following Wednesday by himself, 3½ doz. of fine roach and dace. On the Thursday, with Richard Watford, 4½ doz. roach, three weighing 1 lb. each. On Friday 6 doz. and 9 roach, dace, and bream. Saturday, before eight, 3 doz. roach and dace.—A. THOMAS, sec.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 21st inst. Messrs. Geen and Hoole weighed in a number of bream, roach, &c., from the Mole Mr. Johnston also had a good tray from Datchet. On the 24th several members were out. Among the most successful may be mentioned the following:—Mr. Pitts, chub, perch, &c.; Mr. Penney, roach; and Mr. Peachey eels, perch, and roach, all from the Upper Thames. Mr. Steadman also made a decent show from Shepperton, and Mr. Lewis had a few from Isleworth.—VORTEX.

July 25.

KING'S LYNN ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The fishing in this neighbourhood has been very much like what was reported from almost everywhere else—slow. But this week, with the return of cooler weather, has seen a change for the better. We, however, want a good twelve hours' rain to put the freshwater fishing in anything like good order. Many of our members have been out since Tuesday last, and have met with varying success. The fishing in the tidal water of the Ouse has yielded "the quantity." Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. Exley, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Spencer, and others made good bags this (Saturday) afternoon, when, for about an hour, the fun was fast and furious—but "the quality" has been taken in the fresh water. Mr. W. King, however, earle on Thursday morning last made a good bag of bream, the fish ranging from 3½ lb. downwards. The trouting round here has been, in spite of the long continued drought, fairly successful when sought in the early morning and late evening.

H. BRADFIELD, Hon. Sec.

July 23.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We have had a few small takes the last week, as under:—Friday, Mr. E. Barr, bream, 7 lb. 6 oz., perch, 6 oz.; Saturday, Mr. Parker, dace, 5½ oz., perch, 9 oz.; Sunday, Mr. Hopton, roach and bream, 5 lb.; Sunday, Mr. G. Watson, roach, 1 lb. 9 oz., dace, 2 lb. 6 oz.; Sunday, Mr. Hurwood, roach, rudd, &c., 1 lb. 12½ oz.; Sunday, Mr. Humphrey's, jack and dace, 1 lb. 7 oz.; Sunday, Mr. Grey, roach, 7 oz. On Sunday next we compete at Ellstree for four prizes.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Russell Arms, Bedford Street, N.W., July 20, 1881.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a nice show of fish on our tables on Sunday evening, and the four prizes competed for at Ellstree were won as follows:—First prize, Mr. Mead; second, Mr. Barr; third, Mr. W. Kelley; fourth, Mr. Gray; all tench and

roach. Every kindness and attention was shown us by the proprietor of the water, Mr. Hill, who presented us with a donation of 10s. towards a further competition. The following members likewise weighed-in from the same place:—Messrs. Watts, Parker, J. Kelley, F. Moore, Harbert and Heelas. From the Ouse:—Messrs. Hopton, Letch and H. Moore weighed-in a splendid show of bream, 50 lb. 13 oz., and 1 lb. 9 oz. bream.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.
July 27.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The second excursion to the Llanymynech took place on Wednesday, the 20th inst. Over 30 of the members availed themselves of the opportunity of enjoying a day's exercise of the "gentle craft" in the waters of this first-class river for all-round fishing. If you use the fly there are splendid streams over which you can cast your flight and lure the trout and grayling from their native element; if the worm or the gentle be your forte there are deep swims and eddies in which the chub, perch, and roach love to roam, and out of which it takes all your knowledge and skill to land them. Unfortunately the late hot dry weather had caused the river to be very low and clear, and it was simply by the exercise of science and perseverance that a fish could be moved. Some of the party went on the preceding day, but the greater number left Liverpool at 6 a.m. on the morning of the match, and on arrival at Oswestry were conveyed to their destination by road, the six miles' drive through the beautiful Welsh scenery being much enjoyed. After refreshing the inner man at the Cross Keys Hotel, the trysting place, the note of preparation was sounded, the conditions given out, and off they went, a *peaceful* army bent on conquest. Seven p.m., with five minutes' grace, was the appointed time for weighing in, and at that hour most of the piscators had made their appearance. The clerk of the scales got to work, and the various creels having been examined and their contents weighed, it was found that the following were the prize winners:—Mr. F. Roberts, fishing jacket; Mr. Ramsbottom, fishing boots; Mr. F. Wood, one guinea rod; Mr. Boulding, half-guinea reel. Two other prizes were not awarded, though Mr. Woodfall had a trout which, if it had been kept damp instead of being allowed to dry, would certainly have turned the scale at the prescribed limit, and won him a guinea rod, for, dry as it was a blade of grass would have made it the weight. However, accidents will happen, and it is no use crying over spilled milk. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the two lots of prizes going to professionals, and at their being allowed to compete unconditionally against the others, and it will be for the committee in arranging future excursions to see that in this respect all are put on an equal footing. The next move was to the dining-room, and here Mr. Baugh had served up an excellent repast, to which full justice was done by all who partook of it, and as nothing restores good humour so well as a full paunch, peace and goodwill was the universal feeling. The party was then mustered (and peppered), and each took his seat in the vehicle provided to take them the six miles back to Oswestry, during which cigar and pipe were brought into play, and the cup of enjoyment was complete. All arrived safe home highly pleased with their day's outing.—R. WOODFALL, hon. sec.
Liverpool, July 26,

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were again successful last Sunday. Mr. Laundy, with 17 lb. of roach, perch, and bream, and Mr. J. Drew, bream, from Pulbore; Mr. Obbard, dace, and G. Drew, roach, both from the Thames; Mr. W. Gorsuch, sen., had some roach and dace from the Stort. There will be no meeting on Monday next, being Bank Holiday, but members can weigh in.—THOS. WM. LUCY, secretary.
July 26th, 1881.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On Sunday last several members of the above society put the Stort to tribulation for fish to enable them to win the prize given by Mr. Minard. After taxing the merry stream from sunrise to sunset, Mr. Gendle was declared the winner. Messrs. Minard, Page, Stidolph, and Williams also had fish. "Never mind, Page, better luck next time when we have the wasp grubs." —PIXIE.
July 27, 1881.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

On the 24th a series of prizes was competed for, conditions being "Go where, and fish how you like." Messrs. Canton and Smithers visited their favorite shop at Windsor, and succeeded in getting some chub. Mr. Dale "on the fly" with the fly at Hertford succeeded in getting some dace, which landed him at the head of the pole for 1st prize. The next competition that will take place will be the special competition, and will take place on Thursday, August 11th, and will take place in one water, the members all going together. The following is the list of prizes for that occasion:—1st (Mr. Taylor), a silver cup; 2nd (Mr. Pemmeller), £2 2s. od.; 3rd (Mr. Sawyer), a perambulator; 4th (Mr. Cotton), a timepiece; 5th (Mr. Taylor), a meerscham pipe. —PIXIE, London.
July, 1881.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

Result of competition at 11.30 this evening, Mr. Canton, roach, among which 1 weighing over 16 oz. Fish expected later on from Mr. G. Lee and Co. Gentlemen requiring wasp grubs can now be supplied by applying to T. Haydon, Coleman Street, Camberwell, he has several nests he can blaze at a minute's notice. J. Haydon is well known among the anglers of this end of the town.—PIXIE.
July 21.

STANLEY ANGLERS.

Several of our members have been out lately, and have shown in some good takes of fish. Amongst the number the following have been very successful:—Our President (Mr. C. P. Wheatstone), with bream, 19 lbs. 13 oz., largest fish, 4 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. A. Wrightson, jack, from the Welsh Harp, largest 8 lb.; Mr. W. R. Humby and D. M. Humby, some takes of nice bream, and last, but not least, our old friend, Tommy Parsons, with some capital takes of dace and ch. Capital fish. I hope to send you a good report next time, as Mr. C. P. Wheatstone and Messrs. Humby have presented valuable prizes to be fished for on Bank Holiday.—C. LAIDLAW, hon. sec.
July 23rd, 1881.

ST. JOHN'S.

A number of our members were out on the 24th, but the following only had fish:—Mr. C. Fudge, jack, roach, and dace, from the Lea; Mr. Pledge, roach, and dace, from Boxmoor; Mr. W. Winch, bream, from the Gulf (all tin); Mr. A. Hunt, some fine bream, from the Harp, one fish 3 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Ruishon, roach, and dace, from the Thames. I wish to inform all members that were not at the last general meeting that Mr. Leach gives a very handsome album to be fished for in August; and that it was made a rule that members showing undersized fish of any sort in the club room shall be fined one penny on every fish. The fines to go to the preservation fund. What do you think?—[Quite right.—ED.]—F. THORLING.
July 25th, 1881.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th inst., Mr. Edward Morrow weighed-in 3 lb. 5 oz. roach and bream; Mr. T. Gretton, 3 lb. 1 oz. bream; Mr. W. Webb, 1 lb. bream; Mr. Edward North had a quantity of live tench. On the 26th inst. yours obediently had 4 lb. 8 oz. roach; Mr. W. Mecham will give a prize for the heaviest gross weight of fish weighed-in during the month of August. Messrs. Morrow and Gretton will also give prizes for the heaviest specimen roach and perch taken during the same time. Sunday fishing only.—T. GRETTON, secretary.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 20th Mr. Beckett visited Rickmonsworth, and succeeded in getting 18 lb. 15 oz. of fine roach and dace, nine of the former weighing just 1 oz. under 9 lb. I omitted to mention in my last that Mr. Moore gives £1 1s. 6d., and Mr. Boalch a pair of shoes, value 10s. 6d., for honorary members only, competing on the 1st August. This will make five prizes given for that date. 27th, Mr. Beckett another nice show of chub, roach, and dace. On the 10th, August, a competition will take place for various prizes, including one for the best specimen fish taken from the bank.—PIXIE.
July, 1881.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society had their trays well filled last Sunday. Mr. J. Smith, bream; Mr. R. Gaze, bream; Mr. R. Oliphant, dace; Mr. J. Gaze, roach and perch; Mr. J. Inglis, roach; Mr. J. Humphries, roach; and Mr. T. Morris, roach. Notice.—Members of this society are informed that there will be no meeting on Sunday night next, but they will be entitled to weigh in their fish on Monday night, August 1, for the two days.—R. GAZE, Sec.
July 25.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 14th Mr. Weatherhead was fortunate enough to get a nice show of perch from Kingsbury. Mr. Delehay also succeeded in getting from Pitsea some carp and rudd on the same day. On the 17th Messrs. Brown, Bedford, Cain, Piolaine, Schwartz and Renault were at Amberley, they managed to get some fish, but owing to the influence of the weather and the surrounding delightful scenery they did not arrive in London in time to weigh the fish in the society.
July 21.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 21st Mr. Weatherhead had some nice bream and perch from Kingsbury. On the 24th Mr. Boalch succeeded in winning Mr. Piolaine's £1 1s. 6d. prize with 9 lb. 6 oz. dace and roach from Richmond. Mr. J. Bedford in for Mr. Iron's 10s. 6d., with some dace, four of which turned the scale at 9 ozs. each. Messrs. Bayley, Cain, Delehay, and Irons also exhibited fish. The following prizes will be competed for on the 21st and 1st August (bank only, public, or private), 1st (Mr. Fox), a writing desk; 2nd (Messrs. Harris and Norris), a leg of mutton and trimmings. Members wishing to go away on Saturday can do so by conforming with rule 10. Those members are requested not to forget the ice with their fish on Monday night. The following prizes are given for the gross weight of fish taken on four Sundays during August:—1st (Mr. F. Grigg), side of bacon; 2nd (Mr. C. Beale), a £1 1s. 6d. hat. "Now, my friends, these are the prizes that will save you your 'bacon,' and put a roof over your head. Be up and doing!" Pixie knows where to find the wasps in embryo.—PIXIE, London.
July, 1881.

WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 24th, the following gentlemen weighed in:—Mr. Roland, 9 lb. 7½ oz.; Mr. Waltham, 2 lb. 2½ oz.; Mr. Malcom, 8 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Rushbrook, 11½ oz.; Mr. Good, sen., 2 lb. 8¼ oz.; Mr. Good, jun., 2 lb.; Mr. Greenfield, 2½ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.
July 27.

POPE.—It is sometimes said that our fresh water fish are insipid when cooked for eating. Exception must, however, be taken in favour of perch and pope. A young angler the other day walked from a south-west suburb to and from Moulsey, but the only fish he could tempt to take his bait were a dozen pope. These little fish he cooked next day, and really the flesh was firm, white, and nice eating. Trout, dace, and gudgeon are, of course, very good when properly cooked, but roach—beyond the pleasure of catching them—are commonly woolly and tasteless. The said aspirant only saw one good-sized fish caught all day, and that by a puntman and in water comparatively undisturbed by boats.—F.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCK, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand; Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

THE great change during this last week in the weather from almost tropical heat to nice cool weather has made a wonderful improvement in the fishing, the rains having done a deal of good in improving the waters where the majority of Sheffield anglers fish.

The reports from Dunham, Laneham, and Torksey, on the Trent, all agree that the river is now in splendid condition, and would amply repay any trouble taken in well baiting.

From the Whitham all anglers state they never saw it in better condition, and the good takes of fish this week proves the report to be correct. Mr. George Smith taking 40 lb. of roach, and Messrs. J. Dodds and Brown, 30 lb. and 28 lb.

At the Brave Old Oak, Mr. Wastnedge, Charles Street, there was a very good show of fish from Saxilby, Mr. Thomas Miles, weighing 20 lb. of nice roach; Henry Barlow, 10 lb.; Alf. Proudly, 9 lb.; and Joseph Wastnedge, 5½ lb.

At the Norfolk Arms Club several of the members showed in nice dishes of fish; Mr. C. Pearce, weighing 15 lb.; Mr. J. Lee, and others having similar catches; Mr. J. Tomlinson showing 32 lb. of fish.

At the Rose and Crown Club, Mr. Wm. Baker had a very nice catch of bream and roach, the bream weighing over 20 lb. and 10 lb. of roach; several other catches were also shown.

At the Cup Inn (Mr. Mosley's, Paternoster Row), there were some good dishes shown by Mr. Chas. Mosley, R. West and others.

On Monday last, betwixt twenty and thirty clubs fished their annual matches in the various waters around Sheffield, over 1600 anglers going down by the several excursion trips to Keadby, Boston, Lincoln, Saxilby and Brigg. The following clubs fishing Boston:—The Woodman Inn, Slater's United Brothers, the Willow Tree, the Sheffield Temperance. The Hodkins Arms Club going to Lincoln; the Star of Brunswick and the Robin Hood Clubs fishing Saxilby. The following clubs going to Keadby:—The Spring Tavern, the Florist, the Fir View, the Great Gun, the Petre Hotel and the Woodland View. The Albion Club, the Nunnery Club and the Bay Horse Club going to Brigg. The Albion Club members mustered sixty strong, and forty-two of them succeeded in taking fish. Mr. T. Winter taking the first prize with 3 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. J. Smith, second, with 3 lb. ½ oz.

Mr. J. Sanderson gives £40 to be fished for at Crowle, in the Keadby Canal, open to all England, and I have no doubt a strong muster of anglers will take part in the contest.

RED SPINNER.

TROUT POISONING.

FOR some time, indeed for several years now, instances have become common of trout streams being poisoned in the South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire districts, especially in the neighbourhood of the extensive collieries which abound in that locality. The last few days have, however, furnished two instances of an aggravated nature, which it is to be hoped will lead to greater vigilance on the part of the police and possibly the stoppage of this dastardly practice. Throughout the district named there are a very many very pure streamlets, which come down from the extensive grouse moors above, and which form, from their purity, admirable trout streams. Many of these streams have of late years been extensively cultivated by gentlemen who own the property through which they pass, and in some instances a good deal of money has been spent over their protection and the supplying of fry from a distance to increase the stock of fish they contain. During last year several cases were reported in the FISHING GAZETTE, amongst which was one where a tributary of the Derwent, at Hathersage, belonging to Mr. Cammell, was poisoned and the fish nearly all destroyed. At times since, other streams have suffered, and notably about Chesterfield and Dronfield, and indeed at many points along the valley of the Rother, and also of the Erewash, as far as the coal district extends. This week information has reached the West Riding police that a fine trout stream on the Nottinghamshire border of the Riding has been poisoned and hundreds of fish have been destroyed. The stream mentioned is one leading down a pretty little gorge amongst the limestone rocks, called Anston Stones, about a couple of miles from Kiverton Park Station, on the Manchester and Sheffield main line of railway. This has long been noted as a very fine trout stream, and the other day it was discovered to have been limed. The property through which the stream runs is owned by the Duke of Leeds, but his Grace, we believe, lets his sporting rights here to a gentleman residing in the locality, and for whom a good deal of sympathy is expressed by neighbouring anglers. The matter is being enquired into by the police. In connection with this matter it might be mentioned that there is a rumour that during the feast held at the adjoining village of Todwick one night, several trout were disposed of for beer at the public-house, and it has since transpired that the proprietors of a neighbouring colliery served out to their employes a quantity of chloride of lime for disinfecting purposes during the hot weather, and it is supposed this has found its way into the Anston brook. It is also thought these circumstances may lead to the detection of the offenders. A similar instance has just occurred in a mountain stream some ten miles above Sheffield, but still in the same county. Some years ago a very disastrous flood occurred in the town of Sheffield through the bursting of a large waterworks reservoir at Bradfield, seven or eight miles above the town. The stream to which the fish poisoners have this time turned their attention is the one that fed this identical reservoir, and the point at which the damage was done was some mile or a mile and a half from the site of this unfortunate dam. The stream is known locally as Dale Dyke and runs through a grouse moor occupied or owned by Mr. G. H. Shaw, a

surgeon at Sheffield and a well known and enthusiastic sportsman and angler. This gentleman has been at a great deal of trouble and expense in stocking it with fish, and though he may not have made full use of its resources himself, his friends and, in many instances, his delicate patients, have derived unstinted pleasure from it, and by many who have tried it is described as one of the best, if not the best, bit of trout fishing in South Yorkshire. On Sunday last it was found that, either early that morning or the night before, probably during the night, the stream had been lamed, and hundreds of trout were lying in the brook and coming down with the water, dead. No trace of the miscreant has yet been found, but it is to be hoped the police, who have the matter in hand, will be successful in this instance also. Seeing the very great and general respect in which Mr. Shaw is held in the locality, it seems hard to believe that the outrage is one arising out of spite, but it is viewed as more a poaching affair than anything else. It is hoped this and other outrages of a similar character will stimulate the police to greater exertions to stop the practice.

THE COOKING OF CARP.

IN *Food and Health*, Mrs. Amelia Lewis, editing that useful paper, writes that there are various ways of cooking the carp in an appetising manner, which are: 1. To plain broil it. 2. To stew it in gravy. 3. To bake it when stuffed.

1. To plain broil it.—Scale and clean the carp well, dry it, wrap it round with a piece of larded paper and now put it on the pan that has been slightly greased. When done sprinkle a few drops of lemon juice over it, if you prefer it.

2. To stew it in gravy.—Make a gravy with a small piece of melted butter, some flour stirred into it, add a couple of shallots chopped very fine, some peppercorns, mace, two cloves, salt, and now amalgamate with a little warm water. Put in additionally some claret or port, or, if you do not wish to use these, some malt vinegar and a spoonful of sauce or mushroom catsup, also a couple of lemon slices. Place your carp into the sauce, either whole, cut in half, or in pieces, according to its size, cover up tight and let gently simmer for half an hour or so. Some put a few slices of ham under the carp. The carp and gravy, eaten with potatoes, salad, parsnips and cabbage stewed or mushrooms make a very good dish.

3. To bake carp when stuffed.—Clean the carp and prepare your stuffing, some bread, finely-chopped suet, a little parsley and thyme, a small chopped onion, pepper, salt and nutmeg, chopped lemon peel, moistened with the yolks of two eggs, stuff the fish with it and tie up.

Wrap the fish in greased paper, and either place butter in tin, or some lard or a few slices of bacon. Place this in oven or cover over on top. When done, make a brown gravy with fat in the pan, and pour over the fish, or eat dry, if you prefer.

Beetroot salad or potato salad can well be eaten with it. Also mashed or fried potatoes, and various vegetables, green peas or beans.

The flesh of the carp represents among fishes the tastiness of the fowl among poultry or the pig among the meat of the domesticated animal. It is savoury, aromatic, and also nourishing to a degree, and carp will become a very valuable fish food.

IMPORTANT FISHING CASE.

ON Tuesday, a case of considerable importance was heard relative to the right of fishing from the towing-path of the river Lea. Mr. R. Murphy, the secretary of the Good Intent Anglers was summoned by Mr. Wheeler, of the King's Arms, Waltham, for being in the main cut opposite the Government Factory, and refusing to pay when requested. As we have before mentioned, this partakes somewhat of a test question, and the court was filled with many well-known anglers, who evidently took a very keen interest in the matter. Mr. Corbie, the clerk of the Lea Conservancy, and Mr. Childs, the engineer, attended on behalf of that body, and Mr. Alsop appeared for Mr. Murphy. Several solicitors were present on behalf of the Crown. Mr. Wheeler was the first witness called, and said that he leased this portion of the river from the War Office, and on July 11 Mr. Murphy came down, and intimated to him that he intended to fish, and refused to pay when requested. The solicitor for the defence took objection to the form of the lease, but the case proceeded. Mr. Clarke was next called, and said he had leased a portion of the water since the year 1858. The portion in dispute he had never laid claim to, as it was a new cutting made about ten years ago. Several fishery cases were quoted, and a long legal discussion ensued. Major Tovey gave evidence as to the rights of the War Office, but no deeds were submitted. Mr. Gorbie was next called, and said he knew the piece of water well, and gave Murphy permission to fish it. They used to take little notice of the fishery cases, but so many attempted claims were now made they were compelled to do so for their own protection. They always kept their rights alive. The solicitor for the Crown said that the Government claim their right to the fishing through being the owners of the bed of the river. The magistrates retired to consider the case, and after a short absence decided that the summons be dismissed, as that portion of the towing-path belonged to the Lea Conservancy, and Murphy had their permission to fish. The two other summonses taken out by the Lea Conservancy were withdrawn.—*Sporting Life*.

A NOVEL SUGGESTION.

IF we are to have an International Fishery Exhibition in London could we not utilise it in an educational direction so as to leave those who frequented it better informed regarding the natural history of fish after their visit and inspection of its contents than previous to their presence. What, may I ask, do the majority of anglers know of the various changes—I had almost written transformations—of salmon, excepting from the illustrations in expensive works far out of their reach? It may be answered by some, And what do they care? But my reply to this is that there exists no item of such information, however insignificant, which has not in its development one universal bearing upon the whole penetralia of pisciculture. Again, it may be inquired how is this to be done? The Norwich Exhibition has given us a distant but unmistakeable hint. On one of the stalls were a salmon and a joint of meat, if I mistake not, preserved in a fresh and, it is said, an improved condition, by the Glacialine process of the Antitropic Company, of Glasgow, and which attracted the especial attention of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. We further learn that after these perishable articles had been exposed in the over-heated and crowded building for a week they were ordered to be cooked by the Committee, and the unanimous decision after the repast of those gentlemen was that both fish and flesh had undergone as severe an ordeal as it was possible during such weather to submit them. Now what has this to do with my preface? Merely this, that the date of the opening of the Exhibition in London being known, those throughout Europe who have scientific sympathies at heart, should forward from their respective localities properly preserved specimens of salmonidæ, salmon, trout, grayling, &c., with date when taken, whence from, and any particulars of supposed importance, however apparently trivial. We all know, for instance, how trout differ in contour, colour, and markings, from separate localities; and, therefore, what, to a naturalist or intelligent angler, could be a more gloriously instructive and suggestive lesson than to see before him the specimens of those fish from their several native waters properly labelled and designated? Thus, with salmon, the whole of the parr theory—which is still, with many, a mental myth—might be elucidated and rendered clear. F.

FROGS CROAKING—FISH NOT BITING.

A HARTFORD gentleman who owns a farm in Windham, near the renowned old frog pond, tells of a fishing incident in his experiences, at the historic pond sometime ago, which to all who are familiar with the range and expression there is in frog tones may be worth relating. He says he was having excellent luck in catching fish, pulling out one big perch after another until a large old bullfrog—a sort of batracian patriarch—came up out of the water, took up a position on a rock a few feet away and began a deep and mournful croaking. This was taken up and repeated by others—for “Colonel Dyer” and “Elperkin” too have their lineal descendants still flourishing in that famous old pond.—until a regular croaking chorus was heard all around the pond. From this time the fish did not bite; not another one was hooked. The angler tried to dislodge the basso profundo; and finally, by throwing his hook freshly baited upon the stone near him, the frog took the bait and the fisherman tried to land him by an over-throw. But in the fling-up, the heavy old frog became detached from the hook and shot up in the air apparently fifty feet. As he came down and heavily struck the water, apparently very much astonished at his aerial trip and sudden fall, with such a whack, he grunted out with almost human distinctness, but in tones deeper than any of the bulls of Bashan, the one exclamation—“Great Scott!” and then disappeared. After this occurrence the frog serenade stopped, and the fisherman continued angling with his former good luck.

The above is fathered by the Hartford *Times* and is too good to remain local. We expect that some of our “unlucky” anglers will soon be trying the “croaking frog” dodge to account for poor baskets. Given a fisherman, and the “reasons why” come at command. The “Great Scott” of that old batracian sounds as sonorous as an expletive used by an angling friend of ours, whenever he loses “the biggest one I ever had hold of.”—*Afield and Afloat*.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ALVT.

THE KENNET, &C., AT NEWBURY.—A brace of M.P.'s are among the new members who have joined the Newbury Angling Preservation Association, and fished the waters. There is comparatively little traffic now in the "Cut," and as the borough authorities are at last going to divert all objectionable matter from the river, the trout and general fishing here will in time be unexcelled. Several anglers have acted on the "tip" given in THE FISHING GAZETTE. There are few inland localities of greater interest than this, alike to the angler, the literary man, and the student of history. Any angler, however, who is worthy of the name of sportsman, should be as especially careful not to injure or disturb any young bird or wild game animal he might perchance come across, as he would be to return a fish out of season, or one too small to retain. People are beginning at last to understand this sort of thing all the better; now that it cuts both ways!—GAUZY.

ANOTHER BREACH OF THE SALMON FISHERIES ACT AT CHRISTCHURCH.—At the Petty Sessions at Christchurch, Hants, on Monday, before Mr. Farr, J.P., and four other magistrates, Frederick Fane, Esq., of Moyle's Court, Ringwood, was fined £8 and £1 is. 8d. costs, for using a net without a license in May last. Mr. Trevanion, of Poole, appeared for the Avon and Stour Board of Conservancy (who instituted the case), and said that defendant was until recently a member of the board, but now withdrew from it. The evidence went to show that the bailiff caught defendant and a party fishing in the Avon, and told him he would report him, and on the following day the secretary of the Board received a letter from him (defendant) applying for a license, which Mr. Trevanion said was after the offence was committed.

SINGULAR INSTANCE OF THE VORACITY OF THE PIKE.—On Wednesday a curious incident occurred on the River Suir, near Tulla Bridge, about a mile from Thurles, which showed in a remarkable degree the voracity of the pike. A number of ducks were swimming on the river, when one of them uttering a loud "quack" was seen suddenly to disappear, a commotion being immediately afterwards discernible amongst the remainder of the flock. Some young men, going through curiosity to the spot where the duck had vanished, found near the bank of the river an enormous pike floundering about, and so utterly helpless that they had very little difficulty in landing it, when, to their astonishment, they found the duck, which it appeared the pike had seized, but was of course unable to swallow. The monster, whose insatiable voracity had caused its death, weighed nearly forty pounds.—K.

[The above appeared in *Land and Water* recently. Ireland is the place for big pike.—ED.]

"Papa," said the son and heir of an acquaintance of mine, "may I go a-fishing?" "Stuff!" said the busily-engaged parent; "get away, get away, don't bother me about fishing." Towards evening a miserable piece of humanity was brought home wrapped in some bits of old sacking, which was all that covered his nakedness. "Found him roaming on the bank of the drain, sir, without his togs," said the party who had brought the object home. It is not known for certain how this promising juvenile became in this Adam-like state, but it is supposed that the fishes not biting, he had gone down to hook 'em on, and during this employment somebody had taken a fancy to his clothing, picked up the same and bolted.

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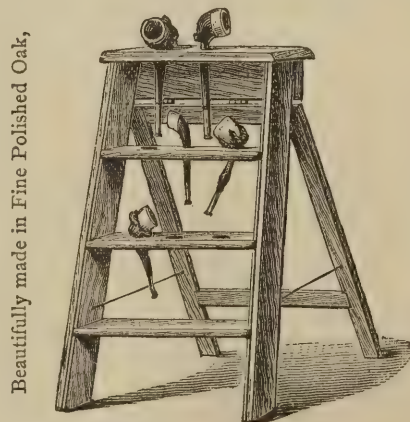
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1881

BARBEL FISHING.

By J. P. WHEELDON.

IN a recent holiday paper, written expressly for a capital holiday number of the FISHING GAZETTE, I had it in my mind to say something about barbel fishing, but want of space prevented me doing so. I therefore take the opportunity of adding

something in the present number. It is, to my thinking, the most exciting, the most exhilarating, as well as the most uncertain sport, that can be sought after near home. Frankly, I think, there never swam such an awful sly old customer as your barbel, nor one that requires more skilful management to induce him to bite freely; or, at that other supreme moment when the keen steel first pierces his leathery snout. Not even Walton's "Water Fox"—the crafty carp—can beat him for cunning, while he is, beyond all comparison, the very gamest of the game. Once hooked, on anything like fine tackle, and a big fish will give even a very experienced fishman plenty to do before the final ceremony of scooping him into the landing net takes place. Given a heavy powerful stream, round the jutting corners of a bank for instance, "all overgrown with meadow sweet, and beauteous flowers of fragrance wild," and Master Barbel, particularly if he has arrived at years of discretion, and weighs five to six pounds, is by no means to be sneezed at. Every little game under the sun will he try to play. Every dodge by which instinct prompts him to try lustily for freedom will be placed under contribution. First, he rushes down the stream with the speed of an arrow released from a tautened bowstring. The instant he finds, in the hands of even a good man, that the winch line has travelled just as fast as he did, and that he is no nearer home, sweet home, untrammelled and unfettered, than he was before, then my lord tries to bolt under a shelf or jutting bit of the bank. If he gains such a stronghold, he will try desperately with might and main, like grim death, to hold on. If there is none such, ten to one, one feels him pulling hard at the end of the swim, and now and again, if one's hand is very sensitive, there is a smart jar upon the tackle. That is, likely enough, caused by a flourishing aloft of his powerful forked tail, and trying with all his vigorous dexterity to sever the detaining gut link. How keen must his rage be when such efforts are defeated, and he finds that the paltry little thread that he had treated with such disdainful indifference at first, still holds him fast by the nose. Occasionally, but very rarely, at this point, he treats himself to an indignant spurt up from the depths of the hole, and a rush for a glimpse of daylight. It is doubtless done with a view to seeing if the sunshine will cast any better and more hopeful light upon things in general, and the bit of gut in particular. This simple and early move in the annals of barbellling is generally a faint-hearted one, and it will be found that he blinks the daylight and turns "funky," such as a nice clean boy, with a clean collar and hair curled, just arrived at Mr. Slappam's Academy for Young Gentlemen, might be expected to do when the bully of the school blusters up, and enquires, "Now, youngster, would a jolly good punch in the eye refresh you? because, if it would, you're welcome to it."

Beware, though, aspiring barbeller, of his little game when he goes down again. If it is found that the gut unaccountably and curiously "gives," without any apparent cause or reason, at any one time during the fight, it will be at this very moment. My own conviction is that the line, being a long distance away from the point of the rod, and hence held at a great angle, the fish does try, and not unfrequently succeeds, in striking it with his muscular tail, and thus dissolving the partnership. I have heard it mooted (nay, more than mooted), asserted, in the most positive and efficient manner, that such theories are all moonshine, and that fish never consider, think, or reflect, call it as you please. That if they ever do release themselves from the hook, by any apparent stratagem which succeeds, it is always the result of a happy accident for the hooked-fish, but never that of design. As a rule, upon such occasions, I have generally held my peace, because positivists of this class are very hard to convince, and frequently the game is hardly worth the candle. I should yet like to meet an observant man who could convince me, in spite of thousands of instances I have seen to the contrary, that fish do not reflect in some measure, or that their sagacity, at least, to use another phrase, is not pretty equal to a good many of the habits of reflection supposed to exist among so-called observant men, because it would really save a good deal of valuable time at present elaborately spent in trying to deceive them.

However, to resume a little mild reflection upon our crafty friend. Once safe and sound at the bottom again, after his late trip towards the clouds, and his next move is most frequently a desperate rush up stream. I need hardly suggest the extreme advisability of keeping the winch going in reeling up slack line just as fast as the fish himself is moving, nor, when he nears the punt, the necessity of giving him a sharp reminder from the butt of the rod, that it would be more seemly on his part to keep at a respectable distance. If he finds that the line is the least atom slackened, a very favourite move is that of making a sudden and determined rush clear under the moored craft. Once let him accomplish that, and I'm open to bet my boots that nothing satisfies him until he has embraced the punt pole as an object of his dearest love, and succeeds in affectionately winding

the line round it as a parting tribute. As a rule, it is a parting one, and the only cause I can suggest in such an unhappy fix is to get a taut line and hold on tight, push the reel down, beyond the under edge of the punt, and then steadily pull at him. If he is clear of any impediment to return, the toothache thus established will be much too strong and powerful in its symptoms to bear any trifling with. Back he shoots again with the speed of a hunted panther. Keep him then under the point of your rod, and play him, if possible, from the wrist. Occasionally he will have reel line, and saying him nay becomes dangerous. Well, give it him, and get it back as soon as you conveniently can. When he is entirely spent and worn out, not an atom before, if you are fishing for sport and not for the sake of filling the well, put the net under him, and, as you dish him into the well, don't forget to uncork the beer-bottle in his honour.

ST. LUBBOCK'S DAY AT THORNEY BROAD.

THE showers of Saturday, and the rain of Sunday, were by no means encouraging to the excursionist looking forward to his day's outing on St. Lubbock's day, however gratifying, for obvious reasons, to the mind of an honest angler. With mingled feelings of regret and pleasure we started for Thorney Broad; regret, that the weather was not more propitious for the toilers of the world's metropolis; and pleasure, that the fishing prospects were somewhat improved by the downpour that had taken place. We need not narrate in detail, all the humorous adventures one inevitably meets with on a public holiday, or the delays inseparable from an occasion when your fishing apparatus has to be got through a bustling crowd. The train "disgorged" us at West Drayton, whence we take our "hook," a pleasant quarter of an hour's walk finding us in the interior of what Mr. Wheeldon once no doubt properly and poetically described as Mr. Godfrey's "snuggery." After a slight refresher, we cast round, ultimately selecting our "swim," not a very easy matter with so many anglers already in possession of the field. The spot chosen was between the house and the railway bridge, on the opposite side, but which could not well be fished without the aid of one of those ponderous old punts in use on this water. To this we return, after partaking of Mr. Godfrey's ordinary, a wholesome meal, which an angler may be satisfied with, but which would go down with more zest if the dinner-service were rather less antique. Let this be attended to, the house brightened up inside, and the outer weeds kept down with a little judgment; then, commend us to Thorney Broad, where, given fair conditions, we should have no fear of an empty bag. Our take on Monday was certainly not large, rather the reverse, but this was due to common angling contingencies. The water is good, the fish are there, and, if not very numerous, certainly run large. Like some fishermen of old, we toiled hard, our ground bait was well in, and the roach, bright, silvery fellows, just coming on, when down, down, down, came the rain, during which, in spite of perseverance and a macintosh, not one touch could we get. Standing in our punt, we could but exchange a sympathetic nod with our brethren ashore, as returning in ones and twos, with saddened features, they looked up to the leaden sky. These formed a representative assembly, in which anglers of all grades were to be found. There were medical, legal, mercantile, and business men, including some true Bank anglers, who leave but one kind of ledger behind. Returning, we meet piscators from Pangbourne, and other quarters of the Thames, whose pleasure had been marred by the small boats, or destroyed by steam launches. One worthy rodster exhibited his greatest take, in the shape of an alpaca umbrella, which, with true Waltonian instinct, he had fished up, and knew it to belong to an angler. It was satisfactory, however, to know that our bag was not quite a blank, and that we had the pleasure of weighing some capital roach at the close of St. Lubbock's day.

GRASSHOPPER.

PISCATORIAL CHIPS.

"THE ROYAL RIVER OF THAMES."

ONE word, first of all, to my talented aquatic colleague J. Harrington Keene, in reference to my adopted title of the "Royal River of Thames." He is as well aware as I am that the lower portion of the river is governed by an old charter or Act of Parliament, and I suppose I have acted on this point, as I have legally to do on all others connected with it, in defining the water as the "Royal River of Thames." If I have adopted an obsolete title, and it is not as proper as it ought to be, he will, I am sure,

pardon me for using an antiquated expression, and I will promise him not to offend again.

MORTALITY AMONGST THAMES TROUT.

As the great J. L. Toole would say, in one of his famous characters: "It is enough to make one wild, it is." Methinks I hear some one say, "What is all this about?" Why, within about one week four large Thames trout, from 8 lb. to 12 lb. each, have been picked up dead in a little more than a mile of water between Walton and Halliford, and one of a pound at Chertsey. It is enough to make any one wild to lose such Thames treasures in such a way. The question, I apprehend, now is this: "What is the cause of it?" Is it because there has not been enough of stream for them, and the water, like a duck pond, has become rank and impure? This, to my notion, is one great cause. The readers of the FISHING GAZETTE will remember about a month ago a trout of 8 lb. leaped into a rowing boat at Halliford with quantities of lice upon it. The river for some time has been excessively low and without any rainfall to freshen it up—the bed of the river and the weeds must have been very impure—and trout, which are a clean feeding fish, must have mortally suffered. If there is any other cause, perhaps some good friend who writes in a good natured style, like Mr. Keene, will explain it.

FLY FISHING FOR THAMES TROUT.

Mr. Alfred Stroud, of Sunbury, is not only a thoroughly good fisherman, but he is always to be depended upon. He writes, last week: "I have seen more trout this week rising in the Thames at a fly than ever I have seen before, and those who are fond of fly fishing cannot do better than come and try for them." He not only gives chapter, but verse, and amongst his proofs he repeats: "Mr. Lukyn took one of the prettiest trouts I ever saw, with a fly $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb." Bravo! Alfred Stroud, I long to have another day's fishing with you, and that before many weeks are over, if I can find a day at liberty. I hope some one at least has profited by his advice and been successful in getting some nice fish. I was really glad to hear of Mr. Lukyn getting a trout, as I was beginning to think he was going to make a duck's egg this year, but he has at last made a straight stroke. Trout have been caught with a fly in the Thames up to 12 lb.

MORE TROUT FOR THE THAMES.

Mr. B. Littlewood, of Huddersfield has really become a public benefactor to the Thames. His introduction to Mr. Thomas Spreckley, at the Norwich Exhibition, has proved a substantial reality. His first gift of 2000 strong healthy young fry of trout, after being placed in the Sunbury Rearing Stream, now under the entire management of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, have given such positive proof of their adaptation to the new home, that head river-keeper Henry Walters reports in the limited time of two weeks they had grown double their size. And now, again, good Mr. Littlewood sends 1500 more, including some acclimatised char, and they are all alive and swimming at Sunbury, a most beautiful sight to witness. Mr. Littlewood came up on purpose to the Thames Angling Dinner, and Mr. Spreckley took him down to Sunbury the day after to see the home of his babies. This is not only gratifying intelligence to the Thames anglers, but they will thoroughly appreciate the unselfish liberality and goodheartedness of Mr. Littlewood, at a time too, when all the hopes of this season were gone. Let me offer to our good friend, Mr. Littlewood, the Thames anglers' best thanks, and if he were only amongst them they would give him musical honours as well.

THE EXTENSION OF TIDEWAY FISHING.

Our capital friend "L. B." is one of the most energetic of men—he is a thorough angler—and more than that he is one of the anglers' best friends. He inquires, and I admire him for it: "What has been done to get the river preserved between Richmond Bridge and Kew Bridge?" or in words to the same effect—I will answer him as far as I can. It is not for the Thames Angling Preservation Society to make the alteration, but the Thames Conservators, and so soon as the opportunity presents itself of getting the Board to move in the matter it will be done. For some time the Conservators have had their hands more than full of other and most important matters, and it was impossible for them at the time to take up this question. The consideration of it will be on the agenda of the next Thames Angling Preservation Society committee meeting on the ninth of August, and it is intended that when the Board has returned from the holidays in which they are now embarked, an application will be made for them to receive a deputation from the society on that and other subjects connected with the Thames.

PISCATORIAL DINNER.

One of the best chips in connection with the Piscatorial Society is undoubtedly their annual dinner at the Holborn Restaurant,

and the only question that arose last year, as to its continuance at that famous establishment was that of the size of the room, as the attendance had overgrown the accommodation. In consequence of the popularity of these banquets at the Holborn, the members had risen from about fifty or sixty to one hundred and twenty, and there would have been more last year if the saloon had been large enough. It is now well known that the proprietors are making extensive alterations, and included in these is the erection of a room where three hundred guests can be comfortably seated. I have made several inspections of the works in progress, and have been much struck with the sound character of the work done by the builders, in which the Dennet concrete is largely employed or utilised in fire-proof construction. Already great progress is made, and for the next banquet of the Piscatorial Society there will be plenty of accommodation with the safe guarantee that the *menu* will be, as it has hitherto been, of a highly satisfactory character.

B.

NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

FROM the avidity with which the Colne trout rose at a large black palmer we were using the other evening we can recommend our fly-fishing readers to give the "sweep" a trial.

Mr. J. Warrington Wood's bust of the late Mr. Frank Buckland will shortly be placed in the Museum of Fish Culture, South Kensington. Mr. Wood, who was commissioned by the "Buckland Memorial Fund" to execute the marble bust, has completed the preliminary work, having finished the clay model of the bust in a highly satisfactory manner. This will be shortly forwarded to Rome, where Mr. Wood will carry on the work of modelling the marble bust.

London anglers should make a note of Dagenham Lake and its piscatorial attractions. Mr. Fitch, jun., has, in answer to our enquiry, kindly given a description of the place in our correspondence columns this week.

The river weed on the bed of the Colne we found last Monday to be full of animalculæ; some large enough to go on a small hook. Anglers will find them a very killing bait. We watched the roach standing on their noses feeding on them.

The best places to try for roach in the Colne now are the deep back waters close to the main stream; bait with a little bread and bran mixed; we got some fine roach in this way on Monday, and so did a lady angler who was with us; the fish bit best towards evening, and paste was the bait, made from quite new bread.

In fact, the bread was hot from the oven. New bread makes a most tenacious bait, but care must be taken to use only a very small bit, and let the point of the hook protrude the least bit in the world. If this is not done, this new bread paste is so tough that in striking the hook is prevented from catching the mouth of the roach. We often use this new bread paste.

With regard to the Japanese roach rods, our remarks in the tourist number applied to the rod in the ordinary form, and not in the telescope form. For a lady's use nothing could be better than these Japanese rods, and yet they are strong enough to kill almost any fish if properly used; that is, if a lance-wood top and light ferrules are added to them. The great secret in roach-fishing is prompt but gentle striking, and we are certain this is far more easily effected with a long strong light rod than with a long strong heavy one. We would not recommend them for punt anglers unless they be ladies, as the Japanæsthetic wand is, of course, not adapted for rough work.

In the aquarium department at the "Zoo" there is now a most interesting angler-bird—the American diver. This little fellow has a long, sharp beak. The keeper throws a few small live fish into the little pond, and our "diver" instantly dives in and pursues a fish with incredible swiftness. He transfixes his victim on his spit-like beak, and then he comes out of the water, throws the fish off his beak into the air, and catches and swallows him head first.

The capture of a perch in the Serpentine the other day is, perhaps, only the first fruits of a piscatorial harvest. A correspondent of the *Standard* cites Mr. Frank Buckland as having given the opinion "that under judicious management a fine head of fish might be grown in this lake for the benefit and amusement of anglers." A considerable quantity of fish was netted in Mr. Buckland's presence when the lake was emptied in 1869, including a solitary lake trout.

GRAINING FROM THE WEAVER—JAPANESE RODS—EELS AS POACHERS—THE LUMINOUS FLOAT—CASTING TOURNAMENT.

I HAVE again been favoured with specimens of the graining, by Mr. Ridgway, of Manchester, and I thank him very much for the three fish, which arrived quite safely and in capital condition. Mr. R. tells me in his letter that the fish were taken from the river Weaver, at Halton, near Frodsham, the maggot being used as bait.

The graining (*Leuciscus Lancastrensis*) is a beautiful dace-like fish, and is essentially local in its distribution. It is known in the lakes of Neufchatel and Thun, and in some parts of the Mersey and Lancashire Alt, as well as in the Weaver. The fins are larger than those of the dace in proportion, and so are the scales, which are beautifully striated, and in the specimens referred to numbered 48 in the lateral line. It seems to me a great pity the fish is not cultivated, as, from particulars I some time ago obtained from an old angler who had taken them frequently, they are trout-like in their gameness and general angling qualities.

In *no* Japanese rods. I am by no means certain that the bank rod is any the better for ferrules and rings—so far as this make is concerned at least. I don't quite see how the chief feature of these rods—their collapse, joint within joint—can be rendered rendered available if ferrules and rings are added, and I expressly state in my book that I regard this collapsibility as of value. "After your roach is played to exhaustion," I say, "the form of the rod, from the availability of its collapse, joint by joint, allow of the landing of the fish without the necessity of rising from your seat and receding from the water, to the detriment of sport, which is incontestably the case with the ordinary rigid rod." The angler who cannot kill a roach on a tight line, has yet to learn the fine art of this kind of fishing, which Walton ascribes as particularly the specialty of Londoners.

Now I want to draw the attention of Thames anglers in particular, and all anglers—listen, Sheffield, and let us hear from you, Mr. Guest!—in general, to the subject of eels. I strongly object to the preservation of these fish at all, and I say this with all emphasis. Eels are the devourers of spawn of all kinds of fishes, the devourer of fry innumerable—the very daughters of the horse-leech, crying give! give! and with insatiable maws picking up the choicest of the natural food of roach, perch, barbel, pike, *et hoc genus omne*. In daylight they lay in covert; at night they prowl, seeking what they may devour.

You bait your barbel swim like a foolish man, at night. *Anquilla* with the sharp nose cometh, and not alone, and gorgeth himself with your opal and coralline annelids at 10s. a thousand—and this under the very noses of the somnolent barbel. Your bream swim is rendered similarly abortive, and woe to the chances of multiplication if the insidious eel molest your trout beds or the fry.

I have taken, on lines and in baskets, as many as 30 lb. of a night in summer time out of the Thames. Nor is this an uncommon amount. I conferred last night (Sunday) with a well known and very successful Thames angler, and he believes that eels figuratively make cobwebs on the bottom of the water. That they breed in fresh water can admit of no reasonable doubt. The old idea that it was necessary for them to descend in order to increase—cannot be sustained. Lakes falsify the theory. In them eels of all three of the species known to British waters increase and multiply without reciprocal communication with the salt water at all.

Let eels, therefore, be considered "fish of prey," and, like the heron and kingfisher, be treated as an enemy. I am not quite sure that eel lines are permissible, unless the layers of them are known to be sportsmen in their very natures—and there are yet some such fishermen on the Thames.

Anyhow, let the eel be exterminated in our metropolitan streams, whether by line or basket. He is a ruthless marauder and deserves no commiseration. As a layer of lines of a great deal of experience, I can candidly say that night lines were productive to me of very few fish other than eels and roach. The scare about trout-catching is founded on very slight grounds.

Talking about eel fishing: I had occasion the other night to try a very sultry nook for these toothsome creatures, and it occurred

to me to use a float—a luminous painted one, which Mrs. Williams, of Great Queen Street, kindly asked me to test. It answered splendidly, and I never missed a bite. I'm not sure, however, I did not illegitimately "burn the water," Mrs. W., judging by the way the tench came up to look.

* * * * *

Glad am I that the casting tournament is likely to be a realised fact, notwithstanding my growl last week. I would suggest that a smooth lawn be used—say the Star and Garter, Richmond, or John Bond's, at Kingston—and that a prize be given for he who can throw off the reel a barbel float, baited hook, most gracefully and furthest, as well as those mentioned.

* * * * *

There are some who cannot do this, Mr. Editor, with grace, and the casting of a dry fly from the Nottingham rod might be tried.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

EELS v. SNAKES.

I HAVE been reading with much pleasurable interest that excellent work "The Practical Fisherman," recently produced by Mr. J. H. Keene, which is worthy of its name, and deserving of all the appreciation it may meet with. It supplies information which would be otherwise inaccessible to those who cannot command the use of a large selection of works on angling. Reading his various tales and captures of fish, reminds me of an anecdote told me by a friend who has just returned from fishing at Woodford Bridge, near Holsworthy, some few miles from which there is an old man, who, in the season, gets a portion of his living by taking eels at night time by means of lines, which with a canvas bag slung at his left side completes his outfit. This old fellow has a mighty knack of putting the head of each eel, when taken from the hook, into his mouth, giving it a severe nip; placing his left hand into the bag to hold it open drops the eel into the same from his mouth, retaining the hook with line in his right hand, thus securing it from loss in the dark. Only a short time since the old chap had a remarkable good catch, and returning home left his bag of eels until the following day. When upon turning them out to select the large from the small, to his great surprise there was a snake nearly three feet in length, and, as might be naturally expected, the venerable fisherman has quite given up biting eels' heads and fishing by night.

Exeter.

FRANK GOSDEN.

HOW I SPOILT A GOOD FISH-STORY.

LAST season I visited a large pool formed by throwing a dam across the lower end of one of the beautiful little valleys so numerous in the Staffordshire moorland, which is said to contain good perch and trout. After trying to tempt the former with a worm, and meeting with indifferent success, I grew tired of the monotonous occupation of bottom fishing in still water, and rigged out some light spinning tackle to try if that would yield better sport. I had not made many casts before a man came to me in great trouble. He had left his rod to fish for itself; lent it indeed, like an usurer, for his profit and the fishes' destruction, as good Izaak Walton hath it; when the eager borrower, not content to take the bait alone and remain to repay principal and interest with his life, had made off with the whole capital of the lender, in the shape of rod and line complete. Seeing the distance to which I could throw my bait, the man thought I might recover his tackle for him; but when we reached the place it was already too far off: the rod, a ten-foot sapling from the nearest wood, was moving rapidly across the pool, there about 400 yards wide and nearly three times as long, every now and then dipping under water as the fish who had borrowed it made a vigorous plunge. Seeing that I could not reach it, I went on with my spinning, taking an occasional glance at the rod, now in mid ocean; away it went, sometimes in one direction, sometimes in another, but always keeping at a respectful distance from the banks. By this time several other anglers had been attracted to the spot and were watching the cruise of the rod, busily speculating as to the size of the monster propelling it, and trying to decide from its antics whether the said monster were a giant trout or an enormous perch. After about two hours I returned, and found the man still patiently waiting in the hope of recovering his wandering tackle which at last, after a long circuit, was approaching the place from which it started; in a short time it was within thirty yards, and in a few throws I had sent my line over it. Steadily, amidst the breathless suspense of the bystanders, I drew rod and line ashore; when, seeing that the desperate resistance expected by all was not made, some exclaimed, "He's off after all," while others declared

that the fish was exhausted by his long struggle with the rod, and so could not make another effort. At last I grasped the sapling. Would it prove strong enough for the last rally of the gallant fish? It did, and out I drew a perch; not the leviathan for which every eye was looking, but a game little fellow of a quarter of a pound. Had I not seen the fish and his performance, I could not have believed that it was possible for him to tow a heavy rod at least half a mile, as he certainly did.

Now, sir, had this fish escaped would not a wonderful story of his size and ferocity have been told round all the country side? In a week he would have been credited with pulling the man in as well as his tackle, and in a few years the story of the Lilleshall Parish Clerk would have been eclipsed—the furious fish would have swallowed the man himself.

And this is how I spoilt as good a fish-story as ever was told.

A GARDEN OF WILDINGS.

YOUR review of this work by that close admirer of Nature, Francis George Heath, and its suggestions, so closely accord with what I have so often humbly urged upon my brother anglers for years past, that I almost, in my conceit, fancied I was reading the re-echo of my cherished sentiments.

Let me ask, what portion of a lordly domain with its pleasure gardens kept up with every excess of expense is that which claims and rivets the attention of the lover of sylvan scenery more than that portion appropriated as a wilderness, left with slight superintendence, and almost studied negligence, to its own sweet will. Therein the whole family of ferns, the fox gloves, the endless variety of mosses, the bashful violets; and other countless groundlings revel in the luxuriance of liberty, and, in the absence of the gardener's art arrange themselves in "the charm of distracted order," amidst which the man who delights in plants can never feel himself alone.

Two years ago I joined one of the Amberly excursions, and while upon the banks of the Arun, and before quitting the water, made a collection of several descriptions of grasses principally of aquatic growth. These, upon my return, attracted the attention of my fellow passengers, by some of whom I was asked what was I going to do with that "rot," "rubbish," and my pets for the time had to bear many other opprobrious and unflattering epithets. To me, however, they were as choice a bouquet as that clasped by a woman on her bridal day, composed of exotics culled from the richest conservatory.

Amongst my companions, there were, as happily there generally are in a mixed company, one or two intelligent and willing minds really willing, from either curiosity or interest, to listen to a few observations which I hazarded regarding the rubbish I held in my hand; and as I drew forth stem after stem, and pointed out the different characters of each, I found, very shortly, a rapt audience. They admitted after a while that they saw beauty and design where they never expected to find it, and soon my bundle of "rot" was diminished by more than one half, having been, by individual request, divided amongst all, without an exception.

I improved the occasion by telling my hearers that it was a surprise to me how any one with eyes in their heads could pass altogether indifferently by, or altogether neglect, wild plants and flowers. That these were the earliest thing of beauty that every child who treads a green field, or wanders along a streamlets course takes to itself. It loves the flowers as it were by instinct; and this love is the best and sweetest portal to the memory. Get your children to cultivate it, and you will find how quickly the young will learn and retain, not the names merely of their favourites, but their peculiar fragrance, and, mayhap, some of their peculiar properties. Herein is God's handwriting—a wayside sacrament—that we should welcome in every fair face, every fair sky and every fair plant and flower, drinking it in simply, earnestly, with all our eyes.

"Why," I remarked directing my attention to a well known angler who was listening most attentively, "I was near you on the bank when you exclaimed, 'What a nice smell of peppermint,' and yet you were ignorant that you were at that moment crushing the aromatic essence under your feet out of the plant, there, wild and neglected, from which this useful medicament is extracted."

The object of my short discourse was not to induce my listeners to dip into botanical science, but I wished their affections to be drawn to, and engaged upon, those lovely objects which, when in the open air, are spread in such lavish luxuriance at their feet. In a word, to allure them to visit the poetry of Nature; to walk over the flowery fields, occasionally stooping to examine the beauties through which they occasionally wade knee deep; to wander into old woods, contented with the delight they produce, without looking too closely into their wonders; to ramble on the margin of rivers, and, while they angle, spare a few minutes

now and then to look upon the exquisite world in which they live.

That my observations were received with favour by this limited audience, I have since had proofs. It was but the other evening, in a club-room to which I was invited, I was reminded by one of its members of the present of the grasses *en route* from Amberley; and that he, and many others, never went down without bringing away sufficient for his wife to refresh the mantel, and enough to spare his neighbours, by whom this style of household decoration was much appreciated. F.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE heavy rains of the past few days will greatly improve the fishing; the lowness of the various rivers, etc., was getting quite serious. From the Thames reports come to hand that the fish, which ought to be getting into fair condition, were in many cases covered with parasites, and that a large number of Thames trout had been picked up dead or dying. At the Welsh Harp there is always a certain amount of mortality among the fish during a hot, dry summer, and this season has proved no exception. How is it that the mortality is less among the bream, of which there is a goodly stock, than among the other fish? Perhaps some of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE can explain?

From the Lea a few takes have been had—a very few, I am sorry to say, thinly scattered over a long distance, to make up a show. Ponder's End, Waltham, Broxbourne, Rye House, St. Margaret's, and Ware each contributing a decent take or two, which stood out amid an army of blanks or next to blanks. Those who visited the Stort, however, fared much better, but the fish required a lot of sorting, and the rule had to be used frequently.

The usual 2s. 6d. day ticket to Amberley and Pulborough, issued on Sunday last, could upon payment of an extra 1s. be used for the return journey on the evening of Monday 1st, Bank holiday, the fearful weather of Sunday, however, caused scores who had intended to avail themselves of this, to hurry home on Sunday evening. Apropos of Amberley and Pulborough, some giants continue to be had from here. Among others, Mr. Taylor is credited with the capture of a bream, over 7 lb., and a roach, over 2 lb. 4 oz.

I am glad to hear that the roughs who recently assaulted Mr. George Oram, one of the most energetic Lea bailiffs at Tottenham, have been summoned before the Stratford police magistrates, and fined heavily.

The Sheffield Angling Association has issued a circular to the members of the clubs enrolled upon its books (who will be admitted only upon production of card of membership) requesting their attendance at a most important meeting, to be held in the Temperance Hall, Townhead Street, on Thursday, August 4th. Chair taken at 8 p.m.

I hear that a movement is on foot to bring forward again the question at the various associations of extending the issue of railway concessions to anglers' wives—if the attempt is made, we shall hear some amusing arguments for and against. On the last occasion a claim was made that the concessions should be granted not merely to the wives of members of angling societies who choose to avail themselves of it, but to members' mothers, daughters, and sisters, I even think that mother-in-laws were included. The present attempt, however, is much more within the limits of reason—it may or may not be acceded to, but if the former, I feel sure it will not be defeated by the votes of anything like the overwhelming majority it was on the previous occasion.

Some decent takes of roach and bream continue to be had from Yalding, some of the roach running a good size.

At the Welsh Harp, sport has varied considerably, several good takes have come to my knowledge. Among others one of eleven bream, weighing within a few ounces of 22 lb., by Mr. T. Adams, of the Golden Barbel Angling Society.

The monthly meeting of the East Central United London Anglers' Committee will be held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, on Monday evening next.

Some fine dace and one or two good chub have been had at Thorney Broad; the big roach, however, continue very shy. Apropos of Thorney Broad, I heard an angler lamenting bitterly the other evening. Did I ever heard of pigs eating fish? he queried. Oh, yes! Well, on July 31st he was fishing at West Drayton, and had captured several fine dace, which he incautiously left on the bank, while he went in search of needful refreshment. Judge his horror on returning just in time to see piggy leisurely devouring the last bit of the silvery spoil of his rod and line. Nothing but a few scales left to mark the place where they had been. I

fear that piscator's blessings were borne on the wind for some distance, and I am glad I was not fishing within, say, a quarter of a mile of him.

Concerning the talked-of International Fisheries Exhibition, a circular has been issued, convening a public meeting to be held at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, on Friday August 5th, at 3 o'clock precisely. It is at present proposed that the exhibition should take place in the City during the year 1883. The circular is signed by the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company. [We trust the Exhibition may be held at the Crystal Palace.—Ed.]

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

THE Sheffield clubs are just now in full swing fishing their matches, as the number of anglers and their friends going away to fish on Monday last was upwards of 1,600, a very large proportion of them going to Boston, the others to Lincoln, Saxilby, &c.; over 700 more went to Keadby, where Mr. Jarvis Sanderson gave £40 to be fished for. The day was beautifully fine and all that could be desired. There were 235 competitors in the match, and, after fishing the usual time, the following were declared the successful prize-takers:—

(1st) £10 5s., Jno. Glaves, 2 lb. 5½ oz.; (2nd) £8, R. Bickerdyke, 2 lb. 4 oz.; (3rd) £6, Dan Coward, 2 lb. 3½ oz.; (4th) £5, C. Plant, 1 lb. 10 oz.; (5th) £4, C. Challenger, 1 lb. 9½ oz.; (6th) £3, R. Spill, 1 lb. 6½ oz.; (7th) £2, W. Northeast, 1 lb. 5 oz.; (8th) £1, W. Tyas, 1 lb. 4½ oz.; (9th) 15s., B. Crockett, 1 lb. 4½ oz. There was also a large number of valuable minor prizes:—

The Raglan Fishing Club, Mr. C. Parker's, fished their annual match at Boston on Monday last, and were very successful, Mr. Parker taking 5 lb., Mr. Batty 4 lb. 9½ oz., W. Kitchen 4 lb. 8 oz., and T. Wild 4 lb. 7 oz.

At the Cup Inn there was a very good show of fish, as usual, the principal dish being shown by Mr. Mosley, viz., 14 lb.

At the Brave Old Oak there were some good dishes of fish shown by Messrs. T. Miles, H. Barlow, and the landlord, Mr. Westmadge, who had a very nice dish of roach of 10 lb.

Last week a fishing match of a rather unusual character took place at Keadby, all the competitors belonging to the "gentle sex," being, in fact, a party of ladies from Mr. Wright's, Petre Hotel, Lord Street Park, who had agreed to fish a match amongst themselves for a number of handsome prizes. The water was very rough, but I am very pleased to state that the whole of the 14 competitors succeeded in taking fish and completely distancing their "lords and masters," who were fishing at the same place, Mrs. Yates proving the winner with 13½ oz., 10½ oz. taking second prize.

The waters wherein the members of the Sheffield Angling Association have the right to angle are already showing the advantage of protective laws. A few years ago nets were constantly at work, and any angler was lucky who could show a few fish at the end of a day's trouble and expense; but now, thanks to the clause prohibiting the sale of fish during the close time, anglers can show some reward for their labour. But there is still much to be done to improve not only the Fisheries Act; but to break through the habit of taking undersized fish. Would any angler believe that in many of our club matches there is actually a prize given to those who catch the smallest fish? This is a practice I hope will be abolished. There is a scale laid down by the Sheffield Association, but I am sorry to say there is very little notice taken of it, and we can only hope that now our waters are getting better stocked, that the anglers will get larger fish, and then perhaps they will let the small fry alone.

RED SPINNER.

THE CRAYFISH HATCHING ESTABLISHMENT.

MR. CHARLES CAPEL sends us a catalogue of the piscicultural apparatus and appliances, ova and fry, as supplied by the Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent. The catalogue is illustrated, and contains practical advice on feeding and management. Mr. Capel will forward it gratis to any one interested practically in the subject, and we can advise any one so interested to get it.

FOLLY THEATRE.—When a young lady is found sitting in a conservatory with a young man's arm round her waist, "How very imprudent!" is the observation made by her friends; but if the young lady is a married woman, "How dreadfully dreadful! how awfully awful!" is the exclamation. A play called "Imprudence" has just been produced at the Folly Theatre, which, from all accounts, is well worth a visit and promises to be a great success. As I have not yet seen it, I don't know if the carrying off of another fellow's wife is a necessary portion of the play, but in this hot weather it would be a relief if some one would take Mrs. — just to the seaside. See Great Eastern Railway advertisement for a suitable train.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout FLIES for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advtr.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Variety's the very spice of life
That gives it all its flavour."

—COWPER.

There is plenty of variety just now on the river in the shape of rowing, bathing, picnic-ing and its accompanying flirting, gondolaing, camping-out, and a thousand and one other delightful pastimes incidental to fine weather on the "silver streak" called Thames. Last, though not least in my estimation, of these pastimes, is angling, which has variety in every way—pleasant companionship in friend or civil boatman, delightful surroundings of rippling stream and many-coloured woods, expectation in every swim, a pliant rod, a pliant attendant, and—I had almost forgotten those necessary adjuncts to a perfectly-appointed punt—a jar of well-cooled ale and a copious supply of fragrant tobacco. What more than these pleasures can piscatorially-minded man require, except success?—and this can be deserved, if not commanded. Now to business. Roach are still very shy and seem best tempted with paste rather than with gentles or worms. Chub continue to take the fly well, a black or white palmer or bee having the most attractions in the upper districts; but, alas! that I should have to record it, a "Marlow Buzz" seems mostly taken in in Mid-Thames; perhaps, however, Mr. Editor doesn't mind it! I saw on Bank Holiday a pretty sample of chub, which had been taken between Marlow and Hurley with the fly, all fish under a pound having been returned. Perch are feeding best on worms, but spinning an artificial minnow will repay, as the better class of fish can thus be got from weirs and weedless waters. From Bray, I hear that some capital catches of perch, chub and barbel have been had, the latter fish requiring much attraction in the lob-worm way. At Cookham, good fishing has been had in the Hedsor fishery, and from Odney and other back waters, the main river having been too much disturbed to fish with any success. At Bourne End and Marlow, the fishermen have been busy among the perch and gudgeon; and at Hurley, Messrs. Bennett Brothers, with Colonel Wilson and Mr. Mott, have been playing havoc amid the perch, rats and moorhens. A party of gentlemen (Mr. Curtis, Mr. Mason and Mr. Tom) went down to the Hurley waters a few days ago to fish, but the sport was interrupted by Mr. Tom falling into the river and being gallantly rescued by Mr. Curtis, Mr. Mason assisting in the wringing and hanging the gentleman out to dry on a friendly clothes-line—no eventual harm came of the emersion, but the brave fishermen were knocked off their perch, and I have freedom to state, gave their minds to wetting the inside to dry the out.

THURSDAY EVENING.—Weather delightfully fine, with breeze from the west. River in good summer order for all-round fishing.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in very fair condition. Perch biting very well; roach coming on better. Best day 10 lb. of good roach and 4 jack.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for all-round fishing, different gentlemen fishing with me this last week, and their takes have been as follows, viz.:—First day, Mr. Crepps, four dozen roach and dace, one bream, and a small jack; second day, Mr. Bennett, ten roach and dace, and eleven bream; third day, Mr. Jeff, only three dozen small ones; fourth day, Mr. Palmer (ledgering), eleven barbel, and three eels, four chub, and three large bream and one small one, and three roach, and a perch, altogether weighing about 40 lb.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in very good order for fishing now, but with this fine weather the water will not be long in getting very bright. We have been fishing between Isleworth and Brentford all the week, and have been catching a great quantity of roach and dace, in fact all the fish seem to drop low down the river every day. Two of our punts have been fishing as far down as Strand-on-the-Green, which is half a mile below Kew Bridge, and have been catching the finest roach I have seen this season, a lot of them growing $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. to 1 lb. each. The sport this day (Thursday), is as follows:—H. Mansel, 15 lb. of roach and dace, J. Crain, 18 lb. of roach and dace, J. Bushnell, 23 lb. of roach and dace. There were more bank anglers at Richmond, on Monday, than I ever saw before, there must have been quite one hundred.—JOHN BUSHNELL, Fisherman.

Thames (Sunbury).

Water in good order for all-round fishing. Prospects good. T. Stroud, three days, best day 6 dozen roach and 6 chub. A. Stroud, two days, best day 5 dozen roach and 10 bream. J. Stroud, six days, best day 4 dozen roach 1 barbel and 4 bream.—ALFRED STROUD.

Thames (Twickenham).

I must apologise for not sending you the last two weeks' report, but it has not been, as our local reporter for the *Referee* says, for want of news he has been silent. I am pleased to say I have been so fully employed on the river that I have not had time to put pen on paper. The river is now in splendid

condition, the rain on Sunday greatly improving it. I have had about 30 punts out each week for the last three weeks, and their average taking is about 20 lb. each punt. Jem Hammerton, one day with Mr. Howes, 24 lb. roach and dace, and one day with Messrs. Howes and Goodwin, 36 lb. of ditto. These fish was weighed in at the Richmond P. S. House, with Messrs. Hanon and Faggater, of Prince Blucher Inn, one day 33 lb. and one perch, 13 lb. Pert Hammerton, one day with Mr. Pender and friend, 20 lb. roach and perch, and one day with Captain Smith, 26 lb., three barbel, one day with W. Loft, Prince Albert, 22 lb., and with Mr. Spreckley, treasurer of T. A. P. S., eight dozen five fish in four hours. Mr. Spiers, one day with Mr. Jacobs, of Covent Garden, 36 lb. two barbel. Mr. Gaunt, sec. Richmond Piscatorial Society, 18 lb. roach. Two gentlemen, half day, 18 lb. Mr. Cook, 22 lb. fine roach.—A. PERRIN.

Ancholme.

All fish with the exception of pike are well on the feed. Gentles seem to be the best bait for roach, but they took paste very freely last week. Perch take the very largest worms the best. There have been some very heavy catches of bream in the neighbourhood of Brigg, and a small trout was found in a hole of one of the drains which had been run off. Query: Is this one of the wanderers that I have recently turned adrift into the various feeders of the main stream? I understand that a few trout have also been obtained in a similar way at Market Rasen. These have probably dropped down from Bayon's Manor, the seat of Admiral D'Eyncourt.—THOMAS FORD.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

Last Sunday we had a good fresh down which have long been wanted, as certainly these rivers have been lower this season than I have seen them for the last four years, and old inhabitants say lower than for years past. Monday they were in rare order for both fly and minnow, and some large baskets of roach, which weighed over 10 lb., with the minnow. Heath caught 20 very nice fish with the fly. The day was showery (evidently thunderstorms somewhere), and I noticed that during the shower the fish sported best. Fine weather has again set in, and the rivers are falling and getting bright, but we never know when they might rise again, as a thunderstorm upon Exmoor sends down a fresh when we have not had a drop of rain here. Flies taking best are the small blue upright, yellow dun, cow dung and red spinner. A few salmon have made their appearance in the Exe.—W.

Colne (Thorney Broad).

The water is now in fine condition for all kinds of angling after the rain we have had. During the past week there have been some fair takes of roach; amongst the best may be mentioned Mr. Heynon, 1 dozen roach, all over 1 lb., some of them 1 lb. 8 oz., and several others (names not known), have taken some good roach, dace, perch and a few jack. Anglers should take advantage of the present state of the water to give the roach, dace, &c., a trial. Bait for roach with paste, and ground bait with bran and bread.—E. GODFREY.

Cromer.

I took a run to Cromer, and was pleased to hear from the men what a good voyage they had made with crabs and lobsters; the same story from the station master and every one connected with the town that I came across. The first man I met said he would like to drink my health; but that is the usual way of these fishermen. What a comfort to get their bellies full, and instead of the miserable sum formerly carried home they now make a good living. I met with some first-rate ale at Pugh and Sons, the Albion, in Church Street, and when I go again mean to have luncheon there, as my pocket can't stand the enormous hotel charges near the beach. On the platform at the station I saw a lady going back in consequence of the *very light* charges for lodgings at Cromer. This is a great mistake on their part, as without scenery there is really nothing to recommend Cromer, which is a very dull and stupid town. The railway company gives every facility, but that is all you can say about it.—ESOX LUCIUS.

[Perhaps "Esos" will kindly answer the query about the hire of a yacht which appears in our correspondence this week.]—ED.

Dove (Derbyshire).

The fishing is now in full swing. Trout and grayling are rising well at the multitudes of winged insects that whirl in ceaseless activity over the water's surface. Some exceptionally good takes are reported from both up and down stream. The best killing fly is the small coachman. This is well known as a capital night fly, but until recently its merits as a day fly have been unknown. When dressed the size of ordinary gnat, and used upon a very fine cast, it is found deadly in the extreme. 16½ brace was the joint product of two rods upon the fishing club water a day or two since, all being taken with this fly, whilst several creels of seven to ten brace have been taken with it above Dove-dale. Eight brace were also taken with the blood-red caterpillar at Hartington on Friday evening last. Minnow spinners have been doing fairly well since my last.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The river is certainly in much better condition than it has been for some very long time. The heavy downpour of rain causing a deal of drainage and surplus land water to come down, and with only a few inches of water running over the weirs, it is astonishing with what eagerness the fish avail themselves of pushing upwards. Some very fine fish have done so, and two splendid fellows from Topsham were brought in the other day weighing together nearly 40 lb. The fishermen have little to complain of up to now, and I have no doubt they will doubly exert themselves as the season draws to a close; with a few more showers the rodsters may yet have a chance, but up to this date have done very indifferently. Trout are showing up in numbers, and perch, roach, and dace are well on the feed, but sizeable fish few and far between. Some splendid carp are seen in the canal, 8 lb. and 10 lb. each, but they are cunning beggars. See the "Practical Fisherman" by J. H. Keene.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is still very low and clear, we have had a good deal of rain, but not enough to rise the river. The land requiring the greater portion of it, being very dry. Trout sport very well toward evening. The flies killing best, are the halfstone, coachman, red ant and blue upright. There is very little prospect of any salmon, unless we have had a flood. A few old fish have been seen, evidently been in the river a long time.—WILLIAM MUDFORD.

Lochawe.

On August 1 Mr. A. McKinnon, Glasgow, succeeded in landing another grilse and a salmon, the former weighing 7 lb., the latter 12 lb.—both were caught with grilse fly. The lake is at present very high, and all the streams in

flood. Can any of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE tell me the name of any other freshwater lake in Scotland besides Lochawe in which there are seals?—W. J. CAMERON.

Medway (Tonbridge).

This week a great deal of execution has been done amongst the bream and roach by the rodsters. The rain of Monday has made the water in capital trim. On Monday T. Jampson and G. Hewett got $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of bream and roach above the town, and good bags have been made in other parts. The weather and water are just the thing for bottom fishers, and for those who love a fly there are plenty of chub. Prospects never looked better.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ormesby Broad.

The weather for the past week has been very fine. The rain of last Sunday has brought the fish well on the feed. There have been a large quantity of fishermen out having very good sport, most of them taking very fair baskets. Amongst the most successful were Mr. Watts, of London, now at Ormesby, having caught 6 stone weight of fine bream, roach, and rudd in two days; and Mr. Elliot and friend, from London, caught 3 stone of fish in six hours. Any of the followers of old Isaac Walton wishing for good fishing, good boats, had better give the Ormesby Broad a look at the Sportsmans' Arms Inn.—S. RICHMOND.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

These streams are low and fine; in fact, I have not seen the Teme so low for years, and fish are plentiful, the chub run large, and many have been taken, 2 lb. to 4 lb. each, with the fly and gentle. Grayling are now coming upon the fords. Mr. Guilliam landed 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., myself taking 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ brace of fine fish in good condition. There are not many trout taken the last few days; they are shy and not to be caught in the day time, unless it is a few small fish; the old blades are not to be caught napping. The roach are coming on the feed. I saw two dozen Mr. A. Bosworth caught with the paste; the same angler weighed in 14 lb. of chub. The flies for the grayling just now are the hare's ear, red ant, pale blue and willow; the coachman if stormy. There are large salmon up the Teme; they have not been able to pass the wear at Bransford, therefore they have not been to sea since last autumn.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

We have plenty to tell of the amount of poaching going on, and the town is full of peal, selling every day about the streets. The river is swept by nets every night, and even in the mill races there are cots every morning netting and gaffing the fish. Last night they killed 44, and the night before 84 salmon. The men do not care to fish at all during the day, they kill so many at night. It is a pity nothing can be done to stop this wholesale slaughter; if it continues, this splendid river will be quite drained out. People say, on enquiry, that there are no funds to pay bailiffs; why not make the gentlemen who let their fishing on the upper waters contribute something towards the preservation of the lower part? Bylaw they are expected to give a tenth part of the proceeds. Mr. Mansfield, notwithstanding all the poaching, has been successful in taking fish every day he went out. Dr. Campbell and others got a few fish, principally peal of 6 lb. Trout-fishing is not improving, it could scarcely be otherwise, as they are using trig-nets and cross-lines for catching them, and selling them wholesale to fishmongers. The only chance to get a fine trout is about nightfall.—DORA.

Swale.

The ant flies are falling off. The August or cinnamon drake is now beginning to appear. It is made as follows:—B. cinnamon—brown silk; L, red hackle; W, light brown hen's feather. This is a fine fly, and nearly as large as the March brown. The chief execution will, however, be done by dibbing in the beck.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

The river is in capital order for angling, and the fish feeding well at both gentles and worms. An excellent basket of fish, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., was taken on Wednesday by Mr. W. Reynolds, in fact all our members have had a glorious week. I will send details in time for your next issue. Many thanks to my confere, "The Trent Otter." I will not fail to give him a call when I arrive in his locality.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water still continues very low and bright, but is in fairish condition for general angling, and fish may be caught by carefully attending to the ground baiting and the employment of the very finest tackle. The bream are still biting in the Muskham fishery waters, and catches varying from 1 stone to 6 stone have been had. Mr. Neal and Mr. Chatterton have had 10 good barbel each, the biggest fish being taken by the former gentleman, which weighed a very trifle under 10 lb. (a very nice fish), worms, I believe, being the bait. Anglers having time on their hands should see about baiting a favourite barbel swim, and I advise worms this week. Roach are now biting at grain bait, and also at gentles and paste.—TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

As regards the condition of the water the river could not possibly have been in better condition for all round fishing, though the weeds, which have grown very thick on the bottom, are becoming very troublesome. Still some excellent catches of barbel have been made, one take of thirteen fish, weighing 50 lb., was a nice sample; another at Colwick, of nearly 100 lb., was also worth looking at, both catches being made with worms for bait. This was done at the latter end of last week. At about the same time the anglers at Sawley had been doing some good work among the bream and roach, the former took worms well, and the latter malt and wheat. The best catches are now being made with worms, and the demand for this bait is at the present time very great. Luckily the weather has been in favour of the worm getters, consequently the price has not gone up too high, and any quantity of worms may now be obtained at a reasonable price, averaging from 3d. to 6d. per 1000. Monday (Bank Holiday) was a lovely day for outdoor sports, and the items of angling news I have to give of the doings of our rodsters on that day will doubtless surprise some of your readers. Fancy twenty rods at work at Ratcliff and not a single fish caught, and the same number at Stoke and Burton with similar results. The first-named place is only suitable for winter fishing, and why our rodsters should be so foolish as to select such places in the middle of summer I cannot understand. A London practical angler told me that he thought there were some Trent anglers who were first-class rodsters, but, as a rule, I think they are no better than fishermen on other rivers. I replied, perhaps in the last issue of the FISHING GAZETTE, when a correspondent said he was surprised that

anglers did not practise the Nottingham style more. What did he mean by such a remark? I must conclude by stating that none of the fish are feeding well except barbel.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

The river is now in splendid condition, the beautiful showers we have had preventing it from getting too bright. All that is wanting now is a goodly number of anglers to come and take some of the fish (roach and perch) that are literally swarming. Several splendid takes have been had lately. Messrs. Chase and Hooker, on Saturday afternoon, took 18 lb. of roach. Mr. Block, of Norwich, on the same day, landed a tench weighing 26 lb. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr. Winch, postmaster, of Norwich, whilst fishing near here last week, succeeded in landing nearly 50 lb. of roach in five hours. Mr. Hawker, of the Hampstead Angling Society, was fishing here on Monday, and expressed his astonishment at the immense quantity of fish and at their unusual size. Mr. Balls, of London Road, Beccles, on Tuesday, had a splendid bag of roach, several of the fish going over a pound each. Boiled wheat, paste (white or coloured), and gentles, seem the best bait now for roach, whilst perch are taking the worm freely, several excellent ones having been taken within the last few weeks. A few jack have been taken, but the weeds are too much protection for him to be easily got at yet.—C. B.

N.B.—There is plenty of accommodation in Beccles for anglers, and some splendid sport may be obtained, the fishing being entirely free the whole length of the river.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The Bank holiday piscators have had a first class time of it during the past week, especially those who have followed bottom-fishing, for there has been some very large baskets of fish killed, chiefly off of the Derwent with worms gentles, and wasp grubs. The wasp grubs taking the largest quantity of fish. Several better trout and grayling being over a pound apiece. One of the season ticket holders (of the Darley Dale Club), killed an eel of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. with the worm on fine-drawn gut, close to Darly Bridge last Monday besides some more fish. Fly fishing is now first-class on both rivers, both morning and evening, and some handsome baskets of fish are being killed daily; the killing flies have been the small honey dun bumble, grey goose, red spinners, and small cinnamon, or sand flies. The latter end of last week, two gentlemen anglers killed 20 brace of fish (both trout and grayling) with the fly in the Derwent, on F. C. Arkwright's water, below Cromford Bridge. The trolling fraternity have been killing some nice trout on the Derwent, during the time the river has been discolouring, with the natural minnow. Sport on the ponds has been first-class during the week, with both bottom and top. The killing flies for ponds are the bumble, red spinner, and spider flies.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Norwich).

First-rate bags have lately been made on this beautiful river, especially near Norwich, Coldham Hall, and Buckenham Ferry, and there is no doubt there will soon be as good fishing as ever. Bream, pike, roach, and rudd soon fill the bags, and it is very pleasant to have a quiet chat with these hard-working men before the train comes up. There is good fishing everywhere, and at all events their bags show this very plainly, as they are very glad to let you see their catch. I believe most of these fish are fried when they get home.—ESOX LUCIUS.

NOTICES OF RODS, TACKLE, &c.

FROM Mr. S. Bigg, Fishing Rod Manufacturer, of 33, Russell Street, Covent Garden, W.C., we have received two capital rods for notice. A four-joint trolling rod, and a four-joint fly rod. We consider them very good value indeed, for the price they are sold at, thoroughly strong, well-made, serviceable rods. Mr. Bigg also sends us some samples of his stock of prime old brown hickory. We quite agree with him that there is no wood so suitable for fly rods as good brown hickory. When really good, it curls round the plane like copper wire; it is lighter than greenheart, and has the spring and almost the strength of steel, we prefer it to the most expensive split cane rod we have ever seen. In our opinion there is too slow a recovery in the action of a glued-up split cane rod, and we can never throw the fly so accurately or pick it off the water so quickly as with a fine hard wood rod; and against a wind the hard wood will do ten times the work. Mr. Bigg, we are glad to see, has adopted our suggestion about advertising the Alexandra fly, and he is also London agent for Warner's most capital seat fishing basket, which we recommend to the attention of bank anglers as being a very light strong basket, making a capital seat at the roach swim. It is far preferable to the old-fashioned heavy wooden box. When any of our readers are in the neighbourhood of Russell Square, they should drop in and see Mr. Bigg's stock. He is a practical angler as well as manufacturer of rods and tackle, and that, in our eyes, is always a great recommendation.

THE following incident occurred at the recent Bagshot Bazaar. A young gentleman thought he fancied a certain article exposed for sale at one of the stalls, and he was certain he fancied the lady who presided at the stall. He remarked, therefore, that he thought that particular article very pretty. The lady said, "Yes, it is very pretty. My mother sent it." "Ah, really?" pursued the young gentleman, determined to discover the name of the owner of the eyes that had bewitched him—"Really? Let me see—I think I have met your mother. Her name is—" "The Queen!" answered the lady. The young gentleman did not wait for the last train from Bagshot.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. G. CRICKLEWOOD.—Both at Cantley, Buckenham and Brundall you will find comfortable anglers' inns close to the water. Host Brown at Brundall will make you very comfortable and put you on the right spots for the fish, though you cannot go wrong very well if you ground bait freely. You moor your boat to the long poles each contains, by sticking them in the ground at each end, parallel with the current (not across it, as in the Thames style). If you get out just beyond the point where you can see the water plants below you—and you can see them two or three feet below the surface—you will find as a rule that you get a hard bottom to fish on, and a good deep swim. You must plumb the depth carefully and frequently every quarter of an hour at least, as the tide, in rising or falling, will of course affect your depth. We always use two hooks, the top one about a foot from the lower hook, and this top one we bait with small worm or gentle. In this way we have often taken very fine roach and perch, when those fishing with one hook, for some reason, could not do much. See that your ground bait is perfectly fresh, as the boys who usually make it up at the inns are not always above saving themselves the trouble of making fresh if they have any by them; for this reason at the end of a day's fishing always throw all your ground bait overboard in the place you may think of fishing next day. Lob worms are good bait for big bream. You will get good jack by spinning the *American* spoon from your boat as your friend rows it along. It takes about an hour to get to Brundall from Lowestoft. We generally have a swim in the German Ocean before breakfast, then take the ten minutes to nine train from Lowestoft to Cantley (stop by signal), or Buckenham, or Brundall, or where we may be going, and get back to Lowestoft by the last train, but we have slept and fed at many of the inns on the rivers, and have always been comfortable. The Norfolk air gives one an appetite for anything, and meat, poultry, bacon and eggs, butter and beer we found very good; tobacco, cigars, or wine you must take with you. We prefer Lambert and Butler's sun-dried honey dew; you can smoke it as long as you like and it never bites, and if you keep it, as we do, in the air-tight wrapper it is sold in it will keep moist to the last. Take some braided fuses with you, the local sulphur matches will spoil any tobacco. Your ordinary tackle will suit the Norfolk fishing. There is good sea-fishing from the pier in the autumn. The sunsets on the rivers and broads of Norfolk and Suffolk are something grand, and the fish seem to take your float down into a sea of molten gold, silver, opals, emeralds and sapphires. Fond as we are of trouting in the hills, we never enjoy fishing more than on the Norfolk rivers and broads.—ED.

R. M. & A. G.—Go from Liverpool Street Station to Brundall Station, near Norwich, and *via* Colchester. At Brundall Station, you are close to Coldham Hall Inn, on the river Yare. You cannot do better for quiet good roach and perch fishing. You will find the perch at the entrances to the many dykes, which run into the river. Mr. Brown charges 1s. a day for boats, and has good beds, and will feed you well. See our other answers to "H. G." about this subject this week.—ED.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I am glad your correspondents' calculations about the gross weight of fish taken by London anglers from the few rivers accessible, as "L. B." stated, round London have been challenged.

I thought at the time 303 tons some odd hundredweight was rather absurd. In fact, I put it down as anglers' weight.

One question Mr. Malcolm asks with reference to the bream at the Harp. I can answer that bream had not all spawned, for I took several full of spawn after the opening of the season, 1880. I have fished the Welsh Harp water for many years, even before it was subscription. It is a wonderful water considering it is open all the year round, and fished by thousands of anglers night as well as day—

"But still they come."

The Thames, with all its miles and miles of water, fails by comparison. Netting, no doubt, is at the bottom of it all. Oh! if we could but stop the netting.—I am, &c.,

E. WHITE.

Great College Street, July 30th.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I have a few remarks to make in relation to the letter on "The Fence Months," from your correspondent, "Creel." The first point raised relates to the weighing-in of gross weights. Before this controversy began, I was happily unaware of the vast burden of ignorance under which so many falsely-called anglers labour. I certainly did not know that ignorance was abroad to an amazing extent, but the amount is culpable; I soon thought I had ascertained that it was sublime, but, alas! I find it has exceeded the limits of sublimity; and is, in fact, ridiculous. Let us scrutinise some of the logic of the sapient. Mr. "L. B." estimates the annual take of fish by Londoners at 303 tons, 13 cwt., 2 qrs., and, from this dubious total, which, he says, speaks eloquently for itself, he is led to think that all thinking men will agree with him, that "there arrives a time," &c. There certainly does too often arrive a time when men doggedly refuse to reason, preferring the far more easy process of thinking—thinking they know what to their benighted minds is unknown. Mr. "L. B." pray what is your knowledge of algebra? Do you, indeed, expect to solve the following equation: $y - 303 \text{ tons} = x$, where y is the total of fish in the river at the beginning of the year, and 303 tons the total weight caught during the year? Do you, indeed, expect us to have profound veneration for your argumentative acumen, showing, as you do, yourself impotent to adduce further data of any weight as to the value of y ? When you can give an approximate knowledge of the worth of this quantity, one may have a much greater esteem for your arguments relating to x .

Furthermore, I know, from true data, that the number of fish in rivers and ponds is far greater than most anglers believe. Small mountain burns—little pools, which the ordinary fisher only believes to hold six to a dozen fish at the most—often, on being emptied by the poacher, are found to contain fifty or more denizens of various sizes. In Scotland, Wales and Norway, I have known the

fish so numerous and close to each other in their stations in the pools of rivers, that it is a marvel how each could possibly obtain food for maintenance of life, without consideration of growth. In the two former places, I have known this so much the case, that the average of a good day's fishing in some streams seldom exceeded ten to twelve trout, to the pound; of a bad day's sport, on one or two occasions, as low as sixteen to the pound.

Again, I have known diminutive ponds, some without either outlet or inlet, and only a few yards wide, containing rudd in some cases, or roach and other coarse fish in others, to such an enormous extent, that capital sport could be had through a prolonged period without any sensible deterioration, either in quality or quantity. My own experience of such rivers as the Thames, Kennet, Cam, Irton, Ithon, Yare, and other sluggish waters, where coarse fish abound, leads me to unreservedly express the opinion that the protests of the sapient, the Protectionists, are but a vapouring from brains of heated liquidity, notable for the absence of the solid. When I see the fish swarming before my eyes, the water at the surface a mass of ripples from the undulating circles of countless dace or bleak; further, in the deeps something similar, but not quite so marked, taking place, owing to aerial evolutions of roach, rudd or chub; or, on some colder day, nothing stirring above, but schools of thousands of fish side by side, jostling each other almost, but quiescent, along the sides of piers and stakes of banks and breakwaters—simply myriads, not one of which will notice a bait dropped, however adroitly, amongst them! When I see all this, and am asked to believe or give assent to the most arrant misrepresentation relating to piscatory matters, I can only reply, you ask too much. I must believe the evidences of my own senses, whether I believe that of my own creel or not; for the contents of the creel in itself, is no proof of the relative contents of the waters. Thus, if I can disbelieve the testimony of my own creel, I can, likewise, justly disallow the revelations of THE FISHING GAZETTE'S "Creel." And now, worthy receptacle of fish, whether you be made of osier, tin, wood, or leather, I must deal with you! This creel is one of a new variety, which, being squeamish at the reception of a fish in spawn, feels a loathing for the captive, suggestive of the action of disgorging. It would be well were all anglers provided with such a creel, one that would repudiate all spawned, ill-flavoured, rank-fleshed fish, but certainly not luscious and fat individuals, with roes still perfect.

Come "Creel," come with me to Westmoreland and Cumberland, and let us put to the rigid test your assertions. I should know something of some of these districts; come, name your thirty beck and tributaries, name also the proprietors, we can then judge whether or not your deductions are gleaned from true premises; whether or not your proprietors have attributed to the true causes the alleged dearth of fish; or, in fact, whether dearth, or an inordinate greed for famishing fish caught by an unskilled hand, was or was not the cause of the three years liberty obtained for the fish!

Mr. "Creel," you have to take into consideration the increased drainage in the districts to which you allude, rendering the streams much less during the greater part of the year than heretofore. You have to regard the much more sudden rushes of floods, carrying away spawn and aquatic food for the fish; the much greater variability in the height of the stream, sometimes causing the spawn to be deposited in places which soon are left dry, at others in water too deep for successful development of the ovum. The increase in the amount of deleterious soluble substances which find their way into the water from various manures, farmyard and hamlet drainage, as well as the lead mines of the lake and adjoining districts, must likewise not be neglected. The handiwork of the poacher with lime, grappling, net, spade, dynamite, and sledge hammer must not be forgotten; for when you remember all these things—these agents which to you, Mr. "Creel," may appear puny—you will discover that the apparently inconspicuous facts—which are too true to be the subject of attention of the Protectionists, who love the sensational—dilate as you bestow more attention upon them, so as to reach the firmament in absolute magnitude like the released Afrite of the Arabian tales.

I observe that "Creel" and one or two others by inference attempt to transfer what they consider the ignominy of catching small fish from the Christian angling delinquents to the ultimate Jewish recipients. All I have to say in this matter is that it would have been as well if your correspondents, Mr. Editor, had not endeavoured to make such pusillanimous onslaught on a race which, for intellect, thrift, and honourable record, would undoubtedly if weighed in the balance excel their own.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I am sure Mr. Geen, Mr. Bonvoisin and other really earnest and energetic anglers will excuse me for saying that their enunciations, practical as they are, and perhaps more of value at the present moment, were long since anticipated. Here, for instance, is a paragraph I stumbled over in the Bodlean—it is from the pen of the ancient writer, Androvicius, which I translate into the vulgar:—"It is at the spawning season that the depredations of the poacher are carried on on the largest scale, when the fish are the most easily taken, and when they are of the most value for keeping up the supply, and of the least value as articles of food; and, if I may add another consideration, when the season of the year is least inviting to the angler's sport." Dr. John Day, M.D., F.R.S., I find quotes this in his "Physiological Researches," 1863, p. 223.—I am, &c., F.

[It is for the reason that the poacher is so active during the fence months that we would like to see anglers on the rivers then to stop the poacher.—ED.]

FLY-CASTING WITH THE SPINNING MINNOW.

SIR,—In answer to "A. R. I. E. L." I must briefly state that, although I do not by any means lay claim to originality in adopting the fly-casting action of throwing the minnow, still I must acknowledge that, although I have seen no other angler employing this device, I have myself, when the exigencies of circumstances suggested a mode of casting different to that commonly practised as advisable, departed from the customary track, and resorted to fly-casting with the minnow. That this mode may be successfully employed I am fully convinced by that great test of theories called practice; and I can therefore endorse "A. R. I. E. L.'s" remark that the method is killing. I must, however, own that my success in this respect may partly be due to the fact that I am far more proficient with all modes of fly-casting than with the manner of depositing the minnow gently at great distances, characteristic of the angler proficient only in minnow spinning. Were I to enter into the details of the different ways in which I modify the fly-casting method, I should also have to describe minutely all the different devices I employ in casting the artificial fly, which of itself would fill several numbers of the FISHING GAZETTE. From this infliction I will spare both "A. R. I. E. L." and your other readers, Mr. Editor, and merely state, for the benefit of the casual reader, that I use

both the direct-return and horizontal casts as simple methods of delivery ; or in cases of obstruction to the rear I have found it advisable to switch with the minnow, drawing the bait close to my feet, throwing, as with the fly, when trees or bushes, &c., prevent the rearward or lateral development of the line. The trace used is of the finest gut, and weighted minnow with small swive ls. The rod employed is one of Blacker's, 12 feet 2½ inches long, of four pieces, the three lower hickory, the top of rent cane such is not to be had in recent weapons; weight of rod, less than 12 ounces; stiffness considerable for small resistances; pliancy wonderful under great strains. The line patent, finest twisted silk and hair, obtained from Hutchinson, of Kendal. The reel, patent multiplier of Reuben Heaton, of Birmingham, simply incomparable in principle, but capable of still further improvement. The angler in attendance.

THE RAVEN.

DAGENHAM LAKE FISHERY.

SIR,—In answer to your questions (July 30) respecting the Dagenham Lake fishery water: the water is about 200 acres; depth, average about 6 feet. I have plumbed 23 feet of water. Fish: Bream, roach, rudd, tench, carp, jack, perch, and eels. The charge is 1s. per day for bottom or jack fishing. The nearest inn is the Chequers, five minutes' walk from the water. Station: Rainham, on the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway, or from any station on the North London Railway, is about two miles from the water. Brocket's van starts from the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, every Saturday night at twelve o'clock during the summer months; fare there and back, including fishing, 3s. The principal fish are roach and bream, neither of which attain a large size. It is very rare that a bream is taken over 3 lb.; roach, the largest I have seen, was taken by one of our members, weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. Perch are, I consider, the *finest* fish in the water, but are seldom fished for. I know of the following fish that have been taken, weighing respectively 3 lb. 9 oz., 4 lb. 8 oz., and 5 lb. 3 oz.* Jack I have seen up to 16 lb., but I believe there are fish almost twice this weight in the water. Carp, tench, and rudd are seldom caught and are about the ordinary size.—I am, &c.,

J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society, Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville, August 2.

* This fish was taken on Saturday, and weighed 5 lb. 3 oz. on the Wednesday. [Many thanks.—ED.]

YACHT WANTED FOR THE NORFOLK BROADS AND RIVERS.

SIR,—I should be glad if some of your Norfolk correspondents would inform me who would be the best person to apply to (in the event of my being able to visit Norfolk this summer) at Norwich or elsewhere for the hire of a yacht and a respectable man for cruising on the broads; also, what would be the likely cost of same per week?

At a hurried visit to the Norwich Exhibition I noticed two or three models of boats suitable for fishing in Norfolk and Suffolk waters. Have any full-sized boats been made after these models, and, if so, where can they be seen or hired? When does the Fisheries Exhibition at Yarmouth close?—I am, &c., August 1.

[Will some East Anglian reader kindly answer the query about the yacht? We believe the Yarmouth Exhibition will be open for another week.—ED.]

WHERE CAN WE DINE?

SIR,—I can strongly recommend "R.W." and friends to go to E. Godfrey, Thorney Broad Fishery, West Drayton; the place embraces all that an angler could desire.—I am, &c., P.

[We can endorse this.—ED.]

WHAT BAITS AND FLIES ARE USED.

SIR,—I beg to suggest to your correspondents who report their captures of fish that they should also mention the baits which they use. It would be of great assistance to inexperienced anglers like myself to know the kind of fly, &c., which will prove destructive.—I am, &c., A YOUNG ANGLER.

Taunton, August 3.
[We have frequently suggested this, and wish correspondents would take the hint.—ED.]

DACE IN THE TRENT.

SIR,—With your permission I beg to inform "The Trent Otter" that a gentlemen caught 44 dace with fly, weighing 17 lb. 4 oz., in the short time of two hours—60 minutes to the hour—in a private water, in the neighbourhood of Hoveringham, one day last week.—I am, &c.,

A WELL-WISHER TO A "SPORTSMAN," POOR OR RICH.
August 1st, 1881.

FISHING IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—Will you or any of your readers be good enough to tell me the best hotel to stay at for fishing the Derbyshire Wye and Derwent; also if the Izaak Walton is the best hotel to stay at for the Dove—of course I mean fly-fishing—and any hints thereon will be gratefully received by me.—I am, &c., Guilford Lodge, Teddington, August 1st, 1881. THAMES.

[The Peacock at Rowsley is a good inn for Wye and Derwent, and the Wheat-sheaf, at Baslow, will be best for the Wye higher up. We have had very fine trout and grayling from both streams in August. We have not yet fished the Dove.—ED.]

FISHING AT POOLE, DORSET.

SIR,—Will some one kindly inform me if there is any fishing at Poole, in Dorset? If so, I should feel much obliged if they could give particulars in the next number of this paper.—I am, &c., A YOUNG ANGLER.

Wood Green, N.

["There is good sea-fishing at Poole. Write for particulars to the landlord of the London Hotel," so says the *Angler's Diary*.—ED.]

FISHING AT TENBY.

SIR,—Will one of your readers kindly inform me through your paper, concerning the freshwater fishing at Tenby (S. W.); what fish there are, and the best way to take them?—I am, &c., "JOHN STYX."

[At Llandilo, near Tenby, there is salmon, sewin, trout and pike fishing. There is about two miles of free fishing. The pike fishing is first class. Write to the proprietor of the Cawdor Arms Hotel for further particulars.—ED.]

A NEW BAIT.

SIR,—It may be of interest to some of your many readers to know that I have just brought out a bait for roach, dace, chub, &c., which has been found particularly successful by my friends and others for some years past.

It is also an excellent food for gold, silver, and other tank or aquarium fish. I enclose a sample for your inspection and, if convenient, your trial.—I am, &c., WM. KING.

1, New Road, London, E.,

July 30th.

[We will notice it as soon as we have tried it.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On August 1st several members went to Amberley. Mr. R. Smith, 8½ lb.; Mr. W. Streton, 5 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. H. Scott, 5 lb.; Mr. H. Shakel, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. G. Davis, 3 lb.; Mr. D. Davis, 2 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. H. Quodling, 2 lb.; Mr. C. Daniels, 1 lb. 4 oz.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

August 2.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Bermondsey Brothers have not been idle during the holiday, but have been bringing up nice shows of fish. Cann, Frost, Croker, Allen, Hulse and others showing their 1 lb. of roach and 1½ lb. of bream each and Herbert tench 2 lb. 7 oz. each.—WM. ALLEN, secretary.

August 3rd.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of the members and friends of the association will be held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row. On August 9, being the anniversary of the birth of Isaak Walton, the chair will be taken by Oliver Pemberton, Esq., J.P., F.R.C.S., the president of the association.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above association held their fourth competition in the River Ouse. Twenty members were pegged down to swim, they had never fished before, which put the old hands on a par with the youngsters, but the swims proved muddy and weedy. They met with little success, the first prize was taken by Mr. Park, seconded by Mr. Artis; the other prizes were not taken. During last week, Mr. Hassell took 5 lb. of roach and 3 lb. of roach; Mr. Tree, Anscombe and Ash, killed about the same; Mr. William Saunders, while fishing for roach in the tidal water below Barcombe, was surprised to find a very large jack seize his roach, and broke him to smash. Those who saw it, declare him to weigh 20 lb. to 30 lb. Mr. W. Smith had a day in private waters, killed 7 lb. of roach, two jack, weighing 6 lb. and 3 lb. When returning on Tuesday from Barcombe, Mr. Tomkins showed me a very good bag of trout and perch, some weighing 1½ lb. Mr. Gambling, chairman of the society, went yesterday, and brought home a very pretty little catch. The water at Chichester is in a filthy condition, that nothing can be done at present.—GROUND BAIT.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit, No. district, will be to the above society, on Monday next, August 8, when we hope to see all that can conveniently attend.—H. TAYLOR.

August 1.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only two members weighed-in on the 31st, Mr. Pratt, roach and perch from the Lea, and Mr. Castell, roach from the Roding, also chub from the same water on the 1st and 2nd of August. I hear the nets have been at work very much of late in the Roding, the keepers have had the tip and are on the look out. Several of our members visited Amberley, but the bad weather, the holidays and other causes prevented them showing up.—CAS.

DE BEAUVOIR ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

We had a very fine show of fish here last club night. Mr. Allen, 31 lb. 15 oz. bream and roach; Mr. Morgan, 15 lb. perch and roach, from the Ouse; Mr. Hayter, some beautiful eels, two going 3½ lb.; Mr. Ellis, roach and chub, from the Lea; Mr. Starkey, roach; Mr. Crump, some very fine perch; and Mr. Dollamore, some nice roach.—H. R. ABBOTT.

THE EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above were out in good force on Sunday, and so were the fish (out of the way); but on Monday Mr. Blackman had five or six barbel, about 15 lb., one a very handsome fish of 7 lb. 6 oz., which has been sent to be preserved. Mr. Paine also had a very nice tray of perch; Mr. Smith, chub, roach and dace.—A. THOMAS.

EXETER ANGLING CLUB.

Yesterday being Bank holiday, there was no club meeting, owing to the numerous fetes, excursions, and other counter attractions, together with the heavy downpours of rain; it was decidedly Bank holiday at the river side, and from the countless numbers of persons seen returning up to a late hour, with all kinds of outdoor sporting implements, rods and creels, were not to be numbered with them; no doubt, owing to late hot weather and the waters being so very low. Perch are taking freely, but not so freely as my friend, Mr. Harry Hems states, who is on a pleasure trip to the Far West. Writing from Chicago, he says: "When hauled alongside the pier, some boys were fishing there. A few of

us joined the fishermen, and, having borrowed lines, went to work. The bait was small minnows; tackle, simply a line with stone and hooks attached; as fast as ever these lines were let down, they were drawn up again with a couple of perch thereon. We stayed an hour, and caught many basketfuls. One gentleman caught within the hour fifty-five perch, measuring from eight to eleven inches long."—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec., *pro tem*.

August 2, 1881.

FREE ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had their annual picnic last Thursday to Halton, near Frodsham, on the River Weaver, where they fished for the special and club prizes. As several members reside out of town, a few went by the first train and had three hours' fishing before they met the others. Twelve o'clock was the time appointed for dinner, but on assembling at the rendezvous they met with a sad disappointment, as the secretary's letter (sent off on the Tuesday) ordering dinner was stated not to have been received, consequently there was no dinner for them. Although some of the members doubted this, they made the best of a bad bargain, and prepared for a feed of bread and cheese and ale, and as Cheshire is noted for the quality of both butter and cheese, and the samples placed before them bore out their good character, and as good appetites followed a long ride and three hours' exercise in the open air, full justice was done to what was placed before them. At two o'clock the members took their allotted places, time was called, and save an occasional joke and the call "landed," little was said. At seven o'clock the match ended, when it was found that the first prize was taken by Mr. Shillitto, with a nice dish of roach weighing exactly 6 lb.; Mr. Brooks was second, also with roach and grayling; the other prize-takers were Messrs. Johnson, Collins, Mitchell, Heaton and Thomas. Before the match the early arrivals took some very nice roach and trout. Three graining were taken during the day, which I had the pleasure of forwarding to the GAZETTE office for Mr. J. Harrington Keene's examination and report. The roach were in very good condition, and bit boldly at maggot and paste in the morning, but in the afternoon and evening at maggot. Mr. Mitchell missed a fine trout through having no landing net, and getting fast in the weeds.—W. R. R.

Manchester, Aug. 3.

GOLDEN BARBEL ANGLING SOCIETY.

On July 31 the members of the above were actively at work, and brought to grass some capital shows of fish varying from 5 lb. up to over 20 lb., the gross total turning the scale at 75 lb., consisting of bream, roach, perch, chub and dace. On August 1 the members were at it again in earnest, and brought to grass over 40 lb. of good fish. On August 2 the members still stuck to their work, and brought to grass over 30 lb. of fish, roach and bream being predominant.—H. WEST.

August 3.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a splendid show of fish at the club on Tuesday last, and for quality and quantity there has seldom been seen a finer show, Mr. Ephraim Richards having taken 50 lb. of splendid roach. They averaged 1 lb. each, many of them being 1½ lb., Mr. W. H. Bockett having 12 lb. of splendid dace, ranging from 12 oz. to 14 oz. They were a treat to see. Mr. Murphy had three trout, one of 2 lb., taken whilst dace-fishing with a fine hair line. It was the finest bit of sport he ever had. To save him he is to be preserved by Cooper with the hook that he was taken with, the size of the fish being No. 10, fishing with gentles. Mr. Hellens showed some capital roach from the Lea. Mr. W. Roberts, our worthy treasurer, has given his usual donation of £1 1s. to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The members intend having their annual dinner at the Rye House on the 22nd inst.—R. MURPHY.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on Sunday and Monday (Bank Holiday), from Amberley:—Messrs. J. K. Fitch, Butler and Jeffreys, roach; Mr. Hutchings, bream and roach; Mr. Major, roach; Mr. Young, 2 lb. 14 oz. bream and roach; Mr. Walker, 1 lb 8 oz. roach; Mr. Page, 2 lb. 9 oz. bream and roach; Mr. Painter, 7 lb 4 oz. bream and roach. From the Wey, Mr. Theobald, 7 lb. 4 oz. bream and roach; Mr. Parkin, 8 lb. 8 oz. bream and roach; Mr. A. Warren, 5 lb. 15 oz. roach; Mr. J. Warren, 6 lb. 13 oz. roach. The next Eastern District visit will be on Tuesday, August 9, Mr. W. Phillips chairman.—J. S. FITCH, jun., sec.

August 2.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

An important meeting of this society took place on Thursday evening, Mr. Bentley in the chair. Mr. Crumplen, the hon. sec., read a statement on behalf of the committee, showing a further increase of members and a substantial balance in hand. On the motion of Mr. A. Jardine and other gentlemen, it was unanimously resolved to offer the honorary membership of the society to Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., Mr. Marston, of the FISHING GAZETTE, and Mr. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*, all of whom had rendered invaluable services to the cause of angling. It was further resolved that the society should be represented at the meeting in furtherance of the International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, to be held on Friday, at Fishmongers' Hall, and Mr. Frost was requested to attend for that purpose. A considerable number of prizes were announced, and a special committee, consisting of Mr. Jardine, Mr. Frost, Mr. Field, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Parker, Mr. G. Austin, and Mr. Crumplen, were chosen to settle conditions under which they should be competed for, it being understood that no money prizes would be given, and the great feature of the society, viz., specimen fish rather than gross weight, be steadily kept in view. A very hearty vote of thanks to the committee and chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

I have the following takes to report:—Mr. Hobden, from Eynsham, on the 23rd ult., one barbel, 7 lb. 6 oz., also a number of roach, dace, &c., from the same place on the 27th ult. and on August 1st. On July 29th Messrs. Hoole, Walters and Green weighed-in roach; Messrs. Mackness and Penney, roach, barbel and dace from the Thames. On July 30th, Mr. P. Geen weighed-in barbel, bream and perch, 34 lb. 4 oz. On Bank Holiday a great many members weighed-in, among the most successful being—Messrs. Pitts (Henley), Penney (Eynsham), Toms and Steadman (Shepperton), and Hitchcock (Wraysbury).—VORTEX.

August 2,

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, July 27, Mr. G. Rolt had 3 lb. 12½ oz. roach, and 11 oz. dace; Mr. G. P. Rolt had 10 lb. 14½ oz. perch; on the same day Messrs. J. Hilliar, sen., and J. Hilliar, jun., also had fish, but too late to weigh-in. Mr. G. Wood had 2 lb. 10½ oz. roach, and 1 lb 6½ bream. On Sunday, July 31, there were several other members out, but owing to the inclement state of the weather they got wet jackets, and instead of coming to the club house to show their takes, they made tracks for their sweet homes. On Wednesday, August 3, Mr. G. P. Rolt was again well amongst the perch, he had 8 lb. 3½ oz. of beauties; Mr. G. Rolt had a nice jack; Mr. A. Salmon showed 4 lb. 15 oz. roach; J. Hilliar, sen., had 6 lb. 2½ oz. bream; J. Hilliar, jun., 5 lb. 3½ oz. bream.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Friday last, Mr. Palmer, from Newbury, roach, 6 lb. ½ oz., dace, 5 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Woodman, same place, roach, 5 lb. 10 oz., dace, 4 lb. 6 oz., largest roach, 1 lb. 2½ oz., by Mr. Palmer. About nine roach averaged 1 lb. Largest dace, Mr. Palmer, 8½ oz., a really fine show. A very fine specimen of a pike taken by Mr. Palmer last December, weight 20 lb., is now on show at the Club House, having just been returned from the preserver.—ALFRED H. BISLEY, hon. sec.

August 3, 1881.

KINGS' CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Bank Holiday of pursuing their gentle art. The following gentlemen weighed-in fish:—Mr. Davis, chub and roach, 5 lb. 5 oz., largest chub, 2 lb. 14 oz., from the Thames; Mr. Bell, roach and dace, 8 lb. 2 oz., from the Ouse; Mr. Morley, roach, dace, and perch, from the Thames; Mr. Burnett, roach, from the Thames; Mr. Woelfell, roach, from the Lea; and Mr. Coulson, chub, from the Thames.—G. TREADWELL.

August 3.

THE LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report the following fish have been weighed in:—Mr. Penn, dace, roach and bream from Richmond; Mr. Nutley, dace and roach from Richmond, bream, roach and dace from Shepperton; Mr. Caplin, 23 lb. 8 oz. barbel from Sonning, roach and dace from Walton; F. Boyce, barbel, roach and dace from Richmond; Messrs. Green and Morris, bream, dace, roach and perch from Weybridge; Mr. Nicholson, perch, roach and dace from Shepperton; Mr. G. Spencer, barbel, roach and dace from Walton, perch, dace and 18 lb. 5 oz., chub from Great Marlow; Mr. Soutar, roach and grayling from Southampton, one roach scaling 1 lb. 8 oz.; Messrs. E. and M. Nixon and F. Croutel, dace, roach and barbel from Richmond; Mr. King, a fine carp, 5 lb. 2½ oz., with chub and barbel, from Datchet; Mr. Dean, bream and roach from Tunbridge. The committee dinner was held at Mr. Stone's, Ship Hotel, Hallford, on July 26th, when about twenty sat down to an excellent dinner, served in Mr. Stone's usual excellent manner. Mr. Davison's prize for the heaviest weight taken on the above day was taken by Mr. G. F. Spencer.—W. TUCKER, hon. sec.

August 22.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the holidays several of our members have been out and taken some nice little catches. On Sunday—Mr. Watts, roach and dace, 8 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Petrie, roach, 8 oz.; Mr. Heelas, roach, 13 oz. On Monday—Mr. Parker, tench &c., 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Hopton, bream, 17 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Letch, bream, 10 lb. 10 oz.; ditto, roach, dace and eels, 2 lb.; Mr. Goods, 1 bream, 7 lb. 11 oz.; ditto, 1 perch, 1 lb. 5½ oz. On Wednesday—Mr. Scott, roach, 2 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. Humphreys, jack, 4 lb. 5 oz.; ditto, roach, 2 lb. 5 oz.; G. Watson, roach and chub, 8 lb. 3 oz.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had good takes of fish this week. Mr. Ormond, bream and roach; Mr. Lucy, sen., jack and bream; Mr. J. Drew, had roach from the Thames; Mr. Laundry, roach and bream from Pulborough; Mr. L. Gorsuch also had roach. Members are particularly requested to attend at nine sharp on Monday evening next, there being important business to bring before the meeting.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

August 3.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The following are the fixtures for the various competitions as arranged by the committee:—

GUDGEON COMPETITION, Monday, Aug. 15.—No. 49. 1st prize, £3 3s., for the greatest number of gudgeon taken by one member with rod and line, from the Thames, on the above day only, and shown the same evening.—No. 50. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest number. The fish for this competition are subject to the Thames Conservancy size, namely, not under 5 inches in length, measuring from the eye to the end of the tail.

BARBEL COMPETITION, Monday, Aug. 29.—No. 23. 1st prize, £3 13s. 6d., for the greatest weight of barbel taken by one member with one rod and line, from public waters, on the above day only, and registered the same evening.—No. 24. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest weight, subject to the same conditions as the first prize. Mr. Wheatstone, £1 1s. for the heaviest fish registered for this competition.

ROACH COMPETITION, Monday, Sept. 19.—No. 35. 1st prize, £3 3s., for the greatest weight of roach taken by one member with one rod and line, from the Thames, on the above day only, and registered the same evening.—No. 36. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest weight, subject to the same conditions as the first prize. Mr. Wheatstone, £1 1s. for the heaviest fish registered for this competition.

PIKE COMPETITION (SHENTONIAN), Monday, Oct. 17.—No. 11. 1st prize, £4 4s., for the greatest weight of pike taken by one member, subject to Rule 22 (two rods and lines only), from the Thames, on the above day only, and registered the same evening.—No. 12. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest weight, subject to the same conditions as the first prize. Mr. Wheatstone, £1 1s. for the heaviest fish registered for this competition.

Annual Supper, Monday, Oct. 24.

CHUB COMPETITION, Monday, Oct. 31.—No. 27. 1st prize, £3 3s., for the greatest weight of chub taken by one member with one rod and line, from public waters, on the above day only, and registered the same evening.—

No. 28. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest weight, subject to the same conditions as the first prize. Mr. Wheatstone, £1 1s. for the heaviest fish registered for this competition.

PERCH COMPETITION, Monday, Nov. 21.—No. 16. 1st prize, £3 3s., for the greatest weight of perch taken by one member with one rod and line, from the Thames, on the above day only, and registered the same evening.—No. 17. 2nd prize, £2 2s., for the second greatest weight, subject to the same conditions as the first prize. Mr. Wheatstone, £1 1s. for the heaviest fish registered for this competition.

For further particulars as regards the above competitions, see list of prizes for the present year. The competitions close at 12 p.m.—JAS. LANDER, hon. sec.

95, Sutherland Gardens, W., July, 1881.

ADDITIONAL PRIVATE PRIZES.—52. Mr. Malony, £1 1s., for the heaviest carp, not under 3 lb.—53. Mr. Marsden, £1 1s., for the heaviest tench, not under 3 lb.—54. Mr. Skinner, £1 1s., for the heaviest bream from the Thames, not under 3 lb.—55. Mr. W. H. Winton, £2 2s., for the heaviest weight of barbel, over 4 lb., shown on Monday evenings.—56. Mr. Robinson, £2 2s., for the heaviest single show by one member on a Monday evening.

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES.—Club, £14; Private, £82 18s.; making together, £96 18s.

PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB.

The second match in connection with the above club took place in the Eg-ginton Canal on Saturday last, July 30, 1881, the following members taking the principal prizes:—1st, Wm Tunncliffe; 2nd, J. Moore; 3rd, W. Elliott; 4th, J. Grimley; 5th, J. Hutton; 6th, T. Elliott; 7th, J. Forman; 8th, T. Mansland; 9th, J. Bland.—W. TUNNICLIFF, secretary.

July 30th.

RICHMOND PISCATORIALS.

A handsome show of roach and dace was made on Tuesday. Mr. Gaunt, secretary, fishing with Spiers, 7½ dozen; Mr. Howe and friend, with Hammer-ton, 11½ dozen, taken at Twickenham. The dace were the finest which have been exhibited for a considerable time, and are now well on feed, and exceedingly plentiful.—J. K. G.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three members of the above society, Mr. Thomas Ratcliffe, Mr. Samuel Greenwood, and Mr. James B. Udale went on Tuesday, July 26th, for three days, to Mr. William Vintnors, The Ferry Boat Inn, Dogdyke (Witham), where notwithstanding the thunder-storm of the 26th, succeeded in taking over 60 lb. of bream, roach and eel, varying from ¾ lb. to 4 lb.; the heaviest bream was weighed off by Mr. S. Greenwood, which scaled 4 lb.; the heaviest roach, Mr. Thomas Ratcliffe, 1½ lb.; the heaviest eel, Mr. J. B. Udale, 1¼ lb.—J. B. UDALÉ.

23, Bayley Street, Stalybridge, August 1, 1881.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIALS.

The members of the above club had a splendid show at their club house last Monday night. Five of them weighing in no less than 75 lb. 1¼ oz., from Elstree Reservoir, principally tench, some of them weighing upwards of 4 lb. each. The most successful members were—Mr. Jno. Manly, Mr. R. Blackmore, Mr. F. Bollington, Mr. Jno. Edwards and Mr. W. Field. Mr. Morant and Mr. Bridgman weighed in, from the Welsh Harp, gross weight of fish, 82 lb. 6½ oz., not bad for a club only six months old and composed of all amateurs. In answer to a question as to fishing at Elstree on Sunday, I may say, not only is there good jack, tench, perch, roach fishing, but a good supply of punts, and one of the most civil, obliging boatmen (Tom Harley) that I ever came across.—W. F. FIELD, hon. sec.

Aug. 2.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

I am glad to be able to send you a better report this week, sport having been better and the trays well filled. On the 26th ult. Mr Monk 8 lb. 4½ oz., roach and dace; Mr. Lockyear, 4 lb. 2½ oz. dace. On the 28th, Mr. Lee 3 lb. 10 oz. roach; Mr. Valour, roach and dace. 29th, Mr. Cocks, roach; Mr. Irons, roach. All the above, with one exception, from the Thames. On Sunday, 31st, Mr. Freeman 31 lb. 3 oz. bream; Mr. Lee, 4 lb. 2½ oz. roach.—J. GOUBOT.

UNIVERSAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION (HULL).

The annual Bank Holiday excursion to Ferriby Sluice of the above old-established association took place on Monday, the 1st inst., when over 200 availed themselves of this pleasant trip to the popular resort of the Hull anglers. All the party was landed from the s.s. *Lady Elizabeth*, at the Sluice by 10.15 a.m., and after partaking of refreshments, were bent upon injuring the finny tribe that numerously abound in the river Ancholme this season, which the members and their friends undoubtedly did, and many good takes of roach, dace and bream were shown by R. Speck, W. Crossland, T. Wray, T. Mashing and other members and friends, and after angling for some time a number of the party joined their wives and friends in dancing to the merry strains of Young's string band, other sports and pastimes, which all present thoroughly enjoyed, and on the ringing of the steamer's bell the party were then mustered together, and returned to Hull, arriving at 8.45 p.m., all being highly pleased with the day's outing; and although the committee found many other counter attractions to contend with, they are pleased to find the excursion was a thorough success.—W. B. BARKER, hon. sec.

August 4.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford" and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

THE CORPORATION AND THE FISH SUPPLY INQUIRY.

THE importance attached to the need for, and the importance of, an official inquiry into the alleged unsatisfactory supply of fish for distribution among the people of London, when the subject was discussed by the Court of Common Council, has been more than amply borne out by the voluminous evidence which has been given at the Guildhall before the Special Ward Committee. The committee, as a body, have entered into its arduous and somewhat difficult work with much earnestness. Nearly the whole of the committee have attended the sittings, and more than fifty per cent. of the number have been regular in their attendance. To give some idea of the extent of the work which has been got through, it may be stated that the committee sat for fourteen days, or seventy odd hours. Fifty-eight witnesses were examined, and their evidence covers 673 pages of a blue-book, which will no doubt be published. These witnesses included catchers, buyers, dealers, carriers, salesmen, fishmongers, fish porters, costermongers, railway officials, and several independent persons. The complaints against the existing arrangements at Billingsgate were not quite but almost unanimous. With regard to what could be done in the way of improving and facilitating the fish trade in London, many opinions were expressed, most of which were more or less qualified. Of the catchers examined, four were in favour of a central market, six were favourable to the establishment of two or more markets, four spoke strongly in favour of Billingsgate Market, two thought its present size quite sufficient, and three held quite an opposite opinion. Four of the catchers and senders expressed their dissatisfaction with the mode of business adopted by the Billingsgate salesmen. Quite 75 per cent. of the senders and catchers complained of the high charges of the companies, and said that if they were less the supply of fish would be greater. Of the railway officials three were in favour of a central market, four in favour of several markets, and one, with certain qualifications, in favour of the present market. The ten salesmen, with one exception, were for the retention and improvement of the Billingsgate Market and its approaches, the exception arguing for a central market inland, with plenty of air, light, and room. The fish porters agreed very much with the salesmen as to the need for improving the approaches and enlarging the market. How the supply of fish could be increased, made cheaper, and prevented being spoilt, occupied a good deal of attention, and many scores of questions were put to the witnesses with a view of eliciting information on the subject. As might be expected, the opinions offered were various, and in many instances conflicting. Some of the suggestions to these ends were the appointment by the Corporation of an official salesman, lowering of the rents in Billingsgate, and cheaper and more expeditious transit of fish to London, and a sufficiently large market in London, with plenty of access. The committee met on Friday to consider the evidence, when many members expressed their conviction that the most difficult part of their labour now lies before them, viz., the preparation of a report which will recommend such a scheme as will secure the public an abundance of good and cheap fish.—*City Press*.

THE YARMOUTH FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

THE awards were made in the various class of exhibits on Friday, with the following results:—Plan of fish-curing premises: 1 (silver medal), Arthur S. Hewitt, Regent Street, Yarmouth; 2 (bronze medal), Mr. H. D. Arnott, Hall Quay, Yarmouth. Best model of fish-curing premises: Mr. R. T. Softley (silver medal) the only exhibitor. Best model of smack: 1 (silver medal), Mr. Ristarick, of Bideford; 2 (bronze medal), Mr. H. Critten, Yarmouth; 3 (diploma), Mr. J. Hogg. For model of screw steam launch: S. Locket (medal). Best model of paddle steam-launch: H. Leman (medal). Special mention was made of the models of man-of-war, ships, &c., sent by Mr. K. Howlett. Fishing-boats: 1 (medal), to the contribution from the Sailor's Home; 2, A. S. Gowing; a special prize being given to Mr. G. V. Burwood, of Lowestoft, for his picture models and model of schooner-yacht worked by clockwork. Best model of boat suitable for the Norfolk and Suffolk waters: 1 (medal), J. Loynes; 2, Wright. For the best collection of aquatic birds and animals, &c.: 1 (silver medal), Mr. T. E. Gunn, Norwich; 2 (bronze medal), W. Lowne, Yarmouth; 3, Rev. C. J. Lucas, Fleggburgh; 4, W. W. Spelman; special prizes to Mr. Fielding Harmer for his case of spoonbills, and to Mr. T. Clarke, Earsham Mills, for his exhibit of otters. Smoked fish: The prizes (silver medals) in this class were distributed as follows—Bloaters, crabs and shrimps: H. Hammonds, St. Peter's Road. Salmon and red herring: I. M. Vince, Market Road. Kippers, sprats and haddocks: R. F. Seago, 21, Charlotte Street. Exports: pickled herring and ham-cured herring—C. Stacy Watson and Co., with special mention for their Digby chicks and anti-pilferage package. It should also be stated that for stuffed fish Mr. Gunn takes first prize, W. S. Chamberlin, Yarmouth, being also awarded a prize for single specimen (a pike); and specials to Master Gunn and Mr. R. B. Norman, the latter for a group of three perch. For apparatus for launch of lifeboat from Gorleston Beach, W. Bissenden takes first, and Mr. Salmon, jun., second prize.

For models of lifeboats the prizes go to Messrs. Beeching and W. Teasdel, both of whom are awarded a first prize, the latter exhibiting both lifeboat and carriage.

The judges in the different classes were as follows:—For models: Messrs. A. W. Blake, E. Harvey, and T. Beeching. Twine: Messrs. E. Harvey, J. Bracey and A. W. Blake. Lifeboats: Messrs. E. Harvey, W. H. Willis and A. W. Blake. Birds and Aquatic Animals: Messrs. T. B. Steward, F. Harmer and J. Tomlinson. Fish: Messrs.

R. R. B. Norman, R. H. Harmer and H. Bond (Southtown). Smoked Fish: Messrs. W. Dyson and T. Kelsall. Launching Apparatus: Messrs. C. Salmon, sen., E. Fleming and W. Woods. Pictures: The Committee.

The attendance during the week has not been so numerous as could be wished. The position of the Artillery Volunteer Drill Hall is an unfortunate one for an exhibition of this kind, inasmuch as it is difficult to find. Then there is the fact that the exhibition comes close upon that recently held at Norwich. These two circumstances, no doubt, militate against the success of the exhibition, which is a very interesting one and deserving of the best support of the public. The object for which it is inaugurated, namely, the benefit of the Gorleston Volunteer Lifeboat Association, ought also to commend it. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings there was a great improvement in the attendance, and it has been determined to keep the exhibition open a week or a fortnight longer, and during that time to reduce the prices so that everyone may have a chance of seeing it. We understand that Thursday evening last was a grand fashionable night, when the Mayor and Mayoress attended, and Mrs. Steward presented the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society to Mr. Green, foreman at the pier-works, for his gallantry in saving the life of one of the workmen at the recent accident when the crane fell overboard.—*Yarmouth Independent*.

FISHING STORIES.—Miss Juliet Corson prepared a fish dinner for some New Yorkers the other day, but her art did not soothe savage breast enough to prevent the diners from telling stories after their meal. One gentleman said he caught in six hours 800 trout; another said that last summer, off Fire Island, he took in a blue fish that weighed 150 lb.; and a third, who did not look like a confirmed liar, remarked that whilst fish for bass near Nantucket, some time ago, eight bass got on his line at one time, and pulled so hard that he had to get a horse to help him to haul in. These three fishermen turned to a fourth who sat quietly during the story-telling, and one said, "Perhaps you don't believe us—perhaps these stories don't interest you?" "Oh, yes, they do," said the quiet little man "for I'm something of a liar myself."

We understand that Mr. Elliot Stock will issue a magazine entitled the *Bibliographer* in the autumn; it is to be uniform in size and style with the *Antiquary*, and will be devoted exclusively to book-lore.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—**ADVT.**

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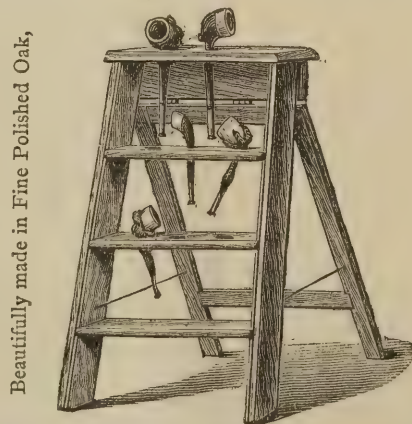
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1881

THE SALMON AND HIS CAPTURE.

By W. J. BULLOCK.

WHAT angler has not often stood with longing eyes and vivid imagination opposite the famous marble slabs of Grove's, in New Bond Street, or at Towell's, in the Strand, or the various fish depots in the City, and while eyeing those noble

specimens of twenty, thirty, or forty pounders as they majestically repose in their scaly beauty, has not fancied himself once more beside the Scotch river, or the Irish Lee or Blackwater, with the welcome sound of the whirring reel ringing in his ears once again? How vividly he will picture to himself the first rush of one of these symmetrical beauties, and how all the old struggles of past captures and escapes will crowd upon his piscatorial imagination! There he stands, musing and meditating over his scaly favourites, until he is suddenly awakened from his joyful reverie by the sharp shrill voice of the salesman: "Salmon cheap to-day, sir." Piscator would like to know the locale from which every fish had come; how every one was captured, and tries to spy out the wound made by the fatal gaff; but several pair of keen eyes from within are now all making a dead set upon him, and one of the cheeky cleaners cries out, "This ain't the Royal Aquarium, old boy." Another ironically chimes in, "You can get a penn'orth of shrimps at the next shop." These rude allusions soon dispel all thoughts of the river bank, the Scotch loch, the Irish lake, the gurgling stream and bygone river joys, and the disciple of old Izaak soon finds himself again away in the busy unsympathetic street crowd of London. But such a ten minutes as here described is a cheap enjoyment to many a sportsman who, in early life, rang the changes with gun, rod, or in the saddle, that can only now sport upon a playful imagination of the past, by being reminded in the present through the agency of a gunsmith's, a fishmonger's, or some famous breeches builder in Oxford Street. It may not have been the good fortune of many anglers to catch a salmon, but the hope "that springs eternal in the human breast" of all is, that ere they close the fishing-book for ever such a piscatorial conquest may be an accomplished fact. We will, therefore, in this article detail the various baits, with hints on their usage, for the capture of salmon. The truly legitimate style and bait of all others is the artificial fly, and many anglers there be who scorn to use any other style of salmon fishing. But, alas! no style of salmon fishing gives more blank-day disappointments than the fly; nor does any style of fishing offer more tests of patience, for while salmon are bounding in and out of a river by scores and hundreds; while you cover some 500 rising fish in a day with your fly, yet not one, possibly, will rise at you, and you return to your hotel a disappointed man. Sympathy of numbers, however, as you travel home, mostly comes to your aid; for at the railway-station you meet some six or eight other anglers who can boast of no better luck. No, your trouting experiences have greatly misled you. When trout are rising freely, it is at some favourite fly then thick on the water. Not so with the salmon. When these fine fellows are seen springing out and dropping in two feet higher up stream they are answering some law of their nature that the fisherman can only guess at. They are certainly not feeding at any fly, nor will they look at or touch yours. The fewer fish you see springing out, the greater the chance you will feel the well-known pug of a fish, who has taken your fly without breaking the water on the surface. To any one who can throw the fly well for trout, casting for salmon will soon be acquired, the main points being to keep the line always clear of the winch handle, to be ready for a run, and when the fly is on the water to have both wrists free, and by a series of risings and sinkings of the top of your rod, to give your fly a free motion in the water. This can be done solely by a united wrist action, and makes the bait far more enticing to the fish. Always use, except in heavy water, flies rather under the average size than over, and get your flies in the locality in which you are fishing. The Irish flies have little resemblance to those used in English and Scotch rivers as regards colour, and the popular "Jock Scott," of Caledonia, is seldom seen on the cast of an Hibernian fisherman. Any one visiting the South of Ireland should consult Mr. Haines's fishing depot, Cork, where he can obtain every river information—the proper flies, etc. Mr. Haines's brother, the jeweller, is one of the best artists with the rod, and he and Mr. Dale, the hon. secretary of the Cork Anglers' Club, were the acknowledged heads of their profession. The allusion to these gentlemen reminds me that those who wish to kill a salmon must, when the fly fails, try the most certain bait of all others, viz., the worm. Worm fishing, truly, is not the fashionable and acknowledged style of procedure; but, if the truth is to be told, there are about ten salmon killed in Ireland with the worm, colley or shrimp for one killed with the fly. To any one accustomed to throw the dead bait, as in pike-fishing, long distances, worm-fishing for salmon will soon be learned, and if this plan fails to land a fish then the chances with fly are indeed remote. The method used in Ireland is as follows:—Use about a 12-foot stiff-ringed rod with reel and line as for fly. Strong salmon gut trace, with a number one or two hook. On this hook run six or eight worms of about two to three inches long, passing the hook in near the head, then up on the gut, leaving a portion hanging loose on each, and with the last worm cover the hook; then run the other worms down the gut to the shank of the hook, and

the whole will form a good-sized knot of worms. About two or three feet up the trace fasten a hank of hair line or gut on your trace as you would a drop-fly, and on the end of this fasten six to ten large duck shots, the weight to vary according to the state of the water. Thus, when these weights are on the bottom, your bait will rise and fall occasionally, and not drag the bottom as if your weights were on the trace itself. The casting is made by drawing the line to a less length than the rod, and, having all the line you want off the reel in circles on the ground at your feet, you give a jerking cast from the wrists, standing sideways and clear of the line on the ground, when the weight of your leads will carry your line through the stiff rings, and it will fall into the water 20 or 30 yards away. You now let it fish across the centre of the river bottom until you find your bait has travelled to your own side in a straight line below you. While your bait is thus travelling, the angler, holding the rod with his left hand, with the butt against his body, is frequently taking feelers through the line with his right hand, not only for the fish's bite, but also to facilitate the bait's progress with the stream. There can be no mistaking a salmon's bite for any bottom obstruction, and the line must be always kept nearly taut, to be ready for the strike. All you want in tackle is a good supply of marsh worms in a bag with some moss, a small box of split duck shot, so as to vary the weights, and some loose hooks to tie on when necessary, and a boy with the gaff. Of course, a good knowledge of the various holes and swims that are most frequented by fish is highly necessary, but this information, with tact, is very easily acquired. It is much easier to practise the cast, and make a long throw from a high bank than on a lower level. It is always most advisable to get your bait out to the opposite side of the river, and then let it fish downwards and across to the side below from which you are fishing. A steady nerve is indispensable, and a constant glance at the winch to see the line is clear; and when the first run is ended rewind all the loose line, so as to be ready for the next rush, after which he can be usually fought and played with a good stretch of line until he is brought within gaffing distance. The young salmon angler will find his chances for sport favoured most in August, as then the peal, as they are called in Ireland, have all run up if there has been any fresh of water, and these four, five and six pound fish are very game, and feed more freely than older fish. They also take the fly better. It is no uncommon thing in some of the Irish rivers for an expert to kill six, eight or ten peal in a day's fishing with worm and fly. Every one who resorts to the worm should also take his fly rod and tackle, and during the day try both. When the water is low and fine the shrimp often proves the best bait. The special tackle for the shrimp can be purchased at all tackle shops, and its method of fishing much resembles worm-fishing. Another successful plan is trolling with the colley (loach), minnow, parr-tail, and troutling. In these plans sufficient weights must be used to keep the bait well down, as salmon take the bait nearly always near the bottom, and to spin these baits near the surface, as for trout, gives little chance of success. The phantom bait is the one most used in the Scotch lakes and rivers as an artificial, and proves the best yet invented. Although I have never tried it, yet there seems little doubt that a small frog, fished like the fly, would be a killing bait for salmon-trout. Chub, perch, all take it well, and why not salmon? Possibly, it has been tried by some. If not, it would be an interesting experiment. The plan of baiting with frog was ably described by "A. R. I. E. L." in an article on frog-fishing for chub in *Thames*, last August, in the *FISHING GAZETTE*. I then saw it verified by an excellent day's sport, and can fully endorse "A. R. I. E. L.'s" admirable description and practical essay thereon. Cork, for the salmon fisher, is a good town to stay at, for there he is in easy distance of various good stations on the river Lee by train, and a stranger has little difficulty in becoming a member of the Cork Anglers' Club, and one salmon license will cover all the southern Irish rivers. The Blackwater is a grand salmon stream and full of fish, and a good river for fly-fishing. The Laune, near Killarney, is also one of the best streams for peal-fishing, and in August will give excellent sport. Nearly all the rivers on the West Coast are well stocked, from the Shannon to the smaller streams. The Galway river, that extends about half a mile from the lake to the bay, at times when the water is clear and low, presents a sight from the bridge that few will believe without seeing. Salmon can be seen lying here by hundreds, waiting to get up into the lake above, through the ladders at night, and so numerous are they that it is quite common for anglers to hook fish foul by allowing the fly to sink to the bottom. The lessee of this water will allow fishing for a fixed charge per day, but he takes one-third of the fish caught for himself, in addition to his fee of about 10s. per day. The salmon here do not often run to a large size, but average about 8 lb. each. To the tyro in salmon-fishing, I would say go to Ireland, as there your chances of sport will excel the best preserved streams in England or Scotland. If

you have any friends connected with any of the American lines of steamers, and can get a complimentary pass to Queenstown, and back again by returning steamer from New York, this is far the pleasantest way of reaching Ireland. There are some splendid fast steamers also running between Liverpool and Cork, and here you will have no difficulty in getting an hotel to suit your means, or comfortable apartments. Not that I approve or recommend the practice, but Sunday is usually a great day for Irish fishing, although not allowed by club rules. It is obtained chiefly through private permission, which it is not very difficult to get.

NATURAL BAITS.

A LITTLE explanation in a prefatory way is necessary to the proper understanding of the title of this article. By "natural baits," I mean such baits as are found in, or so near the water, as to be, in the usual course of nature, at times food for fishes. An example of a natural bait, for instance, is apparent in the caddis, or the larva of the May fly, and a type of an artificial bait may be found in the wasp grub, or bread paste. The subject, therefore, of this article comprises, those articles of food with which the fish naturally come in contact. Many of these are insufficiently valued, and some are scarcely known to the average angler, and many a good bag is consequently missed because of the want of a little knowledge, which—the late Mr. Pope of Twickenham, poet and philosopher, notwithstanding—I hold to be a very good and not a dangerous thing, at least in matters piscatorial.

Suppose—for the sake of introducing the matter in a picturesque way—I arrive at the waterside in a Robinson Crusoe-like state of self-dependence, having left at home my excellently and carefully made groundbait, worm, gentle bag, bread paste—in fact, all my bait with which I had promised myself deeds of "dering do" amongst the bottom fishes and others of the river. What is to be done? The answer is simple enough. I must avail myself of the natural resources of the water.

The *Caddis* is known to everybody in its stick-like case, and I need not remind my readers that it is in the *Thames* chiefly the larva of the alder fly. It can be found in multitudes in any shallow creek at this period of the year, and as a bait for all the bottom and mid-water feeders—barring pike, of course—ranks high with those who really know how often it is possible to fill the creel with roach by its aid when all other means fail. There are several kinds of caddis. That which I prefer, and which is whitest and fattest, is to be found in deep water, attached to boulders or sunk wood. Its shell is composed of small stones and shells glued together by the insect itself. In trout-streams I have known the trout to swallow it, case and all. When baiting with caddis, enter the hook at the thorax, and put on a couple or more according to the size of the said hook.

The *Freshwater Shrimp* (*pulex gammarus*) has never been estimated by any writer (except myself) at its real value as a bait for trout, perch, chub, roach and dace. For the two first-named fish, it is uncommonly deadly, and that often when the worm and minnow fail. I need scarcely dilate on the natural history of this lively little "cuss," except to say that it isn't a shrimp at all, but a gigantic water flea, which, like the crayfish, acts as a sort of scavenger not disdaining an occasional tiny fish, or a lump of perch spawn. It is to be found under any large stone or amongst the gravel, and, at this time of the year, a bunch of any weed drawn from the stream will furnish hundreds. Four or five on a thin wired hook is the regulation dose for perch and trout; they should be impaled crosswise, and left to kick—cruel, but necessary! I never use a float, but throw this bait as if it were a worm.

The *Horse Leech* is very common in ditches and streams all over England in summer, and is a very valuable bait for chub and perch. Barbel and roach are also excessively fond of this worm, but to perch and chub it is perfectly irresistible. Greville F. swears by it; and it was an article of his in the late lamented *Country* newspaper, some years ago, which first introduced me to this bait, since which time I have taken fish with it when no other bait would tempt. The medical leech is, of course, equally useful, but not so common as the horse leech, and consequently harder to find.

The *Cad bait*, or creeper, beloved of the trout-fisher is also a splendid lure for most bottom feeders. It is, as the readers of the *FISHING GAZETTE* must all be aware, the larva of the May fly, and is about as ugly as its imago is fairy-like and beautiful. But dear as beauty of any kind is to the true angler, he will not disdain this lizard-like crawling, creeping, dirty-coloured creature, but use him whenever found. There are several kinds of cad baits—some much smaller and less repulsive than the larva of the May fly. These are to be found in any good handful of *Thames* gravel from a rapid and moderately deep stream. The tails of weirs are

always productive above other places. Roach, dace and chub are very fond of them, especially of the smaller species, which should be impaled as explained when speaking of the gammarus.

Of course there are other insects which either drop from overhanging foliage, or fall from the banks, which are excellent for bait. These chiefly belong to the domain of the air, and to talk about them would open up the whole science of entomology. A little careful searching amongst the neighbouring undergrowth of any locality near a stream is often productive of happy results in the possession of insects of practical value. The frog, grasshopper, slug, snail, &c., are discoverable, and I need do no more than mention them to call up in the reader's mind a host of others. The above baits are, however, the chief of those with which the unprovided angler will supply his bait bag, and neither of them will fail if used with judgment. Their actual value I have tested against the ordinary worm and prepared bait in more than one instance, and the result has been very gratifying.

The *Common Mussel* of our ponds and streams is another very useful bait for chub and bream, and I have taken roach and barbel with it. The foot or that part which protrudes when it feeds should alone be used. The freshwater periwinkle-like snail, if boiled and extracted, makes a capital bait for roach also.

The only vegetable bait which grows in the water, as far as I have yet been able to see, is the *Silkworm* (*conferva rivulidis*). This can be found on any old stump or stones, and especially on the shallow parts of the weirs over which the water runs very swiftly. A piece of this simply wrapped round the hook is a capital bait for roach and chub during the early season and very hot weather, especially in rapid streams. I have found roach quite gorged with it.

In the above I have simply strung together a few memoranda as to the natural baits of our streams. I mean to give each one a severe trial and I hope other bottom fishers reading this will do likewise. I am convinced there is something new to be got out of the subject.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

THE roach are now in splendid condition in the Colne, heads small, hog-backed, and as bright as silver. We got fifteen nice fish last Saturday evening, fishing in a deepish quiet back water and in a hole near a weir. We got them by using the new "Natural Bait," which has been brought out by Mr. King, and for particulars of which see our advertisement columns. The bait is sent out by Mr. King in the form of a scented powder. It should be made up with a little bread paste and worked well to an even consistency; it makes a beautiful white paste, and the avidity with which the roach took it amply proved to us that it is a really good thing. A threepenny packet will make enough paste to kill some dozens of roach, it adheres well to the hook, and is not dissolved by the water nearly so readily as plain paste. We can with confidence recommend it.

Mr. King's "Ceroleum" is also a very useful article. A single cake of it will last an angler over a twelvemonth, and will be found useful for waterproofing an old line (the best plan is to put a bit of the wax on a flannel, and, having stretched the line, rub it on well, and then wipe off the superfluous wax). We also find it useful for waxing the ferrule fittings to prevent them sticking, for waterproofing boats for a day's fishing in wet grass, and for various other purposes.

Doubtless every reader of this paper has noticed Messrs. Yarde's advertisement of *Salveo Pedes* in our paper for the last thirty months. If they are ever troubled with tenderness of the feet, or pains after walking in heavy boots, we can most strongly recommend them to try this very valuable preparation which has now been before the public many years. A little of it poured into the palm of the hand and rubbed into a limb aching, or stiff from hard work or rheumatism, will be found wonderfully soothing, as we know from personal experience. *Salveo Pedes* has been used for years by the Government Postal Department for postmen who suffer from tender feet. Mr. G. Yarde is one of the most enthusiastic anglers we have the pleasure of knowing.

Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, have kindly promised to give a rod, line, and winch, of the value of £2, at the FISHING GAZETTE Fly and Bait Casting Tournament in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

We find so many prominent anglers have left town for various happy fishing grounds that we find it necessary to postpone the

Tournament for a week or two. Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*, has kindly promised to act as one of the judges, and Mr. Alfred Jardine has kindly promised to officiate as the other. We are in correspondence with one or two river-side hotels with a view to selecting a scene for operations.

The Black Palmer fly which we recommended last week is certainly a 'taking' fly on the Colne now for trout. After roach-fishing we noticed the trout coming on at the natural fly, and speedily had a black palmer on the same drawn gut line after removing the float and shot. We had only twenty minutes left before it would be time to pack up to catch the 9:5 train from Rickmansworth, and a drive of three miles first. The grand thing in fly, and, indeed, in any fishing, is to keep out of sight. So, noticing a good trout feeding under a tree on the opposite side we crawled flat over the dry grass, and got the palmer nicely over him, he took it instantly, and after a sharp struggle of a minute or two was in the net, a nice fish of a little over a pound; after losing a good fish which was only slightly hooked, and getting a couple of rises, we had very reluctantly to make tracks for our trap. Another half-hour would certainly have added a brace or two of good trout to our "bag." The Colne trout are in splendid condition, and fried with a rasher of bacon (by far the best way) are delicious eating.

We often hear complaints that in this hot weather it is impossible to keep fish sweet for more than a day. Why do not anglers buy glaciale powder, and carry it with them in a small pepper-box to sprinkle over the fish in the creel or bag? It will infallibly keep fish fresh for three or four days in the hottest weather and as bright as when caught.

The spring plummet invented by Mr. Hines, of Norwich, ought to be very popular with anglers. We have had one in use some time now, and find it far preferable to any of the old plummet. It is gradually getting known, but anglers are slow in adopting a new idea. At anyrate they might ask to look at it. We believe most of the London tackle shops keep it in stock, and those who do not, ought to. We know Mrs. Williams, of Great Queen Street, has a stock both in the original shape, and in the improved shape which we suggested, and which Mr. Hines at once adopted.

FISHING IN THE TIDEWAY.

ANGLING is now in full fling at Richmond and Twickenham amongst the roach and dace, principally the latter, with the addition of a few barbel. At the weekly meeting of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, Mr. J. H. Gaunt, who had been out one day and taken 18 lb. weight of fish stated that the bulk of the dace he had caught were eight inches in length. There is a capital arrangement for punt anglers at Twickenham, which is certainly a move in the right direction. Mr. A. Perrin who succeeded the late "Dorey Coxen" at the Two Sawyers, near the church, has established a system which will be hailed with much satisfaction by the rodsters. If a punt is required, and notice is received by him, he carries out all the arrangements. He supplies a good clean punt and a fisherman of good experience, such as Pert Hamerton and others. The punt is fitted up with a portable table, and in the middle of the day a hot dinner of meat, vegetables, &c., is sent up to order at the reasonable rate of eighteenpence each. When the day's fishing is over the anglers have nothing to settle with the fisherman—they go to the Two Sawyers, and Mr. Perrin gives them a bill, which includes the boat and fisherman, the dinner, and any stimulants that have been supplied, a receipt is given, and the courteous landlord hopes he shall see the anglers again. There is a large amount of satisfaction in this, as, when the fisherman is paid, whatever is given to him, he scarcely says, "Thank you;" or, as a friend of mine remarked the other day, after he had been out fishing he gave the fisherman half-a-sovereign, and all he got was a look from the fisherman, as much as to say, "Is that all?" I will now refer to the fishing, and I am sure I shall be excused from the deviation, especially as I have been requested to make the matter known by one who has experienced it, and he highly valued the arrangement. First of all, as regards Richmond, where the roach and dace fishing has been in excess of angling for dace, and taking the estimate of 13 punts, the gross weight of fish captured has been 262 lb, the lowest take being 15 lb., and the largest 30 lb. In reference to Twickenham, 13 punts have been successful in recording an aggregate of 317 lb., principally dace. The heaviest weight made in one punt was 45 lb. of dace, and the lowest 16 lb. of roach and dace. I believe the greatest weight was made in one of Mr. Perrin's punts. Pert Hamerton, who is a most expert fisherman,

in six successive days made the following returns: 18 lb., 13 lb., 18 lb., and two barbel; 18 lb., and one barbel; 16 lb.; and 35 lb. If I were to give an estimate of the gross weight and numbers taken in one week, it is just possible the figures would be doubted. From Richmond alone I have received reports of 293 lb. of roach and dace, ten barbel, about 98 dozen of roach and dace and thirty barbel. At Twickenham 317 lb. of roach and dace, and seven barbel, and 103 dozen of roach and dace, and six barbel. Now the fishing at these two places—Richmond and Twickenham—begins at about the Duke of Buccleuch's up to Stony Deep, about two miles of water, and the gross weights and numbers, from takes only, which I have received, are as follows: 610 lb. of roach and dace, 201 dozen of roach and dace, and 53 barbel. I do not apprehend the takes are exaggerated, as they have been supplied by the head river-keeper in the employ of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, nor do they include by any means all the takes of the week. I notice from the FISHING GAZETTE of last week Mr. Perrin alone has had 30 punts out in the week, with an average of 20 lb. each day, which would make a total of 620 lb. weight of fish by the boats from the Two Sawyers alone, besides what have been taken by other Twickenham fishermen, and these are a considerable number. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, the treasurer of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, was out in one of Mr. Perrin's boats for four hours, and took eight dozen of good fish, and that gentleman assured me they were all magnificent specimens of the finny tribe. Now where is there a river that can give anglers more sport in roach and dace fishing than the portion of the Thames at Richmond and Twickenham, known as Tideway fishing. To a stranger this will have to be explained, as I expect it will be read all over the United Kingdom, the Continent, and the Colonies, wherever the FISHING GAZETTE finds its way. In the tidal waters, as the tide recedes or advances, there is a constant finding out of the depths, as the fishing is all on the bottom, and when the tide is at flood angling has to be discontinued for one hour. If this stoppage occurs in the middle of the day it makes a nice interval for refreshments, but this depends on the state of high water, which varies every day. When it is high water at London Bridge about two hours is to be added to the time there for Twickenham, and this information is generally noted in the daily papers. I have no more to add to "Fishing in the Tideway," than to express a hope it will long continue. I believe this portion of the river is supplied with a good sample of professional fishermen—and the angling is not so expensive as above the locks. To those who like to enjoy quiet and good scenery, the upper portion above Teddington is the more attractive; but for actual sport at the present time, and plenty of society, Richmond and Twickenham are the best.

B.

THE PROPOSED "FISHING GAZETTE" TROUT-FLY AND SPINNING-BAIT TOURNAMENT.

YOU, Mr. Editor, suggest that a smooth lawn be used; very good, but what if there be any wind stirring, and the artful caster wait for a gust? I am led to make this remark because, when I was hon. sec. to the Piscatorial Society, in 1871, Mr. Francis Francis proposed a casting tournament which came off, on the day of our summer dinner, on the Green at Halliford, near Stone's Hotel, Mr. Greville Fennell being umpire.

The extract from our book is as follows: "Mr. Francis Francis gives two of his books on angling, value 15s. each, one for the longest cast of a single trout-fly, the other for the longest cast of a spinning-bait, both to be cast from a punt and measured from rod top; to come off at the summer dinner. Six casts allowed to each competitor. As Halliford was an unsuitable place to cast from a punt, we varied the instructions by casting on the Green. Mr. Skinner threw the longest fly, and Mr. Edwin Pratt, the spinning-bait; indeed, he threw it such an unexpected distance as to knock off Mr. Foster's hat, much to his friend, H. L. Rolfe's, surprise and alarm.

As regards the fly casting, those who cast in a calm, were distanced by those who waited for a gentle breeze, I therefore argue, it is not a fair test, unless it is a calm day, or general windy weather; in that case, it would be better to cast in the evening, when the wind usually abates. Our competitors used the same rods, fly, and spinning-bait.

* * * * *

An old friend of mine, an excellent judge of salmon, had a large picture painted by Rolfe in 1870, it contains salmon-trout and pike as large as in nature; my friend considers it a better picture than the one presented to Mr. Mundella, M.P. Having retired from business, and residing in the country, he has no further use for it, and it is now in my possession. I consider it one of my friend Rolfe's best studies of salmon and trout.

A piscatorial friend has sent me a copy of a weekly sporting paper with the following lines concerning the late Norwich Exhibitions marked for me to read:—"The Piscatorial Society bagged the first prize, as also Mr. Jardine for the finest individual collection; but, is it true that the £20 should have been divided?"

* * * * *

The following from the *Norwich Argus*, of April 23rd, will set that matter right. The editor, after alluding to Mr. Jardine's exhibit, and great skill as an angler, calls attention to his two fine 36 lb. and 37 lb. pike in one case, then adds: "of the other eight pike, we must select Mr. G. Lodge's (query, Ledger) 28½ lb. and Mr. Knechtli's three in one case, weighing 62 lb., caught within one hour. Among Thames fish, Mr. King's Thames trout of 12 lb.; Mr. Nuthall's two cases of carp of 15 lb. and 10 lb. Mr. Gaut's two cases of a 12 lb. barbel, and 6 lb. chub. The award to the Piscatorial Society was £15, a silver medal and two diplomas. Mr. Jardine, £15 for his exhibit, £5 for his 26 lb. Irish trout.

THOMAS RANSOM SACHS.

HINTS TO VISITORS TO THE CONTINENT.

THE fundamental blunder of English tourists is that (like the Americans) they always try to do too much. Belgium or Holland, followed by the Rhine and Switzerland, the tour finishing by a few days in Paris (when Paris is intolerable, for no one with a grain of *savoir vivre* would willingly go there between May and October), are pressed into four weeks. There is a hot, dusty journey almost daily, meals are scrambled over, not a moment of leisure or rest is enjoyed, and after a vast outlay, the travellers return as jaded and exhausted as though they had been engaged in an arduous campaign. How much better it would be to divide this regulation tour into sections. The Rhine one year, Heidelberg and the Black Forest to the Falls of the Rhine the next, a portion of Switzerland the next. Under ordinary conditions nothing is really seen of the beauties of each district. The Rhine in a day is preposterous, for its best scenery mostly lies in the country behind the banks. To "do" Heidelberg, Baden, and Strasburg each in an afternoon is equally absurd and unenjoyable. People should do things in a leisurely and rational fashion. Having chosen the scene of your tour, you should get to the starting-point with the least possible delay, and then devote just as many days to each place as you can enjoy. The purchase of either Murray or Baedeker (or both) should be the first step—most other guide-books are worthless; then a rough plan of the intended tour should be made, always allowing several days for contingencies; you may wish to repeat an excursion, the weather may be bad, or you may hear on the spot of expeditions not named in the guide books. Don't on any account be induced to hamper yourself with "circular tickets," which confine you to a particular route all through. In the choice of hotels, it is necessary at the start to depend on the guide-books; their recommendations are *bona fide*, but hotels often change hands in these days, and sometimes a house with a name degenerates with startling rapidity. In sending to order rooms, it is essential abroad always to specify not only the number of rooms, but the number of beds; and if the place is on a river, lake, or mountain, to state whether or not a room with the view is desired, as they are generally first in demand, although not expensive. Each member of a party should be limited to one stout portmanteau. Much luggage is not only very troublesome, but a serious source of expense; the charge for its conveyance is enormous, and every porter who touches it is entitled to demand a fee for each article; indeed, the "tip" system is now carried to intolerable lengths, except at a very few places. The head waiter, the man under whose special charge you have been, the porter, and at least one chamber-maid all stand about waiting for vails, and the men who clean boots expect and ask for them, as, although "service" is always an item in the bill, they are usually dependent on the liberality of visitors. Even the attendants on the hotel omnibus expect tips. Baths are always to be met with in decent hotels, and if there is a river there are certain to be baths in it, so it is unnecessary to carry one about; but a portable cane armchair is very desirable, for at most inns the garden seats are miracles of discomfort, and on the Rhine and other steamboats there is only the choice between a wooden bench and a campstool. A table d'hôte is a long hot business, even if the dinner is good; it is far better to order dinner at your own hour, but not *à la carte*, or you will be fearfully fleeced. Tell the waiter you want a dinner at from three and sixpence to four shillings (you must pay according to the hotel charges), and you should get a good and more than sufficient repast. At "tourist hotels" never order high-priced wines. When on the Rhine take Brauneberger, or Niersteiner (white), or Walporzheima (red), with a jar of the natural seltzer. The excellent and cheap Baden wines (Markgräfer and

Affenthal) between Heidelberg and Bale, and Bordeaux, or the Swiss Champagne (very drinkable with seltzer) in Switzerland, may be ordered anywhere with confidence; but except at hotels which have a local reputation for their cellars (such as the Disch at Cologne, the Golden Star at Bonn, and the Anchor at Coblenz) it is mere folly to order Marcobrunner or Liebfrauenmilch, Johannesberg or Scharlachberger. Sea-fish is always to be met with at hotels, however far inland, but on no account should turbot or sole be ordered on the Rhine or in Switzerland, as fresh-water fish of the best quality can usually be got with little trouble. If you wish for trout, impart certain orders as to its cooking, or it will be boiled to rags. In ordering breakfast or supper for two, always order "portion" for one, or if for three or four, for two, or you will find the people quick to take advantage of your ignorance, and enough will be sent up for three times your number, for the whole of which you will have to pay. "Strong" coffee or tea should always be ordered, and there will be no cream with the latter unless specially asked for, except in the Black Forest and in Swiss country inns. Take a large piece of very dark green cloth (the stuff used for blinds) to fix up in your window, or you will wake with the dawn, as the ordinary outside blinds do not keep out the light, and with the sun comes an intolerable heat. Of course, fanatics who rise at five do not require this; but I speak to people who are rational enough to wish to be comfortable, even although they are touring. Never start without a few books. Lever's "Dodd Family" is the best travelling novel I know. It is well, too, to order a weekly newspaper to be sent to meet one, as English papers are not always to be seen, and people languish for news. The *Pall Mall Budget* is the best for this purpose.

It is no use to give advice where to go—people must suit their tastes; but Holland is not pleasant during the four summer months nor indeed are any large towns, and it always seems to me that the best plan is to put up either at a small country place, or at a town where there is plenty of cool shade and fine scenery all round. Endless picture galleries and churches are odious in summer.

I prefer Coblenz, Heidelberg, or Freiberg, to Brussels, Cologne, Frankfurt, or Mayence. The Black Forest, Ardennes, the Swiss country inns are not so pleasant after July, as they are invariably overcrowded; this is also the case with the Swiss mountain hotels. Of the Rhine country I may have something further to say. Schlangenbad and Schwalbach are two charming places, within a walk of each other—the one buried in hills and woods, the other open and bracing, but with plenty of shade behind. Heidelberg, so eulogised by Lord Beaconsfield in "Vivian Grey," is a quiet, beautiful town, and all round are excursions without end. A month would quickly pass here, and in hot weather there is always the Castle terrace, and the adjacent woods, and the walk to Wolfsbrunnen, where you can have a fish dinner of various kinds of trout, cooked in different ways, which you will have the pleasure of seeing caught and then killed by a blue-eyed nymph who looks so tender and sentimental that one could imagine her fainting at the sight of a black-beetle. Freiburg is excellent head-quarters for the lower part of the Black Forest, and the Pfau Hotel is one of the best in the country. Baden depresses all who remember the old days, but the delightful scenery all round is unchanged. Comfortable lodgings can be obtained on very moderate terms in the pretty villas on the road to Lichtenthal. The Schweizerhof, at the falls of the Rhine, is a place where a hot week may be pleasantly passed. You can sit on the shady terrace with the cataract in full view, but the Rhine is expected to be very low this autumn. Dresden is out of the question at this season, and the Saxon Switzerland is overrun with German tourists after June. Further south there is the voyage down the Danube (which ought not to be hurried over, as the scenery on and behind the bank is magnificent), and then delicious Ischl, with its pine wood, and its mountains, and its clear rapid river—three months would not exhaust the excursions of the district. The Italian lakes are odious after June. As to Switzerland, for ordinary people who do not go in for climbing, and who dislike crowd and bustle, June and July are the best month. It is absurd to undertake the long and troublesome journey to the Engadine, unless at least a clear month is to be passed there; but when this time can be spared, there is no place in Switzerland where the scenery is more beautiful, or the air more exhilarating. The ascent of the Rigi is disappointing; and Lucerne and Geneva are terribly hot and dusty. Instead of spending a month in travelling, let the only journeys be out and home, and stick to one district, and then the tour will really be enjoyed. The Flushing route is the best to Germany—going through to Bonn or Coblenz—but if the mail is preferred, the best place to break the journey is Spa. Brussels is hot and glaring in summer, and its hotels are dear and bad: but a week or two will quickly pass at Spa, for its woods are charming and all the country round is most picturesque. There is a new route to Bale in twenty hours,

but incomparably the best way to Switzerland is from Paris to Neuchatel by Pontarlier. It is a common delusion in England that "nobody" travels first-class abroad; but in the second, you will find the herd of tourists of all countries—and if first cannot be afforded, people had much better travel third at once. The fact is that first-class is just as commonly used as with us.—*Truth.*

OH, THOSE STEAM LAUNCHES!

ANOTHER clause of an indictment against these dangerous vessels navigating a narrow and tortuous river like the Thames was framed a week or so since in the *Field* from the pen of a writer who has been always careful of his facts. He states that the wash left by these vessels in scouring the shallows close to the edge of the river, cast up a great number of the fry of fish, always to be found in an inch or so of water, which fry are left by the receding wave to perish, and become the food of the rooks and other fish-feasting birds. Fancy such a slaughter occurring all the way up the river, and on many portions on both sides of the Thames! Need we look for any other cause of the depletion of the fish resources of the river? If so, we must at least place this wholesale mode of fish-butcherery amongst the principal ones. Since the letter in question appeared in our contemporary, the fact has received confirmation from eye-witnesses at Streatley, Reading, Pangbourne, and other districts, whose attention being thus called to the circumstance have watched the passage of these steamers, and noted the destruction of the fry that followed in their wake.

Nor is the charge that these vessels disturb and set loose—thus rendering abortive—the proper and profitable fecundation of the spawn of fish, fallacious. Such a consequence needs no argument. It would be a wonder if it were otherwise. It is a fundamental law of fish nature, that the ova should rest for a certain period in the spot in which it is deposited, and all experience proves that if removed from a situation which instinct has selected for such purpose generation no longer has a chance, and incubation is frustrated. Now, as the beds of aquatic vegetation are the principal localities selected by the fish for the apparently safe protection of the ova, how, we would ask, is it possible that these beds can remain as nature intended, if one vessel after another ploughs through their erst matted fastnesses, and sends, partly crushed, adrift their valuable contents? The spawn of salmon and trout being comparatively buried beneath the surface is, to a certain extent, out of the reach of such mischief. But the popularity of the Thames does not rest upon its salmon or its trout. It is a question, if it did, and a single instance of the gravel coverlid of the bed of the former fish being shown to be washed off by a steam launch, the Legislature would not be up in arms, Professor Huxley actively proving his late appointment was not a sinecure, and the ghost of dear Frank Buckland haunting the cabins of these mischievous and dangerous overgrown toys.

WEEDY SWIMS.

AN angler, within the reach of whose voice G. F. happened to be on the banks of the Colne, was anathematising in no measured terms, and in far from dulcet tones or refined language, the forest of weeds which denied him an opportunity of finding a swim, when his flow of invectives was arrested by G. F. observing "Do you see no good in that luxuriance of aquatic vegetation?" The reply cannot be put in print. The printer can, however, faintly represent it by dashes and asterisks, with a very liberal abundance of D's. In the evening G. F. was challenged as to the good of these sub-aqueous plants to the angler. His reply was short and definite. Firstly, they afford shelter to the fish to spawn in; secondly, without their shade the water in tropical weather would be intolerable to the fish; thirdly, the cool shade of the flags and flat-leaved plants was as necessary to pike and carp as any artificial protection to man or woman against the glare of the sun's rays; fourthly, they act in restraining the current, and thereby keep up, more particularly in summer, a greater body of water; fifthly, their chemical effect upon the water is to keep and preserve it pure; and lastly, and not the least important influence they bear, is to generate and cherish insect life, upon which fish exist and thrive, and without which they would languish and die. G. F. was suddenly stopped here by the man he was more especially addressing, or, more truthfully, speaking at. "Shut up, master," he cried. "I've heard enough. I will never damn the weeds any more, as they dam the water." The wretch was the punning veteran, C. H.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Think naught a trifle, though it small appear ;
Small sands the mountains, moments make the year,"—YOUNG.

The above pretty idea may have little to do with angling which thousands of folks look upon as idle trifling, but if they had had an opportunity of visiting old Father Thames during the past week and seen the hundreds of eager banksmen, the dozens of punts, containing laughing children gleefully catching gudgeon, besides the dozens of boats or punts wily at work in the boughs after chub or perch, and they would have been convinced that the trifle had become the mountain, and fishing, as it really is, an institution! The river is now in the very pink of condition for all kinds of summer work, and most Thames fish seem fairly on the feed, their appetites having been freshened up by the recent rain, which has acted evidently like hop-bitters on their fishy palates. Roach and jack are the two exceptions, for these scaly gentlemen are very shy. With regard to jack, it does not matter, for I think it a pity to angle for them until September or October; but why should roach reject all advances? unless it is that they are having a jolly blow-out on the luscious weeds, and from which very few respectable roach will wag a fin. Perch are well on, ditto chub, ditto barbel, with lavish diet of worms. From Pangbourne and Maple Durham I hear of grand takes of chub with the fly, and pretty baskets of perch with lob or red worm. At Henley, Mr. Pugh on one occasion from Marsh Pool, had 30 lb. of barbel, and a trout of 3 lb., and on another day, thirteen barbel, scaling 69 lb. Mr. Goslet with Rush, 57 lb. of chub and barbel from the same pool. At Magpie Island, the perch and gudgeon have been taken in great quantities and of a fine size. At Hurley, the Masters Lawrence out with Curtis did not get much, with the exception of one of the young gentlemen who got a ducking, but was not daunted at that, for he ran home three miles to put on dry toggery, and then returned to wet a line instead of himself. These same gentlemen on Tuesday, out with Hatch, caught 10 dozen gudgeon. Mr. Bennett, in the Hurley waters, has had some pretty perch with an artificial minnow, best fish scaling 3½ lb., having gone to town to be Madame Rachel! d. Mr. Brooksbank, in the Hurley waters, has taken during the past week some 20 lb. of perch, best 2 lb., and two tench weighing respectively 2½ lb. and 1½ lb.; these fish were exhibited at Mr. Rodwell's, the Bell Inn, Hurley, and excited the admiration of natives and visitors. Thursday evening.—Weather inclined to be stormy; the river cannot, however, be injured by this, in its excellent trim.—"MARLOW BUZZ."

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all round fish; prospects better; jack, roach and perch biting very well. My best day, fourteen pound of good perch, four jack.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for all-round fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me during the last week. Their takes have been as follows, viz.:—First day, Mr. Palmer, jun., caught over thirty-five pound weight (ledgering), viz.: nine barbel, three chub (one going four-and-quarter pound), three perch, four roach and seven eels; second day, Mr. Goodale, one jack, three perch, one eel, and some roach; third day, Mr. Spencer, six dozen roach and dace; fourth day, Mr. Jeff and a friend, four-and-half dozen roach and dace; 5th day, Mr. George Palmer, five nice chub (one going over four-and-three quarter pound, and two weighing about six pound), one bream (of two pound), and three eels.—GEORGE ROSEVELL, Fisherman.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water still low, but in very good condition for fishing. The fish are on the feed better, and likely to be for the next few days. Mr. H. Purdue, three days, 7 doz. roach and dace, 3 barbel and 4 perch, largest 1½ lb.; Mr. F. Purdue, four days, 5 doz. roach, dace and barbel; Mr. W. Rogerson, four days—first day, 20 barbel and bream, weighing over 30 lb.; second day, with Mr. King, fishing with phantom minnow, took 2 trout of 4 lb. each, and rose a large one fishing with a fly, but missed it; the other two days, 5 barbel and 1½ doz. large roach fishing for barbel, 3 chub, 1 perch of 1 lb., and a jack of 4 lb.—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Sunbury).

The water is in good order for all-round fishing. J. Stroud, three days; best day with Mr. Littlewood and friend, four dozen roach and four chub. A. Stroud, five days; best day with Mr. Walter Howard, of Moore and Burgess Minstrels, and his friend, Mr. Will Arther, eight dozen roach and thirteen bream.—ALFRED STROUD.

Thames (Twickenham).

A little rise in the water. Moderate wind, S.W., but nothing to cause alarm, as the water is now falling fast, and anglers may expect a good time of it next week, as tide will suit for whole day's fishing. I have still been fully employed. We have had some very large takes during the past week. Spiers, one day with Mr. Fitcher, Newgate Street, 31 lb., including 12 very fine roach and 1 barbel; Mr. Grimes, 12 dozen roach and dace; Pert Hammerton, Capt. Smith, 13 dozen one day; Mr. Orde, 8 dozen in five days; Jem. Hammerton, with Dr. Calender, 10 lb. one day; ditto, one day 15 lb., and one barbel scaling 7 lb.; Dick Moffat, with Mr. Cobett, 16 lb. in five hours; Mr. Holmes, one day, 10 dozen, 1 large eel; Joe Dobbin, 1 dozen, with Dr. Clark,

26 lb., 2 barbel; one day with Mr. Walker, 36 lb., and 1 fine barbel 5 lb.; one day with Mr. Cook, of the Star and Garter, St. Anne's Hill, Wandsworth, 18½ lb. of fine fish. N.B.—In reference to the report which appeared in the *Referee* of August 7, I must entirely repudiate the whole of the same with reference to our takes, the reporter not having any authority to make such idiotic statements. The fact of an 8½ lb. perch speaks for itself with common-sense persons.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

One hundred and forty-two more trout, making a total of 272 turned in within the last three weeks by the Windsor and Eton Angling Society, is the best news I have this week, though, from what I saw of the size, with the exception of one-and-half dozen, they were much too small to put in this water, the average being about five inches, just a nice size for jack bait. As they have not been used to being preyed upon in their native stream, doubtless the only place benefited by this increase will be "John's larder." When turned in they do not swim off as other fish would, but lie on the bottom, and refuse to move even when touched, looking much as if resigned to their fate. I did not see the lot turned in about. Sport in the neighbourhood has been pretty fair. We could do with a lot more rain, as the water is still very low, though a better temperature. Had we not had the late rain I am afraid there would not have been a fin to record. On the 7th inst. Dick Gray, with a patron, had a very handsome trout, between four or five pound, eight chub, one perch, one dace, all taken ledgering with worm. On the 5th inst. he had, fishing with Mr. Hockey, of 84, Old Kent Road, London, one bream, three-and-half pounds (a curiosity in the upper waters), two barbel, five perch, one dozen dace and three chub. In the Windsor Weir stream two good jack were had on the 7th inst. by Mr. Marsh, going eight pound and five pound. On the 6th inst., at the same place, Mr. Libert, who is staying at Park Street, Windsor, caught a jack six-and-half pound, and a few days before took an eel, whilst spinning a gudgeon, weighing one-and-half pounds. On the 7th inst. James Gray, with a patron, had nine barbel, largest four pound. At Datchet, on the 7th inst., James Hoare, with a patron, had nine barbel, and on the 8th inst., with a patron, eight barbel. Owing to the late rain bank angling has greatly improved, and some good roach are being had by good fishermen and fishing fine. A friend of mine from the Bank took between 6.30 p.m. and dusk, from the Brocas, Eton, 46 good roach. A brace of chub, going six pound, were had from the Windsor Weir, where many more are waiting for a judiciously cast-fly in the shape of a good palmer or red and black-bodied bee. Gudgeon are coming well to the rake, and some good sport is now being had, the fish being of good size. One punt in a few hours had just on fourteen dozen. Barbel are being baited, and should we get a discoloured water, caused by a good fall of rain, expect some capital sport would be had. As it is, fishing, even after the late rain, must be "fine and far off."—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The sport on this river continues to be very good. Large baskets of coarse fish are made by juveniles, and some very large bream continue to be taken by both local anglers and visitors—we get a good contingent of the latter from Sheffield from time to time. Almost all kinds of bait are now taken. I have found new brown bread to be a most killing bait for roach, the particles of bran attract the funny tribe. As I have said on former occasions, I should like to see this stream well stocked with tench and carp, and a few barbel and black bass would also be acceptable. The introduction of fresh varieties would in time immensely help the sale of tickets, and prove a source of profit to the Commissioners. The terms for tickets are very reasonable: 6d. per day, or 5s. the season for non-residents.—THOMAS FORD.

Avon (Stratford-on-Avon.)

The water here is in very fair condition, if anything, a little too fine, but with another day's steady rain, like the present one, I think we may expect to hear of some good being done. At present there has not been much done, excepting dapping for chub with the natural blue bottle, a friend of mine taking in this way eighteen pounds, largest fish being two pounds. My brother (Mr. G. E. Warner, with two friends, have had exceptionally good sport among the roach considering the state of the water, taking altogether about fifty pounds; Mr. Warner, thirty-five pounds, largest fish, one pound eight ounces, in all, seventy fish; friends, fifteen pound, all taken with stewed malt. The bream are not properly on the feed, as only an occasional odd one has been caught. What I think is wanting, is a good fresh for bottom fishing, and until then there will be very little done.—ARTHUR W. WARNER.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are now in very good order for angling either with fly or minnow, and some very fair baskets have been taken during the last week. It has been raining the last two days, but not heavy enough to bring down a flood. The glass is, however, now rising, and there is every prospect of good fishing during the next few days. A friend of mine killed on Monday 30 nice trout with the blue upright, cowdung and red spinner, and on Tuesday 28, with the minnow. In my report for last week, I see an error in printing, as the word "roach" was inserted for "trout," and, as the former fish do not frequent these rivers, I mention it, as some ardent roach anglers might be led astray. No salmon have as yet been caught.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

We have had copious rains this week, which have brought an immense quantity of water into the river and raised its height considerably. Round Ham, Hartington, Ashbourne and Uttoxeter heavy floods have been threatened, but at the time of writing (Thursday night) the water seems to be slightly receding. I think the fresh will greatly improve the condition of the river, as it will remove the accumulations of the last three months, and stir the fish up into good biting humour. With the exception of Monday last, I cannot hear of a great deal being done, the reason being the swollen state of the river. However, the bottom fishers have succeeded fairly well in the still places amongst chub, dace, roach and perch. One wasp-grub has proved the best bait on the bottom, but this lure is hard to obtain about here, in consequence of the scarcity of wasps' nests this season. The rodster got 10 lb. of chub and bream near Rochester, on Wednesday, and others have done pretty well at the junction of the Dove and Trent. Just before the floods set in, excellent baskets of trout were secured near Mayfield, the average numbering quite 8 brace per-rod. The members of the Norbury Club have been enjoying splendid sport, one of them getting nine brace last Saturday evening. The improved Devon has been working great execution amongst the large trout. This bait is double the weight of the ordinary Devon and has bigger hooks. In Bentley tributary, on Monday, five brace were taken with it, one fish scaling nearly 2 lb. Though the river is receding, yet more rain threatens as I write.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The weather has been rather unsettled for good fishing during the past few days, but should the wind change more to the southward after the heavy down-pour of yesterday (Monday) and during the night, we may expect some pretty fair sport. Several parties were out and got thoroughly drenched, but were pretty successful with the perch, roach and eels. It appears that the report of salmon having been poisoned or otherwise destroyed by dynamite in and about Salmon Pool is correct enough after all enquiries made, as a reward of £10 is offered for the apprehension of the offender or offenders, whom I sincerely hope will be brought to justice. The bill states that salmon have been taken from the Exe by this scandalous means; if they only took one third of what have been seen floating in the stream since they must have had a good haul. On Sunday week a friend of mine who owns some first-rate diving dogs (Irish retrievers) whilst going through their usual morning's swimming bout, brought to the surface two fish which would have weighed 16 or 18 lb. each. The net fishermen in the tidal waters are doing well, and it is to be hoped the freshest now coming down will hasten the pollution onwards, and allow the fish to make for the upper waters, so as to enable the rod fishermen to bag a few during the time left at their disposal. Fish of all kinds plentiful in estuary. Mackerell numerous, but very small (jossies), although Mr. Satchell, fish-monger, of Martin's Lane, had a few rather fine ones from Torbay, which turned the scale at 2 lb. and over.

FRANK GOSDEN.

Hickling.

Messrs. Henry Bly and Adamson caught on Hickling waters on Monday last the following, viz., 15 roach weighing 12½ lb., 44 rudd, 42 lb. 7 oz.; 35 perch and bream, 29 lb., making the total 94 fish, and the weight 6 stone. The above being nearly all taken with red paste on single gut lines. It is advisable to drop a line to Mr. Samuel White, Pleasure Boat Inn, Hickling, to provide boats and accommodation, and put anglers on grounds where good catches may be taken.

—J. W. ADAMSON.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

Since the opening of the season for jack-fishing the takes have been good, and some fine fish has been taken, scaling from 3 to 7 lb. The late rain has greatly improved the waters, and a great number of anglers have paid a visit to the old spot where both old and new friends are both welcome. By the end of this week we can look forward for good sport.—S. SEWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

We have had fine sport this week; water in splendid condition, and weather everything that can be desired. On Friday Mr. Carr, of Tunbridge Wells, got 30 lb. of bream and roach; on Saturday Messrs. J. Le Fleming, E. Greenwood and R. Mortimore got 15 lb. of oream and roach; on Monday, Mr. Buley killed six pike and Mr. Swinnard three; on the same day Mr. J. Purday, of London, grassed 5 bream averaging 3 lb. each, besides several good roach; and on Wednesday he killed over 41 lb. of bream and roach, one of the former going over 4 lb. The secretary on Tuesday got 14 lb. of bream, roach and perch. On Wednesday Mr. G. Payner and B. St. John Waghorne grassed a good basket of dace below the town. Prospects of sport good.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Norfolk Broads.

One of the members of the Royal Beehive Angling Club, Norwich, accompanied by a friend on Friday last, caught 72 lb. of roach, and another member with a friend 174 fine roach. There are a large number of Thames anglers now gone to the Broads, and Mr. Alfred Nuthall of Kingston, and Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, the presidents of the Stanley Anglers, are going there in a few days. The Great Eastern Railway has just put on another daily express train at two o'clock, completing the journey in exactly three hours to Yarmouth. Until this year the trains used to occupy three hours and forty minutes, and the reduction of forty minutes is a grand improvement, and a great temptation for holiday takers and anglers.

Ormesby Broad.

The weather being fine for the last few days there have been several fishermen out, being well satisfied with the sport. Among the most successful were Mr. Bullimore and Mr. George, of Great Yarmouth, who in one day caught, with two rods, 60 lb. of fine bream and roach; and on Monday last, Mr. H. Brookwell, of London, belonging to Good Intent Angling Society, caught, with one rod, 50 lb. of fish, mostly bream, some of them weighing 3½ lb. each; and Mr. Weatherhead, of Isis Tavern, Ilfley, now at Ormesby, is getting very good sport. Most of the fish are being taken with brandling and lob worm. Any gentleman wishing for good fresh water fishing had better come to Ormesby Broad, seven miles distant from Yarmouth, five miles by North Norfolk Railway, fare, 5d.; and waggonettes leaving Ormesby station to the Broad, fare, 6d. each way.—T. RICHMOND.

Ouse (Bedford.)

Owing to the heavy rains of Sunday the river Ouse was very thick and muddy on Bank Holiday, and the fish did not feed at all well. The catches were very scanty, but on the following day the water settled down, and the fish bit well. I succeeded in hooking 35 roach and four bream, and the parties fishing both on the right and left of me had some fine catches of bream, many of them scaling four or five lbs. On Thursday I fished at Great Barford in a splendid reach of water, but the day was intensely hot, and the roach did not bite well until the cool of the evening, when I got 21. I fished on the north side of Bedford on Friday, and hooked 44 roach, weighing six-and-a-half lb. The water in this neighbourhood is very good and full of fish. A good stretch of it is in the hands of an Angling Club who employ keepers, and the waters are well looked after. It is easy of access from London, and day tickets are only 1s. 6d. each for bottom fishing. Perch and jack abound in the club waters, and I noticed that one place, called "The New Cut," seemed literally alive with fish.—ROVER.

Severn (Kidderminster).

The Severn is still as low as it has been for three or four weeks, and very fine. The fish are feeding upon the various animalculæ which abound upon the weeds and roots of the trees growing on the river banks, so will not be enticed by other baits. So long as the dry weather lasts the prospects for anglers are poor. Should a fresh water come on I have no doubt but what plenty of fish will be taken, as the roach are beginning to take the paste, but great caution has to be taken to capture them. A few good takes have been taken. Mr. William Mound has been fortunate in taking, with the black palmer and cock-y-bonduhu, in the canal at Fearnal Heath, sixty chub, weighing about 20 lb. The river

Stour, I am sorry to say, is poached and unfairly fished almost nightly, and yet the club members who have the right of this good river do not interfere to stop it.—AN ANGLER.

Suir and its Tributaries. Clonmel (Ireland).

We can see more weeds and stones in the river now than fish, it is so very low, so we have only to tell of a few peal being killed with rod and line, even the cots are getting very few this week; their season ends on Monday next, but the rod fishing will remain open for a month longer. Trout fishing has been very bad these few days. There is a good rise in the evening, but they won't look at any thing. At Golden, there were three men successfully convicted for poaching with a net for salmon, one man was fined £8 and the other two £10 and costs, and the net forfeited. The bailiff who prosecuted them has since been assaulted, and lies in a precarious state in the county infirmary.—DORA.

Swale.

Owing to the continuance of a lower temperature, many of the Midsummer flies are falling off, and the second hatchings of the spring varieties begin to appear. Some of the best flies upon the water just now are the checkwing, sanded dun, freckled dun, grey goose dun, blue spinner and red dun. Some good dishes have recently been obtained by visitors at Evinton Lodge in that part of the river preserved by Major Charlesworth.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

We have had all kinds of weather in this locality the past week—good, indifferent, and bad, the latter predominating from an angler's point of view. The latter end of last week some excellent baskets of fish were reported from Alrewas. Mr. Thornton had 15 lb. of good roach and perch, and Mr. W. Reynolds a 17½ lb. basket of fish, amongst them a barbel 3½ lb., which was landed on one of S. Allcock's Redditch No. 12 fine wire roach hooks—the very best roach hook I have tried in my experience as an angler, and which I strongly recommend to the notice of my angling brethren. Messrs. Adams, Parker, and Edwin Hooper have been having some excellent sport, beginning with worms, among a goodly lot of roach, perch, and eels, they captured a fine brace of chub. Mr. Parker's fish weighed 4 lb. and Mr. Hooper's close on 5 lb. It has been arranged that they be both set up in one case to adorn the room of the Birmingham and Midland Association with another who fell a victim under the following peculiar circumstances:—Our river keeper, taking a stroll on the banks of the river Tame, found a fish struggling in the water, and nearly dead. On taking it out he found it had partially gorged a rat, and was nearly choked. only the hind feet and tail of the rat visible. The chub was nearly 4 lb. and the rat half a pound. I have read of chub taking almost everything, but I think this is a rarity. The fish was sent to me with the rat in his gullet, so I can ratify the story. Pardon the joke, Mr. Editor, should it not be entertained by your readers? The weather has been miserably wet to-day, and very few anglers are out. Latest advices from the river state that the water is still discoloured from recent storms, and not in proper condition for fishing with worms, which will, I have no doubt, prove the best bait for the present. Anyhow, the largest fish will be taken with them, if not the largest quantity. When the water clears some good roach should be taken with stewed wheat. Great care, however, should be taken not to throw too much in while ground baiting; a few grains at a time is quite sufficient.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is still very low and bright, but is in capital condition for general angling. We have had some very heavy rains lately, but it has not yet made any difference to the water. All kinds of fish are biting very nicely. Some good barbel, bream, roach and dace have been killed in various localities on the Trent. A friend of mine and a friend took the other day seventeen fine chub, with wasp grub, the biggest going 5½ lb. (a grand fish). Worms are still the best baits for barbel and bream; wasp grubs for chub and gentles for roach and dace, with the addition of plain bread paste, and creed wheat and malt for the former fish, roach; fine tackle, patience, and a judicious application of ground bait, with a proper selection of swims; and then, I think, a few fish will reward the angler.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham.)

Although the weather has been very boisterous and stormy the anglers have got on quite as well as could be expected under the circumstances, the barbel fishers in particular have been doing some capital work, two rodsters up the river captured twenty barbel, the smallest weighing 4½ lb., and the largest 6 lb., they used worms for bait, and a better sample has not been seen in Nottingham this season. One of the gentlemen observed this is the result of being at a little trouble to find a new spot, it will always pay the angler in the long run, and I have always been of that opinion myself, and I think all professional fishermen ought, while their customers are away, to be at some little trouble to find them a fresh place where the fish have not been disturbed, instead of taking them to one old fished-out spot time after time. The barbel fishers at Shardlow have also brought down some good baskets, W. Bailey junr. took nine nice fish besides several chub without baiting. At Collingham the bream have been well on the feed, two rods taking 60 lb. in a few hours, I of course, need hardly say worms were the bait employed. Two other piscators took 15 lb. of eels and flanders, on the same day Monday, some capital roach with both maggots and wheat, several of the fish going over a pound each; and the gentlemen said had the weather been so unfavourable, twice the number of fish must have been landed, a few inches of rise in the water set the eels running, one rodster took ten in about an hour, the largest 1½ lb., the river to-day is again down to low water mark and the water is in capital condition for fishing with any of the baits employed at this season—worms for preference.—E. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

Water still in first-class condition and weather delightful, some nice showers having fallen during the week, thus keeping the waters slightly dulled. A rather singular capture was made here this week. Mr. G. Judge, whilst fishing for roach, with paste for bait, hooked and landed, much to his surprise, a nice eel, which weighed 13 oz. Large quantities of roach are being taken almost every day. The Caxton Angling Club will hold the third of their prize competitions for this season on Saturday next.

P.S.—Please rectify a mistake made last week, and make the weight of the tench caught by Mr. Block 2 lb. 8½ oz. instead of 26 lb. 8½ oz.—C.B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a very heavy thunderstorm here last Monday afternoon, which caused a nice little flush to come down the Derwent, which has made it a first-class time for the bottom fishers, and some fine catches of both trout and eels, and a great number of coarse fish, have been killed off of various parts of the Derwent

with worms and wasp grubs, both baits being well taken. This rain has not disturbed either the rivers Wye or Lathkill, as they are quite low, and as clear as gin. The fly-fishers have killed some small baskets with the artificial fly during the past week on the Wye, but wind has been so very rough and boisterous that it has been all against fly-fishing. Sport with the artificial fly the latter end of last week was first-class all over Derbyshire, and some very heavy baskets of fish were killed, one gentleman, a native, taking eleven brace of fish (grayling) that weighed 15 lb. This was done in F. C. Arkwright's presence in the water below Cromford Bridge in the Derwent, and several others have killed large baskets round and about Whatstandwell. The best feeding times are early in the morning and the last thing at night. The small honey dun bumbles, reds, sandflies and duns have been the best flies that can be used. Sport, both both on the brooks and ponds, has been good during the week, and some nice baskets of trout have been killed with both bottom and fly fishing. The trollers have done fairly on the Derwent both with the natural minnow and the small Derby trout killer, one gentleman killing six and a half brace of very fine trout with the latter artificial the latter end of last week, close to Matlock Bridge. Fishing prospects are looking A1 for next week.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholms, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

(Arrived too late for last week.)

It rarely happens at this time of the year that anglers are favoured to the extent that they have been during the past fortnight. Heavy rain on Sunday last once more flooded the Yore and its tributaries, so that, excepting Monday, there has been good sport all this week. I have had three good days myself, Wednesday being the best, when I killed a grand dish of trout with the natural minnow. I had not a small fish amongst the lot, and they were in the pink of condition. The fish have not, however, taken fly well, but some heavy baskets of roach, dace and chub have been taken with maggots and wasp grub. There is a nice fly water in the Yore to-day (Thursday), and no doubt before long I shall have some good sport to record against the grayling fishermen, as these handsome fish are now getting into good order once more. Ripon races have been on this week, so that not so many anglers have been astir as usual.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

There has been a lot more rain since my last week's report, consequently the Yore has again been in flood; the fish are getting glutted with bottom food, so that a little fly fishing would be a welcome change.—F. M. W.

AN AMAZING FISH STORY.

(Translation from the French in the San Francisco Chronicle.)

A rich proprietor at the interior had made to establish a pond artificial, where found themselves agglomerated 3000 trout.

The proprietor is the father of a girling of from five to six.

She had taken the habitude to go each morning to give to eat to the trouts, at the aid of crumbs of bread.

These fishes had become so entamed that they skipped out of the water for to atrap the crumbs which the infant held in the crevice of her hand.

It arrived one day that she lost the equilibrium and she fell, the head first, in the pond, of which the water was enough profound.

At the cries emitted by the girling the father was run himself.

But what horror!

He saw his infant extended without movement at the surface, where she floated as a cork.

What was not the surprise of the father in seeing that she had been supported by a mass compact of trouts?

The fishes had arranged themselves under her body as to sustain and prevent her from to drown.

If this history is truthful, the fishes are not so much deprived of the intelligence as one pleased himself to believe.

SANITARY OVERSIGHT OF THE PORT OF LONDON.—The attention of the Fishmongers' Company has been directed to the nuisance caused by the accumulation of decomposed fish in a floating dummy, and since then condemned fish has been thrown down in heaps in the market, and came under the jurisdiction of other authorities. Special attention has been paid to the drinking water on board vessels, and on the smaller ones, especially barges, there was great room for improvement. Vigilant oversight was devoted to vessels from Antwerp, as one case of small-pox had been discovered on board of one such vessel, and many cases occurred at that port. The closets at the various docks were strictly supervised, and the authorities were prompt in acting on suggestions. The earth system was in use.

A FISH CHOKED BY A RAT.—Mr. James Gregory, of Vyse Street, Birmingham, honorary secretary to the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association, received on Wednesday afternoon by rail from the society's river keeper at Alrewas (Charles Draper), a splendid chub, which had unwittingly proved its own captor, having been choked by a rat. Draper found the fish that morning floundering in the river Tame, close to the bank, evidently in a distressed condition. He got it out, and then found that it had gorged a rat, which had stuck in its gullet and choked it. Only the hind feet of the rat were visible, protruding from the mouth of the fish. The chub scaled 3 lb. 10 oz., and the rat would weigh half a pound.

SALMON FISHING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—The salmon fishing upon the Cascapedia and Restigouche Rivers has been a good deal better this year than last, and already some very large takes of fish have been had. Sir John McNeil, who has been fishing in the Grand Cascapedia, reports an unusual catch of salmon even for that most remarkable of salmon rivers. Sir John is reported to have taken with his own rod nine fish in one day, the largest weighing 46 lb., the next largest 42 lb., and the smallest 29 lb. On Mr. Stevens' fishery, on the Metapedia, sixteen fish were taken recently in one day, averaging over 27 lb., the successful fishermen being Mr. Stevens, Lord Elphinstone, Mr. John S. Kennedy, the well known New York banker, and Mr. Thorne. At the Rectigouche Salmon Club, where last year no fish were taken until after June 22, forty fish have been taken, averaging 27½ lb., the largest catches having been made by Mr. Locke W. Winchester and Mr. Julian Catlin, jun. The prospects are that the salmon season just about beginning will be one of the best for taking large fish in the memory of any of the old fishermen who have been accustomed to visit Northern New Brunswick.

GRAND INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1883.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on the 5th inst., at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, to support the suggestions made at a preliminary meeting of noblemen and gentlemen to hold an international fisheries exhibition during the year 1883, with the object of improving the fisheries of the United Kingdom. The Marquis of Exeter presided, and amongst others present were Lord Abinger, Sir J. Macdonald (Premier of Canada), Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P., Mr. E. Clarke, M.P., Mr. Edmund Birkbeck, M.P., Alderman W. Lawrence, M.P., Alderman Sir Thomas Dakin, Sir Henry Peek, Sir William Whiteway, Alderman Hanson, Admiral Ward (from the National Lifeboat Association), Dr. Hood, Mr. S. Shoobridge (Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company), Mr. Walpole, Mr. Lewis Buxton, Major Flood Page, W. Oldham Chambers, W. H. Brougham, J. Spreckley, A. Jardine, G. Fennel, R. B. Marston, J. P. Wheeldon, Capt. Alfred, &c.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said the subject they were called together to discuss was one of the greatest importance to the country, and was at the present time engaging earnest public attention. The fish supply was totally inadequate to the demand, but he had no doubt the fisheries could be so improved as to meet the national requirements, and he held it to be their duty to do everything in their power to bring about such a desirable result. He could say with authority that the exhibition recently held in Norfolk had already brought about some very important improvements, and he ventured to assert that a similar exhibition in London would do ten times the amount of good.

The Prime Warden then moved the first resolution, in the following words:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to hold a Grand International Fisheries Exhibition in London in the year 1883." He stated that the Fishmongers' Company took great interest in the project, and they would do what they could to carry it out with success. They proposed giving £500 towards the preliminary expenses, and to join in the guarantee fund to the extent of £2000. It was clear something out to be done to increase the supply of fish, and he believed a movement of this kind, properly carried out, would have the desired effect.

Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., seconded the motion, and said he was confident an exhibition of this kind would do a vast amount of good.

Lord Abinger, speaking in support of the proposition, said he hoped they would then take into consideration the best methods that should be adopted for the preservation of fish as well as their destruction.

Sir G. Macdonald remarked that the news of such an exhibition would be heartily welcomed in Canada, and he was sure the promoters would receive the support of the Canadian Government.

The motion was then put, and unanimously carried, and after some further discussion,

Sir A. Lusk moved a resolution, to the effect that her Majesty's Government be communicated with, informing them of the proposal to hold a Fisheries Exhibition, and asking for their co-operation and assistance, and that similar letters be addressed to the representatives of all the foreign Courts.

Mr. E. Clarke, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said he considered it was the duty of the Government to assist an undertaking of this kind, and he believed they would willingly do so.

The motion was agreed to, and Lord Abinger moved "That at the determination of the exhibition the committee be requested to draw up a general report on the subject of the fisheries in the United Kingdom and the best method of improving them."

Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., had much pleasure in seconding this proposition, which was also agreed to.

The following gentlemen were elected as vice-presidents:—The Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of St. Albans, Earl Percy, the Duke of Northumberland, Marquis of Exeter, the Duke of Manchester, Marquis of Hamilton, the Duke of Abercorn, Sir Thomas Brassey, M.P., the Duke of Athole, Lord Culville of Culross, Lord Lovat, Lord Henry Scott, Lord Walsingham, Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart, M.P., Mr. Mundella, M.P., and Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P.

A committee and sub-committee were next appointed, and votes of thanks having been accorded to the chairman and the Fishmongers' Company, the proceedings terminated.

FISHERY CONVICTION.—George Rule was convicted by the Kingston Bench on Thursday last of snatching fish at Surbiton, the charge being proved by Henry Walters of the T.A.P.S., he was fined 16s. including costs.

GREEN PEA TRAFFIC.—As the green pea season is now considered over, the following has been the amount of traffic on the Great Eastern Railway alone, between the 14th of June and 6th of August, 3407 tons. It has not been so good by 2480 tons as the same period last year. The heaviest weight this year on any one morning was Saturday the 9th of July, when, under the arrangements of Mr. W. Gardner, the goods manager, nearly 450 tons were delivered before 8:30 a.m.

Two eminent Baptist clergymen were spending a short time on the island of Sardinia. One of these gentlemen writes of an unusual experience he had in connection with a fish dinner. This repast is alluded to as "a lenten dinner," just the meal which Jesus gave to Peter and the rest after his resurrection—bread and fish only. Immediately after partaking of this apparently harmless diet both of the clergymen began to feel uncomfortable. For three days they thought they were poisoned. It turned out that the fishermen in the neighbourhood have a fashion of catching fish by putting into the water a drug which stupefies the poor creatures, so as to make their capture more easy. Sometimes a fish gets too much of the drug, and dies like a man with an overdose of quack medicine. This was what was the matter with the fish the clergymen had eaten. The letter says: "I had gotten hold of one of these, or, rather, he had gotten hold of me." This unwholesome little fish came very near taking these two eloquent clergymen out of the world. The symptoms of poisoning abated, leaving them in an enfeebled state for a week or two.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

I CANNOT begin my notes this week more auspiciously than by recording the fact that angling prospects are almost everywhere looking brighter. From the Thames dace-fishing continues all that can be desired. Gudgeon are on the move, and the capture of so many dozens are duly reported from many stations. Judicious baiting has in many cases resulted in some red-letter days among the barbel. Among the takes that have come to my knowledge are one by Mr. P. Geen of 33 barbel, together with a few roach, perch, and bream (total weight 74 lb.), from the neighbourhood of Shepperton; Mr. T. Hoole, 16 lb.; Messrs. Holden and Penney a good take from Thames, above Oxford, the former gentleman having one fish over 8 lb. It is still a bit early for roach, but some good takes have here and there been had by those who use fine tackle.

From the Welsh Harp the sport has varied with the weather, one chilly night in these still waters, often knocking the fish off the feed for two or three days. Among some of the best takes from here Mr. Robert Marshall, chairman of the North-Western, succeeded on Thursday last in capturing 46 lb. 4½ oz. of handsome bream; Mr. Smart nearly 30 lb. of bream and a jack 5 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Roxbee 22 lb. of bream. On Sunday afternoon I took a walk round the greater part of the Welsh Harp Reservoir. The sport, with one or two exceptions, had been very indifferent. The water is getting very low. I saw a few dead fish, but much less than I expected, seeing the tropical weather we have been having. The jack do not seem to be feeding at all, but the few that have been taken were in excellent condition.

How the fish have been feeding at Elstree may be gathered from the following, selected from a number of good takes:—Messrs. Blackmore, Manly, and Bollington, 70 lb. of tench, heaviest 4½ lb.; on the 7th Mr. Bendall a take estimated at over 30 lb.; Mr. Harry Underwood on the same day having also a nice take of tench and perch. A brace of the former, which I saw, weighed close upon 6 lb. From the Ouse Mr. J. Welsh, of Cambridge, has been having some good sport, as is amply proved by 84 lb. of heavy bream falling to his rod before three o'clock in the afternoon; while from another portion of the same river (Sharnbrook) I hear of some heavy takes of fish, mostly bream.

A contemporary gravely informs its readers, anent a certain take of fish that "there was a perch amongst the bag weighing 8½ lb., barring that they were nothing more or less than a clean sample." Would a single hair line hold him, Mr. Editor? Mr. Murphy has been among the trout again, and has succeeded in capturing one weighing 2 lb. on a tight hair line, and he says he shall never forget what a fight it made. That's nothing, Mr. M.; suppose you should hook the above-mentioned stripey one's big brother.

The West Central Association's return visit to the Bostonian Angling Society which took place on Monday last, was perfectly successful; there were a great many anglers present, and some capital songs were sung. The same may be said of the East Central visit to the Great Northern Brothers on Tuesday.

I regret to hear that the water at Blunham (4 miles), known as Elliott's, from which—particularly from the river Ivel—such capital takes of large roach are to be had, has been rented by a London angling society. Were not two friends of mine, who went down on Monday week, intending to fish it, just a bit sorry to hear it? I am sorry too, as it always seems a pity to see a public water (or, at least practically so) closed against us though, of course, it cannot be helped. I should mention that as my friends had come so far, not knowing of the new state of things, a point was stretched in their favour, and they were told they might fish at the back of the house—a permission they did not, however, avail themselves of.

The United London Anglers' Central Committee met on Monday evening last at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. A long report was given by Mr. Secretary Ghurney of the recent fishery case at Waltham, of which a full report appeared in a recent number of the FISHING GAZETTE. The case of the prosecution of the person secured, out of a number who assaulted and nearly drowned Mr. G. Oram, a Lea bailiff, and his companion, while in the execution of their duty, was also gone into at length. A vote being passed sanctioning all expenses incurred in both cases, and another vote authorising the secretary to write to the Lea Conservancy on behalf of the London Anglers thanking them most heartily for their prompt and successful vindication of public right in the Waltham affair.

It was also decided that the delegates' dinner should take place at the Rye House on the first Sunday in September, price of tickets, 3s. Some valuable prizes being presented for competition on that day. This date was, however, fixed without consulting the almanac, and in the belief that the dates were such that another delegates' monthly meeting would intervene. Such, however, is not the case, and Mr. Ghurney now informs me that as the monthly meeting will not be till Monday, September 5, it will be necessary to postpone the dinner until the second Sunday, viz., September 11.

As I am about to despatch these notes, the following interesting particulars come to hand from Mr. P. Geen, concerning the take of barbel mentioned above. 74 lb. nett being their weight after their journey to Portsmouth:—Last Wednesday my son and I had a remarkable take of barbel. During the day I had driven my wife to Reading and back, 43 miles, and I did not reach the swim (which I had previously well baited), until 7 p.m. with the intention of taking some of the eels which I expected were busy with my worms. By ten—just three hours—our well was completely full. I packed a hamper which weighed at the station 96 lb., a few I gave away, and a number I returned to the water. The gross take must have been between

120 and 140 lb. The hamper was sent to the Portsmouth Waltonian Society, of which I have the honour to be a life member. Mr. Tranter, the secretary, informs me that the society have sent to London a brace of the best fish to be preserved."

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

ON Monday last there was again a strong muster of angling clubs going away to fish their matches; between three and four hundred going to fish the Keadby canal, at Thorne Crowle, and Keadby, while over four hundred went to Brigg, to fish the Ancholme, but the greater portion of anglers journeying as far as Boston and the intermediate stations, over 1,200 going by the excursion promoted by the Sheffield Angling Association, and there is no doubt that there were as many going by the excursions of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company.

The members of the Suffolk Angling Club, Mr. Leonard's, Bridge Inn, had a very good show of fish on Sunday night, Mr. Geo. Buxton showing in 39 lb. of bream and roach, the bream weighing from 1 lb. to 4 lb.; Mr. George Harrop had also a nice dish of roach, all good ones, weighing 13 lb., taken with creed wheat; Mr. A. Crofts had 15 lb. of roach, taken with the same bait. At the Brave Old Oak, Mr. Westnadge's, there was a fair show of fish, amongst them a splendid pair of tench.

The Eccleshall Club, held at Mrs. Ormrod's, Broomhall Street, fished their match at Boston on Monday last, in rainy weather, and, consequently, the takes were small, Mr. W. Owen winning the first prize with 3 lb. 14 oz.; second, F. Baker, 13 oz. The club held at Mrs. Hirst's, Belle Vue Hotel, Walkley, fished their annual match at Sandiacre on Monday last, the hostess giving some very valuable prizes. Forty-one members competed, and all succeeded in taking fish, but all the fish taken were very small; Mr. Brown caught 48 fish, which only weighed 14½ oz.; H. Spillings taking first prize with 2 lb.; Mr. Revill second, 1 lb. 4½ oz.

The members of the Druids' Amateur Society Club, which is held at Mr. Blenkiron's, White Hart, fished their annual contest at Brigg; 52 members competed, and 39 of them succeeded in taking fish; first, Mr. Gill, 1 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Joseph Wainwright, second, with 13½ oz.—RED SPINNER.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members will fish in a pegged-down match for thirteen prizes, at the Dagenham Lake Fishery, on Sunday next. The conveyances will leave at six o'clock, opposite the Bishopsgate Station, Great Eastern Railway. Time for fishing, ten o'clock till five. Mr. C. A. Medcalf weighed-in the first jack this season, 3 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Moir, 7 lb. bream and a few roach, from Dagenham; Mr. Patrick, 3 lb., from the same water; Mr. Arnold and Mr. Howlett, roach, from the Thames; Mr. Wood, roach; Mr. Harding, 5 lb. dace, a few roach and gudgeon; Mr. Carrington, one perch, 1 lb. 2½ oz.—T. WORLEDGE.

Aug. 7.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society met at St. Margarets on Sunday last, and competed for three prizes, and the following was the result:—Mr. York very kindly gave a timepiece, which was won by Mr. Dodson, with perch; Mr. Jones gave a pair of vases, which were won by Mr. Dawe; and Mr. D. Mallett gave a tea service, which was won by Mr. Wall; also the following members competed:—Messrs. Mallett, Fiddes, Jones, Deeley, Soar, Hayes, Hines, Scult, &c.—D. MALLETT, sec.

August 9.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the members and friends of this society was held at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. Oliver Pemberton, the president of the association, and amongst the gentlemen present were Mr. Adams Parker (vice president), Messrs. J. Allday, Antrobus, S. Mee, Burt, Cope, J. Botteley, S. Bassett, F. Houghton, Josebury, W. Bennett, Smith, E. Day, Ricket, W. Reynolds, J. Gregory, &c. The date was well chosen, it being the anniversary of the birth of Isaak Walton. The room, too, was appropriately embellished with some magnificent cases of pike, barbel, perch, &c., many of them successful trophies of the rods of members of the club. There was much genial chat about angling during the progress of dinner, anglers fighting doughty battles o'er again, and showing how gallant fish had been won. In giving the toast of "The Queen and the Royal Family," the President made graceful reference to the interest which the Prince of Wales had shown in matters pertaining to fishing by his presence at the opening of the Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich.—The toast of "The President" was proposed by Mr. Antrobus, and was received with much cordiality.—Mr. Josebury gave "The Association and the Memory of Isaak Walton."—The President in a few well chosen remarks, spoke of the pursuit of angling as a recreation which commended itself to everyone as a healthy enjoyment. He was happy to tell those who did not know him thoroughly that he had another self, as it were, and that he could now and then turn from the arduous duties of his profession, and find relief in the pursuit of that peaceful art which Isaak Walton had by his writings immortalised. He expressed a hope that when at last the great angler of all should make his final cast, none of those whom he saw around that festive board might be rejected as having spent worthless lives.—Mr. Allday proposed, "The Vice-president;" and Mr. Adams Parker responded. Mr. Parker proposed, "The Visitors;" which was replied to by Mr. W. Bennett. Mr. S. Mee proposed, "The Treasurer;" and Mr. John Allday, in responding, congratulated the society on its prosperous financial condition.—Other toasts followed, interspersed by occasional songs.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The return visit to the above society took place on Monday last, our Mr. Jennings in the chair, Mr. Pipe, of the Little Independent Angling Society, in the vice-chair. During the evening we had some capital songs from our own and members of other societies that were present. Mr. Jennings made a short speech, thanking the Little Independent Angling Society for a handsome vase of wax fruit which they have presented to our society to be fished for. On Mr. Osman calling the roll the following clubs were found to be represented:—Cambridge, Friendly, Duke of Cornwall, Golden Barbel, North-Western, Phoenix, Westbourne Park, Great Northern, Little Independent, and Odds and Evens.—H. TAYLOR, hon. sec.

Aug. 10.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

This association has been well represented this week by the members. Messrs. Tree, Anscombe, Collins, Ash, Cooper, Smith, Spink, Cardy and Son, all of whom had a respectable show of roach from the river Ouse. The weather during the week has been very unsettled, there was little chance of sitting long at swims, without a shower. Mr. Park tried Chichester Canal, and took a fair sample of roach and bream, which show the water to be getting better. At the meeting at headquarters last Monday, nine gentlemen give prizes to be competed for, which will be duly announced.—GROUND BAIT.

August 9, 1881.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a poor show of fish on the 7th. Mr. Castill, 2 lb. 7½ oz., roach and perch, from the Mole; Mr. Mortimer, 1 lb. 7½ oz., roach and bream, from Pulborough; Mr. J. Chambers, 1 lb. ½ oz., from the Roding; and Mr. Pratt, a few roach, from Amberley.—CAS.

THE EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above were out on Sunday, Mr. Tudenham being the first to arrive with a handsome tray of roach, perch and tench, a brace of the latter scaling about 4½ lb. Mr. Smith, with a nice show of roach, dace and barbel of about 14 lb. Messrs. Paine and Snow, roach and barbel.—A. THOMAS.

EXETER ANGLING CLUB.

The members have not turned up so well as they should do, the last meeting or two, but Bank Holiday, and the fine weather no doubt has much to do with it. Among the few who have reported, are Mr. T. A. Kelly, some very fine roach, over 1 lb. each; Mr. G. Lee, some splendid eels; Mr. F. Gosden, jun., in two afternoon's fishing in the canal, five dozen perch, several ½ lb. each; F. Gosden, sen., 4 lb. weight of mixed fish from river and canal. On Tuesday, the 9th, we have had some very heavy rain; and, if the weather holds up, no doubt there will be some good sport to report in my next. I hear of several members going out to-day, and lob worms are at a premium. I managed to get a fine stock last night from ground we have been turning over and over for weeks past for them without success. Digging several feet down would not find them, yet last evening they were to be had by hundreds.—FRANK GOSDEN, hon. sec., *pro tem.*

August 9, 1881.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays were well filled on August 7th. Mr. C. Russell winning a valuable prize, with some excellent roach, bream and dace from Amberley; Mr. C. Franklin, chub and dace; and Mr. J. Holmes, bream; several others contributing, made a very satisfactory show.—J. CHURCHMAN.

August 8, 1881.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 7th the following had fish:—Messrs. Wittridge, perch and chub; Green, dace and bream; Hornfeck, chub and roach; J. Jones, bream, roach and perch; T. Lee, roach and dace; C. Chapman, bream; C. Whitehead, bream and dace; E. Henrie, roach, dace and bream; Lawford, roach, dace and chub; J. Roach, bream, roach and dace; Duck, roach ("he ought to catch 'em"); J. Randall, roach; T. Adams, bream; G. Entwistle, tench; J. Entwistle, tench, roach and perch; J. Gaugh, roach chub and dace; E. Harrison, dace chub, bream and perch; H. Harrison, bream and roach. Gross weight over 60 lb. Another addition has been made to the trophies that decorate the walls of the clubroom, in the shape of a carp taken by Mr. T. Bigsby, on the 21st July, 1881. It has been preserved by Mr. J. Lancaster.—PIXIE.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, Aug. 3, Mr. Theobald showed a fine sample of roach from the Mole, over 7 lb., two fish weighing respectively 1 lb. 12 oz., and 1 lb. 4 oz. The heaviest fish will be preserved. Sunday, Aug. 7, Mr. Fitch had a nice show of roach and bream from Amberley, weighing 10 lb. 14 oz., one bream 3 lb.; J. Watling, 3 lb.; Jennings, 1 lb. 13 oz.; Messrs. Butler, Armstrong, Hutchings, and C. Warren also weighed fish from Amberley. From the Wey J. Theobald, 4 lb. 7 oz. bream; J. K. Fitch and Parkin bream from same place; Messrs. Phillips and J. Smith roach. The Eastern District visit was paid to this society on Wednesday last. Chairman, W. Phillips; Vice, C. Watling, jun. Some excellent harmony was contributed by Messrs. Phillips, C. Watling, jun., A. and E. Barr, Vanhegan, Letch, J. Smith, Jennings, Humphrey, Benning, Morley, and H. Horton. The visit was well attended, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The next visit will be paid to the Odds and Evens Angling Society.—J. A. FITCH, jun. sec.

Aug. 10.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The captures have been few and small this week, indeed, hardly worth recording; the principal successful anglers being Messrs. Hoole, Penney, Walters and Aldridge. I beg to remind the members that the 14th is the last day for receiving names and subscriptions for the excursion to Weybridge on the 21st.—VORTEX.

Aug. 8.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

An open benefit competition and excursion, in aid of the funds of the hospital for poor sick children, Story Street, Hull, under the distinguished patronage of the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman Leak; C. Sykes, Esq., M.P.; C. H. Wilson, Esq., M.P.; W. H. H. Broadley, Esq., M.P.; Colonel Gerard Smith, J.P.; Alderman Summers; Councillor Wilkinson; Councillor Greasley; Thomas Stratton, Esq.; and other gentlemen, will take place on

Monday, August 15, 1881, in the River Ancholme, at Ferriby Sluice, when a number of valuable prizes will be competed for. The fine passenger steamer "Lady Elizabeth," will leave the Victoria Pier at 8 a.m., returning to Hull at 7 p.m. Athletic sports, cricket, dancing, and other amusements will be provided for the visitors. The fine band of the Second East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers, having also been engaged, will contribute greatly to the enjoyment. Fishing to commence at 10 a.m., and sports at 2 p.m. Cricket and dancing during the day. Excursion tickets, 1s. each. Children half-price. Fishing tickets (including permission) 1s. 6d. each. Refreshments will be provided on board and on the field. Tickets may be obtained from the following gentlemen, viz.:—Mr. W. A. Bennett, Porter Street; Mr. W. Crossland, Blacksmiths' Arms, Naylor's Row; Mr. H. Vinson, Goodwin Street; Mr. H. Booth, fishing tackle maker, Prospect Street; Mr. C. Haldenby, Buckingham Street; Mr. William Brown, Garbutt Street; Mr. J. Cheeseman, 11, Bowlalley Lane; Mr. F. J. Hamlyn, Engine Street; Mr. R. Jackson, 2, Salt-house Lane; Captain Holbrook, Crown Hotel, Bridge Street; Mr. R. Durden, The Regent, Carr Lane; Mr. J. T. Noble, Red Lion, Whitefriargate; Mr. J. Wardrobe, Spring Street; Mr. H. J. Willett, Seven Stars, Fish Street; Mr. J. Jagger, Anlaby Road, &c. Particulars as to the sports, and any other information may be obtained by applying at the Club-room, Seven Stars, Fish Street. All friends desirous of assisting towards the success of this object, must apply for tickets early, as the supply is limited. Mr. W. A. Bennett, chairman; Mr. H. J. Willett, treasurer; Mr. W. Hague, hon. sec.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last our takes were not very grand; they were as under:—Mr. H. Moore, bream, 9 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Heelas, chub and bream, 9 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Watts, roach; Mr. Mead, roach; Mr. Kelley, gudgeon.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

London, August 10, 1881.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A competition was brought off on Monday, August 1, in Marbury Mere, Northwich, Cheshire. There was not a very strong muster of members. Bank Holiday excursions taking many elsewhere, but most of them were veteran bait fishers, and a keen contest was anticipated. The day was very bright and hot, which was dead against the anglers—fish, as a rule, not feeding freely in this sort of weather—and, consequently, smallish takes were the rule. On weighing-in at 4 p.m., it was found the winners were Messrs. Evans, Woolfall and Higson, in the order named. The Mere is well stocked with good fish, and it was a great disappointment to have such middling takes. However, better luck next time, and better weather too. At the usual weekly meeting on Thursday evening, the 4th instant, another fishing excursion was fixed to take place in the Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on Tuesday, the 6th of September. The following are the prizes:—By Mr. W. Jones, aquarium, and Mr. Chandler, fern case fitted, for heaviest and second heaviest creel of fish; by Mr. Hugh, one guinea, for best take of trout and grayling; by the association, half guinea, for next best ditto; by the association, one guinea, for best take of chub, perch, roach, &c.; by the association, half guinea, for next best chub, perch, roach, &c. Club standard as to weight will be strictly adhered to. Competitors to use either fly or bait, but no salmon or pike to weigh. The graining mentioned in a paragraph in your last week's edition, is found in the River Alt, near here. I have taken them up to ¾ lb. out of it, which is a very good size for this fish, as the general average is from 5 oz. to 7 oz. I consider them the handsomest fish that swims being of the most beautiful silvery hue, delicate in appearance and symmetrical in shape; they fight when hooked, almost as fiercely as a trout, rushing from side to side, leaping out of the water and dashing about in the most determined manner, trying to the utmost your tackle and your skill.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members belonging to the above society had a variety of fish again last Sunday. Mr. Obbard, dace from the Lea; Mr. Neagus, roach and perch from the Stort; Messrs. G. Drew and Gorsuch, roach from the Thames; Mr. F. Long, with a splendid show of perch from the same river; Mr. J. Drew had bream from the Welsh Harp, one scaling 2 lb. 11½ oz.; Mr. Lucy, bream from Pulborough; Mr. T. Longman weighed-in roach, perch and dace.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

August 10.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club have had fair takes of fish this last fortnight. Mr. Minard's prize was won by Mr. Gendle. Mr. Garrad had a good tray of roach and bream from the river Wey. There was also a nice trout weighing over a pound taken in the river Ravensbourn, by Mr. Stidolph. Three jack have been taken by Mr. Matthew's from the river Lea, but they run rather small, also fair takes by Mr. Page and other members. Mr. Gendle's prize will be fished for on August 14.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

During the past four or five weeks, there has been a desperate struggle for supremacy in gross weight between several of our members. Mr. H. Robson has contributed some heavy takes of bream; Mr. Percy, some fine large pike and bream; Mr. C. Aston, some capital takes of barbel; Mr. H. Aston, some exceedingly fine shows of barbel; Mr. Glaister, some very good shows of perch and roach; and Mr. Porter, some well-earned takes of roach; but an end was put to the struggle on the 7th instant, when Mr. H. Aston had five barbel, weighing 16 lb. 1 oz., the largest scaling 6 lb. 8½ oz.; this brings Mr. Aston's gross weight of barbel alone, for three shows only, to 38 lb. 1 oz. Mr. C. Aston was not far behind his son; for, although the young one beat his dad in gross weight, he was done for the specimen, his dad having two barbel, weighing 9 lb. 13 oz.; the largest, a handsome fellow, weighing 7 lb. 7½ oz., which was conveyed to Mr. C. Short, for preservation. Mr. Porter had the best show of roach. Gentleman desirous of joining can do so by attending at the Club-house any Thursday evening between nine and eleven o'clock, at the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, Marylebone, W.—F. ROBSON.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Bank Holiday and yesterday Mr. Mitchell visited Dorking, and caught 49 lb. bream, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Gening, the same place, 15 lb. bream, 17 roach; Mr. Head, same place, 20 lb. bream, 4 lb. roach, 4 lb. perch. He won a 10s. 6d. prize for heaviest weight. Yesterday Mr. Sargent went to Datchett, and took 7 lb. roach, 4 lb. eels; and Mr. Boorman, from the Colne 7 lb. roach. Mr. Morris and Mr. Godey went to the New River Reservoir but the fish only showed them their tails, no biting. Self was down at the

Ouse, but only took nearly 9 lb. roach and bream. The members fish for a series of prizes, such as pair ducks, leg of mutton, 1 lb. tobacco, new hat, sundry bottles of spirits, and on Thursday next at Sawbridgeworth. They will be glad to see friends there.

Monday, August 8, 1881.

THE STOKES NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The club-room of the above was well attended on the 7th instant, by the friends of the members, several of whom resumed hostilities, after their holidays, with renewed vigour and with great expectations. The trays were fairly adorned by the following gentlemen:—Mr. T. Gretton, contributing 5 lb. 13½ oz. roach and bream; Mr. A. Parrott, 3 lb. 2 oz. roach and bream; Mr. W. Webb, a small jack, about 2 lb., the first weighed in the club this season, and 1 lb. 2½ oz. roach; Mr. E. Morrow, a nice roach, weighing 17 oz., and Mr. E. North, dace. The fish are rapidly improving in condition, and look very hand-some, when exhibited.—THOMAS GRETTON, secretary.

August 9, 1881.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 30th, Mr. Pugh succeeded in getting at Henley, a very nice trout, weighing over 3 lb. 4 oz. On Bank Holiday, he was out with Hoblyn, of Henley, and succeeded in getting 50 lb. of barbel, the largest of which turned the scale at 8 lb. 6½ oz. They were photographed all together by Messrs. Marsh Brothers, who arranged them in such a manner that they formed a very pretty picture. This is an idea to which I think worth while calling the attention of those gentlemen who are in the habit of going away for several days, and getting large takes of fish, and not wishing to send them to town, especially during the hot weather, and it would also afford a memento of the ups and downs that occurred. On the occasion, Mr. Boalch, on the 1st, was out with C. Brown, at Richmond. He managed to get nearly 17 lb. of roach, dace and barbel. Mr. Beckett, visited the neighbourhood of The Royal Castle, and brought away with him some roach and dace. The prizes offered for honorary members were not taken on the occasion; they were, therefore, open for competition on the 10th, of which the following is the result:—Mr. Beckett, first, with 14 lb. 10½ oz. of roach and dace; Mr. Boalch, second, with 11 lb. 9½ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Duck, third, with 9 lb. 8 oz. roach and dace, all from Richmond; Mr. Pugh came fourth, with 9 lb. 5½ oz. of barbel, roach and dace from Shiplake. The convivial proprietor of the society's headquarters came next with 6 lb. 11½ oz. of barbel, dace and roach, from Richmond, followed close by Mr. Murray, with 5 lb. of bream, from Huntingdon; Messrs. Hayward, Linstead and Langlois also had about 8 lb. of roach and dace from Richmond. The total weight of fish exhibited being 63 lb. 4 oz. On the same evening, Mr. Pugh presented to the society two photographs taken by Marsh Brothers; the subjects being, one, the mill at Shiplake and Mr. Pugh in the act of striking a fish; the other thirteen barbel taken by him on the 1st of August, 1881. Members are particularly requested to attend on the 31st of August, 1881, for important business.—PIXIE, London.

August 11, 1881.

UNITED BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above met at the club house on Saturday, August 6, to complete the necessary arrangements to carry out their annual excursion and to contest for prizes. The place selected was Hamstall, on the river Severn, where, after a beautiful and pleasant drive in the waggonette and refreshing the inner man, the ground was measured out, it being a pegged-down match. Time being called, each set to work in earnest to try to gain the first prize. After three hours time was again called, and each man hastened to the hotel to weigh. The first prize fell to Joseph Brooks, second, Richard Yarsley; third, John Good; fourth, Ambrose Foster; fifth, Isaac Hughes; sixth, Edwin Lawrence; and seventh, John Evans. The prizes were distributed on Tuesday evening, when a comfortable and pleasant evening was spent. The members desire to thank the donors of the prizes for their kindness in supporting them and genuine angling. Good accommodation for anglers can be had at the Hamstall Hotel, on the banks of the Severn, about two miles below Stourport, and good angling for all sorts of fish.—EDWIN LAWRENCE.

WALTONIANS.

The return visit to this society was paid on July 27, when a most enjoyable evening was passed. The following clubs were represented:—Bostonian, Golden Barbel, King's Cross United, North-Western, Phoenix, Prince of Wales, United Marlborough Brothers, Westbourne Park and City of London. We have had very fair shows of fish lately, those favouring Pulborough and Amberley being among the most successful. On the Bank Holiday two prizes were to be fished for, but for one offered for Offord and Huntingdon no one went out. The Society prize of a guinea was taken by Mr. Morris, with 8 lb. 5½ oz. Thirteen other gentlemen weighed-in, and the running for the prize was a close one. On Sunday last, Messrs. Malcolm and Roland had roach and bream from Pulborough, the former 8 lb. 14½ oz., the latter 5 lb. 11½ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

Aug. 8.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The results of the competition on the 31st July and August 1st were:—Mr. Bayley, roach and dace, also one eel turning the scale at 2½ lb.; Mr. Brown, roach and dace; Mr. Delehaye, chub, roach and bream; Messrs. Fox and Grigg also had fish. Mr. Bayley was the winner of Mr. Fox's writing-desk, and Messrs. Brown and Delehaye of Messrs. Harris and Norris's leg of mutton and trimmings. "M. le Pere" is at the head of the poll at present for the side of bacon given for competition during August.—PIXIE.

August 10.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-booms, Landing Nets, Gaits, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—My autumn arrangements are made, or I would cheerfully accept Mr. Balderston's kind and courteous invitation to go with him and look up those becks in Westmoreland and Cumberland to which I refer as being once declared as "fished out" by rod and line.

I am sorry to read the reasons he now assigns for the present depletion of these waters, which, if attributable only to rod-fishing, might have recovered; but so long a list as he gives of injurious agencies, constantly or periodically at work, is more than any preserves can possess the chance of fairly contending against.

If Mr. Balderston will let our trip stand over until next spring, I could, with due notice, give him the whole of April and May, the greater part of which it would occupy.

Of course, I conclude Mr. Balderston will pay all expenses.—I am, &c.,
C. KEL.

A SPLENDID TROUT CAUGHT WITH A TIGHT LINE.

SIR,—I was at the broad water, St. Margaret's, on Sunday last along with my friend Flimby Da Costa bottom fishing. Flimby with running tackle, myself with a tight line on one of Mr. Alfred Price's light cane rock rods, and while anxiously waiting for the perch to feed, I got a very light knock striking gently with my light tackle, I found I had caught a tartar, which turned out to be no other personage than the big trout, when, thanks to Mr. Price's sound tackle and the skilful handling of the landing net by Mr. Da Costa, we succeeded in grassing the beauty, which scaled six lb. twelve oz., which I shall preserve, and add to my already numerous collection.—I am, &c.,

T. S. WEBB, sec., Golden Tench Angling Club.

[To kill a nearly 7 lb. trout on a tight line is something to be proud of, and Mr. Webb must have used some skill as well as his friend who landed the fish.—ED.]

TROUT SPAWNING.

SIR,—Is it not very early for trout to be in spawn? I killed one on the 2nd and two on the 8th, quite heavy.

This has not been a good fishing season in this locality, as, owing to the very dry summer the rivers are very low and bright, and trout require a deal of catching. Since the heavy rain on Monday it has been rather better and I find the best fly that takes now is my old favourite the "red palmer."

I think, next to it, for general purposes, is "Wickham's Fancy," a fly designed by John Hammond, of Winchester, and named after a celebrated local physician and fly-fisher, the late Dr. Wickham.—I am, &c., RED PALMER.
Fareham, 11th August, 1881.

TAKING OF EELS.

SIR,—Your esteemed correspondent, Mr. J. Harrington Keene, wishes to hear from Sheffield, on the subject of eels. I beg to inform him that I am of the same opinion as himself regarding the destroying of eels. Taking all the enemies and the mishaps that fish spawn is liable to, there is nothing so destructive as the eel; that is the reason I advocated the taking of them all the year round. And there are many anglers who would sooner have a good dish of eels than any other fish.

The question of how they propagate, is a difficult one, I admit. As "J. H. K." states they are known to breed in ponds and other places where there is no outlet to the sea, but in the Trent every autumn they are observed going down the river towards the Humber, when great quantities of them are taken, especially about Newark. In the spring, about the middle of April, if the weather is open, they can also be seen on their return journey, arriving at home again in time for the spawning of other fish.

Now, if eels do not spawn in brackish waters, how are we to account for the multitude of small eels seen ascending the rivers during June and July. This is a question which will cause some one wiser than myself to cudgel his brains.

In the Lincoln and Boston waters, the taking of eels is let to different parties who lay baskets for them—or, as they are called about here, leaps or hives—by which means no other kind of fish is taken, and which privilege they pay for. Could not the waters near London be treated in the same manner?

I advocated the resolution of taking eels and flounders with rod and line during close time, for the sake of those who would wish to take them, and it should suit those who wish to destroy them; but in whatever form it may be introduced in any amended Act, we shall have to trust to the honour of the angler, not to take any other fish.—I am, &c., THOMAS W. GUEST.

[Why should you not trust to the honour of anglers? Why should all anglers be debarred from fishing because there may be some black sheep amongst them.—ED.]

FISHING IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—If you can find room for this in the FISHING GAZETTE, it may be interesting to my fellow readers of your admirable paper and to anglers generally, as showing that the season is not as black as it is painted, and also that fish are to be taken elsewhere than in the neighbourhood of London.

I had an opportunity afforded me yesterday of a day's roaching in a large pool, with a stream through it, situated in a gentleman's private grounds, in the picturesque county of Herefordshire. I journeyed down on the Monday evening, and selecting a swim carefully ground baited with gentles; and when you have plenty, this is perhaps the best ground bait you can use, at least my experience says so.

I was on the spot at 7 a.m. the following morning, and, carefully anchoring the punt threw in a few additional handfuls of gentles as a preliminary intimation to the fish that I was there, and having put rod and line together, baited with a large yellow wasp grub, and threw in. In about a couple of minutes my float, as Mr. Francis has it, began to make tracks for the middle of the pond, when a turn of the wrist put matters on a different footing, and shortly afterwards a roach of three-quarters of a pound came to hand. Not a bad beginning.

Re-baiting, I got a couple of small perch, which were duly returned, and then a fair roach or two, and then a good one, and then another, and the fun became

fast and furious, big thumping roach being the order of the day. About 8.30 a.m. I stuck into something heavier and by the way the fish played I thought I should have a job for the preserver, although I feared greatly that my fine tackle would not succeed in killing him. After about seven minutes' play, however, he was got into the net, and turned out to be a tench of 1 lb. 9 oz., and a rare fight he gave, as these fish are very powerful, and fight to the last.

Resuming, I brought a few more back—or, to punt, I should say—when I found that they had become rather shy, so I bethought me of changing the bait. Directly I offered them four gentles with a chrysalis on the point—and I consider the chrysalis the most important point of gentle fishing—down went the float, and again the fun was resumed, until my arm grew tired of wielding the rod. Still, a desire to make a big bag prevailed, and I kept at it until 3 p.m., when nature would have her way, and I thankfully drew up my punt poles and made for the bank.

On scaling I counted six dozen and four roach, and one tench, the lot bumping the scale at 30 lb.; as I thought, in the present state of the water, a big day for one rod. In addition, I had returned to the water about 30 small perch, so that my total bag must have been about 35 lb., and I think if I had many more such days the pool would look smaller.

During the whole of the day I only changed my hook once, and all these fish were caught with the crystal roach hook, made by Messrs. Williams and Co., and this is probably the best hook.

I left off when the fish were biting freely, but "enough is as good as a feast," and I thought it wise to return early and spend a comfortable evening in smoking the pipe of contentment and peace.—I am, &c., W. S. P.

FISHING IN DERBYSHIRE.

SIR,—A correspondent asks in FISHING GAZETTE, for information about Derbyshire rivers, for fly. The Izaak Walton gives permission (I believe, gratis, but am not certain, for about three miles of water on the Dove), almost useless for sport at this time of year, as not only is the water as clear as glass, but the British tourist, who swarms in Dovedale, heaves a stone, by way of fun, at every fish he sees rise.

About seven miles of the Derwent can be fished at 2s. 6d. a day, by tickets, obtainable at the Peacock, Rowsley, or the Chatsworth Hotel, Edensor. The river is very difficult to fish (unless you wade), and just now is not only very low, but a huge dam is being repaired at New Bridge, above Calne, and another in Chatsworth Park, which makes what little water there is, all of a milky colour. The river is also overgrown in most places on both sides with alders, &c., and lose your flies, perpetually. Three-quarters of the river is as smooth as a mirror. There are a few good spots in the seven miles.

Of the Wye, there is about seven miles of water, from Bakewell Bridge to Filliford Bridge, which can be fished for 2s. 6d. per diem. This is beautiful water, no wading required (or allowed), banks clear, stream winding, fairly rapid and full of eddies. If there were not so many anglers upon it, it would be perfection. As it is, your basket should even now average the cost of your ticket, reckoning trout and grayling at 6d. a lb. The Peacock (Rowsley) issues tickets for this, as does the Rutland Arms, Bakewell. You can get a ticket for a week for 10s. for the Wye, which you cannot do here for the Derwent. I prefer to spend my 2s. 6d. on the Wye, though it involves five miles of walking to and fro from my lodgings, to throwing it into the Derwent, which is only five minutes distant from me.

There is also some open (i.e., ticket) water about Matlock, but I know nothing about it. I have said nothing about private waters; which are, of course, far superior.—I am, &c., C. C.

Edensor, Bakewell, August 8, 1881.

[6d. a lb. is a very low figure; 1s. 6d. and 2s. a lb. would be nearer the mark for trout and grayling, especially in the neighbourhood of Buxton and Matlock.—Ed.]

DAGENHAM LAKE FISHERY.

SIR,—Having read Mr. Fitch's admirable description of the lake, I hope I shall not be thought out of place in making a few remarks which may be useful to those who intend fishing this prolific water for the first time. Mrs. Bull's is the nearest house to the water, from the direction of Rainham; there is a lane a short distance from the house which leads direct to the lake opposite the ferry. Harry, the boatman, who is a civil and obliging fellow, will row you over. He will also supply you with breakfast or dinner at a very moderate charge. Light fishing is the only way of getting a good take of fish. The top of your float must be nearly level with the water, and strike at the least movement of the float; the bait paste or gentles—paste for choice. Do not use worms, for the bream will not take them.

An angler who can fish Dagenham Lake can fish any water. It is the best school for the young angler near London. Many an old angler fishing the lake

for the first time, finds he has still much to learn. From the direction of Barking, the nearest house is the Chequers, at the corner of Mud Lane. You cannot mistake it, for the Chequers are all over the outside of the house. Lodging can be had at either house. Brocket runs his van for 2s. 3d., including fishing.—I am, &c., CAS.

City of London A.S.

COOK'S FERRY FISHERY.

SIR,—Is it a fact that Cook's Ferry fishery on the Lea is now held by a club of twenty gentlemen exclusively, and is not a subscription water annually or daily?—I am, &c., AUGUST DUN.

FISHING COTTAGE WANTED.

SIR,—Will any brother piscator inform me of an unfurnished cottage with a small garden, on the banks of a fishable river, within twenty-five miles or so of London, where a boat could be used. Easy access to rail as well as river is a necessity. Such information would be esteemed a great favour.—I am, &c., 14, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square. PISCATOR.

FISHING IN SPAIN.

SIR,—Perhaps some of your readers can inform me whether there is any rod fishing in salt or fresh water to be had during autumn in the districts of Spain, between Santander and the French frontier. As it is a mining country, most of the rivers are, I presume, quite spoiled for angling; but, if I remember, Major Campion speaks of good fishing in the estuaries. M. S.

London, August 9, 1881.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

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MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1881

BARBEL FISHING:

PERHAPS the remarks I am about to make will not meet the views of some Thames anglers; but they must understand that I have successfully fished for barbel in both Thames and Trent, and my only motive for writing these letters is not to dictate, but to show the anglers on both rivers what, from my experience, they ought to observe. There have been so many mistakes

lately made on the Trent, that I cannot allow the time to pass without a few observations, and perhaps Trent fishermen will find it rather warm. I must once more repeat what I have to say, "do it gently," for I have no desire to offend. In the first place, some of our anglers for barbel, after the rodsters have seen the different remarks made in the papers, and also in already published books on the subject, it is surprising that they should make such terrible blunders. Some of the piscators who visit the different parts of the Trent have frequently succeeded in capturing barbel, and in catching good baskets, especially towards the end of August and the beginning of September, when it ought to be well known that the fish retire into deep swims. This class of anglers appear to forget that barbel in July do not go into deep water, but frequent the shallow and rapid streams; but, as I have often said, if you do not know where the fish are likely to be found at certain times of the season, how is it possible to catch them? Some of our rodsters know all about this sort of thing, and you never find them trying deep water in the early part of the season. Now comes the question as regards baiting places for barbel, and the proper treatment to give them and the night time to do it; this, I feel satisfied, is a very important point, and no doubt the cause of many failures. I shall touch once more on the doings of the Thames anglers, and then come back to the Trent barbel fishers. On the former river, I believe baiting a place three nights in succession is frequently practised, and some of the most practical men, as well as several writers on the subject, recommend the same thing. Now, it matters not what sort of stuff is used, whether it be worms, cheese, or scratchings; how would a man fancy to be compelled to feed on bread and cheese several times in succession? Would it not be right to think he would like a change, and, if it was offered him three or four times, he would doubtless say: "I am sick of that stuff; give me something that I can fancy, then probably I shall eat it." Perhaps the reader will understand this, if not I will try to show him by relating one or two instances that have occurred only lately. I do not mean this season, but about three or four years ago. I was fishing on the Thames with a gentleman, and he made a catch of 220 lb. in two short days. While the barbel were biting nearly every swim, one of the local fishermen came up and said: "Mr. B., I want to have a few words with you;" he said: "Your friend is hooking the barbel in good style out of a place we never thought of fishing; I baited a noted spot of mine last week, and gave the fish plenty of stuff on three different nights, and on the following day could not get a bite. What have you done to the place you are now fishing; if it is a fair question, I should much like to know?" "Well," I said, "in the first place, you did wrong in baiting your place on three different occasions, the fish became so surfeited by being continually bored and presented with the same sort of stuff that they refused to take the bait you offered them, which was sure to be the case. What I have done at this spot was to throw in a thousand worms just after breakfast yesterday morning, and after the right depth of the swim had been got at once returned to Reading. Now you see the result. If you had baited your noted spot only once you would, no doubt, have brought off a good catch, and if you do it again, the chances are, you will get disappointed a second time. In my next letter on this subject, I intend to give our Trent fishermen a few rubs on their doings, and shall expect some sharp replies; however, I will not stop for that.—W. BAILEY.

THE NATURALIST IN VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN a most charming book under the above title, published by Messrs R. Bentley and Son, Mr. John Keast Lord relates his experiences gained as naturalist to the British North American Boundary Commission. The work which is in two volumes, contains some good illustrations, of which, through the courtesy of the publishers, we are able to give our readers a most interesting specimen.

We cannot but think that the title of this work might with advantage have been the Naturalist and Sportsman, &c. A sportsman on seeing the title in a catalogue might pass the book as a scientific work not likely to afford him much interest of a fishing or shooting nature; but the work has not a dull page in it, and fishing and hunting adventures, stories of the Indians, and droll anecdotes of camp life, abound. The quantities of salmon which ascend the rivers of British Columbia are simply enormous. Mr. Lord states in one place "about a mile from my camp was a large patch of pebbly ground, dry even at the highest floods, through which a shallow stream found its way into the larger river, though barely of sufficient depth to cover an ordinary sized salmon, yet I have seen that stream so filled, that fish pushed one another out of the water high and dry upon the pebbles. Each, with its head up stream, struggled, fought, and

scuffled for precedence. With one's hands only, or, more easily, by employing a gaff or a crook-stick, tons of salmon could have been procured by the simple process of hooking them out." And this is only a sample of what takes place in nearly all the small streams into which the salmon crowd to spawn; thousands of them never can spawn, from sheer want of room. After spawning these fish die in the rivers. They never appear to attempt to return to the sea, and they die simply from starvation, as they eat absolutely nothing after leaving the estuaries. Our author says:—"The Indians all say that these salmon never eat when in the rivers; and I could never discover that they had any recorded instance, or even tradition, of a salmon being taken with bait. I tried every lure I could think of to tempt these lordly fish. The most killing salmon flies of Scotch, Irish, and English ties, thrown in the most approved fashion, were trailed close to their noses; such flies as would have coaxed any old experienced salmon in the civilised world of waters to forget his caution. Hooks cunningly baited with live fish, aquatic larvæ, and winged insects were scorned, and not even honoured with a sniff. Others of the commission also tried their powers of fascination, but with equally unsuccessful results." The salmon Mr. Lord refers to in the above is the *salmo quinnat* which, unlike the salmon of our own streams, spawns in midsummer, when the water is at its lowest temperature and greatest flood height, from the melting snow. In August the Chilukweyuk river, a tributary of the Fraser, became perfectly unendurable from the quantities of dead fish floating down, and Mr. Lord relates an amusing story about these fish,

A DOGMATIC DOG-ANGLER.

"I had with me a splendid retriever, that, to my disgust and annoyance, used to amuse himself during my absence from the tent, by swimming in after the dead floating salmon, bringing them ashore, and safely storing them in my canvas dwelling; and on my return I used to discover a heap of fish, the stench from which was beyond human endurance. If fastened out from the tent, he piled them up at the door: all the lessons bestowed on him failed to convince him of his folly; he stuck to his disagreeable habit with a perseverance worthy of a better cause."

In one place the salmon at a ford were ascending in such quantities that Mr. Lord had great trouble in riding his horse through them; the fish were in such numbers about his legs as to impede his progress, and frightened him so that he plunged viciously and very nearly threw his rider off.

CURIOUS INDIAN SPINNING BAIT FOR SALMON.

In salt water these salmon readily take a bait. "The Indians when fishing use two spears, one about 30 feet in length; the other shorter, having a barbed end, is about 20 feet long. In a canoe thus equipped, favourable fishing grounds are sought, the Indian having the long spear, being also provided with a small hollow cone of wood, trimmed round its greater circumference with small feathers, much like a shuttlecock; this he places on the end of the longer spear, and presses it under water, until down the full length of the handle; a skilful jerk detaches this cone-like affair from the spear-haft, when it wriggles up through the water like a struggling fish. The savage with the short spear intently watches this deceiver; a salmon runs at it, and is speared like magic."

WONDERFUL TROUT FISHING.

Trout are found in great abundance in all the north-western streams, run in weight up to three pounds, and are delicious eating. How easily they may be captured, may be inferred from the fact that Mr. Lord's first experience of fishing for them was as follows. He was sitting on the bank of a stream admiring the beauties of nature when

"My reverie was broken by a sudden splash; a speckled tyrant, lurking under the bank on which I sat, had pounced upon a large grey fly, that, unconscious of danger, had touched the water with its gauzy wings. Very well Master Trout, you may perhaps be as easily duped as your more cautious *confrères*; so, setting to work, I overhauled my 'possible sack,' found a few coarse hooks, a bit of gut, and some thread.

"Among other materials wherewith to make a fly, feathers were indispensable. Shouldering my gun, I strode off to look for a 'white fleshier,' alias ruffed grouse; soon stirred one up, bagged him, hauled out his glossy bottle-green frill; selected some feathers which I thought would turn a decent hackle, picked out a couple of brighter ones for wings, some red wool from my blanket for dubbing, and with these materials I tried a fly. Not the slightest resemblance, fancied or real, did it bear to anything ever created, but still it was a fly, and, as I flattered myself, a great achievement. A line was made from ends of cord; then cutting a young larch, I made my tackle fast to the end, and thus equipped sailed up the stream."

With this primitive tackle our author caught as many fine trout as he cared to carry to camp, and he got them by simply flopping his fly on to the still pools, and out of the same pool he could take trout after trout as fast as he could do it. But our quotations are getting too long—the fact is the book is so full of interest it is a difficult matter to leave off quoting.

THE CANDLE FISH.

Salmo (mallotus) pacificus, or the candle fish. "I have never seen any fish half as fat and as good for arctic winter food as these little candle fish. It is next to impossible to broil or fry them, for they melt completely into oil. Some idea of their marvellous fatness may be gleaned from the fact that the natives use them as lamps for lighting their lodges. The fish, when dried, has a piece of rush pith, or a strip from the inner bark of the cypress tree, drawn through it, a long round needle made of hard wood being used for the purpose; it is then lighted, and burns steadily until consumed. I have read comfortably by its light; the candlestick—literally a stick for the candle—consists of a bit of wood split at one end, with the fish inserted in the cleft."

(To be continued.)

MORTALITY AMONGST THAMES TROUT—FLY-FISHING FOR, AND WEIGHTS OF, SAME—CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE ANGLER—MR. BALDERSTON, v. CREEL—AND FISH-PROTECTION.

THE mortality amongst Thames trout reported in the last issue by "B." is truly deplorable, and it is very hard to assign a cause, unless a post mortem examination be made as soon as possible after the discovery of the fish. This, I think, is eminently desirable should other cases come within "B's." cognizance. I have been very interested in all piscine diseases for many years, and have found several instances of the ordinary *salmo fario* dying in palpable consequence of the contamination of decaying vegetation, and its direct nourishment of parasitic growth's, both internal and external. I have taken as many as 22 feet of tapeworms (*ligula digramma* of Creplin), from the pylorus of a pound trout. If "B." could make some arrangement to send a trout to the office of the GAZETTE, with our respected editor's permission, and let me know, I should be pleased to examine it. I think our journal should certainly have a sort of veterinary department.

* * * * *

Fly-fishing for Thames trout, though, as I am aware, pursued by Mr. Lukyn with success, is, nevertheless, very exhausting work for the ordinary angler. I grant the salutary nature of this gentleman's example, but can fly-fishing, I ask with all respect, compare as to results with spinning, or the Nottingham live-baiting method? Now, when it is a certain fact that every trout of Thames taken by the average gentleman amateur angler costs him at least half-a-guinea per pound of its weight, is it fair to advise him to increase this expense by the use of a style of fishing producing fish much more sparsely?

* * * * *

But, friend "B.," for goodness sake don't suppose I am carp- ing at your information and advice: friendly friction hurts no one. Is it a fact, however, that in a fortnight Mr. Littlewood's trout have grown to double size? And again—though I am quite as earnest as yourself in acknowledging the gift of this gentleman, whose piscicultural skill I consider of the highest—are we doing right in turning into the Thames trout of an inferior breed to that of our native strain? I opine not.

* * * * *

On glancing through an old volume of the *Quarterly Review*, I find an estimate of the number of Thames trout taken during the week ending August 30, 1873. There were but three, one of 4½ lb., one 2 lb. 10 oz., and one 6 lb. 10 oz. throughout the entire length of the Thames. The largest during that year was 14 lb. 5 oz. In May, 1872, a brace of beauties were taken by one gentleman at Kingston with the bleak; one 11 lb. 8 oz., and the other 11 lb. 3 oz. It is said that in 1874, thirty fish only were taken in all, whose weight amounted to 188 lb. An average of over 6 lb.

* * * * *

The characteristics of the true angler, to whom the old adage *poeta nascitur non fit*, is said to apply, with slight adaptation, have been enumerated by more than one writer, and it may be pleasing to recall one or two passages from the lawgivers of the art, that the ideal may not be forgotten. J. D., Esq., the laureate of angling, enumerates the attributes of a true brother of the craft thus: faith, hope, love, patience, humility, strength, courage,

knowledge, placability of mind (*i.e.*, contentment) and memory. Says Oppian, also:

"First be the fisher's limbs compact and sound,
With solid flesh and well-braced sinews bound.

* * * * *
Let resolution all his passions sway,
Nor pleasure charm his mind nor fears dismay."

The above references to the proper attributes of the angler flitted across my memory on reading the letter of Mr. R. Balderston (lecturer in the Natural Sciences, late Professor and Scholar in Science, &c.), in which he strongly, or rather with an assumption of strength, replies to "Creel" in your issue of July 30.

* * * * *

"Creel" in the communication referred to, very temperately and good-naturedly upholds the position first upheld by me, and afterwards assented to by Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, than whom there is no one better able to form a more correct opinion on the subject in hand. This position, broadly stated, amounts to the assertion that a river or stream can be "fished out." "Creel" has been certified by our editor, in a recent number, to be a gentleman, and therefore his statement that he could name "numerous instances" of fished-out waters, where the proprietors have closed the waters, and artificially propagated the fish for their recuperation, must be taken as an absolute fact. "Creel" is, moreover, a practical angler—judging from his writings, for I do not know him personally—and his opinion is also that of a large number of anglers, who have studied the actual facts, not theories of the case. I also could name instances of private waters where rod-fishing (and other minor causes, of course), have depleted them to such an extent as to render the sport comparatively *nil*. I therefore again reiterate my conviction that, combined with the exigencies of floods, navigation, &c., the metropolitan rivers—which were those originally under consideration—may be depleted indefinitely by fair, though crowded and indiscriminate, rod-fishing.

* * * * *

So much for "Creel" and our argument. Now for Mr. Balderston (L. N. S. L. P. and S., &c.) and his rhetorical reply. Having discovered the sublimity of the ignorance under which the so-called anglers labour, he very inconsistently puts an algebraical problem to "L. B.," which has no relation to the subject in hand at all. "L. B." does not trouble himself with the unknown quantities of any river, he is not such a jack—I mean "scholar of science;" but he has very usefully arrived at an approximate estimation of what may be taken from the rivers within a certain area, in a season. His statement exhibits no ignorance, but to the frequenters of the London waters is an item of great interest. It is to be hoped that by extracts from the weighing-in books of societies some idea of the recorded weight of fishes may be ascertained, if only for the benefit of the statistician.

* * * * *

"The Raven,"—I beg pardon—Mr. Balderston, in the next paragraph far surpasses "L. B." in vagueness—assuming, for an instant, that "L. B." was vague. Mr. B. says: "Furthermore, I know, from true data, that the number of fish in rivers and ponds is far greater than most anglers believe." Now, I ask, who doubts this? He has further seen places where "capital sport could be had through a prolonged period without a sensible deterioration." Who said he hadn't, and what has the statement to do with the subject in hand? The Thames has furnished good sport for a very long time, but that doesn't argue that it will always stand the strain of the last few years, which increases with a rapidity truly wonderful. Then as to the pleonastic nonsense which follows about "the protest of the sapient, the protectionists, being but a vapouring from brains of heated liquidity, notable for the absence of the solid," it needs but a pin-prick to dissipate the wind-bags of such bombast. Proof! proof! we cry—and here it is, in the next sentence, "when I see the fish swarming before my eyes . . . mass of ripples . . . countless dace and bleak . . . aerial evolutions . . . schools of thousands of fish side by side . . . simply myriads"—yes! when you do this, Mr. B., in one out of ten of the streams of England, you can prove you are right as to the stupidity of our complaint anent over-fishing.

* * * * *

But it is really occupying space wastefully to disrobe the grandiloquent prose of Mr. B. of its extra garments so as to reveal its true meaning. If an ideal river or lake existed, wherein no pollution, no floods played the deuce, no poachers dealt midnight destruction, and a plenty of food reigned, then it is possibly doubtful if anglers could outfish the stream. But in these sublunary streams, such a climax is possible, and every watchful man can see it going on in the Thames and Lea. Nobody doubts the fecundity of the fish, but I, for one, greatly dispute the inordinate results in ordinary waters arising from such fecundity, which are insisted on by the "Raven."

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

MORE PRIZES FOR OUR FLY AND BAIT CASTING TOURNAMENT.

IT is with much pleasure we announce that, in addition to the prizes promised by Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, the Manchester Spinning Company, of 51, Corporation Street, Manchester, have very kindly promised the following:—

1. A superior hard cable waterproof trout landing net. Value 6s.
2. An enamel cable taper salmon line. Value 16s.
3. An enamel taper trout line. Value 6s.
4. A sixteen-plait enamel waterproof, pure china-silk trout line. Value 6s.
5. A superior treble cable enamel "Zephyr" waterproof trout line. Value 4s.
6. A treble cable waterproof cod line. Value 3s.
7. An enamel wire-spring enamel waterproof salmon casting line. Value 6s.

And, further, they say they "will perhaps add to this list."

We ought to mention that the company get so many applications for expensive samples that they are obliged to ask that 2d. be sent to defray cost of same.

The "Tournament" promises to be a success, and we sincerely trust it may bring in a substantial amount for the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

A DAY AT STAMFORD, ON THE TEME, WORCESTERSHIRE.

AFTER a drive of fourteen miles through some of the most charming country in the Midlands, here and there the corn cut, and standing in the sheaf; then the hop yards with their vines streaming in the breeze; the forest of oaks at the foot of the hill—is a treat not to be forgotten, though the mind is bent upon angling. But we are soon once more upon the ford, rod in hand, fishing stockings on, and a most beautiful morning, the 6th of August was to tempt the grayling. My two friends go one to the tail of the ford, the other a little further down stream to a favourite perch swim; he lands two fine fellows in a short time, a few good dace also give their last kick in their natural element, and together with chub make up a good take. Friend No. 2 gets a bad start, but finally lands in all about 4½ lb. chub, dace, and roach. Myself, with the sky-blue for a leader, the red-ant as No. 1 dropper, and the iron-blue as No. 2 dropper. The water is as clear as gin. In the first half hour I land, or rather carefully unhook, about a dozen samlets. Presently, as my line was passing a curl, caused by a large piece of rock rising from the bed of the river, with line quite tight, I feel a strain. "Hallo," say I, "a grayling for a pound," but with my fine cast and light rod I could not get the fellow up to say one word, not even "steady my pet;" no, not he, but lies shaking like a bull dog down at the bottom of about four feet of water, but at last he thought he would see what he could do in the rapid water, and like an arrow he darts up stream. "Steady," say I, "you are wanted, my silvery friend, with your golden bars along your sides." After about ten minutes' play, the prize is landed, and proved to be as fine a grayling as I ever looked upon; it was 1 lb. 4 oz. A little later on, and I land another; the two, side by side, make me feel proud, as they will take some trouble to beat as a brace, either for weight or beauty. I am quite sure that there are many large grayling in the Teme, and I unhooked near twenty, and returned them as under size. In all I weighed-in 7 lb. 8 oz., nearly all were taken with the red ant.

J. A. GRIFFIN.

WHERE TO FISH IN NORFOLK.

WE may now be said to be in the midst of our fishing harvest here, for not only do reports of good catches come to hand, but some immense fish have been taken of late. I have just had submitted to me a bream taken in the Waveney by our respected postmaster, and which scaled 6½ lb.; it is indeed a handsome fish, and is now in the hands of the preserver. By its side lay a magnificent specimen of the hybrid, weighing just 2½ lb.

Some large takes of bream have come in from REEDHAM, and the fish are all in splendid condition. Being extremely deep water here the ledger is mostly used, the bait being good lob worms, with boiled maize and barley meal for ground bait.

Those who like choice roach-fishing should try at CANTLEY. Here is some splendid water, some magnificent scenery, plenty of fish, a capital inn (the Red House) a minute's walk from the railway station, and about half way between Norwich and Yarmouth. Here many London gents resort, and should you come across any one who has had the pleasure of staying here, they will corroborate my statements. Some of the finest roach swims

on the stream may be found here, and the fish are certainly the best to be had. Very rarely any are taken under 6 oz., and very often up to 1½ lb. each. Three and four stone per boat, per day is no very uncommon occurrence.

BUCKENHAM FERRY, about 2½ miles higher up, is also another capital spot. The Ferry Inn is the anglers' rendezvous, and a snug little "crib" it is, too, and if one is not too thin-skinned to mix with the villagers, who assemble there, many an interesting "yarn" may be listened to. Plenty of roach are being taken here; two gentlemen bagging no less than 6 stone weight in one day. The Norwich Angling Club are holding their annual contest there to day, the result of which I will report next week.

A little further up we come to the BRUNDALL FISHERY, better known as Coldham Hall. Any amount of sport may always be reckoned on here, but the roach are not nearly so good as those lower down. Between this place and Cantley is considered to be the best parts for pike, and up to the present several good fish have been landed; the spoon bait being the bait used. Hewitt, the water bailiff, informed me that there is every prospect of a good pike season.

For the first time in my life I have seen some of the bream taken from the FRITTON DECOY BROAD. I had always heard these fish spoken of as being extremely worthless, owing to their being so inactive when hooked, and likewise with no weight about them, and were, in fact, always called "razor backs" so very thin were they. Since seeing about two stone, which were caught by two members of E. A. P. S., I am quite altered in my opinion, for they were as clean and plump as any I have ever seen taken out of the rivers.

The Bure also seems to be just as prolific. The most marvelous take for two anglers this season, comes from WROXHAM, they were fortunate enough to land fourteen stone of bream in one day. Any of our metropolitan friends will find most comfortable quarters at Host Whittaker's, the Three Horse Shoes Inn, Wroxham. I can quite picture this hostelry as one that would just have suited Isaac Walton, for it is indeed "a cleanly alehouse." SOUTH WALSHAM, on the same stream, is also an excellent place for bream, roach and rudd, the latter being the best specimens I have noticed, come from this spot. The Ship Inn is the best house to "put up" at, but is at a great disadvantage, as it is two or three miles from the fishing grounds.

We next come to ACLE, or Acle Bridge. Now is the best time for this place, as many Norwich Anglers have experienced of late. The only disadvantage is, as yet there is no railway to it, and to get there, it is necessary to drive; but once there, it repays for all trouble and expense. Here also will be found a most excellent inn, and indeed a most courteous host and hostess, with plenty of good beds, and always substantial fare.

But above all this the fishing is rather more than the average, as bream of a most unusual size are being taken. Host Rose, who is himself an expert angler, is always eager to show gentlemen the best parts, either for bream or roach. It was from this place that the enormous eels which gained a Diploma of Honour at the Fisheries Exhibition were captured and exhibited by Mr. A. Palmer, of Norwich.

Many gentlemen stayed here last summer, and many testimonials have been received by Mr. Rose, both for his catering, and also for the amount of sport obtained; these "mine host" is always proud to show.

The club contests in the city are now nearly over, and anglers are settling themselves down to business in earnest—when I say business, I mean they go in now for big takes, and on the quiet.

ANGLER.

["Angler" sends us a capital photograph of the members of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society just starting for a fishing excursion.—ED.]

SOME HINTS AS TO WHERE TO GO.

AS the Hertford line follows the course of the Lea river, the angler will find himself, by alighting at any of the stations, particularly at Broxbourne and the Rye House, within an easy distance of the waters, which are all open to him, with one or two exceptions, by the payment of a reasonable fee. The exceptions are Captain Sander's water and the Government Ordnance, at and near Waltham, both private. There is, however, Clark's fine stretch of the river here, which is open by annual or day tickets. The Amwell Magna Fishery, near Ware and St. Margaret's, is likewise exclusive.

The line from Broxbourne to Bishop Stortford keeps pretty close to the railway and there is little difficulty of obtaining a day's fishing from the respective millers.

Between Barking and Rainham stations is the Dagenham Reach Fishery, free by day tickets.

CHELMSFORD.—Good angling in Can and Chelmer. Enquire of Station agent.

WITHAM.—Good angling from this to Maldon, protected by Society.

BURES.—Excellent angling in the Stour, protected by Society; House, Five Bells, Joseph Cousins. Day tickets.

SUDBURY.—Excellent angling, protected by Society. Day tickets.

MELLISH.—Good fishing; open.

CAVENDISH AND CLARE.—Angling protected by owners. Particulars at Bear Hotel, Clare; Deeks, proprietor.

BIRDBROOK.—Great Yeldham, Castle Hedingham, Halstead, Colne Chappel, and Colchester all have waters containing fish. The river at the last-named is now preserved, but Mr. Papillin almost invariably grants leave by application. Good whiting fishing off Mersea Island.

IPSWICH.—Bramford and Claydon on the Gipping, angling preserved. Day tickets.

MELTON.—Campsey Ash and Woodbridge on the Deben. Fishing mostly open.

DARSHAM.—On the Top. A little fishing.

CREEL.

AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM.

[By YE PILGRIM FRY-ER.]

AS I lay a-thinking, one of the swelterest of the many sweltering nights we have had this summer, when sleep was delayed till the dawn of day, I tried to realise how many, and what weight of fish that particular brace of big pike had killed and consumed since changing quarters from the duck-pond at Kew Gardens for the river Thames? I got into the three figures, and then into "anglers' weights," and the "half-hundreds" and "hundreds," and then—fell asleep in despair! Now, this is a problem the approximate solution of which would entitle the successful one to rank almost with the great Dr. Zukertort, the Champion Chessist. You might depend upon it that this brace of new pike, after eating up all Dr. Hooker's young ducks, had got an appetite far above mere coarse fish; and therefore, when turned loose, unfortunately, in the Thames had begun upon the trout. The poor roach in the duck-pond, when ducks ran short, had had such a horrid time of it, that when they found themselves in the river had migrated *en masse* to the lower waters, and had brought away with them all their Bohemian-inclined brothers and sisters, and their first cousins, the dace, into the tideway or estuary! How is it that the captures by anglers of Thames trout should be so comparatively small? The eels that Mr. Harrington Keene has now pronounced sentence upon—late enough, though!—are not more destructive of fish spawn, &c., than are such large pike that prey upon the spawn-producers, and as for the table, why an eel is, as compared with a pike, like a partridge to a sparrow.

But big pike, I repeat, must prey upon the Thames trout, and trout turned into it, that all have been so anxious should increase and multiply.

Now, I ask in all seriousness, if even one London angler out of every five hundred has this year captured a Thames trout, little or big? If this surmise be about correct, how can we reasonably expect that future years will be any better while the destructive pike and the eels are allowed to roam about, brigand-like, and prey upon the highly-prized fish. Coarse fish can never suffer in a comparative or proportionate degree to the Thames trout, considering the value set upon the latter and who can tell that the big Kew pike had not gone ahead to the Marlow water, or even to that paradise of the "pretty ones"—the Caversham Cashmere—(with a "Butler" ready to hand to see to their wants)?

Instead, then, of turning any more large, or any pike, into the Thames, let as many as possible already in the river be netted out—and the big 'uns, such as that big brace from the Kew duck pond, should be turned for instance into the Serpentine, just to give Mr. Marston an opportunity to delight the eyes of the Londoners by giving a practical lesson of how to artistically hook, play and land a monster pike. Half a cartload of roach from some duck-pond or other might be thrown in the Hyde Park water for these sharks to quarrel over and eat. Just wouldn't there be excitement in Rotten Row after the grouse and partridges had been thinned down, and some of the great folk had got back to town; wouldn't there be a pulling up of horse's heads by fair and "gentle" hands close to the railings in the Row at the exultant cry of "He's got un," and people rushed to the spot from all parts! And when the Big Pike was landed, and the cry was raised: "To Marlborough House—the Big Pike for the Prince of Wales!" (Hurrah!)—then will commence the unique procession along Piccadilly, &c., and among the shouts of astonishment at the great prone pike would rise, above all, that of the *gamin*: "Oh, ain't he a whopper I say!"

SPRING SALMON.

A FRIEND writes me from Toronto: "There is rising here a great discussion upon the habits of salmon. Two gentlemen here, who hail from the Land o' Cakes, maintain that in their own country there is not a month in the year in which a fresh-salmon could not be obtained in the Ness or in the Tay, if it should be worth the expense of capturing, and that there are no two rivers in Scotland that correspond alike in the time of hatching out their salmon. They maintain that the time is not far distant when the hampering trammels of legislation will be thrown aside, and the proprietors of fishings be allowed to follow the instincts of their common sense in the management of their affairs; that is to say, if they were permitted to bring wholesome fish to market when they are in season, and made liable to be punished, as butchers are, if they send to market unseasonable food. There is, they urge, no such restriction on sheep, cattle and poultry, which enter much more largely into the dietary of the public, these being left to the management of proprietors and servants, who know their own business and attend to it. The period required for developing salmon ova is now quite well ascertained, and varies only a little, according to the temperature of the season and the water in which they are hatched. An article in the *Toronto Globe* would, it seems, advocate the same line for the conduct of the salmon fisheries on that side of the world, wholly ignoring the injunction, which they endorse, that proprietors (and why not nations?) should mind their own business. We glean, however, something worth quotation from the following extract:—"The spring salmon here ascend only those rivers which are fed by the melting snows from the mountains, and which have sufficient volume to send their waters well out to sea. Such rivers are the Sacramento, Rogue, Klamath, Columbia and Fraser Rivers. Those salmon, which run in the spring, are chiefly adults (supposed to be at least three years old). Their milt and spawn are no more developed than at the same time in others of the same species, which will not enter the river until the fall of the year. It would appear that this contact with cold fresh water when in the ocean, in some way causes them to turn towards it, and to "run" before there is any special influence to that end exerted by the development of the organs of generation. High water on any of these rivers in the spring is always followed by an increased run of salmon. The canners think, and this is probably true, that salmon which would not have run till later, are brought up by the contact with the cold water. The cause of this effect of cold fresh water is not understood. We may call it an instinct of the salmon, which is another way of expressing our ignorance. In general, it seems to be true that in those rivers, and during those years, when the spring run is greatest, the fall run is least to be depended upon."

F.

HOW TO TAKE GREY MULLET.

A CORRESPONDENT asked the other day the best bait and way of taking grey mullet in fresh or brackish water. We find in *Salter's Angler's Guide* some very useful information on this matter. He commences by what appears at first sight somewhat of a bull.

"GREY MULLET.

"So called from its silvery, white, blue, and green colours. Mullet visit the south and west coasts of England in the beginning of summer, and enter the creeks and rivers, particularly about Arundel and Chichester, in Sussex, and Barnstaple, in Devonshire, and leave them generally in the latter end of August. At those places, mullet are seldom caught, by angling, of more than two pounds, though they are occasionally taken weighing six pounds. When angling for mullet your tackle must be strong, for they struggle very hard. Your line and rod, also, must be long, unless you use running tackle; in the deep holes and pools you will succeed best by letting your baited hook hang about three feet under water, use a hook of the size No. 6 or 7, and a cork float. The best bait for mullet is the sand, or sea-worm, which should be drawn as much up the shank of your hook as you can, that little of its tail may hang loose; for mullet are a sucking fish, and apt to get the tail end off the worm, without taking the hook within their mouth.

"This fish is considered fine and delicious, being esteemed both by the moderns and ancients. In shape, they are long and thick; head, square and flat; nose, blunt; sides marked with dusky lines; the body is covered with larger scales than other sea fish I know of; the back is of a dusky blue and green; the scales are of a silvery white; the whole appearance is, I think, like an overgrown dace. Mullet are very lively and sportive in fine weather, and show themselves in shoals, and are then frequently caught with a fly, in Sussex. Mullet spawn in the sea, and come into fresh water to recover and strengthen themselves."

TRAVELLING IN WALES IN BYEGONE TIMES.

IT is sometimes of interest, if not of use, to compare the present with the past. Here is a bit from "A Walk through Wales in August, 1797, by the Rev. Richard Warner, of Bath, with a friend." "Dolgelly, August 9th. Nothing strikes the traveller who passes through Wales more forcibly than the extreme reasonableness of the bills at houses of entertainment. Our supper last night was superb: it consisted of a sole, a trout, and a garmad (a delicious fish, somewhat like the trout, and peculiar to Alpine countries) with every proper accompaniment; mutton-steaks, vegetables, excellent bread and cheese, and three tankards of London porter—

"With toast embrown'd,
And fragrant nutmeg fraught—divine repast!"

"Our beds were comfortable, and the breakfast this morning was fit for a monarch. You will scarcely credit me, when I assure you the charge for this sumptuous fare and admirable accommodation, amounted to only five shillings and two pence, which sum was divided into the following items: Supper, 2s.; porter, 1s. 6d.; breakfast, 1s. 8d.; total, 5s. 2d. This appears the more extraordinary, as the prices of provisions between Wales and England do not differ in anything like the same proportion in the charges at the inns in the respective countries. We have hitherto found good butchers' meat not to be gotten under 6d. per pound, bread as full as dear as in the south, and butter little less expensive; these indeed, are unnatural expenses in Wales."

Shortly after the above date, in 1807, I find in "Wood's Itinerary," "Till within these six years, mutton in Wales was to be bought at 2d. and 2½d. per pound, and other meat in proportion; now, 5½d. and 6d. are commonly given for joints from Usk to Conway."

It will be noticed that the Rev. Mr. Warner does not make mention of any charge for the beds of himself and companion; the custom formerly being, "throughout Great Britain," to "throw the bed in." And there exist those travellers who can recall the period when the change gradually took place, arising from giving a dole to the bedmaker, until the small fee was looked upon as regular, and found its place in the bills, where, like a grain of mustard seed it has gradually increased some hundredfold. Indeed, I have had in my early days, upon angling and other excursions, as good a chamber, with every accommodation, for 6d., as I have now to pay from 2s. 6d. to 4s. for, and this charge not including that modern imposition, "attendance." A ninepenny bed was then thought a luxurious extravagance, and a "one-towelled room" not known.—CREEL.

SEA-FISHING OFF THE EAST COAST.

THERE is good sea-fishing off Walton-on-the-Naze. Ask Dorling, of the Hotel; he has an old salt who goes out with visitors and can be thoroughly depended upon. Off Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Cromer, &c., are all good in their season.

CREEL.

BY THE THAMES-SIDE.—The "PILGRIM FRY-ER" writes:—From being a chronic invalid, the invitation of a friend to drive me to the Thames-side near Walton Bridge, for a day's pic-nic, was most gratefully accepted. We pitched on the greensward opposite to the towpath, in full view of the river. I didn't envy the poor fish, that must have gone through a continuous see-sawing from the swell of the very numerous steam launches. The occasion was before the late "freshets;" and possibly some of those big trout lately found in the river had come by their death from wounds caused by those curses to all angling—the launches. I don't wonder, however, that the Thames trout, &c., had suffered from parasites. A largish fly flew into my room the other day, and pitched, or fell, upon my writing-pad, and tried ineffectually to wriggle or rub off a number of diminutive crab-like parasites that had got fixed and were preying upon its body. This was only another proof, I suppose, of the well known "*ad infinitum*" theory. What magnificent elm trees may be seen, in pasture or other fields, from Kingston Vale to Walton. Many anglers are so intent on their float or their flies that they can find no time or pleasure in searching for wild flowers by Thames-side. My friend, observing some beautiful wild myosotis (forget-me-nots) growing half concealed in the hedge close by, gathered a bouquet for me as a *souvenir*. The line in Gray's "Elegy" occurred to my mind of many a flower being "born to blush unseen," for these lovely wildings had to be closely sought for, like many others that literally "waste their sweetness on the desert air."

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"A fish should swim thrice—in water, in sauce, and in wine."

I had two "physicians" the other day, and they, for a wonder, did me a deal of good—in other language, a piscatorial friend presented me with a brace of tench caught from the Thames. My previous experience of tench was that it was a flabby, muddy blanket, one very much akin to chub; but in this instance, after the bronzy bellows had been made to "swim thrice," the result was "beguiling," and tench in future will be estimated at their real worth. The Thames is now in prime trim for gudgeon, chub, roach, perch, and barbel, and all those kinds of fish are fairly on the feed in most of the well frequented stations on the Thames. Of course, some of the stations being more particularly adapted to a certain class of fish—for instance, Bray and Monkey Island for barbel and perch; Maidenhead for barbel, trout, and chub; Cookham for roach and jack; Bourne End for roach, perch, and jack; Marlow, good all round; Hurley for perch and chub; Medmenham for gudgeon and chub; Henley for barbel and chub; and Maple Durham, especially, for splendid perch. In consequence of the rains, lob worms are easily obtainable, so perch and barbel have proportionately to suffer. I would advise all thrifty piscators to lay up a stock of those enticing luxuries for a dry day.

THURSDAY EVENING: Good news from most parts of the Thames—too lengthy, however, to report. Weather fine, with slight breeze from N.W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all sorts of fishing; roach, perch, chub, biting well. Prospects better; weather fine. Four days, about 40 lb. of roach and chub; 1 roach, 2 lb.; 1 barbel, 5 jack.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

River in good order for all round fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me during the last week, their takes have been as follows:—viz., 1st, Mr. Palmer jun. fishing with me took 13 lb. of roach, and a barbel nearly 5 lb. 2nd day, Mr. Hutchinson and friend 8 dozen roach and dace. 3rd day, Mr. Emmett and friend, 19½ lb. of roach and dace, 1 bream and a perch. 4th, Mr. George Palmer, about 40 lb. of roach, barbel, bream and chub.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The fishing in this district has improved. The best day we have had is 32 lb. of roach, one rod. The rest of the fishing averaged from 12 lb. to 18 lb. of fish per day. Some roach, one 1 lb. 15½ oz., and one 1 lb. 12 oz. Some good roach have been taken from the bank; and at the Sewers, 18 lb. were taken by my son; also a few good chub, ranging from 3 lb. to 4½ lb.; and a few good barbel, best 6½ lb. I have seen three good trout feeding, and bream in any quantity, but will not feed. Water very bright, the finest tackle is required. We hope to have the bream and barbel on the feed.—J. JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in fine trim now, the late rain having improved it very much, and the fish are feeding very fairly, each punt has averaged between eight and twelve doz. good size fish a day during the week. We have been very well patronised this last fortnight. Most days there have not been punts enough. Toby Brain had a fine lot of perch yesterday, Wednesday, six fish giving 7½ lb.; and one roach, 1½ lb.; one eel, 2½ lb. I, like all the rest of the fishermen, have been doing very well. My best lot was this afternoon, Thursday, in six hours, 33½ lb. of barbel and dace, all taking with worms.—JOHN BUSHNELL, Fisherman.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water is higher and much better for fishing. Fishing prospects are very good for the next few days. F. Purdue, two days, one barbel, seven dozen roach and dace, five dozen gudgeon; and one roach, of 1½ lb. H. Purdue, two jack, of 1 lb. each, and three dozen of fine roach and dace, in three days. C. Broadhead, two days, two and a half dozen roach, one bream and one barbel. Myself, two days, nine dozen roach and dace, six barbel, two bream and one chub. Mr. King, with a fly, caught another small trout, of 1½ lb., which he returned to the river again.—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Twickenham).

Business prevented writing full report. Thirty-five punts out this week, doing well. Sorry to send customers away, but they should write or wire.—A PERRIN.

Ancholme.

Since the sending of my last report, there has been some good all-round coarse fishing. One gentleman, in addition to other fish, had seventeen bream, weighing on an average, 3 lb. each. Another individual was the fortunate captor of a 5 lb. fish of the same species. I had a turn on Saturday last in the Cantor Canal, a feeder of this river. It was too cold to sit by the water-side, watching a float, so I took out a collar of flies, Ford's favourite freckled dun, and baited the tail hook, which had no fly on, with a well-scoured gentle. I then threw amongst the shoals of roach and dace, and had some fine fun, sometimes hooking two at once. It is only fair to state that I caught more with gentles than with the fly, but this system with a very fine collar, is a most taking one, and I commend it to brother anglers as a more congenial method than

bottom fishing. Some more trout have been seen near Harlem Hill Lock, and a boy caught another of my runaways, near South Kelsey, the other day.—THOMAS FORD.

Avon (Binton).

There has been some good baskets made here since the rain, the river being now in first-class condition, J. Bennet and friend taking 20 lb. of roach, averaging ½ lb. each; Mr. Avery, 29 lb. bream, largest fish bumping the scale at 9 lb., two others over 6 lb., and the rest averaging 4 lb. each; my brother, G. E. Warner, 21 lb. roach, thirty fish taken, as usual, with stewed malt; H. Warner, 14 lb., twenty fish. If the rain continues the river will be bank high, but at present it is scarcely coloured.—ARTHUR W. WARNER.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are now in splendid condition for angling, both with fly and minnow. Some large baskets of trout were taken during the flood that came down last Friday, and very good catches have been had since with fly and minnow. Monday last I caught thirty with the blue upright coudung and sand-fly. If we do not have much more rain the prospect for next week is good. No salmon have been caught yet, but I hear they have been seen at Tiverton.—W.

Cam, Ouse, and Lark.

Some good trays of fish have been taken from these waters during the past week, more especially the Cam. Andrew Antony fishing with Mr. William Howlett, of Newcastle, took on Wednesday last close upon six stone of bream, average weight, 4 lb.; also three very pretty tench that scaled 9½ lb. the three. Roach are not feeding well at present. Mr. William Howlett, however, managed to make up a nice tray from the Ouse, on Thursday last, 34 lb.; largest fish, 1½ lb. Some splendid dace have been taken from the Lark. Mr. J. Rae and Mr. Crick, one day last week took no less than six dozen splendid fellows, several of them nearly 1 lb. in weight each. The fish do not, however, bite freely. There certainly is an enormous lot of weed this season; and, in consequence, much more animalculæ than last year; which, perhaps, accounts for the delicate or obstinate way the roach bite. We may just add, in connection with fishing, it is a capital year for partridges, the coveys being very large and strong. All through Suffolk and Norfolk, ground game, Mr. Howlett informs us, are as plentiful as the winged.—J. C.

Dove (Derbyshire).

This river is now in capital condition for either surface or bottom fishing. We had more heavy rains all the week, and there is a strong current on, but not sufficient to interfere greatly with angling operations. A great many good baskets of trout have been captured since my last at Mayfield, Rochester, Ilam and Ashbourne. The apple-grey dun is on the water, and the best dishes of trout have fallen victims to it. One basket of 9½ lb. brace was a particularly fine sample. These were caught near Mayfield. The Gregory and the Derby killer have proved the most successful in the way of spinning. The bottom fishers have been catching great quantities of coarse fish daily. The worm and wasp-grub have "fetched" the finny ones best. Barbel, chub, and bream are all well on the feed. A splendid lot of chub were captured near Rochester on Tuesday with the wasp-grub, some of them scaling 1½ lb. each. Weather still dull and showery.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Very little to report this week. The upper portion of the river is very low, and trout fishing almost nil. Rough fish, such as perch, roach and dace, plentiful; and for those who prefer ground fishing, there is first-rate sport. Salmon plentiful as ever, and the peal are more numerous than for many seasons past; these are, of course, in the tidal portion of the river, where there are plenty of small bass, plaice, dabs, &c. There has been a good downpour of rain during the night, consequently the rodsters may look forward for a good innings.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in excellent condition for the fly and trout are sporting well. Some very fair baskets have been taken during the past week, the largest number I have heard of being forty-seven, all with the artificial fly. The ones killing best are the usual spring flies (No. 3), blue upright rat's fur silver twist, half stone, and heron's body blue. Report says that there are some salmon up; none have yet been caught.—W. MUDFORD.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is in excellent condition for angling, the rain in the early part of the week having greatly improved the condition of the water. There has been a good number of anglers out to-day (Thursday), and some good bags have been made. Mr. R. A. Dallas Beeding has been busy amongst the roach, grassing some of 1½ lb.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ormesby Broad.

Some friends of mine have been to Richmond, at the Sportsman's Arms, Ormesby Broad, and had capital sport. Richmond is very civil and obliging, and his charges are reasonable. He owns a portion of the water, and looks well after it. I have caught my largest fish on his water, both perch and pike.—ESOX LUCIUS.

Ouse (Bedford).

The members of the Bedford Club have sent me a very kind invitation to fish their waters. I hope to avail myself of the privilege in about a fortnight. In the meantime, I would point out a very pleasant kind of fishing, which I always practise when at Kempston (*vide* Ancholme notes). Two years ago, on this system, I had some rare sport with dace, chub and roach, catching two or three scores daily. Should my hatching operations prove favourable this season, I purpose sending a small supply of trout fry to Kempston, in return for the compliment paid me.—THOMAS FORD.

Ouse (Oxford Darcy).

I had not fished here for the last four years until last week, and I find the river is much improved. The roach being very abundant, and bream plentiful. The weather left much to be desired, and three days of the week were practically nil. I fished on the other three, and my catches totalled 250 roach, most of them being of good size, fifteen bream, largest scaling over 3 lb. (one much larger succeeded in breaking my tackle and getting away) two jack and a few eels, dace, &c. The river is most conveniently situated to the railway station, good fishing places not being distant more than one or two hundred yards. I hear that some anglers were there from Nottingham on Bank Holiday, and had a tremendous haul of bream and eels; I daresay how many, for fear some

of your readers should think I am overstating it. Accommodation is good and cheap, and I should recommend anyone visiting the place to hunt up a well-known fisherman, named Amos Hinsman, who will bait up places for them, and show them some favourite haunts. The bait I found most killing for roach was boiled wheat; it must be slowly cooked for three or four hours and not strained, but allowed to be in the liquor—bream refuse lobs, but take brandlings freely.—ROVER.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

Water in fine condition for angling with fly or any other bait. There are many trying their skill upon the Teme. There are plenty of fish upon the fords, and my opinion is the autumn fishing will be excellent. Mr. Emos Bosworth has weighed-in at the Boughton Club some fine chub, best fish over 3 lb.; Mr. W. Pitt, a few perch, half-pounders; myself, a few grayling, best brace 2 lb.; Mr. Guillhan, 4½ brace and 2½ brace. The red ant and blue dun are the best favourites for trout and grayling.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

The floods which we were so anxiously expecting have come at last. On Saturday the river was bank high, and the fish were rising in all directions; since then every stand has afforded good sport, and peal from 4 lb. to 8 lb. have been killed by the rodmen. The cot fishing closed yesterday, so the rods for the remainder part of the season will have to themselves, as the river was never in better condition or more fully stocked with fish; this is owing principally to the protection afforded to the spawning beds during the past two seasons, and if now during the coming season the tributaries are well watched the Suir will soon recover its former prestige, and the effects of the past two months' poaching be fully compensated for. We trust this will be the case, as it would be a pity to see such a river given over to destruction. The trout fishing has considerably improved during the past week or ten days, good baskets were made on both river and stream. Capt. Palliser had good sport on the Suir with flies and Devon minnow, with the latter he killed some very heavy trout. On the Suir, especially at Kilshulan, Charley Milne, Tom Rower, B. Tape, W. Magrath, and others, were more than successful on different occasions. The favourite flies are principally worms, grouse, red and black hackles, the smaller the better, as the trout are inclined to rise rather short. Wind, North-west.—DORA.

Swale.

The very heavy rains of the past week have proved a godsend to worm-fishers, who have had some nice catches. The Swale is a very rapid river, and soon runs down to the ideal coffee colour. There ought to be some very heavy baskets made up-dale, when the river fines down a little. The black drake (snipe and crimson) is a capital fly after a flood. Any of the following may now be added:—Checkwing, claret drake, cinnamon drake, freckled dun and grey goose fly. The above are numbered in my shilling manual, respectively, 34, 21, 44, 45, 52, 65.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alewias).

Although we have had very stormy weather in this locality, it has had little effect in discolouring the water, which has been in capital order for all round angling. Large roach particularly has been feeding freely, in fact, better than any previous week this season. The following are a few of the many takes of our members this past week. Mr. T. Thornton 15 lb. large roach and perch, Mr. Savatard 12 lb. roach, Mr. C. Rickett 10 lb. roach and a nice trout 18 oz., and your humble servant 19½ lb. of fine roach. The latter were principally taken with gentles at the Canal weir at Wichnor, and were exceptionally good in both size and condition, 8 of the best fish weighing 7½ lb., and there were none less than ½ lb. I hooked the best perch it has ever been my good fortune to lay hold of, but unfortunately it broke away from the small roach hook when I thought the fish was dead settled; as the fish could not have been far less than 4 lb., it will take me some little time to forget my ill-luck. Mr. Reynold, our crack angler, is reported having a good catch on Tuesday, but particulars are not to hand. The river to-night is reported in grand order, and next week's prospects with finer and more settled weather are of a most cheerful character.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is still low and bright, and in capital order for general angling; weather has been very unsettled this last week; heavy rain has fallen accompanied by thunder, but the much needed fresh has not come down the river. Sport during the past week has only been very different, except in a few instances. A few nice chub have been had with wasp grub, and a few barbel and bream with worm. Roach and dace have been had with gentles, bread paste, and creed wheat and malt; but, as I have just said, only indifferent sport has been had. An all-England fishing match took place last Saturday close to Newark, when the first prize was won by Mr. David Slater, the celebrated rod and tackle maker, of Newark. I might say that a new fishing club has been started at the house of Mr. Slater; further particulars next week.

THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The weather this week has been very unsettled, and much rain has fallen, but the river was scarcely affected up to Wednesday morning, the water remaining as low as ever it has been for the last six months, and it certainly does surprise the anglers why the fish continue to bite so well; and the accounts of sport this week are quite as good as we might expect, considering the unfavourable state of the weather and the old, stale water that has been in the river so long. The first item of news comes from Collingham, where one angler managed to bag 25 lb. of bream and a fair number of flounders and eels. The bream in this locality seem to be better on the feed than in any other part of the river, and the places where the principal part of the fish have been caught are, in my opinion, worth a baiting of worms, which might bring off a great catch. The noted bream water at Weston Cliff, where this fish abounds, has scarcely produced a basket worth mentioning, though some of our best rodsters have tried their best to get them on the feed. The bream are continually rising to the surface, but any quantity of worms thrown in will not keep them on the bottom. Then I should say keep the worms out altogether, and wait until the fish are ready to feed. It certainly is a bit of a puzzle to the fishermen, who cannot decide on what is best to do. I have often found it a good plan, when both bream and barbel refuse to take a whole worm, to fish for them with a fine dace tackle and a small piece of tail end, and this will sometimes answer the purpose. Some of our rodsters will doubtless be surprised to hear of a catch of 70 lb. of roach in one day from Clifton Hill, a locality that was thought to be fished out. I believe, however, there were three rods at work; but nevertheless it was a good take; maggots were employed. The water still remains low and clear, and all the fish are biting well.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

There has been plenty of sport here during the past week, notably in the morning and evening, and the prospects for the coming week are very inviting. The water is rather brighter than we could wish. A goodly number of very nice jack have been taken in the last fortnight, but no sooner did the news get abroad that a few had been taken, and they were evidently on the feed, than a host of trailers of all descriptions might be seen trailing about up and down the river from morn till night. We have noticed lately a goodly number of gentlemen anglers, strangers to this district, who have been spending their time on this pretty little river this season, and we have not heard one complain of dearth of sport. P.S.—Good accommodation for gentlemen fishing in the neighbourhood, and every information, may be obtained at the club house of the Caxton Anglers, the White Swan, Beccles, Thomas Wright, proprietor.—C.B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Most of our Derbyshire anglers have left the rivers and gone to the moors for grouse shooting, and I am very pleased to say that from what I can hear they have had first-class sport amongst the grouse, the birds being both plentiful and very fine ones. The past week has been a very bad one for angling of any description, and very few fish have been killed, owing to the air being loaded with electricity all the week, in fact, thunder has been heard on most days. We got a nice little flush on the Derwent last night (Wednesday), which caused a good number of bottom fishers to turn out, but I am sorry to say their takes, as a rule, were only small. Fish never feed kindly in any our Derbyshire rivers when there is thunder hanging about. To-day (Thursday) the thunder seems to have left us, and some handsome dishes of both trout and grayling have been killed with the bottom on the Darley Dale Club waters below Darley Bridge with gentles, worms and wasp grubs, one angler having a brace of good fish. The Derwent has a most beautiful nut brown colour on it, a most killing water for all kinds of angling. The killing flies for either the Wye or Derwent are the honey dun bumbles, red-grey goose, and sand flies. Fishing prospects are looking first-class for next week.—GEORGE JAMES EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

DOWN IN THE WATER-MEADOWS.

IT is just possible that some of the fair readers of the FISHING GAZETTE who had admired the pretty contrast the red-jacketed crayfish made against the double parsley in garnishing a fore-quarter of cold lamb, or a dish of ducklings, or a couple of forward chickens, during the late "sweltering" season, are doubtful whether the little fish came from the sea or from our own freshwater streams. Crayfish are now at their very best; and a few evenings might be profitably wiled away in the glorious harvest time, down in the Water-Meadows.

A walk to the river valley through fields of golden grain on either hand, is a treat not soon forgotten, and when enhanced by a little sport, renders the enterprise all but unique! If the nets have been already baited by keeper, or even by yourself, you can commence operations as soon as the beetles and the moths and bats are winging their earlier flights. When the dozen, more or less, of nets have been laid in the stream, you and your companion—for the companionship of a "country cousin," or one far dearer, is desirable on such an occasion—will be able to look around in the gradually departing twilight.

As the dew falls lightly upon yonder clover-field (and good boots should be worn), the incense of the red blooms is redolent of honey, with which not even Charley's "Princesa" or mild "Intimidat" can at all compete. The true sportsman's (like the poet's) eye is accustomed to every passing incident. It is also surprising what a lot of crayfish can be caught of a night in a fairly preserved, or not over-fished stream. Of course, if it should be private water, only the largest fish should be kept, and there will probably be enough of these to satisfy any reasonable person for one night—say in three hours' fishing.

If the moon should be near her "full," as she will be early in September, the pleasure would be much enhanced, for then you can the better observe the various insects that are on the wing, the passing fowl, and hear, and perhaps see, the little reed sparrow, rattling away his protest at his home being invaded. Most all now live such an artificial, follow-my-leader sort of life, that it is only the comparatively few who will turn aside and enjoy the simple pleasures of rural life during the present beautiful period; and a moonlight walk, combined with a little cray-fishing, to and from the Water-Meadows might afford food for contemplation, and even thankfulness towards the great Author of All Created Life.

THE PILGRIM FRY-ER.

REMARKABLE CAPTURE OF OTTERS.—Mr. James Bromley, of Sonning, has received from the hon. sec. to the Reading and District Angling Association £2 reward, under the rules of the association, for the destruction of two otters. The poachers were both bitches, one being very large and the other about half grown, and it is very remarkable that they committed suicide within a week of each other by diving into Mr. Bromley's eel-bucks.

A CORRECTION.—In "Pixie's" report of the Surrey Piscatorialists on Aug. 13, he states, "Mr. Pugh was out on Bank Holiday with Hoblyn, of Henley." This naturally would lead one to suppose Mr. Hoblyn was a professional fisherman. He is a gentleman on the Stock Exchange, and entertained Mr. Pugh at his residence at Henley.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

In re THE NORWICH FISHERIES EXHIBITION.

SIR,—For the information of your correspondent Mr. T. R. Sachs, I may state that Mr. Alfred Jardine was awarded a silver medal, and three diplomas in addition to £15 for his unrivalled exhibit, and £5 for his 26 lb. trout (*Salmo Eriox*). Mr. Jardine also had the honour of an invitation to the “de-juneur” given to their R. H. the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The ten specimen pike in Mr. Jardine's exhibit (weighing together 249 lb.), included his 37 lb. and 36 lb. pike, and several others caught by himself, weighing from 20 lb. upwards. Also the 28½ lb. pike captured by Mr. J. Lodge (not G. Ledger) and Mr. J. Knechtli's three weighing together 62 lb., caught within two hours in Suffolk waters.

Among other fish caught and shown by Mr. Jardine, were the following. The 26 lb. (*Salmo Eriox*) taken by him “spinning,” an 8½ lb. Thames trout, and a case of 6 trout *Salmo fario*, weighing 22½ lb., taken by him with artificial fly—also six perch 16½ lb. selected from two of his successful days on Thames and Colne—and a brace of roach close on 4 lb., &c. Also casts by the late Frank Buckland, painted by H. L. Rolfe of his 36 lb. pike, and a smaller one of 27 lb. In his exhibit were also a fine Thames trout of 12 lb. caught by Mr. R. King, two carp of 15 lb. and 10 lb. by Mr. Alfred Nuthall, also a 12 lb. barbel, and 6 lb. chub, by Mr. Gant.

I understand the Piscatorial Sub-committee appointed to select specimens for the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition, for some reasons did not send the 21 lb. Thames pike caught and presented by Mr. Jardine to their society. This fish is considered the best “*Esox Lucius*” in their museum, but they showed some smaller and inferior specimens.

Mr. T. R. Sachs's remark as to the division of the £20 prize awarded Mr. Jardine, whose friends lent the before-mentioned fish for his exhibit, seems altogether out of place; as the Piscatorial Society borrowed several specimens to add to the importance of their collection.—I am &c., J. LODGE.
21, Noble Street, E.C., 16 Aug., 1881.

THE NORWICH EXHIBITION.

SIR,—There is in my notes last week an omission I regret. At the end of the *Norwich Argus*' extract I wrote the following:—

“The award to the Piscatorial Society was £15, a silver medal, and two diplomas. Mr. Jardine received £15 for his exhibit, £5 for his 26 lb. Irish trout, a silver medal, and a diploma.”

The two last items the printer has omitted, and it looks unfair to deprive Mr. Jardine of these honours. Will you kindly rectify it in your next?—I am, &c., T. R. SACHS.

THE PROPOSED “FISHING GAZETTE” TROUT-FLY AND SPINNING BAIT TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Why not arrange to hold the above on Walton Sale or some similar still water; as it would be much easier to judge how an artificial fly falls, as to accuracy and delicacy, than if thrown over a lawn, however smooth it might be? The same remark will apply to casting with baits, either spinning or otherwise.—I am, &c., ALFRED G. JARDINE.

[How can you measure the distance?—ED.]

FISHING AT PURTON, WILTS.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if any of your correspondents will favour me with information as to what fishing there is, and how to be obtained, in the neighbourhood of Purton, Wilts.—I am, &c., R. WINSTONE.
47, Marylebone Road, Aug. 16.

FISHING AT SCARBOROUGH.

SIR,—Will you or some of your numerous subscribers kindly inform me if there is good sea-fishing from the shore at Scarborough; also if apartments are to be obtained easily.—I am, &c., AN OLD ANGLER.

[There is first class sea-fishing at Scarborough; and apartments, a friend informs us, can be had easily and reasonably.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR BUSHY PARK.

SIR,—I would be greatly obliged if you would tell me what kind of fish are in the unenclosed waters of Bushy Park, and the likeliest baits to use for the coming month of September?—I am, &c., HINDMAN.

[Will some friend kindly answer this?—ED.]

FISHING IN SUSSEX, &c.

SIR,—I have again had the pleasure of fishing at Stellingly in Sussex, and had very fair sport during my fortnight's stay, I went down on the 9th of last month, and was able to go by the new line which is now open via Groombridge. I was, if I remember, rather doubted last year in my statements in regard to the fish I caught round and about Stellingly. This year I caught tench weighing 2½ lb., roach to ½ lb., trout 2½ lb. Any one going to Stellingly can find out the places themselves, ponds, streams, and the river Cuckmere. I am sorry to hear since I left that there has been some netting going on down there, by people I suppose who are too lazy or too ignorant to fish with rods, &c. Cannot this system of netting be put a stop to, it will soon put a stop to fishing. There caught, I think, be a fine imposed on those caught fishing with nets in our streams, rivets, &c., why should nets be allowed to be used. Another great nuisance is the steam launch on the Thames. Since my return from the country, I had a day's bank-fishing at Teddington (it was on Bank Holiday), I had very

fair sport, largest I caught was a barbel a little over 4 lb., and four roach about ½ lb. each. If these horrid steamlaunches, or steam devils, had not been going, I am certain I should have caught more, but as soon as I got the least bite, one of these horrid things came along and spoilt my sport; it washed the water right on to the bank, and it was like fishing in the sea with a float; I could not tell whether I had a bite or not. I caught the fish named by ledgering.—I am, &c., SUSSEX.
August 13.

JAPANESE RODS.

SIR,—In confirmation of the well merited praise you bestowed on the above rods, may I be permitted to add my testimony? I was roach fishing without a mate at Elstree reservoir on Tuesday, the 9th inst., with a 7 feet telescope Japanese rod, and I had the good fortune to hook a very handsome 4 lb. tench, minus 2 oz., and after a long and severe struggle I succeeded in landing him safe and sound in my punt, and I hope to have the pleasure of seeing it in a case on my wall in commemoration of the long and exciting struggle we had together. I may add my line was a tight, fine gut, and above all a hair hook, and the bait a marsh worm. I enclose my name and address.—I am, &c., MARSH WORM.

P.S.—The truth of the above can be confirmed by the keeper, who, many of your readers will regret to hear has been cruelly ill-treated by night poachers who were caught by him laying night lines. One of them bit him in a savage manner on one ear. He is going on favourably.

August 10.

[What a pity the rascals were not caught! By the way, we noticed some Japanese telescope rods for sale at Messrs. Gee and Co.'s shop in Gray's Inn Road the other day at 1s. each.—ED.]

YACHT FOR THE BROADS.

SIR,—One of your correspondents inquires after a pleasure-yacht and a man for the Broads. Let him inquire of Curtis Aldred, blockmaker, North Quay, Yarmouth, and if he cannot supply him, let him call upon me.—I am, &c., R. R. NORMAN.
Collingwood House.

A GOOD TAKE.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following catch of fish made by me on Friday, August 12th, viz., 62 lb. of perch, roach, and chub.—I am, &c., FRED. HURLEY.
Elmview, Coley Avenue, Reading,
Aug. 17, 1881.

A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

SIR,—In my report in the FISHING GAZETTE of the 6th inst., on the rivers Barle and Exe, an error in printing occurred. The word “roach” being substituted for the word “trout.” In last week's number I referred to it, and stated that, as the former fish do not frequent these rivers, I mention it, as some ardent roach anglers might be led astray. Strange to say that on last Friday, the day your valuable paper is published, Mr. Heath of this town brought me a fish, which he asked me the name of, “having caught it whilst fishing for trout with a worm during a heavy flood which we had down on that day.”

I at once saw that it was a roach, which fish has never been known by the oldest inhabitants here to have been caught here in either of these rivers.

Now to account for it. About eighteen months ago a friend of mine, the Rev. G. Jellicoe, a most enthusiastic and good all-round fisherman placed a large box drilled with holes, in which he used to keep his live bait for pike fishing in—such as roach and dace, &c.—into the mill stream here which runs into the Barle.

I must here say that there is no pike fishing in the immediate neighbourhood, but he used to keep his baits here.

The box having become broken, or come to grief in some way, he took the few roach that remained, put them in a can and deposited them in the river Barle, hence the appearance of that species of fish in the above rivers. The place where the fish were caught was on a sandbank near the junction of the two rivers at a distance of nearly two miles from where they were deposited into the Barle.

I shall be glad to know if these fish are likely to propagate in such rapid streams as the above mentioned.—I am, &c., W.

[Yes, they will probably do well; we know several streams containing roach and dace. There are plenty of long deep pools on the Barle near Dulverton which will suit them exactly. We do not think, all the same, that white fish of any kind improve a trout stream; they eat the trout spawn if they can get it. There are numbers of “white fish,” roach, dace, &c., in the Exe at Taunton and lower down.—ED.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I have no doubt I should have experienced much pleasure in undertaking a ramble with “Creel,” through Westmoreland and Cumberland in pursuit of reliable information in relation to the abundance and wariness of fish; but as this practical analysis of facts appears to be deferred indefinitely, and as I cannot speak with certainty as to the time, &c., at my disposal in April and May, I shall be glad, if “Creel” speaks from personal experience, to learn to what streams and districts his practical exploits allude. So that, in case we have each traversed the same arena with rod in hand, we may lay before the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE facts—the results of our experience—of value in deciding the question propounded.

It appears that I may have misunderstood “Creel,” for in this gentleman's letter of August 13 I find the words “those becks in Westmoreland and Cumberland to which I refer as being once declared as ‘fished out’ by rod and line.” These lines lead me to infer that “Creel's” statement was based on mere hearsay, or on the authority of another; which, in a case of this kind, renders all such evidence of little value, especially if no attempt has been made to rebut errors that have arisen from misconceptions, however plausible.

I am fully impressed with the fact that a ramble of two months with the rod through a mountainous district would not only be delightful, but also requisite in a wholly unknown region, if those who had the task of gleaning the facts were previously absolutely ignorant of piscatory matters. Having lived a considerable period in two different parts of Westmoreland, and fished many seasons in this county, besides at times making incursions into Cumberland, I have had at

least fair opportunities of ascertaining personally the nature of the fishing, the practices peculiar to poachers of the districts, and the capabilities of the miscreants to elude detection.

Turning in another direction, I must call the attention of Mr. "L. B." to the article of "B." on "Fishing in the Tideway." Let Mr. "L. B." read the figures given there relating to weight and number of fish caught by numerous individuals in a single week in a hard-fished river like the Thames. After such figures does "L. B." think that any reasonable angler can be so insane as to believe one-hundredth part of the fictions relating to scarcity of fish in the Thames; or is it only fish by the hundredweight per day, for every rod, that can satisfy the greed of the famishing gross-weight London fisherman. Mr. P. Geen's 140 lb. of barbel in three hours stultifies his own arguments.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

ANGLING BOOKS: "THE ANGLER'S MUSEUM" AND "COUNTRY CONTENTMENTS."

SIR,—The "Anglers' Museum" of 1784 has the name of Thomas Shirley on the titlepage, and contains a portrait of William Kirby, the celebrated angler and quondam keeper of Newgate. Shirley's name disappears from the second and third editions, while Kirby's portrait remains. Was the latter the writer of the book?

It may interest your readers to anticipate the new edition of the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria" by stating a circumstance which appears to have escaped bibliographers. The second edition of the "Museum" demanded, says the preface, "by the rapid sale of the first," is, I find, really a reissue of the unsold copies of the original impression with a new titlepage, new preface, and "the sermon of St. Anthony" prefixed. This trick was successful, and led to the production of a third edition, which is a paginary reprint of the so-called "second" as far as page 122, when, without verbal alteration, ten lines are saved by reducing the "spacing," and the book ends with page 135 instead of page 136, as in the former impression.

The bibliographers do not mention an edition of Markham's "Country Contentments," published in 1623. A portion of the work bearing this date is in the Museum. It is the second part, and I am anxious to ascertain whether the first part was also issued in the same year. The first appearance in "Country Contentments" of the prose version of "The Secrets of Angling," which was originally published by Markham in his "English Husbandman," under the title of "The Pleasures of Princes," was in the edition of 1631. It is not in that of 1615. If there was an impression of 1623, did it contain this "Art of Angling"?

Regarding the authorship of this treatise, it has just occurred to me that although published by Markham, it may have been prepared by William Lawson, who was associated with Markham, if not in authorship, certainly in his engagements with the same stationer, who repeatedly issued a tract by Lawson with others by Markham, under the collective title, "A Way to Get Wealth." Lawson, we know, had acquired a kind of property in the "Secrets" by "augmenting" them; and he may possibly, as I have said, have reduced them to prose, and thereby earned a better right than the augmentation afforded him to a place in the triumvirate mentioned in the verses prefixed to "Barker's Delight"—

"Markham, Ward, Lawson dare you
With Barker now compare."—I am, &c.,
THOS. SATCHELL.

Downshire Hill House, N.W., August 17, 1881.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The pegged-down match at Dagenham Lake for twelve prizes, was competed for by twenty-three of the members, with, I regret to say, but little success, only seven of them were taken. Mr. Harding, first prize; Mr. F. Arnold, second; Messrs. S. Patrick and A. Plumstead tied for third and fourth; Mr. C. Robinson, fifth; Mr. F. Plumstead, sixth; Mr. Farebrother, seventh. Several of the other members fished, but got very little takes. Mr. Wood, Shepperton Road, Islington, provided the two conveyances in a very satisfactory manner. Mr. Wood had a very nice tray of roach and dace, weight 6 lb. 9½ oz., from Blackheath.—J. WORLEDGE.

Aug. 15.

[In future, please send your club report to our office at 12, Fetter Lane, E.C., and not to the old address at Crane Court.—ED.]

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday 14th, several members went to Amberley and the Colne, returning with some good shows of fish. R. Smith, bream; H. Scott, bream; C. Daniels, roach and dace; T. Bowling, roach and bream; D. Davis, roach; A. Shakell, roach; W. Streeton, roach; D. Leston, roach and dace. A match will take place at Windsor on Sunday 21st.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

August 16th.

[In future, please send your club report to our office at 12, Fetter Lane, E.C., and not to the old address at Crane Court.—ED.]

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Our members generally have been out of luck this week. Several of them have tried hard, but until we have a good flood I fear no great takes will come to hand. Mr. Ash, the crack at roach, will take them somehow or other. He weighed 5½ lb. in one catch, whilst Mr. Anscombe, G. Saunders, Mr. Tree, and Mr. Hassell could not average their previous doings. It is very remarkable that Mr. Anscombe, Mr. Ash, and Mr. Olliff on Sunday all took dace from the Ouse, which will stir the members up for dace-fishing, a sport quite new in this river. Mr. Olliff, who never expects to go out without taking a jack, still kept up his charter by killing one on Sunday. I myself only took three roach after a hard day's fishing. Three members went to Chichester, but to no purpose. As I stated before, the river is full of weeds, and not at all adapted for fishing yet. On the 21st a peg-down takes place at Barcombe, between the mills, and a good muster is expected. I may also mention that several members have been trying for the monster jack that broke Mr. Saunders a fortnight back, but to their dismay they have only captured his offspring. On Monday it was decided that no roach be weighed less than 4 oz. in any competition.—GROUND-BAIT.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we had a fair show, the following members weighing-in fish:—Mr. Seymour, trout and barbel from the Thames; Mr. Jennings, roach and dace; Messrs. Troughton, Harris and Hurlock, roach.—H. TAYLOR.
August 16.

CAXTON ANGLING CLUB, BECCLES.

The members of this little club held the third of their prize competitions for this season on Saturday last. Fishing commenced at three and ended at half-past six, the time being hardly long enough to give the members a chance of obtaining a very heavy take. The weather was beautifully fine, although the wind was rather high. Upon meeting at the club room the following takes of roach were weighed-in as the result of the three-and-a-half hours' angling:—A. Piper, 2 lb. 15 oz.; C. Chase, 2 lb. 11½ oz.; J. Hooker, 2 lb. 10½ oz.; G. Holland, 2 lb. 10 oz.; F. Ulph, 2 lb. 4 oz.; C. Bumstead, 2 lb.; W. Peachey, 1 lb. 12 oz.; T. Palmer, 1 lb. 11½ oz.; W. Lee, 1 lb. 4 oz.; H. Godbold, 1 lb. ¾ oz.; and G. Pye, 11½ oz. Mr. F. Ulph also secured a special money prize for the largest roach, which scaled 14 oz.—C. B.

CITY OF BRISTOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The second angling contest of the above association came off on Bank Holiday, on the Canal at Limply Stoke, for prizes to the value of about £10. As there were no entrance fees a good number put in an appearance to take part in the contest, with the following results:—Messrs. Sampson, 1st prize; Fake, 2nd; Edwards, 3rd; Jones, 4th; Hovey, 5th; Parrey, 6th; Iles, 7th; Clutsona, 8th; E. Hoskings, 9th; Bird, 10th; Mellor, 11th; Oxenham, 12th; Skuse, 13th; F. Hoskings, 14th; Lewis, 15th; Yearbley, 16th; and Headford 17th prize. On Monday, August 8th, that being the quarterly general meeting, the prizes were given to the successful competitors by the president, Mr. J. A. Jones, who has taken a very great interest in the association since its formation. He also spoke a few words of encouragement to the members. Five more members were then enrolled in the association. Mr. J. H. Champion then proposed, and Mr. R. Hill seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to those gentlemen who had given the prizes. Mr. J. H. Stantial responded on their behalf, and said that though not much of an angler himself, he was pleased to see that angling was a noble art to learn, and should advise all men, especially young ones, to learn it. Some capital songs were then rendered by some of the members, and one of the pleasantest evenings since the formation of the association was brought to a close.—J. H. STANTIAL, hon. sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 14th:—Messrs. J. Chambers and Castell, roach and chub from the Roding—roach are still in very bad condition in this river; Messrs. Martin and Perry had roach from the Wey; and Mr. Fowler, roach from Windsor.—CAS.

EDMONTON AND TOTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have been out in full force lately, and our trays were well filled both on Sunday and Wednesday last. Although our members have been in all directions, those who stopped near home fared best, the roach from the tea gardens being greatly admired by all who saw them. On the 10th Mr. J. Hasler weighed-in perch and roach, Mr. B. Lowin roach, Mr. Robinson perch and roach, Mr. Dick Money perch and tench, and Messrs. Selwood and Tracey, perch. On the 13th Mr. B. Lowin had a fine show of roach, tench and perch, the roach being specially admired, six of the largest weighing five pounds.—D. G. M., secretary.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Brother George G. Taylor, 13 lb. 6 oz. of tench from Tring, on the 11th inst.; one chub, 6½ lb. from Hampton, while fishing with Charlie Davis, said to be the finest fish taken for several years past, and it was sent to Mr. Miller, of 257, East Street, Walworth, to be preserved; also 7 lb. of roach; Brother Perkins, 41 lb. of bream and roach from the river Ouse; Brother Bates, three barbel from the river Thames; Brother Rudkin, bream from the Welsh Harp. Members of the above club are requested to attend on Wednesday next to arrange a match for some valuable prizes presented by Brothers Harrison and Bates.—GEORGE G. TAYLOR, sec.

August 17.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only six members weighed-in on Sunday last, but we had a very fair show of fish. From the Wey Mr. Theobald had 9 lb. 15 oz. bream and roach, one bream, a splendid shaped fish, weighed 4 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 3 lb. 3 oz. roach from the same river; Mr. J. Fitch, 5 lb. 8 oz. of roach from the Thames, and a nice dace 9½ oz.; Mr. Stammer, three jack from the Welsh Harp, one fine fish weighing 9 lb. 15 oz.; Mr. Painter, a pretty show of roach from the Colne weighing 4 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Young, 1 lb. 3 oz. roach from Grand Junction Canal.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

P.S.—The concert for the benefit of the widow of the late C. Perkins will take place at the club-house on Monday, August 22; chairman, Mr. W. Phillips, vice, Mr. C. Watling, jun.

August 16.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society took place, as usual, on Thursday, and was well attended. The secretary announced that letters had been received from Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., Mr. Marston and Mr. Wheelton, expressing their sense of the honour done them by the society in electing them honorary members. Mr. Bryant gave notice that at the next meeting he would propose an entrance fee for all members joining after the present month. A number of specimen fish were weighed-in during the week. Perch, roach and dace, from the Thames, by Messrs. Crumplen, Bennett and White; Mr. Bennett also weighed-in some magnificent roach, several going 1½ lb., taken by himself on Thursday, with Lowe (of whom he spoke very highly), at Thorney Broad. Two of these have gone to Mr. Alfred, of Moorgate Street, to be preserved. Dr. A. C. Tucker also produced a fine roach, taken with Lowe from the same water. This society now takes rank as one of the first angling associations, and promises to be of great service to the piscatorial world.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third annual dinner of this society took place on the 14th inst. at the White Horse, Bury, near Amberley, Sussex, and proved quite a success; the members doing ample justice to the very excellent viands prepared for them by the host (Mr. Cooper), everything being of the finest quality, and served in a manner that gave satisfaction to all the company. Among the guests present

were Messrs. A. Clout and W. Sutcliffe, of the Brothers Well Met. After dinner some took a stroll among the hills, while others went to the river and succeeded in capturing some very good roach and bream. The members arrived safe at the club house by 9.30 p.m., having spent a most enjoyable day.—J. CHURCHMAN.

Aug. 15.
[Will Mr. Churchman in future send his report to our new office, 12, Fetter Lane? He has got some old report forms.—ED.]

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 11th, Messrs. Geen, Hoole and Penny had a good show of barbel, roach, bream and perch; M' Mackness, dace and roach. The result of the gudgeon match for three prizes was as follows: Mr. Arnold, first; Mr. Lewis, second; Mr. Hitchcock, third. We have also had a very fair show of trout, carp, &c., by the following members: Messrs. Aldridge, May, Walters, Steadman, Dean, and Reynolds. Most of the above takes were from the Thames at Shepperton, and some from the Wey.—VORTEX.

Aug. 15.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Monday, August 15, the members and a large number of friends proceeded to Ferriby House, in the steamer "Lady Elizabeth," to take part in an angling competition in aid of the funds of a very deserving charity, known as the Hospital for Poor and Sick Children. The society was very successful in obtaining the names of a number of gentlemen who are generally connected with any good cause that may be brought forward in the town. The committee, having thrown in a good deal of energy, will be able to congratulate themselves on the happy results of their labours. A good number of prizes had been obtained as gifts towards aiding the cause, and were satisfactory to the respective winners. Upwards of fifty entered on the list for the match, and, though only very light weights were obtained as a rule, those who did make a good catch were able to show a very nice sample of fish; the roach in one or two instances were exceptionally fine fish, and proved most conclusively that the Ancholme contains some of the finest roach to be obtained in this district. The 1st prize was obtained by Mr. Noble; 2nd, Mr. Crossland; 3rd, Mr. Hall; the other prizes falling to next lowest weights. In addition to the angling competition, the committee had thoughtfully provided for the non-fishing part of the company. A brass band accompanied the trip and played some good selections of music. Athletic sports, in the shape of running, jumping, sack racing, combined with a variety of other somewhat novel arrangements, made a day's programme seldom produced and carried out with so much general satisfaction; and it is to be hoped that some considerable benefit will be derived from the proceedings.—F. J. H.

Aug. 18.

HULME ELLESMERE FISHING CLUB.

The members of the above club fished their annual match on the 14th inst., in the river Weaver, at Barton, near Northwich, Cheshire, under most trying circumstances, the wind almost blowing a gale, and the rain coming down pretty freely, which made the macintoshes and leggings very acceptable. There was a very good muster of the members, thirty-seven of the forty-eight met to do battle for the seventeen prizes which were to be competed for, and also to decide the annual dinner, which is fished for by odd and evens taking part in the match, Mr. William Taylor, the treasurer, as usual, giving three prizes; Mr. Jos. Parker, of Heatly, a prize for the heaviest fish; Mr. Thomas Foibank, a prize; besides which the club give two fishing rods, bronze reel and silk line, landing net (complete), bait can, tackle book, two hanks of gut, fishing stool, and brass reel. The following are the winners:—1st, T. Rock; 2nd, J. Hampson; 3rd, T. Pilling; 4th, J. Coxon; 5th, A. Whittaker; 6th, J. Heywood; 7th, J. Bradley; 8th, J. Rawlinson; 9th, J. Proctor; 10th, J. Holmes; 11th, T. Bailey; 12th, W. Eaton; 13th, T. Beaty; 14th, T. Pilling; 15th, T. Beaty.—T. B.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, the 10th inst., Mr. G. P. Rolt, the president, had a tray of nice perch, which weighed 5 lb. 9 oz. in all, the heaviest one being 1 lb. 3½ oz. Mr. G. Rolt had a fine jack; Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., was quite up to his old form, having 13 lb. 14 oz. of bream, the heaviest weighing 2 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. J. Hilliar, jun. (who gets more like his dad every day), had 9 lb. ¾ oz. of bream. On Sunday, the 14th, Mr. B. Crook had some fine roach, the heaviest 12 oz.; he had also some chub, the heaviest of which weighed 1 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. W. H. Mecham had roach; Mr. J. Barnes had perch and roach. Wednesday, 17th, Mr. G. P. Rolt was again well among the perch, having 5 lb. 3½ oz., the heaviest one 1 lb. 8½ oz. This makes 29 lb. 14½ oz. of perch this gentleman has weighed-in on our Wednesdays. Mr. G. Rolt had some good roach; Mr. C. Green also had roach; Mr. G. Bliss had 5 lb. 12½ oz. of bream. The heaviest one, which weighed 3 lb. 4 oz., was a remarkably fine specimen. He also had some good roach. Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., again had a show of bream 3 lb. ½ oz. This gentleman also had a very fine perch, which weighed 2 lb. 4 oz., which he took with ordinary roach line. Mr. J. Barrett, of Diss Street, Hackney Road, who is renowned for the preservation of this class of fish, has this specimen to preserve. Mr. J. Hilliar, jun., had 7 lb. 14½ oz. of capital bream. There are five special prizes in hand waiting for the members to name time and place where they shall be fished for.

LARKHALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since my last report on August 1 we have had no less than 206 lb. 12½ oz. of fish weighed-in, special attention being paid to the barbel. Mr. G. Watkins 62 lb. 14 oz. in three days' fishing, 35 lb. 5 oz., 18 lb. 14 oz., and 8 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. G. Spencer, 3 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. T. Boyce, 21 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. E. Watkins, 5 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. G. Nicholson, 8 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. C. J. Morris, 6 lb. 3 oz.; and Mr. G. T. Penn, 9 lb. 15 oz. The balance made up with roach, perch, dace, bream, and chub, with the assistance of Messrs. J. Green, W. Spencer, A. Morris, jun., W. C. King, F. H. Dean, C. Doveson, and F. Kerry.—W. TUCKER, hon. sec.

August 13.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 14th several of our members tried their luck, but met with indifferent success. The following weighed-in:—Mr. Hopton, bream, 7 lb.; Mr. G. Watson, roach, chub and dace, 4 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Grey, roach, 1 lb. 13 oz., and winner of a prize for heaviest roach; Mr. Watts, roach and dace, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Wightman, roach, 1 lb.; Mr. Heelas, roach; Mr. Hurwood, roach; Mr. Scott, roach; Mr. Banfield, jack.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

August 15th.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The date of the excursion to the Vyrnwy has been changed from the 6th to the 8th Sept., in consequence of the alteration of the date of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's visit to this city. The name of the donor of the one guinea prize, mentioned last week, was Mr. T. W. Haigh not Mr. Hugh.—R. WOOLFALL.

Liverpool, August 17.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members of the above society were well again to the fore last Sunday. Messrs. J. and G. Drew, Long, and Gorsuch had roach, dace, chub and perch from the Thames; Mr. Neagus, roach and perch from the Stort; Mr. Laundry had jack and roach from Pulborough. Mr. Ward's prize was won by Mr. Neagus.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

Aug. 16.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have been working very hard during the past week, but have met with but little reward. On the 12th instant, Mr. Percy weighed-in a small jack about 2½ lb.; and on the 14th, Messrs. Porter, Wyeth, and Glaister had decent shows of roach. We hope to meet with better luck on the 4th of September, when the whole of our members will sit down to fish for several valuable prizes, at Weybridge. Gentlemen desirous of joining this society are requested to attend the club house, the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, any Thursday evening, between nine and eleven, or to communicate with the secretary, Mr. F. Robson, at the above address, when he will gladly forward all particulars.—F. ROBSON.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this very flourishing club are taking advantage of all the fine weather, and in their many outings this month have had some very good catches. Ever since the club has been formed Chichester has been "the happy hunting ground" of the Portsmouth Waltonians; but alas! what with netting and other unfair means of fishing, the canal has been pretty well "skinned out." Still there is fish there, but not as in times gone by, and they, too, want a deal of catching. Consequently this season the anglers have been compelled to seek "fresh fields and pastures new," and they have been amply rewarded by some good bags of roach, carp, bream, and dace from Midhurst, Selham, Aldingbourne, Tichfield, Wickham, and Baffins. The latter, an extensive pond in the vicinity of Portsmouth, which for some years has been well stocked by the members for their own sport. This is the first season of fishing there, and some splendid carp and roach have been taken. Next Wednesday (24th inst.) is arranged for an afternoon contest. Several valuable prizes are in hand, and they intend giving Chichester another turn.—DAGGERWOOD.

READING AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

At one of the weekly meetings of this association (which are held at the head-quarters, Great Western Hotel, on Saturdays), it was decided to organise a river excursion, and the trip came off most successfully on Monday. Twenty gentlemen embarked at Caversham on board the "Wild Rose" launch, and, stopping to pic-nic in Quarry Woods, had tea at the Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead, in the evening, returning to Reading by train.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The undermentioned members were out on the 14th inst. to angle for a prize of a guinea, given by our worthy member Mr. A. G. Allard, for gross weight of all fish. Mr. G. Caborn proved victorious with a nice little trout of 3 lb., taken with single hair while roach-fishing, also 4 lb. 12 oz. of roach; second, Mr. John Allard, 5 lb. 2½ oz., bream and roach; third, Mr. J. Billings, perch and bream, 2 lb. 9 oz.; fourth, Mr. H. Duncombe, roach and dace, 13½ oz. On the 7th inst., Mr. J. Billings weighed-in a handsome chub of 6 lb. 5 oz. The members of the above society purpose going out on the first Sunday in September to Goring, Pangbourne, for a series of prizes; all start by first train from Paddington. Although I am no paste angler, I beg to state that I tried Mr. King's natural bait, and found it a very good killer and adheres well.—J. CABORN, sec.

Aug. 15.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

Our members continue to have a fair share of sport. On the 5th, Mr. Valler, 2 lb. 3 oz. of roach and dace. On the 7th, Mr. Freeman, 10 lb. bream from the Ouse, but was too late to weigh-in. On the 9th, Mr. Valler, 8 lb. 7 oz. roach and dace. Mr. Lockyear, 5 lb. roach and dace. On the 10th, Mr. Lee, 1 lb. 5 oz. roach. On the 11th, 3 lb. 7 oz. roach and dace. On the 13th, Mr. Lockyear, out with Mr. J. Johnson, at Kingston, 29 lb. roach, a few dace, making 30 lb., taken in four hours. Mr. Bird tried the Lea same day, only a small jack and one perch. On the 14th, myself, 3 lb. 5 oz. roach. Mr. Bromhead, chub, roach. On the 16th, Mr. Valler, 6 lb. roach and dace. Mr. Monk, 2 lb. 13 oz. roach and dace. Members compete next Sunday, at Pangbourne, for several prizes.—J. GOUBOT.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Another member of the above society, Mr. John Marland, paid a visit on August 9th to Mr. Wm. Vintnor's, The Ferry Boat Inn, Dogdyke (Witham), and succeeded in taking some splendid fish, he had upwards of 40 lb. of bream, roach and eel. On Saturday, August 13, one of the clubs in connection with the above society, the Stamford and Warrington, held their contest in a private reserve, when the prizes were taken as follows:—1st, John Tasker; 2nd, Henry Adams; 3rd, Tom Ratcliffe; 4th, Robert Worsley; 5th, Mathew Lee.—J. B. U.

Stalybridge, August 15.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Contrary to our usual good fortune of late, we had a poor show of fish on the 14th inst., none of the members succeeding in getting good takes, the result at weighing-in being as follows:—Mr. E. Morrow, 2 lb. ¼ oz. roach and bream; Mr. A. Parrott, 1 lb. 7¼ oz. roach; Mr. Thomas Millington, 1 lb. ½ oz. perch; and Mr. T. Grettton 8½ oz. roach. A complimentary visit to this club will take place on Tuesday, August 30, when brother anglers and friends are respectfully invited to attend.—THOMAS GRETTON, secretary.

August 16.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The annual dinner of the delegates will take place at the Rye House, on Sunday, September 11th, 1881, on which occasion there are three prizes, presented by the late secretary (now president) of the Kenton Angling Society,

to be fished for: other prizes are expected to be given. All the arrangements as to the fishing, time of dining, &c., will be decided at the next committee meeting, Monday, September 5th. Those delegates and friends wishing to join us on the day will oblige by sending in their names not later than that date.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

WALTONIANS.

On August 14th the following gentlemen weighed-in:—Mr. Grace 12 lb. roach and dace, Mr. Waltham 5 lb. roach and dace, Mr. Edwards 3 lb. 5½ oz., Mr. Roland, roach, 2 lb. 10 oz., Mr. Burton 4 lb. 5½ oz. roach and dace, Mr. Bowring, roach, 2 lb. 10½ oz., Mr. Good, jun., 1 lb. 13 oz., Mr. Greenfield 2 lb. 2½ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

August 14.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 12th, Mr. Weatherhead weighed-in about 25 lb. of bream that he caught at Ormesby Broad the same day, all the fish were in splendid condition. On the 14th Mr. Boalch was out with C. Brown, of Richmond, and succeeded in getting 7 lb. 10½ oz. of roach and dace. Mr. Evans, at the same place, got 2 lb. 2½ oz. of roach and dace. Mr. Boalch, jun., 13½ lb. dace. Mr. Bayley weighed roach and dace from Pulborough. The contention for Mr. Grigg's side of bacon is beginning to get warm. On Sunday evening the weighing of fish was watched very closely. Mr. Boalch now holds the situation that "M. le Pere" held last week. All members are requested to attend the society's headquarters on the 26th to vote as to how and where the following prizes shall be competed for:—1st, A Work of Art valued £10 10s., given by Mr. Schwartz. 2nd, a well known Piscatorial Work in 2 vols. (£4 4s.), given by Mr. Bansback. £1 1s. by Mr. Vicary, and a felt hat given by Mr. Sebert. This competition is down on the list for the 11th Sept. The following prizes have been given for a special competition, the date and conditions of which have not yet been fixed:—1st, two pictures of goldfinches and bullfinches, drawn and given by Mr. W. Hart, whose ability as an ornithological artist is so well displayed in the Natural History of the late John Gould, F.R.C., &c., &c., that I need not say this is a prize of great value. 2nd, Salmon, Trout, and Perch, after the painting by H. L. Rolfe, given by "Yur Umble Un." 3rd, gold scarf pin, by Mr. R. La Feuillade. 4th, two brass winches, by Mr. Bansback. As there is a lot of work to get through this evening all are requested to attend early and get it done. Now, do not forget what you have to do on the evening of the 26th, all ye members of the Walworth Waltonians, and not leave the work to be done by a few members, and grumble afterwards as to why this was done, and that not done.—PRIXE.

August 18.

THE BOVEY—TROUT STREAM.

IN the early part of the season I had occasion to call the attention of anglers to what, in my opinion, was an excellent opportunity to all those seeking new and good fishing, away from the busy haunts of men, and where the speckled beauties have so long remained unmolested, except by a certain few; the results of which have proved prolific beyond conception, as reports in the various numbers of the FISHING GAZETTE have shown. This was that portion of the River Torridge, at Woodford Bridge. Having added this portion to the angler's interest, I now wish to call further attention to the river Bovey, from Bovey Tracey itself. Not being in very good health, I have visited this little village, with its most charming surrounding scenery, for a few days, which only needs to be known to be better appreciated. The town of Bovey Tracey is small, but more than prettily situated, nestling in amongst hills; some beautifully wooded, others with the golden grain, fast falling—not to the sickle as in days gone by, but to the more modern steam and horse reaping machines—others green, and sloping down to the river side. The old church of St. John's stands at the top of the town, which is well worth a visit. The drives are very fine. Dartmoor within an hour's reach. The hotel is the Union, a most comfortable and well ordered house; and visitors will find every accommodation they can wish for. The manager, Mr. T. Wolfenden and his good lady, also his little daughter (Adeline), are most obliging—the former rendering his company; anglers and tourists also, every assistance he can; the latter in looking after their general comforts. The angler in taking up his quarters there will not have to go out of his way to see that he is in a fishing district, for, on crossing the bridge close to the hotel, he will naturally pause to look at the stream purling down, which is made of two or three tributaries. Over the centre stream hangs a fine old mountain ash whose branches embrace those of a noble horse-chestnut on the opposite side, beneath which, in their shade, the speckled beauties are "at home." These fish may be caught, so my informant stated, from the bridge, but the stream from this point upwards is strictly preserved for above a mile. Tickets may be had from the hotel at two shillings and sixpence for the season, that is for trout. On the opposite side of the bridge is a mill with an undershot wheel. From this point, some splendid pools and runs are to be found right away to where the Bovey joins the "Teign." The whole of this is free fishing. Salmon are frequently seen up this stretch. By fishing the upper waters, the angler in time would reach "Beckey Falls," one of the grandest sights on the moor; a sight alone many would come hundreds of miles to see were they to know it. It is too wonderful almost to explain how the immense boulders have been thrown together, and the grandeur with which the water comes down. It, at the present, is rather low, on account of the long drought, but at all times it is worth seeing. Anglers and others stopping at the hotel would do well in making the acquaintance of Mr. Kallaway; for a true type of man is he; he will direct you where to go, and show you what you would regret had you not gone to see. Several noted pits and pools shall be given in my next. The distance from the railway station to the Union Hotels scarcely five minutes' walk.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

AT a recent meeting of the East Central Committee, one of the Lea bailiffs incidentally remarked that, the better to come down unexpectedly during the night upon those whom he supposed to be wrongdoers, he has often taken off his boots, and so crawled along the towing path for a considerable distance to prevent the noise being heard on the gravel. There is something in the spirit which animates men to do this sort of thing; not for hope of gain or remuneration, but for pure love of the sport, and while most of us are comfortably snuggled up in bed.

I always like to record good takes. This week Mr. G. Lancaster, the taxidermist tells me he has received for preservation two perch, heaviest 4 lb., and measuring 17½ inches; the other, he thinks, must have weighed quite 3½ lb., and measured 16½ inches. I understand they come, the first, from Southampton reservoir, the other from the neighbourhood of Littleport, Cambs.

The tench at Elstree continue to bite freely in spite of the exceedingly chilly weather we have been having during the past week. I saw a nice dish of close upon 17 lb. taken by Mr. Underwood, two or three fish scaling close upon 3 lb. each.

At the Welsh Harp, the fresh of water though comparatively slight, a rise of three or four inches has knocked the bream off the feed, a few good takes only coming to my knowledge (and these nearly all from one or two spots, viz., the Stump Hole and the Gravel Hole), where, a week or two ago, good takes all over the water were the rule, not the exception. The fresh of water has, however, set the jack moving. On the 14th, Mr. J. H. Stead secured a beautifully fed fish of exactly 10 lb., another of nearly the same weight being landed by a fortunate piscator in the same bend. On Thursday, Messrs. Hoole and Penney, of the Hammersmith United Angling Society, fishing with Mr. Geen, at Chertsey, secured some 30 lb. of fish, principally barbel.

The Committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association met on Thursday last, but, as there were only three members present, viz., Messrs. J. M. R. Francis, hon. secretary, Hall and Bonvoisin (not sufficient to form a quorum), no business was done. As this has occurred several times, it is intended shortly to strengthen the Committee by adding to its number.

The Good Intent Angling Society have their annual dinner at the Rye House on Monday next, and Mr. Secretary Murphy tells us he expects a strong muster of the members. These summer dinners of Angling Societies at riverside houses are a pleasant combination of feeding and fishing. The first is nearly always sure to be right, but when both are—well, it's too utter!

The Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent met on Friday evening last, and relieved a necessitous case by a grant of £3.

A novel style of jack-fishing comes to light from the Welch—it simply consists in throwing in a spoon bait attached to the regulation line and winch and letting it lie on bottom, the rod being quietly laid on the bank while the angler lights a long Vevey cigar and puffs contentedly. You don't believe it, dear readers? Well, I do; for I have it on the word of Mr. Putman, of the Waltonian Angling Society, and I know him for a man whose word is his bond. This style of angling, continued for several hours in the drizzling rain, is exhilarating—particularly when the angler has paid 2s. 6d. for the privilege. Mr. Balderston, in a recent number of the GAZETTE, spoke in his usual courteous style of the culpable ignorance of certain anglers, referring, beyond doubt, to one or two gentlemen, who, by other than himself, are generally considered to be careful, painstaking men, and somewhat of authorities on matters piscatorial. What would Mr. Balderston have said had he witnessed the above?—perhaps his suave eloquence would have succeeded where my friend Putman's mild voice utterly failed. I write these notes from Mr. Geen's at Addlestone, whose guest I am for two or three days. As Mr. Geen has tried to propitiate the leather-nosed gentlemen for the last few days with copious offerings of lobworms (some twelve or thirteen quarts in all), I hope next week to report a good take.

Apologies of lob worms, a man occasionally introduces a friend into his vinery, his fernery, his apiary, his aviary, &c., but it is not often one has an opportunity of inspecting a well-regulated wormery. Concerning cooking a hare, it has been said, first catch your hare, then cook him. Well, the same remark applies in part to lob worms, with this slight difference, viz., first catch your lob, then scour him. To do the first will require a lantern, a light tread, a quick eye, a nimble thumb and finger and a considerable amount of patience and perseverance; by the exercise of all these a fair number of worms may be secured, granting the earth is sufficiently moist. A method, however, more favoured by Mr. P. G.—who does not like the backache every night—is to give sundry lads in the neighbourhood, to whom halfpence are a consideration, 6d. per quart for the wrigglers. If I were to describe the scouring process in all its details I might weary my readers' patience, I will therefore condense the description of Mr. Geen's wormery as follows:—A cool cellar with a free draught, some half-dozen wooden tubs, bored with gimlet holes to prevent the accumulation of wet at the bottom; the said tubs being filled with moss and pieces of coarse sacking, both of which are changed every few days, while the worms must be carefully overhauled every two or three days to pick out the dead or sickly ones. I must not omit to mention a special tub of so-called maidens, reserved for the hook—short, hard and transparent—which I hope will materially conduce to our having a good take to-morrow and the following day, to report in next week's GAZETTE.

As I am closing these notes a few lines come to hand from Haslett, of Chertsey, one of the most persevering and civil fisherman on this station, who has been out with one customer for the last three days, the result being 8 barbel, 14 chub, 1 perch and 4 bream.

NOTES FROM SHEFFIELD.

THE club matches fished on Monday last were a great thing, so numerous were they, the railway station being literally besieged by anglers. The Angling Association alone, sending over 2400 to various fishing stations and three other excursions promoted by other parties would send about the same number. The amount of fish taken has not been very great, one great reason being that such an enormous quantity of ground bait is thrown in—each one ground-baiting as he thinks proper, and fishing about ten to twelve yards apart. Any one can guess the muddle that is made of the water; one throwing in bran and bread, others worms, gentles, creed wheat, grains, or anything that comes to hand, that I often think that if they would not use ground bait they would get more fish. I send you a list of the various clubs belonging to the association and the places they fished. To Boston went the Well-run Dimple, Checquers, Truro, Consolidated, Ecclesall, Burnt Tree, Norfolk, Why Not, Old Bull's Head, Brocco, Highfield, Dog and Gun, Vindicator. To Crowle and Keadby: the Heely Club, Forest, Carlton, the Forge, Mason's Arms, Fir View, Albion, and the Greyhound.

The following clubs went to Saxilby: The Sylvester, United Tradesmen, the Old Harrow, the First Royals, Woolpack, Gibraltar, Adwick, the Rose and Crown. To Torksey: the Bay Horse and the Old Blue Bell. To Brigg: the Viaduct and the Peacock clubs; the Pensioners' Rest, Freedom Hotel and the Albion clubs going to Sandiacre.

There was a very small amount of fish weighed-in on Sunday night, many of the anglers staying to fish in the matches on Monday at the Cup Inn, the Rose and Crown, and the Bridge Inn where several dishes of fish shown, but nothing of importance.

The waters in the rivers and canals have been of very fair colour all the week, and we have every hope that the rain we have had during the week will assist greatly in refreshing the waters and give increased sport.

I should like some of the London Anglers to imagine the scene on Saxilby Canal on Monday last; a length of water six miles long, and the banks completely crowded with anglers, and pegged down at some ten to twelve yards apart, and if they could only see it, I think that they would not forget it for a long time. Men shouting to one another and inquiring how their different friends are going on; women and children by scores on the bank running backwards and forwards to see any individual who is lucky enough to hook a fish, and completely crowding round him, a proceeding that results in driving all the fish from the poor fellow's ground; and if he intimates to them that he does not require their company, he is generally called a "grumbling owd toard," and they will walk off to see if "Arh Jack as gotten owt."

Now the anglers of London can form any conception of such a scene as this, he will not be long in accounting for the small takes of fish in these club matches.—RED SPINNER.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

If the angler be not impelled by the command of a visible queen of May, he always feels the unconquerable necessity of going a-fishing when the spring comes. It can't be resisted. He might as well try to shake off the impulse of waking in the morning and resolve to sleep on for ever.—*W. C. Prime.*

"WHERE to find ferns?" is a question which Mr. F. G. Heath will answer in a little holiday pocket volume under that title, to be published immediately by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co. It will include a special chapter on "The Ferns round London."

I give up fly-fishing; it is a light, volatile, dissipated pursuit. But ground bait, with a good steady float, that never bobs without a bite, is an occupation for a bishop, and in no ways interferes with sermon making.—*Sidney Smith.*

It is affecting to see a distant mountain top, whereon you camped for the night in your youth, still as blue and ethereal to your eyes, as is your memory of it. It lies like an owl in the far heavens, a part of earth unprofaned, which does not bear a price in the market; is not advertised by the real estate broker.—*Henry D. Thoreau.*

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1881

BARBEL-FISHING.

By J. P. WHEELDON.

THE CHOICE OF A SWIM AND ITS BAITING.

THERE are probably more barbel in the Thames than in any other river in the kingdom, and assuredly more fish of this class in the stream just named than any other species. For all

that, a big bag is the exception, and not the rule. This may be accounted for easily, because, in nine cases out of ten, certain puntmen take their customers, if not very shrewd judges indeed, to places entirely played out; or, where by baiting badly and always imperfectly, they do much to frustrate any hope of really good sport.

Now, although I have started this barbel jotting by saying that there are any quantity of these fish in the Thames generally, it does not follow that they are everywhere alike located in large numbers. There are certain places where they literally swarm. There are others, and because they are totally unfitted in their natural surroundings and conformation, where these queer fish refuse to abide in. Take, for instance, the deep waters of the Walton reaches. I should hardly expect to get a large haul of barbel there, no matter how carefully and well I had baited. Neither should I think of baiting deep, still backwaters, "fishy" and inviting as they might appear at the first glance, because my own sense of discrimination would lead me to seek likelier places.

Where, then, the novice or learner may very properly ask—and these papers are more particularly applicable to seekers after knowledge than to him who has passed many grades—should I bait? or, which is the most likely place to find my friends, the wary leather-noses? Give me your ear, and I will tell you, to the best of my judgment—that judgment being guided by what little knowledge I have gained by experience.

In the early part of the season, and particularly if a high water prevails, barbel will, and quite late into June, be found "on the hill," *i.e.*, lying upon gravelly sharps and shallows, covered by a swift rushing stream. Their powerful conformation and immense strength enables them easily to maintain their place, even when the current is so rapid that other fish edge away into quieter nooks, or desert the place altogether. Here they lie cleansing themselves after the operation of spawning, rolling over and over, showing every now and again a flash of their golden sides in the shallow water, and "grouting" and rubbing amongst the soft silt and gravel. If this "hill" or shallow has at its head or tail a deepish eddy, marking a hole, so much the better. A careful observer will be enabled to note that the shoal of fish, every now and again, seeks the cover of this hole for a welcome rest, and then, like giants refreshed, they emerge to stem the sharp current again with apparently renewed relish.

Such a place, as a matter of course, would be entirely unsuitable for any other mode of fishing than with the leger. The merest tyro will see at a glance that where the water runs at a rate of five to six or seven miles an hour, "floating" would be simply labour in vain. That period has now, with the lapse of time, passed away, and I will, therefore, say something about "swims" for the present day. But even here, difficulties present themselves at once, owing to the extraordinary lowness of the stream, its stagnant condition in many places, and from the certainty that barbel will not lie in places now, where, under ordinary conditions, one might be certain of finding them.

Supposing, however, that the summer—I am afraid I must say now nearly past, or the brightest part of it, at any rate—had been as prolific as English summers usually are of heavy, continuous rains now and again, keeping the tributaries flooded and the bucolic mind in a state of perpetual chronic grumble. In that case, and up to the present time, fish would very likely have been found after spawning in the vicinity of deep, heavy runs of water, under clay banks, and particularly if here and there the conformation of the bank or bottom of the stream had afforded a "rest" close by. If I were passing along the brink of a river which I knew held barbel in its waters, and I came across a high, slimy-looking marly bank, with old roots of rotten trees sticking up here and there, bigger roots projecting at odd places, and so catching the floating debris, where the water was deep, heavy, swift and strong, I should say, "Some o' they cusses," to use Hawkeye's expression, was "a cavortin' around" in that neighbourhood. If a shelf of yellow marl stuck out, juttied over, in fact, the bed of the stream, itself being under water and deep down, and giving one the impression that it covered a sort of miniature Thames Tunnel, or a succession of them, under one's very feet, I would assuredly try there. If I came to a place where there were symptoms of the existence of old, decayed piles, or the remains of ancient eelbucks, either cropping up close into the bank, or rearing an ugly looking black stump here and there out from the water, and round which it foamed and fretted with impetuous haste, that water being deep, swift, and holding withal, assuredly likewise would I come to a dead stand, just to see what sort of a "shop" that was. Again, if under the boles of ancient willows, grey and gnarly, round which ivy stems tried to linger lovingly, and where massive roots ran deep down into the water until they were lost in the shadows, I found that the water ran swiftly past in a succession of fleeting eddies and dimpling curls, I should be inclined to take it prisoner and bring it to book by way of trial by a jury of lobworms. And

very likely indeed would any or either of such places pay well for the trouble of baiting. But now? Well, it is just on the cards that even such splendidly promising looking places as these, may be, owing to the dearth of water, rendered the very reverse to look at. The swift water under the clayey, marly bank may, likely enough, look just like a sombre, motionless jack lay-bye. The rush by the old eel bucks little more than the push down a little ditch after a summer shower. Yet even then I would not desert them until after fair trial. I have just had myself a marvellous day on the Thames, killing such a dose of thumping barbel as it is barely likely will be beaten this year, and many of these fish were killed in an utterly dead bit of water, under just such a shelf of marl as I have ventured to describe. This bank is not ten minutes' walk from the French Horn at Sonning. No punt is required to fish it, and I venture to say that if any one with ordinary intelligence will try it now, they may kill a good bag of fish. *En passant*, let any thinking man stroll down from Sonning to Wargrave, keep his eyes wide open, look for such places as I have been mooning about, and bait one or two carefully. If he does not get a bag of fish he is quite at liberty to call me an ass and a false prophet. I reserve the right to return the compliment if, in my judgment, his does not lead him to pick such a place as I would have chosen for myself.

At the present time I would assuredly bait the weirs, or wherever the sharpest stream can be found; and if there is any "back run" clear and decided up to the head of the fall, bait that, in preference to anywhere else, and fish as close under the fall as the tackle will lie.

Half the disappointments in barbel fishing arise from the fact that, even if a good place has been chosen, the baiting has been done at the wrong time. It is useless to bait, say, to-night, and fish in the morning. Every fish is gorged with food, therefore twenty-four hours clear should at least be given after a baiting of five thousand worms. Never use clay if it be possible to avoid it. At any rate, never use the hard, stiff stuff which puntmen are so fond of getting, in which they make a huge hole, bury a handful of worms, box them up as if they were in a clay coffin, and from which, in my humble opinion, they never escaped. Unless the stream is very wild, throw your worms in loosely and always whole. A very little judgment will suffice to determine fairly exactly whether they sink in the desired place or are washed away by opposing currents. If clay is absolutely necessary, use a soft, friable sort, easily found at the waterline of most clay banks, and which, when wet, binds just sufficiently, and no more, to make a sinking medium. A baiting pot which I possess, and which I call my "diving bell," costing something like eighteenpence in its manufacture, does away with all necessity for clay. In my next paper I will say something about it, for it is simply an invaluable acquisition to any angler's store, and one that every punt-fisher ought to possess. As a last hint, always bait for barbel at early morning and fish the swim the next.

THE BOVEY TROUT-STREAM.

IN continuance of the brief and hurried sketch of the above river forwarded to you upon my return, and scarcely in time for post, I would now wish to call the attention of tourists as well as anglers, who are now enjoying their holidays, that, if they are not in fishing mood, they may happen to cross a stream, upon whose banks "many a flower is born to blush unseen," wherein the speckled beauties haunt, and if they would kindly give the gentle craft a hint, they would become public benefactors. To be a public benefactor, even in a small way, is the height, or ought to be the height, of human ambition; and if at some time any knowledge that one possesses can benefit anglers, or any other sportsman, it should be placed at their service by one of themselves. Thus, Woodford Bridge trout-stream, on the Torridge, so often spoken of in the FISHING GAZETTE, from which heavy creels have been daily taken in all weathers during the present season. But I am digressing from my subject of further notes on the Bovey trout-stream. The angler, after depositing his rod, creel, &c., &c., with the obliging manager, Mr. T. Wolfenden, or his good lady, at the Union Hotel, should take a walk through Park Wood and the meadows as far as the bridge—it is no distance—and from thence form an opinion of the stream and the fish contained therein. Onward still, a short distance will bring him to the weir, which is a substantial piece of masonry, in excellent order, and of very easy access for *salmonidae* on their way up. After such a tempting sight, the angler will ask why the rod, creel, &c., should be left behind. 'Tis tantalising, I admit; but this portion, and for some little distance above, is strictly preserved by W. R. Hole, Esq. It is only of late it has been so; probably permission might be had for this distance, say, to the weir, following this stream, as stated in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, the Dartmoor hills are reached, and trout of a better quality cannot be found. Returning to the

hotel, the angler may equip himself outwardly, and, if he prefers, also inwardly; then hie to the bridge close to the hotel, turning to the left, through the wicket-gate, and follow the stream, if so inclined, to the union of the Bovey with the Teign. The practised eye will espy much quicker the stickles, eddies, holes and haunts much better than I can describe them, being too numerous, and wading in many parts is required. There are many other fishing stations, such as Jew's Bridge, Chudleigh Road, also free, and the immense reservoir, but there is some difficulty in fishing there, being strictly preserved, and, I believe, for the county people only. Although the Bovey is a tributary of the Teign, it is in no way connected with polluting the same, it being perfectly pure from its source to where it unites with the above river; and, to show the primitive condition of the neighbourhood, I should inform you that gas will be introduced during the present week, when fireworks will be seen the town through. During the past few days rain has fallen heavily, and no doubt Beckey Falls, the Bovey, and other streams on and from the moors will be seen to their best—from an angler's point of view.

GREY-MULLET FISHING.

HAVING often fished for grey mullet, I should like to add my personal experience to the correspondence which has already appeared in the GAZETTE. I have caught these fish in tidal waters in the following manner: A light, pliant rod, with upright rings, fine Nottingham line and winch, small taper cork and quill float, weighted with sufficient shot to sink the float, so that only about one inch of the quill is above the surface of the water. The bait, in my opinion, is better about mid-water, and not near or dragging the bottom. The mullet is a gross feeder, and appears to feed on floating baits, not biting or snatching at them, as many other fish do, but quietly sucking them in as they pass. I have used the following baits, all of which are at times good—crumbs of bread, soft fat pork, sand worms, or even a couple of fresh-boiled shrimps, shelled and put on a hook about the same size as is used for chub or barbel fishing. The bait should be about the size of a hazel-nut. Strike immediately you see a touch, as mullet are very cunning, blowing out any bait which it cannot suck down with the greatest ease. If you hook one, do not attempt to check him, but let him run, as he is very strong, yet soft in the mouth. Give him plenty of time, and play him till pretty well exhausted, when you can secure him with your landing net. Above all things, do not attempt to lift him by the hook. Mullet may also be taken in salt-water harbours and at piers. In such places I have found a piece of skate's liver, or half a small, soft crab, with the legs removed, most excellent baits. Unless the angler has abundance of patience, mullet fishing will not please him, but, with plenty of perseverance as well as patience, he will at times secure two or three in a morning or afternoon's fishing; and as they generally run from 2 lb. to 4 lb. or 5 lb. in weight, and are very good for table, he will find them foemen worthy of his steel.

T. HUGGETT.

P.S.—Mullet fishing is most frequently resorted to during the autumnal visit to the seaside, and when rivers are often inaccessible.

A SPECIFIC FOR NEURALGIA.

IF there is one "ill that human flesh is heir to," that the sufferer learns to dread like a nightmare, it is surely the terrible nerve pain—neuralgia. Anglers, from being exposed to damp and cold, are very liable to its attacks, and it is with real pleasure that we can point out to them what we sincerely believe is a real remedy, and that is "Tonga." We watched its action in a most terrible case of neuralgia last week, and, after trying everything else, including quinine, in vain, gave three doses of "Tonga." After the third dose the attacks became weaker, and gradually died away to an occasional slight spasm, and the patient could again sleep, and feel pleasure in life. It is an internal medicine, and has no injurious effect on the system, and is not narcotic. It seems to act directly on the nerves, and is especially useful in neuralgia in the face and head. In future we shall recommend "Tonga" to every one who suffers from the shooting, stabbing, tearing, crushing attacks of neuralgia. It has only recently been introduced from South America by Messrs. Allen and Hanbury, the well-known chemists.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

THE NATURALIST IN VANCOUVER ISLAND AND
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Continued from page 406.)

VIVIPAROUS FISH.

(See accompanying Illustration.)

"WE are so accustomed to associate the production of young fishes with eggs and milt—familiar to all as hard and soft roe in the cured herring—that it is difficult to believe in the existence of a fish bringing forth live young, just as do dogs, cats, rats, and mice—only with this difference, that, in the case of the fish, the young are as perfect in every detail, when launched into the water, as the parent, and swim away self-dependent, to feed or be fed on, as good or ill luck befalls the little wanderer. The woodcut represents the female fish with the young *in situ*, together with others scattered round her, having fallen out when the walls of the abdomen were dissected open: the drawing was made from a female fish I brought from Vancouver Island, and now exhibiting in the Fish Room of the British Museum."

The geographical range of viviparous fish, as far as came under the notice of Mr. Lord, is from the Bay of San Francisco to Sitka. Respecting its edible qualities, he says he is convinced no system of cooking or culinary skill would ever convert it into a palatable fish; he gives a most interesting account of how he stumbled upon the fact that it was viviparous, which we must quote at length:

"Soon after I arrived at Vancouver Island, I at once set to work

It happened, very curiously, that a Mr. Jackson, an American Government officer, made the same discovery almost at the same time, and he wrote to Professor Agassiz, sending the fish. The Professor was astonished, and disbelieved the possibility of the fish being viviparous, imagining some error had crept into Mr. Jackson's statement, but other fish in a similar state were subsequently sent to him by Mr. Carey, and the fact was then most undeniably established, that this and many other species are strictly viviparous.

"Now we come to a ticklish question, 'How are the young fish vitalised in the abdomen of the mother?' In this case I shall adopt what I conceive to be the most straightforward course, which is candidly to give my own thoughts, and solicit from abler, older and better physiologists their opinions or theories, for I sincerely think this is a question well worth careful investigation. I believe the ova, after impregnation, at first goes through the same transformations in the ovarium, as it would do, supposing it to have been spawned and fecundated in the ordinary spawning bed, but only up to a certain point; then, I think, the membrane enfolding the ova that have by this time assumed a fishlike type, takes on the character and functions of a placental membrane, and the young fish are supplied by an umbilical cord, just as in the case of a foetal mammal. But a third change takes place. There can be no doubt that the young fish I cut out, and that swam away, had breathed before they were freed from the mother; hence I am led to think that a short time prior to the birth of the young, sea water has access to this marsupial sac, washes over the infant fish,



VIVIPAROUS FISH.

(The illustration represents the side of the fish opened to show the young fish as they are born.)

to investigate, as far as it lay in my power, the habits and periods of migration of the different species of fish periodically visiting the north-west coast. The sole means then at my disposal to obtain fish for examination, or as specimens to send home, was to employ Indians or catch them myself, so it happened some of these fish were first brought me by Indians. Cutting one down the side (the plan I usually adopt to skin a fish, keeping the opposite side untouched), to my intense surprise out tumbled a lot of little fish! My wildest dreams had never led me to suppose a fish I then thought was a bream, or one of the perch family, could be viviparous. I at once most hastily arrived at the conclusion that the greedy gourmand had eaten them. Dropping my knife, I sat in a most bewildered state, looking at the fish. The first ray of light that shone in to illumine my mystification seemed to spring from the fact that each little fish was the model, counterpart, and fac-simile of the large one, and in shape, size, and colour were exactly alike. From the position, too, they occupied in the abdomen of the larger fish, I was led at once to see the error of my first assumption, that they had been swallowed.

"Carefully dissecting back the walls of the abdomen, I discovered a delicate membranous bag or sac, having an attachment to the upper or dorsal region, and doubled upon itself into numerous folds or plaits, and between each of these folds was neatly packed away a little fish. The bag was of a bluish-white colour, and contained fourteen fish. I had no longer any doubt that the fish was viviparous, and that it was a true and normal case of ovarian gestation. So much for my first discovery."

the gills assume their normal action, and the regular systemic circle is established. Maturity attained, the umbilical attachment snaps, and the little fish, perfect in every detail of its organisation, is launched into the deep to brave its many perils and shift for itself. The strong transverse muscles attached to the powerful sphincter (constituting the genital opening from the abdominal walls), I imagine, are in some way concerned in admitting the sea water, and it appears to me a contrivance admirably adapted to effect such a purpose; but how impregnation takes place, I may at once honestly confess—I do not know.

"The male is much like the female, but more slim, and the milt is just like that of other fish. I can only conjecture that fecundation is accomplished through the medium of the sea-water, admitted by the curiously-contrived floodgate of the female, carrying in the milt-germs and washing them over the ova. It is worthy of remark that the young mature fish are very large, when compared with the size of the mother. In a female fish, eleven inches in length, the young were three inches long; the adult fish four-and-a-half inches broad, and the young an inch."

We should like to go on giving extracts from this deeply interesting book, but our space forbids, and we trust we have given enough to send our readers to the work itself. When we mention that our notice has extended only to about the first one hundred out of its six hundred pages, it will be seen what an immense amount of matter Mr. Lord has given, and, as we said before, every page is of interest. A cheap edition of the work would sell very largely here and in America.

DEATH OF ONE OF OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

A CASE FOR HELP.

IT is with much regret that we hear of the death of Henry Comer, fisherman, of Ilfracombe, who for nearly two years past has sent us capital reports of the fishing at Ilfracombe. We have received the following letter from his widow:—

SIR,—I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of my husband Henry Comer. He has been a great sufferer for over ten years, from chronic asthma and bronchitis. He was seized a fortnight ago with pleurisy and inflammation on the lungs, which resulted in his death on Tuesday morning, the 16th inst. I have four young children under fourteen years of age, and any little assistance you could render me I should be most thankful for.—I am, &c.,

ELIZABETH COMER.

10, Broad Street, Ilfracombe, August 18th, 1881.

On receipt of this letter, we wrote to a gentleman in Ilfracombe on the subject of helping Mrs. C., and here is his reply:—

DEAR SIR,—Replying to yours of the 20th, I knew Comer, who was a very respectable man, of late a great invalid. I saw his funeral on Saturday, attended by a great number of his old comrades, as a mark of respect. The widow bears a good reputation as an honest, industrious woman, somewhat superior to her station, and any assistance which can be rendered would be real charity. I should be happy to do anything you might suggest. I think Comer's widow, with the aid any of the fishermen would gladly give her, might be able to continue the reports, if you wished it.—I am, &c.,

JOHN TAIT.

Ilfracombe Chronicle Office, Aug. 22.

We have sent Mrs. Comer a little help in the shape of money, and have asked her to continue the reports, and hope to help her in other ways. If any reader of this paper can spare a little for this poor widow we shall be very glad indeed to acknowledge it; and it can be sent either to the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 12, Fetter Lane, London, or to Mr. Tait, or direct to Mrs. Comer. It is a thoroughly deserving case, we are sure.

BARBEL IN THE THAMES.

WHAT a dispirited condition the end of last year's general angling season left the barbel-fishers in! They declared that fish had left the Thames, and all hopes of their return were futile. I endeavoured to disprove their ideas, but it was of no avail. I told them of seasons when the barbel would not feed, and how they were seen lying like stones on the bed of the river; but they said it was all "gammon." I gave up all idea of converting them, and left them to the fate of time, resting assured in my own mind that all their loud theories would have to give way to the full realisation of what they would term "the return of the barbel." I am inclined sometimes to think the anglers are soon dissatisfied. They have a bad day, and they put it down to the scarcity of fish. As I have often said, the charm of fishing is the uncertainty of catching them. It may not sound right in the ears of some, but it is none the less real and true. Some friends of mine the other day engaged two punts to fish for roach at Hampton Court with "great expectations," as the fish were a day or two previously well on the feed. The atmosphere was against them—the wind was wrong and the weather the same—and they did nothing. A few days afterwards the youthful son of one of them went out for a day's roach-fishing in the same place, and with his own rod caught over eight dozen of good fish, many of them weighing one pound each. Anglers frequently forget that the weather and temperature of the water slackens the ardour of the fish to feed, and that the finny tribe feed better at one time than they do at another. It was not by any means the only year in my experience of the indifference—the perfect indifference—of barbel to feed throughout an entire season, and I would have it recorded for the benefit of others, that, bad as last year was for barbel—doubtful as the anglers were of their existence—the present season so far gives to my mind abundant and overflowing evidence those fish are still in the river. Let me isolate one or two instances that have come to my own knowledge, and that without including the large quantities of barbel already taken in roach and dace fishing. The first instance is that of Mr. Geen, who is known and respected by every true piscator—and no one gentleman has done more to make anglers true than he has. Well, in the short space of three hours, and he had only his son with him, he landed 140 lb. weight of barbel, the largest 8 lb., and he then left the fish feeding freely. He selected the largest fish, making altogether over 90 lb., and sent them to the committee of the Portsmouth Angling Society, who intend setting some of them up as specimens of Thames barbel. Some good natured people will think these barbel came to our friend Mr. Geen as an appreciation of his eminent services in the protection and preservation of their species, and were determined to give him some good sport as a slight acknowledgment. I am not going into the absolute depth of this idea, but I will contend if any angler is deserving of sport

it is the angler's true friend, Mr. Geen, the honorary president of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, and as one I offer him my hearty congratulations. And now for another instance of successful barbel fishing, and I have it on the authority of a good friend of mine, but I do not believe I am authorised to give names. Two anglers in one day got over 170 lb. weight of barbel! Where are my dispirited friends of last year now? They are not in the swim at all. Will they still value lightly my well-grounded belief or not? There was no theory or imagination in my assertions. They were based on the experience of about twenty-three years. I have no wish to taunt them in the realisation. If they are pleased to see their old fighting friends, the barbel, again, I am more than satisfied. I have said nothing of the bank anglers as to the quantity of barbel they have brought to grief this season, and there are two single instances of 20 lb. each. I feel that I have said enough as a notice of encouragement to all interested in barbel fishing, and I could have given more extended accounts of victories if I had liked, but I have one word to say, ere I close, to barbel anglers. While I heartily and sincerely wish them the best of sport, I would venture to suggest the return to the river again of the smaller fish. It will not, it cannot, depreciate the value of their success. If they have taken two hundredweight and they put two-thirds back again it will revert to their credit, and every true angler will praise them for it. Some people enjoy barbel as an article of food. I do not. I have tasted them once, and I shall be much in want of something to eat if I taste them again. The barbel affords first-rate sport, and I have witnessed scenes of the greatest excitement in catching them more than I have done of any other fish. There are anglers who specially lay themselves out for barbel-fishing, and I can well understand their disappointment in a somewhat blank season. In some neighbourhoods the barbel is an unknown fish. It is at Southport, where I have twice taken down some living specimens, as well as of bream, once in company with my friend, Mr. T. R. Sachs. I had a letter from Mr. Charles L. Jackson, the hon. naturalist of the Southport Aquarium a short time back informing me of their loss of the whole of their specimens, and he adds, "We greatly appreciated your kindness, and our big tank has never looked so well as it did after your visit," and he finishes up with an appeal for more barbel and bream in these words: "I should be greatly pleased if it will fit in with your engagements to pay us another visit with a similar cargo." I should very much like to do this if I could get the fish, and regarding as I do such institutions as aquariums as piscatorial schools, to teach and instruct all persons in the description and habits of fish, it would be no loss to any river to contribute some good specimens of barbel and bream, and no angler would regret doing his share in it. A little later on, when the weather is cooler, as it is a long journey to Southport, I shall be open to any offer, and, if I could not take the fish myself, some one would be sent from there to receive them at Euston Square.

B.

EELS v. PIKE, AS POACHERS—CULINARY VALUE OF PIKE—ASCRIBED MEDICINAL QUALITIES OF SAME—ORIGIN OF TROLLING—CULINARY VALUE OF EELS, &c.—BREAM-FISHING, AND HOW TO PREPARE BREAM FOR THE TABLE—CASTING TOURNAMENT.

"YE PILGRIM FRY-ER" is quite right when he denounces the pike as being generally a most destructive fish, even out-rivalling the eel. For my part, as I have before stated, I would exterminate the pike of the Thames in favour of the Thames trout, and organise a large breeding establishment for the latter fish, which should turn in thousands of young fish—old enough to take care of themselves, of course—if (ah that potent little word), if I possessed the power. A seven years' close time for Thames trout, a yearly introduction of the true trout of the river, coupled with a persevering decimation of the eels and pike, would render the river the finest trout stream in the world.

* * * * *

Jack or pike were not and are not always considered as inferior the eel gastronomically as a "sparrow to a partridge" friend "Ye Pilgrim Fry-er!" True, Ausonius despises him, saying he,

"Unknown at friendship's hospitable board,
Smokes 'midst the smoky tavern's coarsest food."

And Juvenal (5th Satire), in his denunciation of Crispinus, classes both fish in low estimation. He says: "You must put up with a muddy eel, sister of the slender snake or with a pike bred in the Tiber, spotted by winter ice, fed with the ordure of the common shore, and used to swim through the drains as far as Sabruria." In England such valuation has been widely different. In a feast given by Archbishop Neville to Edward 4th, 608 pike formed a considerable—very?—part of the banquet. Blakey says, that at

the close of the 13th century, this fish was so dear that few could afford to eat it; and other authors of equal research aver severally that its ancient price was "double that of a salmon and ten times that of a cod,"—that it was dearer than house-lamb in the time of Bluff King Hal, and a small pickerel was worth more than a fat capon.

Apropos, what curious notions have obtained in past times concerning the medicinal qualities of fish in general, and pike in particular. Nobbes (the so-called *father* of trolling) says that "the jaw-bone beaten [to powder, is good for] pleurises and other complaints; some do approve of it as a remedy for the pain of the heart and lungs, others affirm that the small bones pulverised may be fitly used to dry-up sores." A sort of brain-ivory seems to have been discovered by Gesner and others, and to it was attributed virtues of an extraordinary nature, whilst the heart was believed by Siebald, writing in the reign of Charles II., to be a remedy for febrile disorders, and the gall of extreme virtue for sore eyes.

I have said that Nobbes was the so-called "Father of Trolling." In the sense of being the inventor of this style he was not so. The following list of authors mentioning trolling before Nobbes will justify what I say:—Leonard Mascall, 1590; Aldrovandus, 1613; Barker, 1651; Colonel Venables, 1662; Cheetham's Vade Mecum, 1681. Nobbes wrote in 1682.

But to return to the culinary excellences of the two fish originally under consideration—the pike and eel. I consider that filleted pike fried, when the fish has been derived from a clear and plenteous river, is a capital dish, but certainly eels are superior, taken from a similiar *habitat*. Yet Scotchmen and Irishmen dislike and seldom eat them. Galen and Hippocrates regarded them as a medicine, but the Monks of Salerno held them in abhorrence, saying, "Doctors in every age have agreed to decry them as most pernicious to health." The author of "Ingoldsby" advises, however:

"Credo experto, trust one who has tried;

Have them spitchcocked or stewed—they're oily when fried."

Bye the bye, I wonder what were the sentiments of the raven spoken of by Glover (who quotes somebody else as having seen an eel come alive nine times out of the bird's trail), on the digestibility of the eel. Gesner suggests that small eels might be used as a purgative (as in the case of the raven). The extraordinary hint has not been acted on, I imagine, though Badham speaks of a German tailor who accidentally swallowed one, and was glad to get rid of it as did the raven.

The bream-fishing should now be "coming on," and I need scarcely remind my readers who are frequenters of the Thames, that Sunbury, Walton, Shepperton, Chertsey, and Penton Hook, are the homes *par excellence* of these fish. Why they don't get higher up the river, I know not? How is it that so very, very few are taken at Windsor and thereabouts?

This is another fish which was formerly estimated at a very considerable value from a culinary point of view. The Prioress of St. Albans speaks of it as a "noble fyssh and a deyneteous," and Chancer indicates that it was of importance.

"Full many a partrich had hee on mewe,

And many a breme and many a luce in stewe."

In 1419 it is said to have been worth 20d. a fish; and Nillson says in Sweden even the church bells were used to be stopped when they swarmed, lest they might be disturbed.

But what a difference is there between ancient and modern opinion. Blakey says, "it is very much like a pair of bellows in shape, and much the same in flavour," and Francis, Pennell, and almost everybody else, echoes the opinion. Mr. Greville Fennell doesn't go so far, however, and I have tried his recipe for the preparation of the fish with agreeable results. He says, "Lay a stratum of clean pebbles at the bottom of an earthenware pan, then a layer of fish, sprinkle well with salt, then another layer of pebbles and salt until the fish are all thus arranged. Leave them a night to purify . . . and the fish are thoroughly purified, and may fairly vie with flounders in succulence of flavour."

I cannot see how it is possible to adopt Mr. Jardine's suggestion that the casting tournament be held at Walton Sale, unless one can measure the water. In America, I believe, the "caster" retires back from the water until he decides he has gone far enough to throw, so as to allow the bait to fall, say, a yard or two in the water. Why not adopt a similar plan, Mr. Editor? The water will prevent the spinning-bait jumping, and show the delivery of the fly.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

SIZE OF PIKE.

AS Mr. Jardine's brace of pike, each above 32 lb. in weight, have created much curiosity amongst the brotherhood, as to what size the pike will grow, we throw together a few facts, which appear pretty well authenticated, upon this subject. In Daniell's "Rural Sports," quarto edition, we find the largest pike ever known to be caught by trolling, was in Scotland in the year 1784, by Colonel Thornton, which wanted only two ounces of fifty pounds weight. He was an hour and a quarter upon the line before he submitted to his fate, nor would the tackle have held him, although purposely prepared for large fish, had not the colonel been in a boat upon the lake, and by that means enabled to humour the pike's struggles to escape. Upon the belly, in the engraving which Daniell gives, may be seen a small speck, which was a wound from whence was taken a hook he had swallowed and broken away with ten years before, and which had then worked itself nearly through the skin, for upon the coloured part being pressed, the hook appeared and was extracted. From eye to fork this fish was 4 feet 1 inch; extreme length, 4 feet 9 inches; depth, 11½ inches.

The next pike in size we find taken by the troll, was in December, 1792, by Mr. Bint, in the pool at Packington (the Earl of Aylesford's) being from eye to fork 2 feet 11 inches; full length 3 feet 10½ inches; circumference, 1 foot 10 inches; and weight 34½ lb.

Sir Cecil Wray's pike, caught in June, 1799, at the draining of the water from the lake at his seat, at Sumner Castle, in Lincolnshire, weighed 47 lb. gross. It afforded 36 lb. of eatable meat after being cleaned; was 48½ inches long, and 2 feet 2 inches in circumference. The fish must have entered the lake when very small, and had acquired this enormous size in twenty-two years, for at that time the lake was laid dry. Sir Cecil, in a letter he wrote upon the subject, computed that this pike consumed three fish per diem, progressively more and larger as his own size increased, and that he at least destroyed 24,000, all of which in the latter years of his growth must have been valuable fish, so that the cost of his support exceeded some hundred times his own value. A river pike grows fast until he arrives at twenty-four inches, he then ceases to extend so rapidly in length, for in good water, with plenty of feed, a pike spawned in March will by the March following, be grown from sixteen to eighteen inches, and proportionably thickens. Afterwards he will be much longer arriving at his full bigness, which is about forty-six inches, from the length of thirty, than was in acquiring the first thirty inches.

In May, 1796, Mr. Bishop of Godstow, between Weir and Wytham Brook, landed the biggest pike ever remembered to be taken in the Isis, it was 4 feet 2 inches long, 3 feet 10 inches in girth; and after being disgorged of a barbel nearly 6 lb., and a chub upwards of 3 lb., weighed 31½ lb.

In the same year a pike was caught in Exton Park pond (Lord Gainsborough's), the length 42½ inches from eye to fork, and from nose to tail 49 inches, the girth 28 inches, and weighed 37½ lb. Neither this or the fish taken in the Isis were so well grown as Sir Cecil Wray's.

In 1797 a pike weighing close upon 40 lb., and measuring in length 3 feet 6 inches, and in girth 2 feet was caught in a pond at Totteridge in Herefordshire. A tench of 4 lb., and 4½ lb. of solid fat, were taken from his inside.

Allusion has been made above to a pike getting rid of hooks. The writer of this has had several cases, three of which were very remarkable. In one instance, a jack of 11 lb., we landed from Joe Heath's water, the Colne, at Wraysbury, a double gorge hook was found protruding from its vent which came readily away with the lead, and arming of gimp. The gimp was rotten, at least the silk round which the wire was coiled, was so. The gastric juice had likewise evidently acted upon the lead, which held a sickly white corrosion on its surface, but the barbs of the hooks were nearly perfect, and the points but little affected. What an incumbrance must this have been to the movements of the fish, as the gorge could not have acted as other than an anchor when it grappled with any opposing object, although it was clear that such an attachment would soon have removed it altogether, from the facility with which it came away?

The second occasion was in the same water, when we killed a 12½ lb. pike, in the throat of which, upon removing the flight, we found another flight of thirteen hooks. The latter was lost by Keen, a Thames fisherman, of Wraysbury, about half an hour before our capture, but the whole of the hooks were far down the gullet.

The third memorable occasion was at Ashford, Middlesex, where, in a pond in which eel lines had been set and lost, a dead pike was picked up with the thirteen missing eel hooks in its stomach, some of which had already approached the vent, and were slightly obtruding. But the dose of iron proved too much in this case.

We do not intend these instances of the digestive capabilities of the pike to be quoted by those members of clubs who would supplement the weight of their fish by making them swallow leaden plummets after death, or stuff them out with a few ounces of wet sand in the way that geese are sometimes served by itinerant poultry hawkers.

Daniell says: "the largest pike ever known to be taken with a trimmer was by Messrs. Hitch and Major Rhode in Dagenham Breach; it weighed 35 lb."

We do not think much of large pike for sport. We have unvariably found them, when above 12 lb., sail about deep down like logs; and the largest pike of 25½ lb. we ever killed reminded us more of the erratic motions of a barge in a whirlpool than a well-behaved, respectable fish; while pike of from 5 lb. to 7 lb. in a river will fight like salmon, and take more time to subdue than these.

LEVIATHAN.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Better half an egg than empty shells."

"The rain it raineth every day," would possibly, under present circumstances, have been a more appropriate line than the above, but as "half a loaf is better than no bread," and as piscators are "thankful for small mercies," I am glad to have to report many pretty catches have been had at all the likely stations in Mid-Thames. The weather, however, has been so pitilessly wet and windy, that none but the brave have deserved or obtained the fair beauties sought after, the "better half" of the bites being, even with these braves, obliterated by rude Boreas, or wiped out of recognition by blobs of rain. Henley, Streatley, Wargrave and Sonning kindly send me reports of decent takes of roach, perch, and chub, with glowing anticipations of the cheap acquirement of "buckets of lob-worms," and the consequent future sport accruing. At New Lock weir a gentleman whilst spinning hooked and ran a fine trout, but the run was of such a long and determined nature, that the piscator was eventually "left lamenting" with a running from his eyes. At Hurley, Mr. Allard, fishing from the East Arms, a few days ago, took some nice chub, and amidst the crowd four beauties, going exactly $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each. Two gentlemen, staying at the Bell, Hurley, and fishing under the able direction of Townsend, have had a pretty take of miscellaneous fish, inclusive of roach, perch, chub, one barbel and an eel, in all some 20 lb., and another gentleman, in the same district, has been the fortunate captor of two trout, going respectively 4 lb. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mr. and Mrs. Brooksbank, fishing the Harleyford waters, have again been amid the perch, a reward of some 10 lb. going to two hours' fishing, best fish scaling $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; but it had evidently got "something on its mind," or in its stomach, for, from its length, it should at least have gone another pound. Cliveden waters are not giving much voice this week, and Bray is not noisy as usual. The river is still in fine trim for summer angling, but if this heavy rain continues will be soon rising and getting coloured.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

The water is in good order for roach and chub worm-fishing. Prospects look bad at present. We want fine weather; if we have much more rain it will make the water too thick. Roach have been biting well here. All the boats have been doing well, 10 lb. and 12 lb. having been taken a day. My best day was 14 lb. of roach and chub, some of the roach going over 1 lb., and four jack, the largest being 4 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for ledgering and roach-fishing. Different gentlemen have been fishing with me since my last report. Their takes have been as follows:—First day, Mr. George Palmer, ten barbel, two bream, and three roach, altogether weighing 29 lb. Second day, Mr. Yarborough, nine barbel, two roach, and three eels. Third day, Mr. R. Robin, thirteen barbel, weighing 27½ lb. Fourth day, Mr. Hughes, two barbel, three roach, and a chub of 3 lb. 14 oz. Fifth day, Mr. George Palmer, 60 lb. of barbel, one bream of 3½ lb., and some fine roach. All the above fish were taken ledgering, and weighed at Mr. Robert Stone's, Ship Hotel.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is in good form for all sorts of fishing—a nice colour in it. I should say that if care be taken and proper tackle used, now is the time to bag. Weather changes every day. Plenty of roach and dace from 10 lb. to 20 lb. a day, fair fish. I got 12 lb. of roach and dace with one rod on Wednesday after four o'clock. There has been a few nice perch taken; I saw thirteen nice fish up to 1 lb. My son got nine dozen good roach on Wednesday, and a few barbel and roach from the bank.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The rain of the last four days has swollen the river considerably, and by the time this is in print the water will be thick, but it is not too thick for fishing yet. With the water a little higher we shall be able to give our patrons a little bream fishing. The dace fed well up to Monday night, since then we have not been able to fish when we liked on account of the heavy wind, which has been blowing S.E. The sport during the week is—Job Brain, 42 perch, 9 eels, averaging 1 lb. each, all taken with live bait; H. Mansel, out every day, average 7 doz. roach and dace each day; H. Howard, out every day 7 to 9 doz. fish each day; G. Howard, four days, 20 doz. dace; J. Bushnell, Friday 27½ lb. of dace, with Mr. Bachuss; Saturday, 22 lb. dace and barbel; Sunday, 25 lb. dace; Monday, 18½ lb. dace and roach; out each day since without much success, on account of the weather.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind S.W., rainy, water a little colour. I have had 38 punts during the week, all doing well, with the exception of a few amateurs. Spier's best two days, 26 lb. and 23 lb., and two barbel. Pert Hammerton, last Saturday with Mr. Johnson, of Cross Deep, and member of R.P.S., 38 lb., including two barbel of 1 and 2 lb. Captain Moss, of Ealing, 18 lb., and three barbel. Joe

Doben, with Mr. Howes, of Shacklewell, four barbel in prime condition, and eight dozen fine dace. Mr. Glenowen, one day, 24 dozen roach and dace, one fine barbel, 7 lb.; Spong, one day, Mr. Cook, Wandsworth, 8 dozen; one day, Captain Smith, 18 lb., two barbel; Dick Moffatt, one day, Mr. White, 10 dozen; one day, Mr. Dawson, 18 lb., roach and dace.

N.B.—I am sorry I have been obliged to discharge Jem Hammerton through inattentiveness to my customers, and I cannot be answerable for any punts engaged—except from my house, viz., the Two Sawyers. Customers will greatly oblige by writing in advance, if possible.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

The late heavy rains have had the effect of rising and colouring the water very much, it now being the colour of that to be seen over London Bridge. Worm fishing will be good, and eddies under clay banks will yield a great variety of fish if the bait used is lob worm, either small or tail end of good sized ones. Jack fishing is out of the question, though whilst ledgering I took one with a worm, besides four barbel and two eels. Barbel have been feeding better, though large bags are scarce, but now a high and thick water has come shall expect to see some good takes. Roach are biting well and several good baskets have come under my notice, some containing heavy specimens. In the Old Windsor Weir a brace of trout have been had lately, one by Mr. T. E. Adams, of 47, St. James' Square, Notting Hill, going 3 lb., and one of just over 7 lb., which he landed for another gentleman. At the same place twelve barbel were had one day, largest 7 lb. At Egham a trout has been picked up below the Weir in a dying state, over 10 lb. James Gray has been getting fair bags with patrons, though I have only two days' takes, consisting of one jack, 5 lb., and two dozen roach and five perch on 14th inst. On 15th inst. he had between four or five dozen roach and seven perch. Mr. Herbert, of Windsor, with a friend, took seven jack, spinning, in one day, largest 5 lb. Richard Gray, with Mr. Hockley, of 84, Old Kent Road, had one day thirteen dozen gudgeon, four barbel, six perch and one chub of 3 lb. Much rain falling now, every prospect of very high water.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The waters have been too thick for angling of late. When fine weather again obtains, we must look for some good pike-fishing. Bream and other scaly fish will then also feed well. I am unable to state what has been done during the past week, owing to absence from home.—THOMAS FORD.

Avon (Binton).

The river is bank high, and if the rain continues we shall have a heavy flood. The members of club have had some very good sport with the roach and chub, but cannot give full particulars, excepting in one case. Mr. Bennet, 17 lb. roach, forty fish, all with stewed malt.—ARTHUR W. WARNER.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are at the present moment (5 p.m., Aug. 25) in a state of flood, owing to the heavy rains we have had during the last few days. Of course, everybody who can raise a rod, line, hook and worms is out fishing. I was induced to go out this afternoon, but, after an hour's experience, returned home minus a fish. The reason given me for my bad sport by the local authorities was that the water was still rising. However, I had had quite enough of worm-fishing, which I must add I never cared for. Some very good baskets of trout have been taken during the past week, with fly, minnow and worm. With the worm, of course, fishing up stream in clear water. Yesterday, Mr. F. Marsland caught a beautiful basket of trout, with the minnow and worm, which weighed over 6 lb.; and several other anglers have also been very successful. The flies killing best are the blue upright, coddung, sand fly and the blue dun.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

"Ye gentel Dove," as an old writer calls it, is no longer gentle. It is a seething torrent, bank high, and threatens to flood the district. Angling is now practically stopped. Our farmers are greatly alarmed about the state of the weather. Thousands of acres of corn are cut, and some of it is now a foot deep in water. I don't think the river will get into fishable order again for a week or more. Previous to the floods the apple green and the golden dun flies were killing best. One rodster got seven brace with the apple green near Uttoxeter, while others caught such dishes as four and five brace with the whistler and golden dun. Both these are capital lures in discoloured water, being sufficiently gaudy to be seen by the fish through the thickened liquid. The bottom fishers were doing well on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, with worm and wasp-grub, but it has been quite unfit to go out since, rain having fallen every day—not in little drops either, but in big beads, sufficient to wet a man through in less than five minutes.—SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

We are now in receipt of some heavy downfalls, and our hitherto sluggish river is on the rise, and it is to be hoped we shall now see that life and disturbance, which gratifies the angler's mind to satisfy him that fish are and will be there in the forthcoming season, and even allow him some degree of sport ere the season closes, which, up to the present, has been very indifferent in the upper waters. Salmon and salmon peel are abundant in the lower waters, and good catches are made, but as the season will close very shortly, if these freshets continue, we may say the net fishermen's season is at end, the river being too high for them to pursue their calling. I do not remember such, I may say, universal annoyance, if not disgust, having spread through the angling community, as was felt by nearly every one on reading the news, and seeing the spoil of fish (salmon and trout) destroyed lately by poison or dynamite; and, up to the present, I have not heard of any commitments. Perch, roach and dace, plentiful; the former, of fine size. A few rudd have come to hand, and several fine pike. It is raining now in torrents, accompanied with thunder and lightning. Wind, due south. We had the same this morning early, but the wind was due north, so this is possibly a return visit, and, to be hoped, a finale.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ferry Boat Fishery (Tottenham).

Some excellent sport has been had this week among the roach, perch and jack. Mr. Hanstock, one barbel, 5 lb. ½ oz.; Mr. Drew, one jack, 7 lb.; Mr. Hughes, basket of roach, 9 lb.; Mr. Hobinstock, three jack, 12 lb. The water is in excellent condition for roach. The bream have been showing in large numbers in the pool.—J. L. GAY.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Any gentleman visiting Ilfracombe for the purpose of angling would find some sport along the streams at Bickless Combe bottom, the property of Mr. Henry Camp, of whom you must ask permission. Length of stream about 2 miles. Then

adjoining that is Ocerage bottom, a splendid stream for fishing. I have known young lads go there and take from about 40 to 50 trout in one hour an average weight about five to the lb. Sea fishing: the weather here for the last fortnight has been very unfavourable, the wind blowing strong from the N.W., then shifting round to the S.W. The fishermen here have been watching the weather with great anxiety; whenever an opportunity offered them they embraced it, and returned with very fair catches of bream, codlin, whiting, pout, &c. On Thursday last was a fine day for fishing, but the fishermen were all too busy with the regatta which took place on that day, the wind blowing a steady breeze from the west made the weather everything that could be desired. Capstone Parade the favourite resort for spectators was splendidly decorated with flags, which gave a very lively appearance to the scene. Weather at present very unsettled, no likes of fishing for the next few days. There is as usual good sport to be had with rod and line, or hand lines from the piers or jetty for rock whiting, grey mullet, dabs, &c.—E. COMER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

The last two Sundays and during the week that has just past we have been favoured with a great number of anglers, and there has been good takings; perch in great numbers, as to tench, up to the present time, the takes have been small, but those that have been taken were in fine condition, and the large rains that we have had has greatly improved the water, which is high. The members of the Edmonton and Tottenham Fishing Club have had their day out for prizes, the winners being:—1st prize, a pair of lustres, Mr. George Stephens, for roach; 2nd do., a money prize, Mr. Collyer, for jack; 3rd do., a jack rod, Mr. Hustler, for jack. The three above-named members have laboured hard, and they being the winners has given great pleasure to all the other members of the club.—T. SEWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The heavy rains of the last few days had made a slight run of water, which is all the better for angling generally, but the weather has been so terribly unsettled, and the wind so high, that very little angling has been done during the week. Our secretary, fishing before breakfast on Saturday, running near the Old Weir, grassed a dozen roach, the largest weighing 1½ lb. The ground baited with cotton cake, and fished with the tail end of a lob, trying for bream. The latter fish did not hang in at all, and just now the lobworm appears to be the particular vanity of the roach. There will be excellent sport when the weather clears up.—THE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Norfolk.

Notwithstanding the many drawbacks during the past week respecting the wind and weather, good sport still continues to reign predominant amongst our local sportsmen. Great catches of bream and heavy bags of roach are constantly being shown at the various club houses in the city, and any angler is considered to be very much in the background at the present time if he is not able to show after a day's sport at least two stone weight of fish. So well on the feed and so prolific are they, I have had during the last few days some splendid baskets of fish submitted to me, some from the Bure and others from the Yare. The fish appear all to be in perfect condition, no signs of disease or sickness being in any way apparent. I have just seen at the club house of the East Angling Society a fine catch of roach taken at Cantley. The fish averaged from 8 to 18 oz. each, and were as level a lot as ever I had the pleasure to inspect. These, I was informed, were taken mostly with King's natural bait which is evidently a most killing bait, for whilst eight other boats did comparatively nothing, the gentlemen using this paste landed in two hours no less than 2 stone of roach 84 in number. Although hitherto a sceptic in these patent baits, I certainly must admit that there is a something about the one in question. The manufacturer of it (whose address is New Road, Commercial Road, London), will, on application, and for 1d. stamp, send sample packet, and I should advise all those who have any doubt about the matter to give it a trial. The George and Dragon club held their annual match at Ranworth on Tuesday last and met with the same success as most other clubs have experienced during the season—getting comparatively nothing. The heaviest catch not exceeding 12 lb. Mr. Pearce, one of the gentlemen contesting, succeeded in landing one perch weighing 2¼ lb. During the day the club, under the able management of host Moore had a most enjoyable day, the arrangements being most creditable.—ANGLER.

[We are glad to see our experience of Mr. King's bait borne out by that of other anglers.—ED.]

Ormesby Broad.

The weather at Ormesby Broad for the past few days has been very unsettled, with much rain, and the fish have been slightly off the feed. If the weather should be fine I shall expect to see some good sport. On the 18th inst., Mr. Peacefull and Mr. Ockleford, of London, were at Ormesby, and caught ten bream weighing 20 lb. in two hours. All particulars regarding fishing obtainable of S. RICHMOND, Sportsman Arms, Ormesby Broad.

Ouse (Beafield).

On the first three days of the week I fished in a very deep stretch of water from Finlake to Cardington, and had some excellent sport, all kinds of fish biting freely. The weather was rough and stormy, and on one day I was fishing in the face of a strong wind, yet the roach continued to feed, and I had a good take. On Thursday afternoon I fished for three hours, the wind blowing a perfect gale at my back, and succeeded in taking 17 large roach, one over 1 lb., and the rest over ½ lb. and ¾ lb. each. On Saturday I had a day at Milton, and although the bream would not touch, managed to land eighty-two roach. A large bream, weighing 4½ lb., was caught in an adjoining field with a wheat kernel on a roach line—a splendid fellow. My total for the week, fishing four and a half days, was 281 roach, four bream, four perch. Again raining hard whilst writing this.—ROVER.

Severn and Teme (Worcesterhire).

The tempestuous weather has, together with the continued rains, swollen the streams; in fact, to-day it is only fit for roach fishing, unless you try the brandling worm upon the brooks, as the water has been so clear and low so long. The trout will come well for the next day or two, then fly-fishing will be best if no more heavy rain falls.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland).

We have only one salmon to tell of being killed since last I wrote, by the Hon. Hely-Hutchinson, on Lord Donoughmore's preserves, weighing 12 lb. We have had constant floods all the week, and to-day we have a regular harvest flood, so that the river won't be fit for some days. There has been some good trout fishing on the different streams, spider wrens being the favourite fly.—DORA.

Swale.

Continuous rains have put an end to fly-fishing for a time. Worm-fishers have had good sport, both in main stream and becks. On the return of fine weather, the needle brown will come out in force, and remain a good fly until the end of the season.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

Instead of enjoying bright days, and hot sunshine, and grand blue skies, and August splendour, we are the victims of a pitiless downpour, of a murky firmament, of cyclone disturbances, of swollen rivers, and drenched lands. Under such unfavourable circumstances I have nothing to relate of the deeds of my piscatorial brethren. The past week has been an entire blank; both our rivers, the Trent and Tame, were reported this morning as being bank full and much discoloured. Rain has fallen the whole of the day, with such a cruel persistency that a most disastrous flood is imminent. Angling is completely out of the question before the commencement of the next week.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The very heavy and long-continued rain of last Tuesday had the effect of bringing down the long-hoped-for and much-needed fresh into the river. The water at the time of writing is rather high and discoloured, but it has been slowly going down to-day; but it has been raining heavily all day, and so in all probability the water may again rise to-morrow—if it does not, the water will be in middling trim for bottom fishing by Sunday or Monday—but I am sadly afraid we shall have another heavy and thick water by the end of this week. I ought not to complain, however, as these freshets will clean out the river, sweep away the troublesome flannel weed and cause the fish to come on the feed—at least, I hope so. Worm fishing will be the order of the day for the next few days if the water goes on all right. Bream have been the fish that anglers have found to have been feeding the best during the past week, some very nice catches of that fish being had from various swims in this locality, worms being the bait. I must not forget a brace of nice jack being had by a friend of mine, Mr. Gregory's Clipper doing the trick. Messrs. Thorpe, in their nets at the mill weir, took last night upwards of 3 tons of eels, a most extraordinary catch, the rise of water after the long continued lowness bringing these fish down in immense quantities, as indicated last week. Mr. Slater has taken the publichouse next door to his rod and tackle establishment, and started a fishing club, 'yclept "The Newark Piscatorials." Mr. Slater has already decorated the walls of his bar with an 18 lb. pike, a 10 lb. barbel and a 5½ lb. chub—at least I believe the pike and the chub are there, and the barbel will be ready in a few days. The new club has started under very favourable circumstances, and numbers already sixty-two members. It is worked on a very sound basis, and I have had no hesitation in causing to be placed on the books of the society the name of the—TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

When there is a great amount of electricity in the air and a thunderstorm is close at hand, it has a wonderful effect on all the animal creation, and more especially on the finny tribe. I have frequently observed this when the weather and water was all in our favour for rod fishing, and the fish have gone off the feed all at once without any apparent cause. One day last season I and a gentleman were fishing, a noted barbel swims at Swarkston Bridge; the fish had been biting well, when at once they stopped feeding. My friend said, "What is the matter?" I answered, "The chances are we are going to have a thunderstorm," and I proposed to at once retire, which I did, leaving my companion to fish on; but he was soon obliged to come in, and a more dreadful night I never experienced, and I guess the reason the fish did not feed so well on Saturday and Monday, was what was going to follow. The heavy thunderstorm on Tuesday night quite put a stop to rod fishing, although the fish excepting barbel had been biting well, and the fresh that is now on the river will doubtless be a good thing for the rodsters during the remainder part of the season as there is just sufficient water on to sweep the flannel weed away. It is raining heavily at the time of writing, and the chances are we are going to have a flood.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had continual rises on the Derwent since my last report, which has given the ground-bait fishers a rare time of it, and I am pleased to say that some baskets of mixed fish have been killed—chiefly trout, grayling, roach dace and a few chub. The best baits have been the gentles and wasp grubs. The Wye has not been so much out of condition for fly-fishing as the Derwent has, owing to the rain falling more in the woodlands than the Peak, and it has chiefly come out of the south. There have been some very nice baskets of fish killed off of different parts of the Wye during the week. We have a great many fishermen down here for angling, most of the hotels being full of anglers. The best killing flies are the honey dun bumbles, reds, grey goose dun and sand flies. Grayling fly-fishing ought to be on next week if the rain will only keep off.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

P.S.—We have had a very great quantity of heavy rain to-day and Thursday, both rivers are rising at 6 p.m.; floods expected. Next week will be a first-class one for the bottom fishers.—G. J. EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

A great deal of rain has fallen during the last week, so that the rivers have been in a continual state of flood for some days. During the early part of last week some fair dishes of trout were killed, a friend of mine getting eight beauties in the Wharfe with maggot. He only fished from two o'clock p.m. until four, but there was a nice brown water and the fish were "well on." Grayling have not taken well, but in my opinion you cannot have the water too low or clear for successful grayling fishing, and I have never found them take freely in either a rising or a falling water. An angling match was held last week at Skipton Bridge on the river Swale; there was a nice water and a good many fish were killed, but none of any size, as may be judged from the fact that the first prize, value £8, was taken with 5 lb. 5 oz. of fish, comprising roach, dace, perch and gudgeon. The winner of it was Geo. Watkinson, of Harewood, who is a noted all-round angler on the Wharfe; the total value of the prizes was £25. To-day (Wednesday) it has rained without intermission, so that all angling prospects are at an end for the present.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

That's the sport, to throw the fly, and in half a minute take it quickly out. Though the whole earth is given to the children of man, none but we jolly fishers get the plums and raisins of it, by the rivers which run along the hills.—Charles Kingsley.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NORFOLK.—On the Norfolk Broads and rivers you must, as a rule, fish from a boat (1s. a day). It is also best to do so in the Thames. Punt on Thames costs 10s. a day with a fisherman, and you will have to give him his beer as well.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

HUNTINGDON FISHING ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—With reference to certain remarks in your paper of the 2nd July, I hope, in justice to the Huntingdon Fishing Association, that you will allow me to give an explanation. I knew nothing whatever of the matter until the account appeared in your journal, which was shown me a few days since. I find, on enquiry, that the supposed keeper was simply a man who is occasionally in the employ of the Association. On the date in question he was not in our pay, and made no report whatever; neither did any one else, or the offending parties would most certainly have been prosecuted. It is now too late to collect evidence. I regret very much that your correspondent did not make further enquiries of myself or the committee before making public a statement calculated to do damage to a deserving society.—I am, &c.,

July 12.

T. M. HOWSON, hon. sec.

[We regret that a previous letter to this effect from Mr. Howson must have been lost in post.—ED.]

ANOTHER PRIZE FOR THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—I think your idea of the Fishing Tournament in aid of the Anglers' Benevolent Society a very good one, and trust it will be a great success.

I shall have much pleasure in giving one of my Improved Freke Fishing Bags as a prize.

The conditions to be as follows, if they meet with your approval:—

The line to be a fine Nottingham line, with one triangle hook attached, the bait to be cheese bait—i.e., bread and cheese mixed—which must remain upon the hook at end of cast.

The cast to be made from the reel in the Nottingham style, or from the line laid upon the ground.

No shot or weight beyond the cheese bait to be allowed.

The rod not to exceed 10 feet in length.

Each competitor must use the same rod, reel, line, hook, and bait.

The measurement to be from right toe line.

The longest and most direct throw to be considered the best.

If two or more tie for distance, the prize to be given to the straightest cast.

No wool to be used in mixing the bait.—I am, &c.,

F. MALCOM.

40, Ludgate Hill, August 20.

P.S.—The softer the bait is made the more skill will be shown. The trial might easily be carried out upon a lawn, and three casts only allowed each competitor.

[Many thanks for the prize, and also for your suggestion as regards this new competition. The bait would hardly stand the shock of falling on grass as it would on water.—ED.]

OTHER PRIZES.

The Proprietor of "Salveo Pedes" has kindly promised a £2 2s. spinning-rod, and Messrs. Barron and Wilson one of the FISHING GAZETTE Pliers.

FISHING AT LITTLEHAMPTON.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me where the nearest freshwater fishing to Littlehampton can be obtained? also the best bait, tackle, and mode of taking bass and mullet.

If you will answer the above in your next issue, you will greatly oblige.—I am, &c.,

LEX.

August 23, 1881.

[Perhaps some angler who knows Littlehampton will answer the first query. For bass-fishing use a large spoon bait, but be sure the swivel and the fastenings are all brass, and use extra large, strong hooks. Sea water will spoil steel very soon, and we once lost a half-crown spoon and a ten pound bass, simply because a steel split ring had been used. If you cannot get brass fittings make shift with strong fittings of your own make. Spin the bait from a boat going slowly through a shoal of bass; you will generally find bass where you see a flock of sea-birds hovering over the sea, as both bass and sea-gulls are after the small fry. You can also take bass with large gaudy fly. For mullet fishing, see recent articles in the GAZETTE.—ED.]

FISHING AT ELSTREE RESERVOIR.

SIR,—On August 8th I had a few days' fishing at Elstree Reservoir, Herts. The first three days I did very little, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, but Thursday turning out a fine day, I had much pleasure in taking six golden tench, one scaling 4 lb. 3 oz., a perfect picture. The gross scaling weight was 14 lb. 6 oz. A friend who was with me took two golden tench, one scaling 3½ lb., the other 3 lb. 6 oz. I am quite satisfied there is plenty of good fish there, and some excellent sport to be obtained later on.—I am, &c.,

18, Crogsland Road, Haverstock Hill, N.W.

J. W.

THE "ANGLER'S MUSEUM," &c.—FISHING IN SPAIN, &c.

SIR,—A copy I have of the "Angler's Museum" (published June 4, 1784), has on the title page, "the whole carefully collected from actual experience by Thomas Shirley." The last six lines of the preface which is signed Thomas Shirley, and addressed Richmond, Surrey, also states that the work is by him. I note that chapter 2, pages 10 and 13, are, for the most part, taken from Bowler; at least so I conclude, having only a recent edition (1839) of the latter by me, of which compare pages 6, 7, and 8 of the preface with page 12 of the "Museum." I have not met with any quotation or mention in the "Museum"

(bearing date of 1623) of the "Country Contentments." The following from the "Angler's Museum," about roach-fishing, may prove of interest to Trent anglers.

"There is another excellent bait for a roach in the winter which is a white worm with a red head, about the bigness of a cod bait (query, the grub of the cockchafer) to be found after the plough soil upon heath or sandy ground, or turning up the green sward of fresh land. I myself have taken with this bait, in the river Trent, 30 lb. weight in a morning; the roach in that river run to a large size: from three quarters of a pound to a pound and a half in weight. When you use this bait, bait the places you intend to fish, with stewed malt or fresh grains. This is the best bait for roach and dace known of, except maggots or gentles."

Is this bait in use now in the Trent?

FISHING IN SPAIN.

In answer to your correspondent M. S.'s enquiry, I should say there would be little river fishing now to be had in the North of Spain. The best months for salmon and trout being May and June, and to ensure sport particular flies should be taken.

As regards sea-fishing, the market place of Santandel was always well stocked with fish, more especially bonito, these, if caught by a strong jack rod with an imitation sand-eel or large spoon bait, would give capital sport, but it would be necessary to go out in one of the fishing boats to obtain it. At Bilbao, very large mullet are caught, and the natives are always fishing in the tidal portion of the river. I am obliged to R. Norman for his answer about a yacht for the Broads.—I am, &c.,

A TOWN ANGLER.

August 20.

P.S.—M. S. by writing to Mr. Curling (English Café), Calle de Jos Fueros, No. 10, Bilbao, would receive all information as to the tidal fishing at Bilbao, and would be lodged, &c., cheaply and well.

FISHING IN NORFOLK.

SIR,—Two young friends have been staying here a fortnight, and very much enjoyed some fishing trips. They went to Beccles, Stalham, Walsham, Oulton, Fritton and Wroxham, and much prefer Wroxham to all, but having to leave so early is a great nuisance; if not, they must take a ticket to North Walsham, and get to Yarmouth after 10 p.m. The train from Wroxham was altered a few years since, and I think might be so again, to catch the Yarmouth train leaving Whitlingham at 9. Passengers from Cromer and Reepham could leave those towns a short time earlier, as there are now only a few minutes at Whitlingham Junction before the Yarmouth train arrives. The station officials are remarkably civil and obliging, and it is a great pity the old line should lose passengers for want of a little good management; but you must now leave Wroxham at 7.8, and then stay at Whitlingham more than 90 minutes.—I am, &c.,

Yarmouth, August 25.

PISCATOR.

PERCH FISHING NEAR DAVENTRY.

SIR,—Having some friends in Northamptonshire, and hearing of the extraordinary perch they sometimes take in the reservoir near the old town of Daventry, I was induced to try my hand as a disciple of Walton and a lover of the gentle art.

While there I had but little sport, wind not quite the thing, water too bright and weedy.

With the exception of a few fine tench between 3 lb. and 4 lb. each, two or three jack, the largest about 5 lb., my take was but small.

I came away much doubting the existence of the large perch that I had dreamed of before my holiday.

On my leaving, and wishing me good-bye, my friend said, "Never mind, old boy, I will soon catch one for you and send it up," promises, I thought, like pie crust, soon to be broken, and as soon forgotten. But three days after my arrival home, strange to relate, the promise came true, for I received a box, and, enclosed, the perch I had often dreamed of, caught by my friend, weight 4 lb. good.

Such a grand fish, and in splendid condition, taken with a worm and very fine tackle, making desperate efforts for dear life, but grassed at last to the great joy and surprise of my worthy friend, he never having taken one weighing so well. It was caught in a lake belonging to Sir Charles Tempest, of Ashby Lodge, near Daventry; my only wish that I may do likewise.

The fish is sent for stuffing, and soon I shall have much pleasure in showing it to admiring friends and lovers of the gentle art.—I am, &c.,

E. H.

August 20.

FISHING NEAR BUSHY PARK.

SIR,—I have taken in the FISHING GAZETTE from the very first, but have not before troubled you with any letters; but seeing the above in your's of this week, and as no one has fished more in the unenclosed waters than myself, I therefore answer the above. Fish in the Bushy waters are jack, from very small up to about 12 lb. (twenty-five jack have been had this summer), small chub, very large rudd and carp, tench and roach; but, being over-fished, fishing far from good. Best bait gentles and lobworms. Chub take Pennell's fly, the Sweep (well). I could name each different pond where each fish is to be had, but think it best not to do so. Orders to fish are to be had of the First Commissioner of the Board of Works, but only in February. All orders for this year are out. I enclose my card, and am, &c.,

J. E. R.

Teddington, August 22, 1881.

FISHING IN THE WAVENEY.

SIR,—The angling visitors from the "big city" seem to be having very good fortune this year along the Yare and Waveney, the takes of fish being larger than for some years.

The broads and rivers are just now in excellent order through the late rains, the only fear being that we may have too much water instead of too little, as was the case a month ago.

I had a capital piece of sport among the roach and rudd last Friday afternoon and evening. Having obtained from Mr. King a 6d. packet of his natural bait, after reading your note of it in the GAZETTE of the 13th inst., and tested it beside the ordinary biscuit paste, both white and red, and found I could take with it two fish to one with the latter kinds, I fished one of my favourite swims, about 200 yards below the railway bridge over the Waveney at Somerleyton,

being at it from 3 to 7 p.m., and making only one move a little lower down during that time.

In four hours I took 19 lb., chiefly of roach, very few being less than 8 oz. each, and all in splendid condition.

I intend, if possible, to have an early morning shortly among the big bream that lie so cosily just at the entrance to the Dyke at the top of Oulton broad, when I trust to do great execution among the broad-sided fellows.—I am, &c.,

ERNEST BURROWS.

3, St. John's Buildings, Fitzwilliam Square, Great Yarmouth,
August 22.

A NOTE FROM L. B.

SIR,—At the eleventh hour an important business engagement prevented my friend who was to have gone with me to East Anglia from doing so, and, unwilling to break fresh water totally unknown, alone, I have been reluctantly compelled to forego my long-anticipated pleasure until next summer.

My two days with Mr. P. Geen after Thames barbel at Chertsey did not altogether result in the grand take we had hoped for, my total take, principally barbel, with a few roach, dace and a small chub, amounting to some 27 lb. I have since been down to Littleport, Cambridgeshire, for some days, but with very meagre results—so meagre that I left it, and am now at Elstree for a couple of days, having heard that the tench were fairly on. On Sunday, my brother club members, Messrs. Underwood and Aldis, securing some 60 lb. between them; several of the fish over 3 lb. and a well-fed jack of 6 lb. I am too tired and stiff to settle down to writing notes this week, besides having very little matter, as I have had no opportunity of gleanings. I will, however, send you an extra dose next week, with a little article on our two days' barbeling at Chertsey, which, although the sport was poor, were by no means altogether uneventful.—I am, &c.,

LEO BONVOISIN.

Elstree, Herts, Aug. 24.

HOW ARE TENCH CAUGHT?

SIR,—Until three weeks ago I was in ignorance of the existence of such a valuable weekly as the FISHING GAZETTE, a journal which deserves to be better known. I hope in future to glean some useful knowledge from its pages, and shall be pleased to learn what are the best baits and the best method of fishing for tench.

Withamites cannot boast of such aristocratic gentlemen as trout, grayling, barbel, etc. We are, nevertheless, well content with our tench, bream, roach and pike, fish possessing beauty enough for the angler who has never bagged superior. We get old Isaac's disciples from Sheffield by the train load, and natives, believing in the early worm theory, ply the rod galore, "Ere Phœbus 'gins to rise," but the captured tench are, like angels' visits, few and far between. Odd ones are secured now and again. On the 19th inst., I saw a brace of nice fish, going 2 lb. each. Yesterday Mr. W. Arnall, a Sheffield gentleman, had the luck to grass two brace, from 2 lb. to 2½ lb. each, and another Sheffielder landed one at an adjoining swim of 3 lb. In each case maggots fat and yellow proved the *pièce de résistance*. Single fish are the rule. Seldom do we hear of two brace falling to one rod, and Mr. Arnall may be congratulated upon having scored a poser for his *confreres*. The fish are here, and no mistake about it. I have seen as many in a swim as would have filled a bushel measure. But catch him—there's the rub; sly as any fox is he! A wrinkle or two from the pen of Mr. Keene would be relished by others of your Boston subscribers besides

R. H. F.

Boston, Lincolnshire.

We forwarded your letter to Mr. Keene, and he replies as follows:—

"Tench are very carp-like in their wiliess, especially when large, and the utmost circumspection is therefore indispensable if the angler would have good sport with them. By this I mean that, after the whereabouts of the fish are discovered, on no account should the angler allow himself to be seen or heard. Being ground feeders, they are curiously susceptible of reverberation, and though a heavy tread will seldom scatter them, it nevertheless will often have the effect of rendering them impervious to the seductions of any lure. This I have repeatedly observed. The sight of a human being will invariably have a similar effect. Let the first axiom in tench-fishing, therefore, be extreme quiet, and absolutely no approach nearer than half-a-dozen yards to where the fish are known to be.

"Now as to tackle. I always use the Nottingham style, *i. e.*, 'fine and far off.' Having ascertained the exact depth, begin baiting with chopped worms, not too many—say a pint. These are easily chopped up with a spade on a sack. Bait at dusk for a couple of nights. Use the finest gut, and a medium-sized hook, with no shot near it. The float should also be of the lightest. The bait is a well-scoured dew-worm or cockspur, and should be allowed to lie on the bottom, and only occasionally and gently moved. Whether in a stream or a lake this is the soundest mode of fishing. The tench takes the bait standing on its head, as it were, so give it a little time after the first movement of the float before striking.

I can say, with the certainty born of experience, that this procedure and bait will always produce good results. Some fishermen throw in an unspeakably nasty mass of grains, blood, &c., and fish with lumps of coagulated blood. This *will* take fish, but it is uncertain. I prefer the tail of a well scoured lob-worm, or a coral-hued cockspur before all such baits. Let R. H. F. try my method, strictly attending to the quietude part of it, fishing early and late, and report the result.—J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—My good friend Mr. Keene's equanimity seems to be considerably disturbed at one of your correspondents having had the "courage to express his convictions," whilst, at the same time, allowing his identity and position to be open to recognition. Now, Mr. Editor, your correspondent in this case much preferred a *nom de plume*, but at your special request rejected the pseudonym, and certainly thought he was as much entitled to show on what grounds he might advance his opinions, as possibly having some weight, as were his opponents to append to their signatures such terms as "secretary," "treasurer," &c., to various associations, in order to give full force to their statements, which, emanating from unknown individuals, without such goodly titles, would otherwise have been deemed ridiculous. Therefore, I approach Mr. Keene, in this matter, with all "hope, love, patience, humility, strength, courage, placability of mind (*i. e.*, contentment) and memory." Alas! "faith," I have little, as relating to the wisdom and capacity for reformation of my opponents, who, at least in Mr. Keene's case, with liberal reciprocity, likewise withhold from me

the attributes of "knowledge." This being the case, I must deal with the wayward children leniently, tenderly, but firmly. And now, Mr. Keene, let us dispense with your so-called inflated wind-bags, and endeavour to discover if, in the five paragraphs written for my rebuff, there is a single argument brought forward, supported by proof or probability, to shake my position. The first of these five sections needs no further comment. In the second, we find my opponent laying claim to his being the first propounder of the statement that a river can be "fished out," when the whole of the recent legislation has been based on the presumption that a river can be "fished out," and that this result is in a great measure due to the action of the rod. On the other hand, I must point out that "The Raven" distinctly stated, long before entering this controversy, that he defied the rod to produce such a result, and it matters not whether "The Raven" is or is not identical with myself, as Mr. Keene suggests. I, however, endorse that experience; and challenge Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, Mr. Geen and Mr. Keene, whenever they make statements as to facts or deductions from such presumed data—presumable only, because, in my opinion, the results of hasty conclusions and imperfect knowledge—to give details of the circumstances, so that opponents may be brought to see the errors of their ways, if erroneous, and relent, if having tenaciously persisted in being an obstruction to truth. The allegation, therefore, that I made an unjust assault on "Creel"—in whose various contributions I have felt much interest—is not a fact. I did not for a moment insinuate that "Creel" had misstated primary details, but I ventured to decide that his deductions from the possibly true premises, were absolutely fallacious, having myself lived in the districts named, and knowing not a little of the capabilities of the streams and the influences which affect them. However, I was so far diffident as to my own knowledge, that I did not wish the public to take my opinion for granted, but offered to meet the experiences of my opponents by my own, so that others might be able to judge for themselves whose deductions were the most fallacious. I did not claim, on the score of being a man of Science, a quondam Conservator, or an angler whose fly-fishing diary can present a record of almost unbroken success in many waters and at all seasons; I did not do this, as seems now to be claimed for some of my opponents. I merely stated that most of the assertions of my antagonists were incorrect, betraying, on the whole, gross ignorance of piscatory matters. I challenged them to prove their allegations; but, not being able to do this, they meet me with a new corps elect, an organisation perfectly novel in warfare, a legion of honour for which I was wholly unprepared. I am told that my opponents are "gentlemen," and that, therefore, whatever their vain conceits, these must be taken as absolute fact. Mr. Keene, this argument lay hidden in the breasts of controversialists till your own acute faculties brought it to light; but how will you meet the case, in which one gentleman says one, or thirty, if you like, rivers, are positively "fished out by the rod," and in which another declares with equal vehemence, such is not the case? "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war." In fact, the argument as to one's being a gentleman—a fortuitously happy circumstance, when it is found convenient to shirk the onus of essential proof—is worthy of Mr. Keene. However disposed, therefore, to accommodate myself with placability of mind to the views of my opponents, that tendency of the advocates of a close season as launched against the rod fisher, to repudiate the proofs necessary for the establishment of their case, is one which cannot be ignored or permitted; and I again challenge my opponents to give proofs of the facts which severally lead them to form opinions on piscatory matters. I am prepared to demonstrate in what respects these are incorrect, inasmuch as they have any relation to my own piscatory experiences, whilst there are no doubt others more competent than myself to fill up those blanks which otherwise must be left untouched relating to districts or departments where my investigations have not been so complete. This defiance, I give, not as a challenge to my opponents to take on myself personally the task of rebutting all they have to say, or, as a champion representative of all who hold views similar to myself, but as necessary for the vindication of my own craftsmanship; for there are many of great experience and more mature years, who have convictions similar to my own, who can argue soundly and convincingly, in a manner, perhaps, more suited to the delicate susceptibilities of their opponents, whose practical knowledge should speak for itself, and not through me or any other individual as a representative spokesman. Some of these have already advanced their opinions strongly, amongst whom appear, first and foremost, yourself, Mr. Editor, also your correspondents "Ruif," "The Trent Otter," Mr. B. J. Whitaker, Mr. J. Gregory, Mr. Alfred Palmer, Mr. E. Bicknell, Mr. T. Malcom, and many others; who, wholly, or in general details, support the position taken up by yourself, Mr. Editor. On the grounds, therefore, already mentioned, I must meet Mr. Keene and ask him, as I have already asked "Creel," for the names of the "private waters" and the nature of "the other minor causes," which have depleted them to such an extent as to render sport comparatively "nil"; the question being one of direct cause and effect, as sifted out by careful reasoning and thorough knowledge of angling, natural history, and the ways of men, especially poachers, and therefore not one to be decided by any gentleman's *ipse dixit*, but requiring public discussion. That this exposition of the case is true, in fact, must call attention to the third paragraph which Mr. Keene devotes to his consideration of me. In this paragraph, I am charged with very inconsistently putting an algebraical problem to L. B., "which has no relation to the subject in hand at all;" so runs the allegation. Well, dear Mr. Keene, it is well mine enemy has been the instrument of his own destruction, having impaled himself on my weapon without my letting drive. I am truly glad to find that two out of three of the only opponents that put in any decent fighting appearance, discard all the trouble of ascertaining, even approximately, the number of breeding fish left in a river at the spawning season—in fact, the one, the only vital fact of any moment in solving the question at stake, and on which legislation should be based. Ignorance was not attributed to Mr. L. B.'s statement, but to the fanciful expressions he used and ecstatic inferences he drew therefrom, palming them off as logical deductions to the readers of THE FISHING GAZETTE. A little rhapsody is, no doubt, enlivening at times, but it should have a rational basis. In the fourth paragraph dealing with me, I am charged with vagueness; as it happens, nothing which Mr. Keene quotes, as if in substantiation of the charge, is vague in the slightest; although the printer accidentally, in a part not quoted, inserted a dash in the wrong place, which, of itself, was sufficient to make the reading vague, yet the context shows plainly where the dash should be. Now, if Mr. Keene is so dull as not to comprehend the meaning of the paragraph to which allusion is made, and which relates to the numbers of fish in rivers and ponds of England, Wales, Scotland and Norway, I must inform him now the facts stated were meant to imply that wherever I had been—to whatever countries or districts I had directed my steps—I had always found these waters afforded good fishing, provided only poachers, the refuse from manufactories, and injurious draining, were not inordinately present. After a few comments, Mr. Keene admits the truth of all the statements made by me, but takes exception to what he calls my "windbags of bombast." If this gentleman means to say that it is by such "pin pricks," such

logic as that which I shall proceed to quote, that vapid inflations will be dispersed, I fear it is his own "windbag" theory will be the subject of dissipation. Here are Mr. Keene's own words: "The Thames has furnished good sport for a very long time, but that does not argue that it will stand the strain of the last few years," &c. Here, after we have heard lately so much of the exhaustion of the Thames, we find this exhaustion is not an actual entity, but a prospective forecast grounded on no data more reliable than those supplied to us by Mr. L. B. for the solution of his problem relating to *x*. Then, Mr. Keene, after quoting some of my words, adds: "When you do this, Mr. B., in one out of ten of the streams of England, you can prove you are right as to the stupidity of our complaint anent over fishing." In answer to my opponent, I can reply that the great point of debate seems to relate to the fishing in the Thames, and a few other rivers where coarse fish abound, as this gentleman's party have not been able to make out the shadow of a case against trout streams. This being the case, I named a few of the principal rivers where I had fished, and in which coarse fish are known as being, according to my practical experience, abundantly present. A printer's error, however, converted Yore into Yare. In relation to Mr. Keene's quotation, I must add that I have seen the proofs of abundance of fish, given in the passage quoted; that this passage had special reference to the Cam and Ouse down to Ely, besides this, to the Thames, including its waters from the Brent and Brentford, to Mapledurham, as also the Kennet, from Reading to Hungerford. I have seen the things in absolute reality, in these rivers, which Mr. Keene is pleased to represent collectively as an ideal picture taken from the happy hunting grounds of the blest.

Turning to Mr. L. B. and his remarks relating to the qualifications of my opponents as anglers, I can only assure him I shall be as glad as he to yield them praise for the presence of such endowments, so soon as they shall have given adequate evidence of its existence by the appearance of manly and logical argument in the columns of THE FISHING GAZETTE. I have been doing my utmost to incite them to do this, to goad them on. Mr. Keene might suggest, but no sign is manifested. Until the dawning of this heretofore occult effulgence, I think I may justly be pardoned for being faithless as to its existence.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Say, one jack from the Arun, 2 lb.; Mr. Moir, bream, 4 lb. 7 oz., from Dagenham; Mr. G. Carrington, roach and dace, 4 lb. 8 oz., from the Lea; Mr. Farebrother, roach from Waltham; Mr. Patrick, roach and dace, 3½ lb.; Messrs. D. Thorpe and W. Wood, roach. The members are requested to attend the club house on Wednesday, 31st, to arrange the prizes left from the last match, where to be fished for.—WORLDLEDGE.

August 21.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Bermondsey Brothers fished their second series of prizes on Sunday last, at Amberley, but the take of fish was very meagre.—W. ALLEN, sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Nothing of any importance whatever has taken place during the week, except Mr. Anscombe hooked a fine carp in the Ouse, but could not bank him, his tackle being very fine, his only pleasure being to see him. Twenty-one members pegged down on the 21st, but owing to the wind and rain no fishing could be done with any pleasure, consequently not a single fish was taken, and the prizes will be a subject of consideration for the committee to decide as to competition on some more suitable day. The anglers' beanfeast takes place on Saturday next at West Grinstead.—GROUND BAIT.

August 23.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the above association was held at the White Hart Hotel, on Thursday last, under the presidency of Messrs. F. C. Morris and J. Haddon. The chairman (Mr. F. C. Morris) in opening the meeting said he was glad to say that the association was in a flourishing condition, and alluded to the work of the committee for the past twelve months. They had a most expensive and troublesome time of it in trying to obtain fishing waters for the association to preserve. Still, they had not tried in vain, for they had secured about six miles of good fishable water within a reasonable distance of Bristol, viz., from Grosvenor Suspension Bridge to and in the meadows belonging to Mr. Collinborne, at Bathampton. Great praise was due to Mr. R. D. Frost for the able manner in which he had worked for the association. Mr. Frost having thanked the members for the kind manner in which they had received him, assured them that he had worked very hard and would still continue to do so to further the interests of the association. The vice-chairman (Mr. J. Haddon), after a little discussion, called on the secretary to enlighten the members as to finance, which proved very satisfactory. The auditor then gave his report, stating that all accounts were examined and found correct. The chairman then called on the members to elect the officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the president (Mr. F. C. Morris), vice-president (Mr. J. Haddon), secretary (Mr. L. Wride), and treasurer (Mr. W. Leigh) being re-elected. The greater portion of the committee were re-elected, the vacancies being filled by Messrs. Inch, Wethers, Pillinger and Wheeler. Messrs. Inch and Cornish were elected as auditors. A vote of thanks was passed for Messrs. Inch, Julian and Frost for their kindness toward the association. It was then proposed that there should be four general meetings during the year, viz., the last Monday in March, June and December, and the annual general meeting on the second Monday in August. It was also proposed that the association should not exceed their number (viz., 200). The committee will meet to revise and add to their rules on Tuesday next. New tickets will be ready for members on September 1.—LEWIS WRIDE, hon. sec.

Digby House, Barton Hill, Bristol.

P.S.—Mr. J. Inch will attend the club house every Saturday evening to weigh members' fish caught on the association waters.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 21st:—Mr. Strong, bream and chub from the Wey, the largest bream 1 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Castell, roach from the Colne, and perch from Elstree; and Mr. Chambers, roach from the

Roding. Our annual distribution of prizes took place on the 18th, the following being the most successful:—Mr. Castell, seven prizes, including the gross weight for seventh time; Mr. Mortimer, six, including the prize for the largest roach, weight 1 lb. 11 oz.; Messrs. Hales, Plumstead, Perry, Martin, Head, Winterborne, and Chambers also had several prizes, each chiefly money, but we had a good show of useful articles such as copper kettles, tea sets, tackle, fishing boxes, &c.—CAS.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

The next return visit (No. 1 visiting list W. C. A.), will take place at the Wheatsheaf, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, on Tuesday, August 30th, when the Cornwall Anglers will be pleased to welcome all friends, and promise them an enjoyable evening. Every convenience to return trains; busses and trams from the door to almost every available place in London.—A. CLARK, sec.

THE EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above were out on Sunday last, the most successful being Messrs. Smith, Blackman, Tudenham, S. Gay, and myself. The former gentleman having a handsome tray of roach, dace, chub, and perch, about 14 lb., a very handsome fish of the latter weighing close on 3 lb. Mr. Blackman, jack and chub; Tudenham, roach; S. Gay and myself, bream and roach.—A. THOMAS.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a capital show of fish at the club on Sunday last. Mr. Maybury, roach; W. Wheeler, dace; E. Pluckrose, bream, roach and perch, J. Gadbury, roach; K. Murphy, trout and dace; Mr. J. Hadkiss brought in a tray of fine bream and roach. The members held their annual dinner at the Rye House on Monday last, 85 sitting down. Mr. Teale giving every satisfaction. The poultry and meats were of the finest quality, and in fact everything was of the best, for which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Teale for the manner he catered for us. After the cloth was removed, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts being heartily drunk, the chairman, Mr. H. Courcha, gave prosperity to the Good Intent Society. Mr. Murphy, in responding, said it afforded him much pleasure to respond on behalf of the Good Intent Society, seeing that we were making steady progress both in funds and members. It must be a source of great satisfaction to every member to know there was in the bank, belonging to the preserving fund, £50, and the general and benevolent funds were also in a sound position. The number of members, both honorary and paying, at the present time is 140—received with great applause. Mr. R. Ghurney made a favourable appeal on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. S. Morgan returned thanks on behalf of the Central Committee. Mr. Murphy for the West Central, in the absence of Mr. T. Hoole. The weather being delightful, a most happy day was spent.—R. MURPHY.

P.S.—Please send your report to 12, Fetter Lane, in future.—ED.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed fish on Sunday last. From the Stort:—Mr. H. Smith, 1 lb. 3 oz. of roach; Mr. Butler, 1 lb. 3 oz. of roach; Mr. Baker, 1 lb. 8 oz. of roach. From the Wey:—Mr. Theobald, 10 lb. 12 oz. of bream and roach, one splendid fish 4 lb. 13 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 1 lb. 12 oz. From Amberley:—Mr. J. Fitch, 7 lb. of bream roach and dace; Mr. Young, 1 lb. of dace from the Lee. The concert for the benefit of Mr. C. Perkins was a great success.—J. A. FITCH, sec.

August 23.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society held their weekly meeting at 19, Throgmorton Street, E.C., on Thursday evening. Captain Alfred in the chair. Mr. E. Bennett produced two fine dace from Thorney Broad, and Mr. Jardine arrived near the close of the evening with a magnificent trout (*salmo eriox*) taken by himself in Lancashire, and weighing nineteen pounds, which excited universal admiration. This is the finest specimen fish yet shown at the society's meetings, where all weighed-in have been of an exceptional character, there being no desire to accept any of the ordinary standard. The Gresham is steadily increasing in influence and numbers, and it is now proposed to exact an entrance fee for new members balloted for after the close of the present month.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

The takes during the past week have been numerous but small. The excursion by road to Shepperton took place on Sunday last, but the rain sadly interfered with the day's enjoyment. A sweepstake was got up, and, as usual, Mr. Hoole had the largest show. Returning home, a bundle of rods and an umbrella were either stolen or lost from the waggonette, between Shepperton and Richmond Bridge; any information concerning them will be gladly received by Mr. H. G. Penney, 37, King Street, Hammersmith.—VORTEX.

August 23.

HOXTON BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner will take place at the Rye House on Sunday August 28th, at two o'clock sharp. Members will oblige by informing me if we shall have the pleasure of their company, so as to enable me to arrange accordingly.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Manning had bream and roach on Sunday the 21st; Mr. W. Auburn had roach on the same day. Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., had 5 lb. 4½ oz. of bream on Wednesday, 24th inst.; Mr. J. Hillier, jun., had 6 lb. 14½ oz. of bream and roach on the same day. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday, September 11th, 1881, in the Stort between Burnt Mill and Harlow Mill. Three special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday September 14th, 1881, members to choose their own fishing water. No competitor to leave London before 5 a.m. on the mornings of the competitions; all fish weigh.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

No good luck yesterday, although last evening our table presented a pretty show of all sorts. Mr. E. Barr caught a fine bream at the Harp, scaling 5 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Harwood, roach, &c., 3 lb. 9 oz.; Wightman, ditto, 1 lb. 13 oz.; Scott, ditto, 1 lb. 13 oz. The following members likewise weighed-in:—Messrs. Heelas, Watts, Humphreys, Petrie and H. Moore.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

August 22.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were well to the fore again on Sunday last. Messrs. Long, Gorsuch, J. and G. Drew, Parker, with roach, perch, dace, and chub from the Thames. Mr. Neagus, with a good show of roach from the Stort, Mr. Lucy, jun., with bream; Mr. Lucy, sen., jack; and Mr. J. Burke, with a handsome perch, weighing 3 lb., from Pulbore; Mr. Obbard had also a good take of roach and dace.—J. W. LUCY.

Aug. 23.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The prize given by Mr. Gendle was fished for on the 13th inst., and most of the club turned out on the occasion. Mr. Duke had a pretty jack from the Thames at Hampton, and the other competitors had fair takes; the prize being won by Mr. Page with a nice basket of bream and roach from Woking. The first club match of the season will take place at Staines on the 28th inst.—W. M., sec.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the 16th inst. some sixteen members of the above society took part in a roach competition at West Drayton, for three prizes, presented by the following gentlemen (honorary members):—Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Hain, Mr. Turner; but owing to the unfavourable state of the weather very few fish were taken. Upon the members arriving at the club house much excitement was caused when the fish were weighed-in, as several of the members were within half-an-ounce of each other, though, when the return was given, Messrs. Harris, Bridge, and Bollington were the most successful, in the order named. Messrs. Riley, Salmon, Blackmore, and Manley also weighed-in. The last-named member landed a very fine perch.—J. EDWARDS.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a good muster of friends of members again on the 21st, but nothing extraordinary as regards catches of fish, although the exhibition proved better than the previous week. The following being the result, as weighed-in: Mr. T. Gretton, 5 lb. 1 oz. roach and bream; Mr. Ed. North, 3 lb. 5½ oz. roach and bream; Mr. E. Marrow, 10½ oz. roach; Mr. T. Millington, 9 oz. perch; Messrs. Webb and Robinson just saving a blank. A friend of the society exhibited 2 lb. 3 oz. roach. We have a complimentary visit next Tuesday, intended visitors will please note the address of the Club-house, the Crown Tavern, Mayfield Road, Dalton, one minute from Haggerston Station, on the North London Railway.—THOS. GRETTON, sec.

August 22.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Beckett exhibited nearly 22 lb. of roach, dace, and chub, some of the roach turning the scale at 1 lb. 7½ oz. The 31st being the fifth Wednesday in the month, all members are requested to attend the head quarters to discuss as to how and where the following prizes given to be competed for on the 14th of September shall be contested: 1st, silver cup, valued at £10 10s., given by the following gentlemen: Dr. Carpenter, £5 5s., and Messrs. Banskack, Beckett, Clarke, Duck and Whitby, £1 1s. each; 2nd, £5 5s., given by Messrs. Pugh and Murray; 3rd, £2 2s., pair of boots, given by Mr. Boalch, 4th, £1 1s. by Mr. Sutcliffe. In reference to my report of the 13th, anent Mr. Hoblyn, I am extremely sorry if I put that gentleman to any inconvenience by placing his name in the manner I did. The mistake occurred through Mr. Hoblyn's name being mentioned at the time of my receiving the report. Mr. Neal was the fisherman that Mr. Pugh was with on that day. Gentlemen wishing to have a day's outing in the neighbourhood at any time will do well to drop him a line.—PIXIE.

Aug. 25.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The dinner of the delegates and friends of the above will take place on September 11, 1881, at the Rye House. Angling to commence at 10.30 a.m. Fish to weigh-in the Rye House Gardens at 5 p.m. Dinner on table at 5.15 p.m.

N.B.—Members who have not already given their names will oblige by forwarding the same to the secretary not later than Monday, September 5, 1881. Dinner, 3s. each. The late secretary (now president) of the Kenton Angling Society has generously given three prizes value £1 each, and several others are expected, to be competed for on the day. Train from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green and Hackney Downs at 8.45 a.m.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 21st several members of this society visited Richmond, Ware, Colchester and various other places, in hopes of getting a good take of fish during the day, so as to enable them to have a chance of saving "F. Grigg's bacon." Mr. Boalch, out with C. Brown, of Richmond, headed the list with 10 lb. 4½ oz. of roach, dace and barbel; Mr. Bayley came next with 6 lb. 8 oz. of roach and dace from the bank; Mr. Hunt, H.M., introduced his maiden show of 3 lb. 9½ oz. of roach and dace from Richmond. In consequence of the heavy rain that fell Messrs. Bedford and Cain consulted a well-known weatherglass at "Bangoe," which disenabled them from weighing-in any fish.—PIXIE.

August 25.

WALTONIANS.

On the 17th we had a grand show of barbel by Mr. Phillips, 28 lb. 7½ oz.; the same gentleman also had chub, 5 lb. 10½ oz., and a roach, 10½ oz. On the 21st our worthy secretary again made himself first favourite for the society's jack prize, with a fish of 10 lb. 9½ oz., from the Welsh Harp. Mr. Waltham had 6 lb. 2½ oz. roach and dace, Mr. Burton, roach, 5 lb. 4 oz. These were the two best takes next to the jack of Mr. Packman. The following gentlemen also weighed-in fish:—Messrs. Malcom, Roland, Good, jun., Greenfield and Luxton.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

[Please put name of your club in future.—ED.]

August 23.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

The ordinary meeting of this association was held on Friday, the 19th inst. In the absence of the chairman (who is at present punishing the Finny-uns), Mr. Beckett, occupied the chair, Mr. Murphy being voted to the vice-chair. The minutes of the last meeting, having been confirmed, the hon. sec. stated, that, he had in pursuance of the instructions previously given, communicated with

the authorities of the Great Western Railway, and had received a reply from the superintendent, which he read. He was to see the superintendent on the matter.

It was then announced, that the working committee, had granted a reward of £1 1s. to J. Field, for the conviction of poachers, obtained by him before the Wycombe Bench. Lengthy discussion here ensued, with reference to the paying of rewards. The vice-chairman (Mr. Murphy), contended that it was against the interests of the association, that any delay should take place between the time of application received by the secretary, and the payment of the amount of reward. The matter was well discussed by the meeting, Messrs. Fowler, Noble, Adean and others going fully into the matter. Mr. Murphy ultimately proposed, and Mr. Taylor seconded, "That in future the hon. sec. be empowered to pay all rewards on receipt of confirmation of the conviction; however, the amendment proposed by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Noble, That all questions with reference to rewards be first brought before the committee" on being put to the meeting was unanimously carried.

A reward of £1 1s. was also made to W. Clark for the conviction of four notorious poachers at Reading. The reading of the report of the proceedings in this case was received with marked approval.

Still more poaching intelligence, Mr. Editor, this time from the rivers Arun and Wey. The association, having been asked to try and stop the depredations of poachers in these rivers, has to acknowledge that they have no power at present in the matter, but the hon. sec. received instructions to inquire into the matter and see what could be done.

The roll was then called when the following societies replied:—Amicable Brothers, Bostonian, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, First Surrey Piscatorials, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammer-smith United, Hampstead, Knights of Knightsbridge, Kings Cross United, Marylebone, Norfolk, North-Western, Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Queens', Savoy Brothers, Sir Hugh Myddleton, South Belgravia, St. James and Soho, United Brothers, United Marlboro' Brothers, Waltonians, and Westbourne Park Piscatorials, or 27 in all.

A vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair, brought the business of the evening to a close.—G. TREADWELL.

THE COMBINATION SCISSORS.

MESSRS. J. FOOT and Son, of 329B, High Holborn, London, have sent us a pair of their combination scissors, which combines in one no less than twelve useful tools, viz.:—



1. Button-hole Scissors. 2. Cigar Cutter,
3. Gas Pliers. 4. Nail and Fly-making Scissors. 5. Grooved Nail and Hook File.
6. Wire Cutter. 7. Small Screwdriver for the Winch Screws and Rod Screws. 8. Ink Eraser.
9. Paper Knife. 10. Pen Extractor. 11. Three-Inch Measure. 12. Ruler, &c.

We can thoroughly recommend them to anglers as being by far the best scissors for the fly and tackle book ever invented. They are well made, of good material, and wonderfully cheap. In practice, we have found them to be all they pretend to be, and that is not a little. They can be had nickel-plated, which will preserve them from rust. They are selling by thousands, and it is only because the sale is so large that they can be sold so cheaply.

A CORRECTION.—In our note to "A Curious Coincidence" last week read Exeter for Taunton, which, in the hurry, we confounded with the capital of Devon.—ED.

A CONVICTION AT TUNBRIDGE.—On Tuesday last, at the Tunbridge Petty Sessional Court, before a full bench, of which Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., was chairman, Joseph Wynne was summoned, at the instance of the Tunbridge Angling Club, under the 24 and 25 Vic. chap. 96, sec. 24, for attempting to take fish by angling on Lord De L'Isle and Dudley's estate, in the waters of the society. Mr. Gordon, who prosecuted, stated that on Sunday, Foster, the water bailiff, caught the defendant trolling for pike out of bounds; and as he had been several times warned and once convicted of netting, the society felt that they were bound to prosecute the defendant so as to teach him and others that they must not angle as they pleased and when they thought proper. He only asked for a small penalty. The police gave the defendant, who pleaded guilty, a bad character, and the Bench fined him 11s. and 9s. costs, or the alternative of fourteen days with hard labour.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN CROPS.—The crop reports of the *Gardener's Magazine* for the current week are peculiarly interesting. They relate to orchard and garden crops alone, but they are of great importance both as regards the welfare of the body politic and the happiness of individuals. It appears the apple crop is by no means so generally good as was anticipated, and the apple districts are in some degree worse off this year than many places that usually produce but few apples. However, the apple crop, according to our contemporary, is by no means a bad one, and in the ensuing year the importation of this fruit from America will probably reach but a small figure. The pear crop is more partial than the apple crop, and may be described as not much better than half an average, and the same may be said of the plum crop. Of wall fruits there is in most places a fair sprinkling, but from many gardens there are reports of peach, nectarine, and plum trees ruined past recovery by the severe frosts of three successive winters. It appears there is an abundance of all kinds of nuts and vegetables, and potatoes are quite satisfactory.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies, which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advrt.]

A COY "BEAUTY" TO BE BAGGED.

BY YE PILGRIM FRY-ER.

THERE is a big Kennet trout—some say he weighs 10 lb., others 12 lb.—waiting to be caught in the river at Newbury. All the local and a few stranger-anglers have tried their best to fascinate this coy "Beauty," but hitherto in vain. Here, then, is a chance for an expert rodsman not often met with, inasmuch as there is for certain the big fish to be caught, if only the lure, combined with tender handling, should be sufficiently inviting. It would indeed be well worth the while of some expert London trout anglers (for time presses), the moment they get their copy of next Saturday's FISHING GAZETTE, to take the first train at Paddington, then obtain trout tickets from the Secretary of the Local Angling Preservation Association (Mr. Cosburn), and try to insinuate themselves into the good graces of the coy "Beauty" that still remains to be wooed and won. Kennet trout are stay-at-homers. They couldn't find better quarters, if disposed for travel. But has some cook really taken under her loving care this persecuted beauty by slyly slipping a few tit-bits down a water-side kitchen, and thus made Master "Spots," sen., as difficult to please as a Courtly epicure? The capture of this fish in fair fight (with half-an-hour of exquisite delirium thrown in), might prove the epic of a lifetime, more especially after the repeated failures of the locals. Has that cheery, excellent "all round" sportsman, Banker Slocock tried the good old Berkshire bait upon this fish? Or Honest Thomas Newton; or that venerable, life-long sportsman, Stephen Hemsted, M.D., and his sporting son? All these gentlemen know a trout from a tadpole; and had each and all cast their baits upon the Kennet waters, and found them return after many days, big-fishless?

Talk about your Thames trout costing (*when caught*) 10s. per pound to the angler, why here is a ten or a dozen-pounder waiting to be captured, that might not cost a quarter that sum to a London or south country angler. If this very popular season of 1881 should pass without this fine fish being bagged, it won't say much for modern trout anglers. If any freshwater fish was ever worth buying a whole "side" of Berkshire bacon for, this is the one. The very choicest, pinkiest bit cut out of the mellow fat, might perhaps lure this "beauty" to his legitimate destiny—the creel of a proud and delighted angler.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

SUDDEN DEATH.

Twit-twit-twitter, all the merry morning through—
Twit-twit-twitter, from the twisted apple-tree.
Little nest among the blossom, little eggs of speckled blue,
Little mate, brown-breasted, brooding o'er them, one, and two, and three.
Twit-twit-twitter—just a little singing bird,
Just a handful of brown feathers,
That had chirped through winter weathers,
And a little heart that beat beneath the downy throat it stirred.
Chip-chip-chirrup, where the garden-beds are green—
Just a minute's crash and terror—just the firing of a gun—
She may wait and she may weary, little mate, the boughs between,
For flight of his to flash across the blossom and the sun.
Chip-chip-chirrup, just a blood-bedabbled breast,
Just a tuft of down and feather
Clinging piteously together,
And a small brown thing that never more will sing beside a nest.
MAY PROBYN.

Angling is a rest to the mind, a cheerer to the spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderation of passions, a procurer of contentedness. It is like the virtue of humility, which has a world of blessings attending upon it.—*Sir Henry Cotton.*

THAMES WATERFOWL.—I should like to say word or two on behalf of the waterfowl (other than the far too numerous swans), bred upon and near the Thames. As soon as August 1 is come, some men are never happy unless they have got their breechloader along with them in the boat. Why should every poor moorhen and "runner" be slaughtered by these people? There used to be good wild-duck shooting at Great Marlow. Are some of the fowl killed by mere strangers waiting in ambush for the strong "flappers" after dusk? If I owned the ait thereabouts, I would certainly stop this sort of thing. The poor kingfishers have most all been ruthlessly shot down. Is there a dabchick left between London and Reading? A swan would, however, do more damage in one day, just after the spawning season, than the pretty kingfisher would do in the Thames for a whole year. And of what good, may it be asked in all reverence, are so many swans on the Thames? If for mere ornament, a tenth of the number would suffice. But perhaps the "Upping" feasts and the marking, and what not, are only one of the many excuses for spending money that might and certainly ought to be applied to educational purposes. The Thames ought to be as free from shooters as the Strand at mid-day.—INDIGNANT.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1881

BARBEL-FISHING, WITH FLOAT AND LEDGER.

BY J. P. WHEELDON.

IN my last paper, being driven into a corner for want of space, I promised something in my next in the matter of a description of my baiting-pot. It is such a capital dodge, and one which is valuable alike for all classes of bottom-fishing, that I

have little hesitation in redeeming my promise. Always supposing that the stream is not too heavy, and that it is requisite the bait should lie on the bottom of a given place, it is useful beyond all compare, whether one may be baiting with worms, carrion gentles or greaves.

Now for it. In shape it is precisely like an extinguisher or a beer-warmer, such as one may see in use at the fireside of most country inns. It is made from stout zinc, and at its broad end, or the top of the pot, it is six inches across. At the point, or taper end, a stout solid ring is firmly soldered into the metal. To this ring is attached, say, thirty yards of very strong water-cord. Inside the pot, and soldered tightly down at its extreme point, is a bit of strong chain, its length being entirely dependent on the depth of the pot from the base to the lid. My own is twelve inches deep—but this is hardly deep enough, and the chain sixteen inches in length. Now, the shape of the pot being conical, it will be seen at once that every inch in its depth narrows its width. Thus the lid, with a rather deep edge of metal, must be made to fit one inch into the interior of the pot itself. On the inner, or under side of the lid, the extra length of chain beyond the depth of the pot being purposely given so that the lid may lift clear, the other end of the chain is securely fastened. Thus one end is fixed tight at the point, or narrow end, while the other is equally a fixture upon the under side of the lid. This lid must be perforated with five or six good-sized holes, say as big round as a shilling. When it is in its place the exact length of chain falls down into the narrow end of the pot, and helps to ballast or steady it when in the water. At this point, I may add that this capital contrivance is now being manufactured for sale by Messrs. Alfred and Son, of Moorgate Street.

The punt being moored in its place, the first thing to do is to have the line attached to the bottom ring unwound from its peg, and coiled neatly down free of any obstruction. Wound upon a peg or stick of wood, the line is carried inside the pot, and only uncoiled when in use. All being clear, fill your pot, but not so deeply as to cause it to fill and go down there and then, with either lobworms or any other bait which you may be using. Put it gently overboard, and in a favourable set of the stream close to the punt. Guide it clear of any eddies which may suck it under the craft, and when once it begins to move down the stream pay out line. Then, when it has arrived at the place where you want to deposit your first shipment of the anticipated cargo, pull your string. The pot "swinkers,"—it is a local phrase from my own dear Darbyshire vales—backwards and forwards, while the water rushes in through the holes in the lid. As soon as it is full it goes point first and straight as a die to the bottom. It falls over on its side, and you then pull the string smartly. Off goes the lid, and you discharge cargo, let me hope, to an appreciative circle of customers, some as big as "bulls," others as hungry as "bears."

In pulling your pot up again, always supposing that your string and chain is sound and your rings firmly fixed—do it gently. Recollect that, coming up point foremost, there is a tremendous strain on the broad under surface of the lid swaying back and forth, and held only by the chain against a heavy stream. As soon as it is in the punt again, repeat the operation at varying distances, until you have put in a sufficiency of worms. I have heard it suggested that the worms, going down in a lump, and being shot out in six or eight places do not get distributed over the surface of the swim half so well as if they were scattered in loosely. All nonsense, in my opinion. Rely upon it they get "distributed" when the barbel find them, and there is this one grand certainty. Throwing them in loosely over a swim is, after all, a matter of guesswork; and, in a river like the Thames, very much guess. Lowering them down with the pot may not be quite so quick an operation, but you know they are on the bottom, and in precisely that particular hole and corner where you want them to be. Besides, I say, very diffidently, that I know the system is right, because I take as many barbel as most folks who go a-barbelling on the Thames, and the proof of a pudding, &c., does not depend upon what sort of plate, willow pattern or otherwise, which one uses in the eating, but in the eating itself. Therefore, in a burst of confidence, and remembering Eatanswill, I beg to say "Hoorah, Pot!"

I am frequently asked which is the most killing style of barbelling—float or ledger. I unhesitatingly pin my faith to the "little bit of lead." Mind, I admit at once that floating is far the prettier, and inasmuch as one is obliged to use much lighter tackle, the sport obtainable stands at a greater ratio. But in a river like the Thames, where the depth, save in a very few instances, is never the same, or anything approaching to it for twenty yards together, give me the ledger—always supposing that the object is a big bag of fish, a matter which most of us are uncommonly tender to. Besides that, I do not lean with any degree of confidence to the Nottingham, or, rather, general Trent, notion that one can fish a varying depth of water by using a line of such a depth from the bottom tip of the float as covers the extreme depth of the swim. The theory of "holding back" from the top

of the float, the bait travelling in advance meanwhile, is a very pretty one, but, to my mind, is, at the best *but* theory, with very little certainty in its operation. It may be that on the Trent, and where the depth of the various swims are known to an inch, it works exceedingly well. I am prepared very willingly to admit that it does, while several of the Midland experts have proved conclusively that on *certain swims* on Thames side it is just as valuable as on their own famous river. "As witness my hand," quoth the great Bailey, "at Sonning, Monkey Island, Shillingford, &c." For all that, and fancying as well that we Thames men can hold a fairly good candle to most of the Trent practitioners, even in the matter of barrelling, I find, although plenty use the float, and love it too dearly, that the ledger line, as a rule, beats them hollow. Occasionally in a very bright, low water, and on a very level swim, the delicate float tackle holds its own triumphantly. Take it all in all, however, the ledger wins ninety-nine times out of a hundred; whilst, with it, one can fish water where the float, owing to its turbulence, is absolutely useless.

I have often wondered how it is that barrelling or its successes on Trent or Thames varies so strangely. On the Trent, if there is an extremely low, clear water, with a hot, dry summer, folks say, "Now, then, lads! We shall get some barbel!" On the Thames it is just the reverse. Bright water there means almost hopeless fishing, unless a place has been both very well chosen, ditto baited, and a first-class man handles the wheel. But let a flood come down, with a high, thick water, and then every man-jack of them on the Thames waxes correspondingly jubilant, singing, "Hey, ho! for barbel, boys!" The reason is very readily found. On the Trent it is nothing but float, and on the Thames little else but ledger. Assuredly the Thames men kill weighty bags in thick water, and, two years ago, during all those terrible summer floods, such a barbel year had been known hardly in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. Lads and children caught them with the ledger, at street corners, in any little eddy, or along any bank close into the side, with no matter what bait, so long as it was something eatable. On well-baited swims good anglers effected tremendous slaughter, while even "duffers" could not help some of them "hanging on," although the sacrifice of tackle thereby brought about was a thing to make puntmen desire heartily for sackcloth and ashes, in lieu of beer and 'bacca.

All this on a thick, heavy water, mind, with a tremendous flood. Yet what so natural? Your barbel is a grovelling, rooting, boring sort of cuss, always grubbing about with his pig-like snout, and prepared to appreciate any little delicacy, from a fat worm to a chunk of fatter bacon, so long as there is no apparent danger in the confiscating operation. On the Trent, a man going barrelling under such conditions would have been looked upon as little short of a lunatic, yet the nature of the fish in both rivers is absolutely identical. It may be, after all, that our Trent brothers have depended a little too much on the float, and that that is the reason why the lovely Midland river does not shine as brilliantly as does our own broad Thames.

MY TRIP TO BLOATERLAND.

THE JOURNEY.

THE morning of Friday, the 20th of August, soon after ten o'clock found me on the platform of the Great Eastern Railway in Liverpool Street in plenty of time for the 10.25 newly-arranged express train to Yarmouth, which was, after calling at Ipswich and Beccles, due at Southtown at 1.40, or in little more than three hours, performing the journey most comfortably and in punctual time. There are other express trains besides this, the latest addition being one at two o'clock, arriving in Yarmouth at 5.10. The journey, therefore, to the city town of Bloaterland has been made by the general manager of the Great Eastern one of comparatively small distance in time from the great metropolis of London.

THAMES ANGLERS IN YARMOUTH.

As a proof of their appreciation of the facilities of getting to the Broads, the Thames anglers are mustering in unusual numbers at Yarmouth for the purpose of enjoying the excellent air of the place and practising their favourite sport. I never remember meeting them in such force before. Of the committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society there were Messrs. Alfred Nuthall, C. P. Wheatstone, and James Pattisson, and I might add several well-known Thames anglers, such as Messrs. B. Newstead, W. Edwards, A. Duckit, and G. Manning. All these piscators are bent on visiting the Broads for freshwater fishing and the Roads for sea fishing.

A GUIDE TO YARMOUTH.

A very excellent publication has been issued by Messrs. Jarrold and Sons, of Norwich, entitled "The Visitor's Illustrated Guide

to Great Yarmouth," which gives a full description of the East Anglian Broads and the river fishing, and should be in the possession of every visitor to Bloaterland. It is to be procured from the well-known booksellers in Market Row, Messrs. A. and W. Hake. I have had the opportunity of perusing it, and strongly recommend all my friends to get a copy. It is very neatly printed, and affords abundant information on all subjects.

THE FISHING.

There is a constant stream of piscators any day wending their way to the railway stations, and as far as I could ascertain by experience and information, the anglers, both in the broads and rivers, were getting some good sport. Fritton Decoy, which closes in September, has been yielding some fine bags of bream, estimated locally by so many stones weight. The Ormesby and Wroxham broads always appear the most popular, and the latter being approached from Wroxham Station by a passage through the river Bure, gives the angler some fishing on the way. The charge for angling is half-a-crown a day, which the proprietor liberally appropriates to charitable objects. There has been some good sea-fishing in the roads; but that from the piers was not very satisfactory. One morning the anglers—male and female—were getting principally gannets and crabs. I hope shortly to receive some practical reports from my numerous friends as to their doings in matters piscatorial.

THE BRITANNIA PIER.

This is considered the best for angling purposes, and is the popular pier. Mr. Dunn, both morning and evening, gives his attractive concerts, and on the occasion of my visit, held a benefit one for one of his staff who had gone away for his health, which had given way in Yarmouth. The combined liberality of the proprietor of the pier, and the gratuitous services of Mr. Dunn and his staff produced a result of £25. This is about the fourteenth season of Mr. Dunn in Yarmouth, and his popularity is only equalled by his benevolent and philanthropic character. Mr. Doolan occupies his old post at the entrance. The pier, altogether, is a capital lounge—an extensive promenade—and fishing parties are always to be found in the underneath portions at the end, where oysters are supplied to consumers direct from their beds beneath.

THE AQUARIUM.

The banks which were last year noted for the total absence of fish are, in many instances, now tenanted with fish-life, both of salt and freshwater fish, and "old Charlie," the seal, is still in existence, and looks remarkably well. Major Forman, the manager, is away on account of ill-health, but his place is admirably supplied by Mr. C. Greenhead, the business manager, who in addition to the Cremona Musical Union of male and female *artistes* (who are of themselves a great treat, and exceedingly clever) introduces a host of other talent; such as, during my visit, of Mrs. John Wace, Mr. C. Colborn, and Mr. J. Barnam in impersonations and comic songs, and the Brothers May with their spider-like legs as contortionists. The general management of the building in all departments (for there is a skating rink, magic mirror, &c.) is of the most satisfactory character, and I have personally to thank Mr. C. Greenhead and Mr. Whitby for their kind and courteous attention. The future of the building as an aquarium has got to be determined.

THE BEACH.

There is much to amuse both young and old on the sands—the photographers do an enormous trade—the gipsies in profusion are actively engaged in telling the future of the young ladies—the chairs and seats are filled with visitors enjoying the breezes of the sea and watching the rolling waves—the youngsters are paddling in the water or digging in the sands—dealers in rock, for which Yarmouth is famous—vendors of fruit and flowers—fresh shrimps, new milk buns in variety—are to be found in all directions. In fact, there is no beach in my experience where there is greater life, and all calculated to drive dull care away. For those that enjoy the water there are boats of all sizes, taking out pleasure parties for one hour's trip, and there are plenty of rowing boats engaged by time for fishing and other parties. On the drive, adjoining the beach, there are open carriages, goat carriages and donkeys without number. An angling friend of mine, who has been an invalid, and spending a month in Yarmouth to recruit himself, says, "The splendid air of the place, and the multitude of enjoyments in it, fishing and otherwise, have completely set me up again."

B.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

AMONG the North-Western Anglers some grand shows have filled the trays of late. Among others, Mr. Stead, on Thursday having a splendid mixed dish, nearly 30 lb., from the Ouse, near Bedford, roach, bream, perch, chub and dace, all taken with lobworms. Mr. Bonvoison, some 25 lb. of barbel, and between 4 and 5 lb. of roach, dace, etc., from Chertsey; on another day, 20 lb. of tench from Elstree Reservoir, heaviest, 3 lb. 6½ oz. Messrs. Underwood and Aldis, some 24 lb. and 20 lb. of tench, respectively, from the same water. Mr. Underwood having also two nice little jack, 5½ lb. and 2½ lb., all taken with marsh and lobworms, the former for choice. On the 28th, again Mr. Underwood had two nice jack, 9 lb. 2 oz., and 7 lb. 14 oz., also tench weighing 4 lb. 8 oz. Messrs. Aldis and Marshall, tench, the latter having also a jack, the exact size of which I did not take down, but which, on being prepared for cooking was found to contain nearly half a pint of lobworms.

Bell weir, at Egham has once more broken away.

On Saturday 27th, and Sunday 28th I was all round the water between Dumsey and Staines, including the famed Penton Hook. Neither punt nor bank anglers were meeting with any sport, yet the weather was all that could be desired; the water, though a little high, was sinking fast, and was of a grand tint. A professional to whom I spoke, unable to account for the sulkiness of the fish any other way, supposed it must be the sodden water, which had so unfavourably affected their appetites. During the terribly rough weather we had last week, the Chertsey fishermen piloted those of their customers who were willing to brave the elements to some really well-baited barbel swims, where they secured takes ranging from 40 lb. to 60 lb. On Wednesday afternoon, 24th, a relation of Mr. P. Geen, fishing with that gentleman, took nearly 40 lb. of barbel, and a few good roach from Penton Hook. I must not forget to mention the capture, among other fish, on the same occasion of a handsome chub, exactly 4 lb., by Master Phil Geen, who handles a rod as his father's son should.

At the Welsh Harp, the water has risen, and I am sorry to say, thickened considerably, which has, as it was sure to do, knocked the bream somewhat off the feed, but as soon as it settles down a bit, they will very probably come on again, until the near approach of winter driving them into winter quarters.

The annual summer dinner of the Brothers Well Met Angling Society took place at the Black Rabbit, Amberley, Sussex, on Sunday last. Jolly little Mr. Clout, the host and treasurer of the society, and the manager of these popular excursions, presiding.

I recently had three days' fishing in the neighbourhood of Littleport, Cambridge, but the roach would not hang on at all. The fishing here this season has up till now been very indifferent the roach seeming only to feed for a few hours at a time, and at rare intervals, while the bream fishing has been a total failure. Charles South who is the great piscatorial authority down here, and has fished the water for over sixteen years, says it is all owing to the enormous amount of floating weed, from which the fish have fairly gorged themselves with natural food. The fact that in the main water above the junction of the river Lark, from which this weed principally comes the fish have fed somewhat better, and a few fair takes of bream having been had, makes this explanation sound most plausible.

A grand trout 19 lb. has been shown, and weighed at the Gresham Angling Society. I have no reliable independent particulars concerning the fish, where captured, and by whom. I append, however, paragraphs from two contemporaries; perhaps the Editor will have particulars direct from the sec. of the "Gresham," if not, the readers of the GAZETTE can, like the little girl in Barnum's, they having paid their money, take their choice of the following:—

"THAMES TROUT.—At the meeting of the Gresham Angling Society, on Thursday evening, Mr. Alfred Jardine produced a magnificent trout (*salmo trutta*), weighing 19 lb. It was taken spinning, was beautifully spotted, and in prime condition."

"There was a large meeting at the Gresham Anglers. Captain Alfred presided. Mr. Bennett weighed-in some splendid dace from Thorney Broad, and Mr. Jardine came up smilingly from Lancashire with a glorious trout (*salmo trutta*), scaling 19 lb., and it was really a marvel. It is to be preserved."

I am glad to hear, on the best authority, that of my friend B., that the movement to rescue a portion of the tidal water below Richmond Bridge from the netmen, and add it to the 21 miles stretch looked after by the T. A. P. S., is progressing favourably. Of course, in common with my brother anglers, I am aware that such desirable objects as this are not attained immediately they are pointed out; but this particular one has now been agitated for some years. That not only the anglers, but the professional fishermen, have set their heart upon it, I know for certain, and the only reason their hopes are not more loudly expressed is to be

found in their belief that the committee, though silent, are nevertheless surely making energetic efforts towards its accomplishment.

Speaking of the tidal waters, there was recently a dace competition for three prizes among the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, now numbering some 120 members, the winners being:—1st., Messrs. Johnson, 19 lb. 5 oz.; 2nd, Harwood, 10 lb.; and 3rd, Jones, 8 lb. 2 oz.; the dace were in splendid condition, and few finer shows have been seen this season. The fish were more like herrings for size, and had the competition been on any other day than Saturday, my correspondent believes the weights would probably have been still heavier.

Apropos of suburban angling societies, is it true that a member of one of them—a subscriber to the T. A. P. S., brought into the club room a number of undersized roach, taken in the tidal water, and that, when spoken to on the subject, he attributed the fault to the fisherman; and is the fisherman the same whom my friend B. only, a short time since, spoke of as one of the best men on the river?

What did the chairman and members of the Piscatorial do in this case to vindicate the honour of their society? I don't know what is the practice in a society *d'elite*, but I know several rough and ready working men's clubs where every undersized fish subjects the shower to a fine, and where the production of a quantity would entail far more serious consequences. There is an old French saying: "*autres temps autres mœurs*" (other times other ways). If *gens* (folks) be substituted for *temps* the rhyme will be preserved, and it may supply the explanation we want in this case. I believe the matter came under the notice of the T. A. P. S., but though the moral evidence was clear, the legal evidence absolutely necessary to procure a conviction was wanting, and they wisely determined, rather than risk a failure, to take no action; but does not the whole affair point clearly to the necessity of increased vigilance on the part of the river protection societies? My firm conviction is, that the system of partially paid keepers is a perfectly worthless one. A large portion of the Society's income is annually frittered away in grants to fishermen keepers, varying, I believe (I have not the Blue Book by me as I write) from £5 to £30 more than sufficient to pay another wholly paid keeper, probably with a small addition, too.

Again, why not inspect anglers' baskets and fishermen's wells as the punts come in at the close of the day. I hope my friend B. will take my remarks in good part. He knows they originate from a sincere desire to see his and his colleagues' good work prosper, and are not made in a carping, fault-finding spirit.

The West Central Association, No. 1 district, visit was paid the Duke of Cornwall Angling Society, at the Wheatsheaf, Lismore Circus, Haverstock Hill, N.W., on Tuesday evening last. Eleven clubs were represented, the room was well filled, and the harmony was excellent. The next visit in this district will be paid the Duke of Norfolk Anglers, Norfolk Terrace, Bayswater, on Monday evening next.

Mr. Hoole informs me he has had a complaint from the Great Western Railway Company, that certain persons holding privilege cards are in the habit of booking to Pangbourne, but get out at Reading, and re-book to other stations on the Company's system. They say that unless the practice is discontinued it may cause the withdrawal of the concession altogether. A further complaint is made by the Great Western and London and South-Western, that certain persons are in the habit of trying to obtain the issue of two railway tickets by the exhibition of one privilege card; and, lastly, that others use the privilege tickets for business purposes. These gross infractions of the regulations printed on each privilege card must be stopped; and it behoves the three Associations to take energetic action, and, if they can discover the selfish and unprincipled persons who are guilty of these mean actions, to show no squeamishness, but in the interest of thousands to whom the concessions are a great boon, to punish the wrong-doers as severely as possible.

I am sorry if Mr. Howson, the sec. of the Huntingdon Grayling Association, is hurt at anything I said. The facts of the case, however, remain the same, excepting that the man Rout appears to have been only occasionally employed as keeper, and I sincerely hope the Association will this season employ such competent permanent keepers as will effectively prevent such flagrant and broad daylight poaching. Theirs is a grand stretch of water, and well worth preserving efficient.

I would close my notes this week with just a line to my friend Mr. Balderston. The difference of opinion between us is that he wishes to fish all the year round, he considers it sportsmanlike—he does not consider that angling all the year round will materially diminish the stock in a river, although year by year the numbers fishing it go on increasing with almost alarming rapidity, while there is no compensating advance in resources of the said river—that is Mr. B.'s opinion, stripped of all the roundabout, sophisticated arguments with which he has hedged it, and

very ugly it looks; while I hold directly opposite views. For, did not the necessity for what Mr. Balderston is pleased to call the protectionist policy make itself clearly felt to the thousands of working-men anglers of Sheffield? Have not the London club and other anglers almost to a man taken up the cry, to be re-echoed back clearly and unmistakably from all the preservation societies—from Newark, Portsmouth, Cambridge, and its fen country; from numberless associations on the river Ouse, etc. I could show Mr. Balderston scores of letters, each representing, not merely the opinion of an individual, but the unanimous opinions of large and influential bodies. There is, I feel sure, but little fear of Mr. B.'s pernicious doctrines making any converts among these, yet, in spite of all the kind things Mr. B. has said about myself and the thousands who think like me, having heated and liquid brains, and being guilty of culpable ignorance, etc., I would, in all kindness, and hoping from my heart for his conversion to more orthodox and sportsmanlike views, ask him to try and honestly answer the following question:—

How do you account for the alarming decrease of jack and perch in the Thames?

Please weigh well the following, and kindly inform us what is the deduction to be drawn from it:

"At the last meeting of the Waveney and Oulton Protection Society, a sub-committee was formed to consider the necessity of appointing fence months for pike and perch, caused by the wholesale slaughter of the one when out of season, and the scarcity of the latter."

We have here the clear working of the laws of extermination. This is Nemesis with a vengeance, that this cry should so soon follow the intolerant and loud boasting recently inflicted upon us from East Anglia.

SEVEN AND A HALF DAYS' OUTING NEAR WORCESTER.

UPON our local streams two Worcester anglers thought they would spend part of their holidays, noting all their takes each day, and at the same time not fishing two days in the same stream, and on no day did they draw a blank. This will, there is no doubt, be interesting to many readers of the FISHING GAZETTE as I am often asked the question which is the best place for the angler to spend a day or two in the Worcester district. The two jolly anglers took with them each morning from their homes enough uncooked meat; either walking eight or ten miles, or riding as the chance may be. After a few hours' fishing they take out their portable stove and lamp, cook their meat, gather a salad of land cress and dandelion, take a good lunch, swill it down with a drain of Scotch whisky—no time to lose—light the pipe, and on to business again, first a trout, then a perch, then a roach as they choose to come up to scratch, many samlets, and a small trout were found wanting—that is, as regards size, and in this way seven and a half days are spent. I will not trouble to analyse each day's take, but will give the total of each sort or kind of fish: one brace of grayling, 14 dozen of trout, 147 perch, 10 roach, and 10 chub, 197 fish all told, 59½ lb. The game fish were taken with flies, Griffin's recommended, and the other fish with worm or wasp grub. I will also give you an account of other takes this week: Mr. Porter, over 4 dozen roach, dace, and gudgeon; Mr. Amos Bosworth, 2 dozen roach; Mr. Henry Carey, 23 roach. These two anglers left Worcester together, and returned to the Boughton Club House to weigh-in. Carey had a few eels; Mr. Fred Fowler landed 23 brace of trout and grayling with flies I sent him. In three evenings, fishing on the Teme, near Stanford This angler resides close upon the Teme, one of the best fords running opposite his house. I have seen fish rising from his door. step.

J. A. GRIFFIN.

REPORT OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

WE have the pleasure to present to the angling world the Annual Report of the above most useful and deserving society. We are doing all in our power to help it, and have done so since its establishment, as we think it is an institution which every angler should support. It is only in its infancy at present, but it is on a thoroughly sound footing, and it has a most efficient staff of officers. As a little inducement to get club anglers who are already members to induce others to join, we will give, through Mr. Ghurney, a pair of the FISHING GAZETTE pliers, value 4s., to the first twelve members who each introduce twelve new

members. Any club angler can become a member by the annual payment of the small sum of one shilling.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Committee Room—Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.

President:

THOMAS SPRECKLEY, Esq., Treasurer of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

Vice-Presidents:

S. MORCAN, Chairman of the United London Anglers' Central Committee.
L. BONVOISIN, Chairman of the West Central Association of London Angling Societies.

Committee:

G. MANNING, Izaak Walton Angling Society.
J. NOBLE, Savvy Brothers " "
R. MURPHY, Good Intent " "
G. H. FIELD, South London " "
J. ALDRIDGE, Hoxton Brothers " "
J. F. WELSH, Cambridge Friendly " "
J. T. CUNDALL, Alliance " "
W. H. BECKETT, Good Intent " "
G. ORAM, Norton Folgate " "
W. HULL, Prince of Wales " "
A. CLARKE, Albert " "
R. MARSHALL, North-Western " "
G. STEVENS, Edmonton and Tott'n. " "
J. JENNINGS, Bostonian " "

Treasurer, P. GEEN. Trustees, R. MURPHY, G. MANNING, G. H. FIELD.
Steward, G. H. FIELD.

General Secretary, R. GHURNEY,

10, Baches Street, Charles Square, Hoxton, N.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In submitting the foregoing statement of accounts of the Anglers' Benevolent Society for the year ending April 1881, the Committee have much pleasure in drawing the attention of members, donors, and annual subscribers to the Society's increased sphere of usefulness as exemplified by the larger number of cases of distress relieved during the last year as compared with the one preceding it, but regret that they cannot felicitate the angling community upon having received from it a proportionate increase of support in the shape of donations, annual subscriptions, and members; for, if a careful examination of the accounts be made, especially with reference to the number (increased or decreased) of members supplied from each angling society, it will be seen how small a proportion of the members of certain societies have enrolled themselves among those we have to thank for assisting the beneficent objects of our society. This strangely enough is most manifest among those angling societies which are mainly composed of gentlemen, whose social and pecuniary position forbids the supposition that the trifling annual contribution can be any bar to membership.

We make an earnest appeal to these and others to thoroughly consider and investigate the objects and proceedings of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, when we feel assured that there will be few who will fail to enrol themselves with a society whose sole object is to succour the sick and needy among our own, in the sense that anglers are bound to one another in the brotherhood of congenial pastime.

The Committee beg to impress upon the secretaries of angling societies the paramount importance of urging their members upon every seasonable opportunity to join an institution whose benevolent aims must commend it to every right thinking man.

We remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

THE COMMITTEE.

N.B.—Collection boxes for the receipt of small donations will be supplied to angling societies desirous of placing such in their club rooms, and may be had on application to the Secretary of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

The Committee meet the second and fourth Fridays in each month.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the year ending April 30th, 1881.

DR.

	£	s.	d.
To cash in hand 1st May, 1880	75	1	0½
„ Donations	39	4	5
„ Annual subscriptions	13	9	0
„ Piscatorial Exhibition benefit tickets	2	5	0
„ Members' subscriptions	29	11	6
„ Interest	1	11	10
	£161	2	9½

CR.

	£	s.	d.
By Printing	3	11	6
„ Stationery	2	7	6
„ Postage	2	10	1
„ Collecting boxes	2	6	0
„ Rent	6	0	0
„ Secretary's salary	10	0	0
„ Grants to members	56	0	0
„ Cash at Bank, 30th April, 1881 .. £75 13 6	75	13	6
„ Cash in Secretary's hands	2	14	2½
	£161	2	9½

Examined and found correct:—

C. J. MILLIE, United London Anglers Central Committee.
W. FOWLER, West Central Ass'n. of London and Prov. An'g. Socs. } Auditors.
FRANCIS J. T. MOORE, Chartered Accountant, 98, Cannon St., E.C. }

AUDITORS' REPORT ON ACCOUNTS.—1880-81.

	£	s.	d.
Comparing the income of this year to April 1881 with that of the previous year, 1880, it will be found, after allowing for dinner tickets in 1880, that there is a decrease in donations this year of	33	10	1
And the Piscatorial Exhibition not having been held causes a further falling off this year of	24	2	10
	57	12	11
But there has been a slight increase of the annual subscriptions of	3	4	0
And of the members' subscription	6	6	9
And interest	1	11	10
	12	2	7
Thus there is a net falling off in receipts of 1881	46	10	4
As to expenditure I have to report that the grants to members this year are more than previously by	35	0	0
But expenses decreased by	9	16	0
	25	4	0
In the present year a saving of only	3	6	8
has been made, through the before mentioned grants, and the fact of the income having fallen off, whereas in the year 1880	75	1	0
was the saving effected	71	14	4

REPORT ON LONDON CLUBS SUBSCRIBING.

In the year ending April 1881, the members of the London angling clubs who subscribed to the Anglers' Benevolent Society numbered	546
And in the year ended April 1880 they numbered	429

Being a net increase of (subscribers to the Anglers' Benevolent Society)	117
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ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

London Clubs Subscribing.			Year ending 30th April, 1880.	Year ending 30th April, 1881.
Increase ..	7	Hoxton Brothers	26	33
Decrease ..	3	Good Intent	50	47
Decrease ..	26	Blackfriars	26	—
Increase ..	2	North Eastern	3	5
Decrease ..	5	Royal George	6	1
Increase ..	14	Edmonton and Tottenham	—	14
Increase ..	3	Alliance	14	17
Increase ..	4	Carlisle	6	10
Decrease ..	1	Izaak Walton	19	18
Increase ..	14	Great Northern	12	26
Increase ..	1	Amicable Brothers	24	25
—	—	Norton Folgate	9	9
Increase ..	4	The Dalston	7	11
Increase ..	15	Cambridge Friendly	14	29
Increase ..	1	Amicable Waltonians	1	2
Decrease ..	4	Hammersmith United	29	25
Increase ..	16	Waltonians	20	36
Decrease ..	12	Walworth Waltonians	12	—
Increase ..	1	Portsmouth Waltonians	17	18
—	—	Savoy Brothers	6	6
Decrease ..	1	Sir Hugh Myddelton	6	5
Increase ..	2	Nautilus	2	4
Increase ..	4	Knights of Knightsbridge	9	13
Increase ..	29	Alexandra	1	30
Decrease ..	4	The Albert	10	6
Increase ..	1	Hearts of Oak	7	8
Increase ..	2	Golden Barbel	9	11
Increase ..	4	Metropolitan	4	8
Decrease ..	1	Anglers' Pride	8	7
Decrease ..	2	United Brothers	5	3
Increase ..	11	North Western	12	23
—	—	Silver Trout	1	1
Decrease ..	2	Prince of Wales	10	8
Decrease*	8	The Beresford	8	—
Increase ..	8	Bostonian	3	11
Decrease ..	14	Excelsior	14	—
Decrease ..	3	Westbourne Park Piscatorials	7	4
Decrease ..	3	Cadogan	4	1
—	—	Norfolk	1	1
Decrease ..	5	Phoenix	5	—
Decrease ..	2	Carnaby Castle	2	—
Increase ..	1	Piscatorials	—	1
Increase ..	5	Globe	—	5
Increase ..	2	Reform	—	2
Increase ..	1	Never Frets	—	1
Increase ..	1	Convivial	—	1
Increase ..	6	Trafalgar	—	6
Increase ..	9	Eustonian	—	9
Increase ..	7	South Essex Piscatorial Society	—	7
Increase ..	1	St. Alban's	—	1
Increase ..	9	Stoke Newington	—	9
Increase ..	8	Stepney	—	8
Increase ..	5	Odds and Evens	—	5
Increase ..	2	Little Independent	—	2
Increase ..	11	Hampstead	—	11
Increase ..	2	Woolwich Brothers	—	2

213 96

429 546

1880 .. 429

Net increase on 1881 .. 117

* This society has rejoined this year.

DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Greville Fennell, by Paintings	18	10	0
Sir H. Peek Bart, M.P., Piscatorial Society	10	10	0
Kenton Angling Society	1	15	0
Walthamstow Angling Society	1	1	0
T. Hoole, Hammersmith United	1	1	0
G. Penny, ...	0	10	6
W. Green, ...	0	10	6
E. Harvey, ...	0	10	6
L. J. Lewis, ...	0	10	6
R. George, Hampstead Angling Society	0	10	6
C. Busbridge, ...	0	10	6
Izaak Walton Angling Society	0	10	6
G. Colls, Hoxton Brothers	0	10	6
Shuker, Hammersmith United	0	5	0
A. Mayman, Royal George Angling Society	0	5	0
O. Seaton, Golden Barbel	0	5	0
J. Buck, South London	0	5	0
Palmer, ...	0	5	0
G. Newman, Carlisle	0	2	6
G. Carliss, Izaak Walton	0	2	6
J. Bowden	0	2	0
C. Blain, Hoxton Brothers Angling Society	0	2	0
W. Hart, Alexandra	0	1	6
W. Coster, Eustonian	0	1	6
H. Da Costa, Hoxton Brothers	0	1	6
Dillon, Bostonian	0	1	5
H. Mayse, Hammersmith United	0	1	0
H. Muggeridge, United Brothers	0	1	0
G. Belton, ...	0	1	0
G. May, ...	0	1	0
F. Belton, ...	0	1	0
M. Freeman, ...	0	1	0

£39 4 5

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Anderson, Abbott and Anderson	2	2	0
T. Spreckley, Treasurer Thames Angling Preservation Society	1	1	0
J. H. Edwards, United Essex	1	1	0
C. P. Wheatstone, Stanley Anglers	1	1	0
A. G. Jardine, Piscatorial Society	1	1	0
P. Geen, Hammersmith United	1	1	0
W. Roberts, Good Intent	1	1	0
Good Intent Angling Society	1	1	0
J. Hughes, Bow Church Yard, E.C.	1	1	0
H. Brookwell, Good Intent	0	10	6
J. Cooper, Hammersmith United	0	10	6
A. Rogers, Izaak Walton	0	10	6
J. Mann, Hoxton Brothers	0	5	0
J. Amies, North-Western	0	5	0
C. Laidlaw, Stanley Anglers	0	5	0
J. Haggett, Hoxton Brothers	0	5	0
Massingham, Izaak Walton	0	3	6
A. Salmon, ...	0	2	6
King Savoy Brothers	0	1	6

£13 9 0

GRANTS TO MEMBERS.

	£	s.	d.
May 28th, 1880. T.	3	10	0
" " " J.	2	10	0
June 12th, " B.	3	0	0
Aug. 27th, " H.	2	0	0
" " " B.	2	0	0
Sep. 11th, " W.	2	0	0
Oct. 8th, " B.	2	0	0
Nov. 26th, " M.	2	0	0
" " " A.	2	0	0
Dec. 10th, " J.	2	0	0
" 21st, " H.	5	0	0
" " " M.	3	0	0
" " " H.	3	0	0
Jan. 14th, 1881. R.	2	0	0
" " " R.	3	0	0
" 28th, " H.	1	10	0
" " " A.	1	10	0
" " " D.	1	0	0
March 25th, " S.	2	0	0
" " " S.	2	0	0
" " " J.	3	0	0
" " " B.	1	0	0
" " " F.	5	0	0

£56 0 0

THE annual sale of the Belhus hunters is fixed for Thursday, Sept. 22nd. This will be the seventh year that Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart., has offered for public competition some of the finest hunters that one of the keenest judges of horses in England brings annually together at a great expenditure of time and money for the sole satisfaction of witnessing their dispersion by public auction, for it is no secret that, in a financial sense, these sales do not pay the spirited and energetic originator, the courteous baronet of Belhus. The sale list this year comprises some splendid specimens of the equine race, and to those of our readers in search of a good hunter we cannot give better advice than to purchase, as they can obtain a really good mount at the approaching popular sale,

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"I know a nose, a nose no other knows,
'Neath starry eyes, o'er ruby lips it grows;
There's beauty in its form, and music in its blows."

I know a bank just at the present time, whereon the wild thyme grows, and whereon a piscator may locate himself, and out of the mignonette tinted water obtain a delicious extract of roach, perch, chub, and other fish of which Father Thames is not ashamed to be the paternal. The river, in consequence of the continued rains has become bank high and much coloured, but excellent fishing can be obtained amid the smaller fry by using lob-worms as bait, and the judicious choice of an eddy for a swim. Bank ledgering is now one of the best games out, and will assuredly result in a capital account of the day's gains, nothing floating, but all well sunk: there may be a chance of a run on the bank, but the liability is limited and the security *real* in Nottingham fashion. Streatley: Mr. G., 15 lb. of barbel and 9 lb. of perch and chub in one day. Maple Durham: Mr. Felton 19 lb. of chub, all with fly, and every fish under 1 lb. returned. Hurley: Mr. Barker 20 lb. of miscellaneous fish, Mr. Barker was fishing for the Piscatorial Club prize for barbel, but failed to come across the sogdollagers. Mr. Harrison fishing from that comfortable anglers' retreat the Bell, Hurley, on Monday got 21 lb of various fish, but roach going 1½ lb., and ditto perch 1 lb. 14 oz., with two eels 3½ lb. together. Thursday Evening.—Roach fishing, good, but other classes knocked off in consequence of high colour and flush.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all sorts of fishing, Jack coming on better, roach biting very well, prospects look better, Jack ought to bite well in this cold wind. We had some good takes of roach last week, 10 and 12 lb. a day. My best day was on Saturday with two gentlemen from London, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Denn about 12 lb. of good roach and dace.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the late rains the river has risen considerably, but in good order for ledgering. Different gentlemen fishing with me since my last report their takes have been as follows, viz.:—First day, Mr. Palmer, jun., took a fine basket of fish, consisting of barbel, bream, perch, several fine roach (some over a pound weight), and a trout 3½ lb., all ledgering. Second day, Mr. Plimpton 3 dozen roach (ledgering). Third day, Mr. Leman 4 dozen roach and dace with gentles. Fourth day, Mr. George Palmer, belonging to the Friendly Anglers' Society, took some nice barbel, fishing with me to-day (Wednesday), weighing 37 lb. (ledgering), which were weighed at Mr. Robert Stone's, the Ship Hotel, Halliford.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Kingston).

The river rose about 18 inches yesterday, and run off about 10 inches in the night, it is in good form for fishing, for all sorts of fish got a nice colour in it. The north and north-east wind has stopped us fishing some of the best places. We have been getting plenty of roach and dace, and a few stray barbel, but the bream do not come well, some nice perch have been had at times. The bank fishers have been getting some good roach with paste or bait. My son had hold of a fine jack for over thirty minutes; he was a fish over 20 lb., and can give you the names of the two gentlemen that were with him.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The water is a little cooler and in good fishing order. The fish are not feeding at all freely, but without any more rain the prospects are good for next week, when I shall be disappointed if we do not have some good baskets of fish to report. The sport of the week is—G. Howard, three best days, 19 lb. dace; H. Howard, out each day with average of six dozen roach and dace each day; H. Mansel, out each day with average of 10 lb. roach each day; Job Brain, out each day, from four to six dozen roach and dace each day; J. Judge, out each day, average five dozen dace each day; J. Bushnell, out with Mr. R. Baker on Friday, five dace and barbel, 9 lb.; fishing in private water on Saturday and Sunday, seven dozen dace, one barbel, 2 lb.; Tuesday, 21½ lb. dace; Wednesday, 11 lb. dace, one barbel, 1½ lb.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Sunbury).

The river is in good condition for all round fishing. T. Stroud, two days, best day, 4 dozen roach and 2 barbel; A Stroud, 3 days, best day, 8 barbel, 2 bream, 5½ lb. each, and 7 eels and 2 dozen roach; J. Stroud, 5 days, average per day, 6 dozen roach; Abram Stroud, 4 days, best day, 4 barbel and 3 doz. roach.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.E.; river a little discoloured, but water falling fast and no rain this day. If the weather continues fine, anglers may expect some good sport. I am pleased to say, with all the rain we have had, the river has not been discoloured with the usual chalk from the river Colne, which is our greatest enemy. We have this week been doing well with the barbel; next week the tides will suit for all days' fishing. The cold winds have stopped our business to a certain extent. I have this week only had twenty-five punts out, and I pleased to say each have taken some good baskets of fish. Within the last twelve days my punts have been the means of taking no less than six club prizes.—ALFRED FERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Directly after sending you my last report, water fell considerably, owing to the gates being taken out at the weir, and those who expected to see a high and thick water on arrival here, perhaps could not understand my report, but this often happens at the time of writing; now water is an average height, and slightly discoloured. Bank anglers get good shows of roach, but other fishing if very queer, the barbel refuse to come in any quantity, only a few being had in a swim. I saw some six or seven fish taken from the Windsor weir last Friday, but none large, though there undoubtedly are some fine fellows there, if baited in the right place. I had a good bit of sport Saturday last, whilst fishing with worm on gut tackle for barbel. A jack, which weighed 8½ lb., patronised the worm; he was a very game fish, and as I never use a landing net, had all I could out of him. Water is looking well for jack, and they ought to be had, though weeds are still very troublesome. Another brace of bream have been had this week, one by James Gray, fisherman, going about 3½ lb., and one by Mr. Parsons, of Windsor, going 4½ lb. I should very much like to know if any of your readers have tried the sea mussel for barbel, as I lately baited a place with them, but could do no good, perhaps a big jack was laying in the swim, which might account for it. After my experience of last Saturday, if barbel do not bite, shall try if John has taken up his abode in my swim. This makes the fourth jack I have taken fishing for barbel.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

Despite the very heavy downpours of rain, the fishing in this river has been unusually good. The bream fishing is the best, and there are certain places where the supply of this fish seems practically inexhaustible. Two anglers have each captured over 300 lb. this season, and it is no unusual thing for an angler to get a mixed catch of two stone in a day, but reports come to hand of some individuals taking from 40 to 50 lb. in a day. This stream is well patronised by many of the Sheffield clubs.—THOMAS FORD.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

All the week these rivers have been in a state of series of floods, and very little fishing has been had. A few baskets have been taken with the worm and minnow. The weather now seems to have set in fine, and if so, when the waters fine down a bit, we shall have some good sport I hope, although late in the season, for a week or so. On Thursday the mill seat here was emptied owing to some alterations to one of the mills, and, unfortunately, numbers of good trout which found refuge in the seat have been captured, which I was sorry to see. Trout, I hear, were taken up to 2 lb. weight.—W.

Dove (Derbyshire).

Surely the second deluge is at hand. Rain by day and rain by night—our world seems of late to have been made up of moisture and moisture only. I sincerely pity the many visitors from a distance, who have come down to the angling hostleries on our river, hoping to get well among its large tribes of finny wonders. When of late the river has been in right order, the weather has been wrong; and, on the contrary, when the river has been wrong the weather has been right. This week weather and water have been alike—both wrong. The water has been at the top of the banks, and as thick as a puddle, while there have been rain storms every day. Nobody has been able to do anything much with the fly either amongst trout or grayling. There has been next to no rise on at all; in fact the fly out has been extremely limited, and that only in the middle of the day. Those who were plucky enough to face the beastly bad weather did pretty well on Saturday and Monday amongst coarse fish—such as chub, bream, roach and dace, but nothing in the particularly heavy came to hand. The best baits have been creed wheat and malt, worm, and, where obtainable, wasp grubs. Eels have been running well both day and night, and some big ones have fallen victims to night line fraternity. When the water begins to recede and fine down a trifle, I fancy both fly and float fishers will find things remunerative.—THE SLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

At length we have arrived at the end of another most successful salmon season—that is with the net fishermen. But in reality they were closed at the end of last week. The continuance of such heavy rains had swollen the river to such an extent that it was impossible to use the seines, and the pounded and weir-bound fish are making upwards in splendid form. In fact they have been in really good condition the whole of this season, and as a rule much larger, therefore much heavier. Grilse were earlier, and decidedly more abundant. Numbers of them are seen miles away up stream, which is good news for rodsters, because during almost the whole season through their tempers have been sorely tried, the river having been so low that it was impossible for the fish to get up. We now trust that during the next two months left for their sport they will be able to report their successes equal to, if not better than, many past seasons. Trout have been very shy, owing, no doubt, to the freshets. We shall be getting some good rough fishing now, in the way of roach, dace, rudd, chub, also jack. Perch have been very much off the feed the past few days, disappointing many who have stood a good soaking rain for a few hours with "luck," but "no" attached.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Gentlemen desirous of trout fishing will get some good sport at our reservoir. Some fine fish are taken from there. Anyone wishing to fish there must apply to the Local Board of Health for a weekly or quarterly ticket. Sea fishing: The weather up to Monday was very unfavourable. On that day there was a steady breeze from the N.W., when several boats put to sea to try their luck, returned in the evening with very fair catches of bream, shad, mackerel, whiting pout, &c. Tuesday weather very moderate. Boats with their fishing parties put to sea, their catches varying from 20 lb. to 50 lb. per boat per tide. Wednesday all boats to sea, and some good sport was had of pollack, bream, whiting pout, samlin cod, shad, mackerel, and a fine crayfish was also caught with hand-line. Boatmen all watching for the carts to come with mussels, as that is their favourite bait now. Weather still fine, with good prospects for the next few days. A young gentleman, fishing from the jetty with rod and line, took from 20 to 30 pollack. Anyone fond of shellfish would find great pleasure in rambling at low water over the rocks adjoining the lantern hill and parade; there are some fine lobsters and crabs taken from the holes occasionally.—E. COMER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

On Sunday we had a great number of anglers here, and their takes were large, with perch, roach, and eels all in fine condition. The rain that we have had has greatly improved the waters.—S. SEWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The rain made the water very thick so that very few votaries of the gentle craft have been out, but a few devotees have made small bags of bream and roach. The water is now fining down, and if the rain keeps off, by Saturday it will be clear for bottom fishing, and no doubt with a bright sun and fine tackle good sport may be had.—YK MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ouse (Bedford).

The weather during the past week has been very bad, the rain pouring in torrents nearly every day, and bringing down such a lot of land water that the fish have been quite off the feed, and the river in many places inaccessible. I succeeded on Tuesday in getting two fine eels, one 2 lb. and the other a little over 1 lb. I fished on Friday for three hours and captured 92 roach and one bream. The river is now getting down to its usual level, and I should think there ought to be some good sport obtainable during the coming week. The following totals may be interesting to some of your readers:—Fished eighteen times, many of them only half days, total 791 roach, 26 bream, 15 perch, 10 eels, 2 pike, 5 sundries; average 48.—ROVER.

[Rover should mention weight.—ED.]

Suir and its Tributaries, Clonmel (Ireland)

List of the salmon taken by the Clonmel boatmen during the season:—1881—February, 89, price 1s. 8d. to 3s.; March, 72, price 1s. 5d. to 2s. 2d.; April, 32, price 1s. 6d. to 2s. 2d.; May, 12, price 1s. 6d.; June, 41, price 1s. to 1s. 4d.; July, 37, price 9d. to 10d.; August, 1 peal, price 8d. Total, 284. First peal, May 19th. 1881—February, 69, price 1s. 6d. to 2s. 3d.; March, 66, price 1s. 7d. to 2s. 3d.; April, 84, price 1s. 5d. to 2s. 2d.; May, 7, price 1s. to 1s. 9d.; June, 7, price 1s. to 1s. 5d.; July, 58, price 9d. to 1s. 2d.; August, 7, price 10 to 1s. 3d. Total, 298. First peal, June, 23rd. We have had no salmon fishing since, owing to the river being much too heavy, but those two fine days cleared the water considerably, and it is now fit for the upper rods; large quantities of fish were seen ascending the river, so good sport may be expected for the remaining part of the season. The trout fishing has been at its very best since last I wrote; Captain and Mr. Massy got five dozen and eight splendid trout on the Anner, weighing 32 lb.; Mr. Hughes, eight dozen, on the Finisk; Mr. Luther, twenty-eight trout, on Glenarry. The spider wrens were the killing flies on all occasions.—DORA.

Swale.

The incessant rains of the past week have kept this river in such a state of high flood that fishing with the fly has been quite impossible. The waters have even been too big for worm. I am sorry to say a little netting has taken place in the neighbourhood of Gunnerside, but owing to the state of the waters not many fish were caught. One gentleman who went from London mainly to fish did not even take out his rod. Should the waters abate the fishing will be good to the end of the season. The second hatchings of the spring flies will then be in full force.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Newark).

The Trent has been in a state of flood all the week, and at the time of writing the water is slowly going down; but it is still high and discoloured. The weather has been very adverse to sport this week, and the wind in the north; so I think the prospects for the next few days are not very good. I have not heard of a deal of sport being had these last few days; except Mr. Cubby, who had a nice catch of roach on Monday. A fishing match, with a very extraordinary result, took place close to Newark, last Saturday; nineteen competitors took part in it, and after fishing some three hours, only one had caught a fish, and it was so very very small that it required a very powerful microscope indeed to magnify it into the size of a respectable minnow.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The fresh of water we have been expecting and anxiously looking for, for several months past has come at last; and although there has been a great quantity of rain fallen throughout the Midland counties, it did not bring on a flood, as some of the anglers expected; however, sufficient extra water came down to remove a great quantity of the flannel weed, and the water was only a few hours out of condition for rod fishing, but it quickly got right again, and by Tuesday morning the water was in splendid order for worm fishing. Of course, the extra colour put a stop to angling with malt, wheat and scratching, the sport, however, being bream, chub and roach, the anglers using worms for bait. Mr. John Thacker, of this town, with a gentleman, tried the Weston Cliff length, and succeeded in taking 35 lb. of chub and bream without a baiting; another rodster got the roach well on the feed at the cockspur worm at Snarks-ton Bridge; roach and bream took the same bait freely, though the latter fish do not run so large as they do in some other parts of the river. The anglers at Collingham have been fairly beaten with the discoloured water, and when they found worms were no good, called out for maggots, which unfortunately at the present time are very scarce; but I am surprised at some of our Trent fishermen going fishing without worms when they ought to know it is the best bait for bottom fishing in a coloured water. There is plenty of colour in the river to-day, but not too much, and I should certainly recommend them to find suitable places and go on with worms, as I believe, at this time of the year, there is no better bait for Trent fishing.—W. BAILEY.

Waveney (Beccles).

Notwithstanding the great amount of rain that has fallen lately, the river still remains bright. Several very good catches have been made by those anglers who have ventured out, notably one made by Mr. Piper, who in one hour and a half took two dozen splendid roach. Jack continue to be had in pretty good numbers. C. E. Holford, Esq., who has been staying in the town for a few days' fishing, being so fortunate as to land seven of them, the largest scaling 5½ lb. He has also enjoyed some good sport among the roach in the river, and the bream in Fritton Decoy. Some beautiful perch have also been taken lately.—C. B.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The incessant rain that has fallen this last week has very much swollen these rivers, and sport with the fly has been quite out of the question. The bottom fishers on most tracts of the Derwent have done fairly, and some have some baskets of good sized fish; have been killing chiefly large trout, and some good graylings and coarse fish. There has been a good, well-fed trout killed in the deeps at Matlock Bath, that was over 2 lb., with wasp grubs, besides five more trout that were killed near to Matlock Bridge, that weighed 1½ lb. each these fish were also killed with the wasp grubs. There have also been several trout and grayling taken with both gentles and worms, cockspurs, off of the

the Darley Dale club waters that would weigh something like a pound apiece. Bottom fishing is much followed on the Derwent, in Derbyshire. The anglers should be provided with a good bag of maggots and worms, and then go to the water and pick a nice sandy or gravelly bottom and stream, where it is shallow and makes a backwater, or eddy; then take a few handfuls of both kinds of bait, and well bait the places you intend fishing. Use a small No. 2 or 3 Kendal hook and fine tackle, and not to have your bottom too heavily leaded. In baiting your hook with maggots for either trout or grayling one should be quite over the arming, and the point of the hook should be passed just through the thick end of the other. If a fall-water, fish the shallows; if a low water, fish the deeps. Always strike when the float runs or moves away, but not when it is bobbing. Always strike sideways if you can, not upright. This is my plan, and I find it answer well. Today (Thursday) the weather seems more settling, with a cold N.E. wind prevailing. If the weather will but continue fine, both trout and grayling ought to feed well next week at both top and bottom. Every week now grayling fishing keeps improving. Both rivers, especially the higher lengths, will be in first-class condition for fly-fishing by Monday. Sport on the ponds has been A1 during the week with bottom fishing. I hear of a few small jack being killed in the Cromford Canal by spinning with the spoon bait, the fish running small—about 2 lb. each fish.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yeo.

During the past week some heavy creels of trout have been taken from this river, near Lapfold Bridge, Messrs. Howe and Moore of Exeter being very successful, several of their fish weighing over one pound each, and numerous others over the half pound. The former gentleman was also fortunate enough to secure a fish, which in Devon, that is in the Exe streams, only a few years since were considered a rare occurrence; in fact, I believe there is but one in the Exeter Museum, which was presented by myself several years since. A few small ones have been seen in between times, but this is really a fine, full-grown and in excellent condition, "Gudgeon," which is to be seen, suspended in spirits with numerous others of the finny tribes. What will the Thames piscators say to this, when they are taking their twenty and thirty dozen per diem?—FRANK GODSDEN.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Incessant rain has fallen almost daily since my last report. The rivers throughout the whole county are bank full and in some cases over them. Farmers are bemoaning their lot on all hands, and well they may, as the damage done to the crops is irreparable. I need hardly, therefore, add that angling in all its branches is at a complete standstill, and, what is more, is likely to be for some time to come.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE RECENT DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE WENSUM.

It will be remembered that in the month of July last attention was called through the press to the fact of a considerable number of dead fish being found in the river just below the city, and it was suggested that they had been killed by some deleterious matter being put into the river—"Blue Billy," a refuse from the gasworks, being especially mentioned, which it was alleged was dropped from the lighters engaged to transfer it from the gasworks to the marshes. In consequence, the committee of the Yare Preservation Society met to consider the matter, and engaged a person to make a thorough inspection of the river, and the adjacent factories, dye works, &c., with a view to discover whether any, and if so, what matters injurious to the fish were put into the river. The person so engaged submitted his report to an adjourned meeting of the committee on Friday night, R. Burroughes, Esq., in the chair, the result being that with the exception of some very much diluted acid from the works of Messrs. Boulton and Paul—the passage of which into the river that firm has promised to stop, and the effect of which upon the fish is very doubtful—nothing objectionable could be discovered. The inspector had made inquiries of all the old fishermen along the stream, and the general opinion was that the mortality among the fish had been caused by the extreme heat of the weather, accompanied by unusually low tides. This opinion is corroborated by past experience; and is, of course, sustained by the fact that the fish are not found to suffer at other seasons, which would be the case if the mortality was caused by deleterious matter foreign to the river habitually discharged into it. With respect to the "Blue Billy," no evidence could be got to support the allegation that the lightermen either intentionally or carelessly allowed any of it to go into the river; on the contrary, it is asserted by Mr. Hobrough that nothing of the kind takes place. The report of the inspector was unanimously approved by the committee, the more especially as it confirmed the opinion the members themselves had formed as to the cause of the destruction of fish complained of; and we may add that the Yare Preservation Society is entitled to the thanks of the anglers of Norwich for the attention it has paid to the subject.—*Norwich Argus*.

A FISH MARKET READY MADE.—Whilst there is a lull in the fish supply question, attention may be directed to the new fruit and vegetable market in the Farringdon Road, which seems to offer a short and easy way out of the difficulty. The application of the new building to its original purpose is not of so pressing a nature as is the matter of finding a market supplementary to Billingsgate; and it does seem worth while to give the new building a trial. For one thing, it is at the very spot where a new market for fish has frequently been proposed to be established; and another recommendation is that it is surrounded by good wide thoroughfares.

How in youth I used to gallop to the glens, over a hundred heathery hills; how leaped my heart to hear the thunder of the waterfall and, at last, the dim, shallow line of music, teaming with swift-shooting, silver shining scaly life, most beautiful to behold, at every soft alighting of the deceptive line.—*Christopher North*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR MRS. COMER.

We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, for Mrs. Comer, 10, Broad Street, Ilfracombe, from

Fern-Web £ s. d.
 0 10 0

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—In the coming competitions, would it not make the affair more real and artistic if some big branches from withy pollards be stuck in a reclining or natural position on the casting ground? We all know that some big and best fish love to bask or lie under the shade of the weeping willows or overhanging pollard heads. To drop a baited hook cleverly and tenderly just under a bough, without entanglement, requires a nice judge of distance, "nack" and strength of wrist.

In the old coaching days, I have seen, when a youth, a crack "whip" touch a "leader" in a four-horse drag on the ear or head, as if only to cut a small fly off with his long whip, and neatly and cleverly recover the "ribbands." The bank angler should certainly be encouraged in these competitions; for how often has he, to avoid a dwarf edge, or wall, or trees, to throw his line obliquely up stream?—I am, &c.,

THE PILGRIM F.

MORE PRIZES FOR THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—I see that a competition is to be arranged for the benefit of the Anglers' Benevolent. I will give books (Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" and others) to the value of half a guinea, to be allotted either as a separate prize or in addition to any other prize. Conditions I leave to editor of GAZETTE or any committee that may be formed to carry out arrangements.—I am, &c.,

Aug. 30.

A. J. MARRIOTT.

[Many thanks. There is no better novel than "Vanity Fair," and if the winner has never read it, he will doubly bless his star when he does read it.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE OUSE.

SIR,—Many thanks for your kind and prompt reply to my letter, but as it does not quite answer what I wish to know, I should be much obliged if you would put a query in next Saturday's issue for me.

Which is the best fishing station on the Ouse, in Huntingdonshire, and what accommodation is there?

I always have the "Anglers' Diary" by me, and have fished most well-known waters mentioned in it. I have, however, never fished the Ouse, in Hunts, and about this the diary is very reticent—not even mentioning Huntingdon.—I am, &c.,

H. H. W.

Aug. 29.

FISHING AT BEDFORD.

SIR,—Owing to absence from home, I have only just seen your paper of the 13th inst., in which your correspondent, "Rover," informs the public that day tickets to fish this club's waters are 1s. 6d. only. As this statement is calculated to mislead people into the belief that any one can come here and fish for 1s. 6d. per day, perhaps you will kindly explain that these tickets are intended for members' friends only, and are by our rules only obtainable by "application through a member."

If "Rover" be a member of this club, it is a great pity that he did not make himself acquainted with the rules before sending misleading statements to newspapers; but if not, I trust that his roving propensities may not bring him into trouble. In any case he will get no thanks for puffing private fisheries in your columns.

I may take this opportunity of saying that owing to a super-abundance of the poaching fraternity of late, we have put an extra keeper on our waters, and to-day we have obtained two convictions, one person being fined, with costs, £1 14s. 6d. for fishing from a boat at Kempton, and another a smaller sum for fishing from Mr. Mann's fields, near Clapham. A delusion has prevailed here for some time amongst a certain class that any one may fish with impunity from a boat. The present salutary conviction will probably act as a persuader to the contrary.—I am, &c.,

E. BICKNELL,

Bedford, August 27, 1881.

Hon. Sec. Bedford Angling Club.

FISHING AT BRIGHOUSE, YORKSHIRE.

SIR,—Will you oblige me by allowing me to ask in your valuable paper if there is any fishing near Brighouse, and what there is to pay to fish?—I am, &c.,

R. G.

A LARGE ROACH.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert the following:—While fishing on Saturday, August 20, at a pond on Penarth road, near Cardiff, with a Japanese rod and tight hair line, I hooked a large roach and successfully landed him. It weighed 2 lb. 13 oz. and measured 17½ inches from snout to tail and 13½ inches round.

It is now in the hands of Mr. Cording, preserver, of St. Mary's Arcade, Cardiff.

The reason I have troubled you with this is that there has been a lot of discussion between myself and friends about what weight a roach will attain to, and we thought that, through the medium of your valuable paper, we might get some account of the recorded big ones.—I am, &c.,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Cardiff, August 24.

[If this really is a roach it is a splendid specimen. Is it not a rudd?—ED.]

CHARGES OF PROFESSIONAL FISHERMEN ON THE THAMES.

SIR,—Seeing that you state the charge for a Thames punt, with fisherman, to be 10s., I think it only just to a skilful and civil fisherman with whom I have

gone out for years—your correspondent, John Rush, of Goring—to say that his charge is 6s.—a rather important difference.

The beer is an extra, it is true, but I don't think any one who sees how hard he will work to give a customer sport will begrudge it.—I am, &c.,

W. P. H.

[This is worth knowing. To other "professionals" we would say, go and do likewise.—ED.]

NETTING DEFEATED.

SIR,—Another instance of the thorough efficiency of Captain Etheridge, Conservancy Superintendent of the upper waters of the Thames, comes to us from Abingdon. It would seem that the reach of water from the Great Western Railway iron bridge down to Abingdon Bridge, formerly included in the defunct Angling Protection Association, then claimed by Mr. Harcourt, of Nuneham, has passed into the possession, rightly or otherwise, of Mr. Phillips, of Culham Court. This gentleman, under a presumable conviction of his right, conceived the notion of a regular water frolic, and issued cards of invitation to a luncheon on the banks of the river; and, besides this ground bait, offered the extra temptation to his guests of seeing the Thames dragged for a little more than two miles, but

The best laid schemes o' mice and men

Gang all a-gley;

And leave us naught but grief and pain

For promised joy.

The genius of the Thames, however, or some lesser deity, sent off a special messenger to the Captain at Reading, and as this intimation of what was meditated, was supplemented by the fact that the celebrated gang of the Beasley's, of Oxford, had with their nets and punts been retained for the occasion, gave an additional whet to this unflinching sailor's appetite. For, be it known, one of the most memorable aquatic battles in the valley of the Thames against the marauders of its waters, was conducted by the Captain and ended in a complete victory, although two of these Beasley's threw the Captain into the river, and beat Superintendent Head, of the Oxford police, over the cranium with a punt pole, nearly committing murder in the very presence of the sheriff of that classic city. Those who know the Captain can believe that he turned out of his hammock pretty early, and was soon on his way to the scene of action. Here, with a true English commander's notions of "cutting out" he and his bailiffs, while hidden afloat under the boughs, saw four of the Beasley's gang arrive in two punts with three other men, and having allowed them to land with their nets, which they carefully adjusted on the tow path, the Captain to the ill-disguised "funk" of the law-breakers, crossed over to inspect these engines. He found them to consist of three illegal flue nets, with double walling laced together in length between forty and fifty yards, just the span of the river in this reach, and ten feet deep. The Captain cautioned the men against their use, and threatened to seize them if they were wetted. The leader of the gang declared his intention to persevere in the job, for which he and his mates had been hired, and if any one laid a finger upon the nets, they would throw him into the river.

However, they thought better of this, and declared they would wait until Squire Phillips, of Culham Court, their employer, arrived. This the latter did about noon, and finding what was going on, in no very gentle terms told the Captain that he was a magistrate of the county, and as he expected shortly to be made a Conservator, he would have the Captain's commission as inspector cancelled. Intimidation proved of no avail with the staunch defender of the River's Rights, or in shaking his own defined duty. The Squire then said he would spend his fortune, if these nets were illegal, in having proper ones made, and sweep every fish out of this reach of water. By this time the anglers of Abingdon had got wind of the fracas, and these remarks of the Squire were received with hisses and derisive laughter, which sent him across the river to his luncheon in a foaming passion.

The Squire became obviously mollified after his appetite was appeased, and sent a gentleman of his party to invite the Captain, with his compliments, to luncheon with him. This, of course, he courteously declined, stating that, as he was on duty, he could not quit the nets. Mr. Phillips then pledging his word that the nets should not be used, the Captain permitted this gang of desperadoes to quit in their punts for Oxford, carrying the nets with them, but sent those who could be depended upon, to watch the Beasley's, and see that the nets were not used on their way up.

We are told that the Captain did all he could to provoke the party to put the nets into the water that he might seize them, and when the gallant salt saw the formidable instruments of mischief leave, a bye-stander assures us that he thought the brave fellow was going to cry with sheer vexation. Doubtless the Captain was here too sanguine. He should have waited until the act of netting had commenced, and the nets were in use, but we believe the sight of a net enrages Captain Etheridge as does a red-rag a British Bull. Perhaps on some future occasion, he will moderate his propensity to commit so net-tle a rash act.—I am, &c.,

THAMES TROUT.

WHICH IS THE BEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT FOR PIKE.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me, as a humble disciple of Isaac Walton, to make inquiry through the medium of your paper in respect of the manner of using artificial spinning baits for pike, as I cannot gather from "Pennell's Practical Angler," "Keene's Practical Fisherman," or any other book in my library, exactly what I wish to learn, and I have not opportunity of personal access to a practical angler who is an adept of this style of fishing. I have been a very fairly successful during the current season in fly fishing for trout, but, as this is drawing to a close, I wish to supplement it with spinning for pike, the more especially as I have a fair field or rather open water, to me for operations. Undoubtedly Mr. Pennell's opinion that natural bait is always best when procurable is in the main correct, and this I presume would apply to trout and salmon as well as to pike and to perch. But unfortunately the natural bait is not always to be obtained by purchase, and as my time for sport is much limited, it detracts too much from the enjoyment of it to have to fish for gudgeon or other small bait before commencing. I argue to myself that as fair creels of such wary and dainty fish as trout are caught with artificial bait by such an unexperienced angler as myself, certainly the less acute and more greedy pike ought to succumb to the same or a similar style of angling, and save one the trouble of seeking live bait and hiring a boy to carry the can or even encumbering myself with salted fish. I have already wooed them with "Colorado" spoon bait, and the "Totnes" and "Phantom" minnow, but so far I have not found them so confiding as I could wish. I should even be happy to present to them a "clipper" or a "Cleopatra," could I believe they would appreciate and be responsive to my polite attentions. I suppose, how-

ever that the fault lies in my method of wooing more than in the lack of trust in the fish. I sometimes troll near the bank and behind the weeds and rushes as with the gorge bait, at other times I cast diagonally across the stream and spin back again as with dead spinning bait, but unfortunately the pike, which I know are there, treat with the coolest and utmost contempt all my efforts to please. Can you, my dear, sir, or any of your skilful correspondents, give us a useful hint or two, such as are not to be found in books? One thing in particular, I wish to know: does the artificial baits already enumerated, especially the "Phantom," require to be attached to leaded and swivelled traces, or should they be attached to the running line just as they are obtained from the tackle shops? And oblige, as the commercial travellers say, one of—Yours, &c.,
A NOVICE.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—When I accepted Mr. Balderston's challenge to accompany that gentleman to the several becks in Cumberland and Westmoreland that had been fished out, or sufficiently overfished to influence the proprietors of those grounds through which they run to close them for one or more seasons, I did so under the assurance that the offer was made in good faith and would be strictly complied with. He is now pleased to treat my acquiescence in his invitation as "an indefinite time," as I name next spring for our trip. Well, I will endeavour to gratify his desire somehow; and, to do this beyond cavil, I will accept his generous offer for this autumn, under the conditions I have laid down. He must promise to be very good, and not substantively to exhibit that cantankerous spirit which he infuses into his letters, but to cultivate a conduct and bearing in harmony with the scenery of the two picturesquely-gifted counties in which we shall find ourselves. This is the more necessary as I intend to introduce him to Long Meg and her daughters, who are never tired of bathing their feet in the Eden. We shall then not be far from the Raven Beck, which may have been named after Mr. Balderston—or Mr. Balderston after it, for it is certainly not bald-of-stone, particularly near the ruins of the old Castle of Kirkoswald. The Crow-dundle Beck may be likewise a relation of the "Raven." Well, I think I could enumerate a few becks at least on the Eden, as well as districts on the river itself, where the rod has been excluded for a season or so from the waters. But a friend whispers me that "the 'Raven' is artful, and sucking my brains." He is quite welcome, so long as my brother anglers join in the feast. But any one who is acquainted with Westmoreland and Cumberland will know the task Mr. Balderston would so modestly set me on paper, and which I would not decline if I were equal to writing the volume he so cunningly craves. Moreover, I know not in whose possession the lands watered by the becks in question are now vested, and I certainly should not like to use names and speak of circumstances, perhaps to the prejudice of such localities, without the permission of the respective proprietors, only to be obtained by a self or properly accredited introduction.

To give the indifferent reader an inkling of the cool request with which Mr. Balderston has honoured me, I will merely enumerate the names of the principal rivers in the two counties, each of which has its tributaries running down from the hills at comparatively short distances on either side.

In Cumberland, we have the Eden above-mentioned, the Lune, the Irthing, the Galt, the Wampool, the Caldew, Ellen, Waver, Greta, Eben, Cocker, Peteril, Liddal, &c. And in Westmoreland, again the Eden, the Lune, the Elmore, the Ken, &c.

I am in some fear whether Mr. Balderston's "fatal facility" of penmanship will not lead him into the very errors he would correct in others. He, it is true a very roundabout way, gives both myself and "L. B." the lie. Yet he ventures to state that he has seen fish so crowded that they jostle each other—so he can, during spawning time, in any river, but the fish in those times, in sporting slang, are "all there." This sort of tall talk may remind your readers of that very self-opinionated angler, "D.," who, boasting of the mobs of trout in some particular stream (I believe it was in the Peteril) in his own county, old Cyrus Wilder, the fisherman, of Maidenhead, remarked, "That almost beats our weir; the trout are so closely packed we cannot get our punt poles down for 'em, and the plummet, in trying the depth, rests on their backs half the time."

Let Mr. Balderston give me three days' notice, through the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, and I will have all packed. I promise to give him a give-and-take companion, although not a very good pedestrian; but I will find my own pony for the hills, and my tobacco, and be satisfied with plain wholesome provender, eschew all wines, especially of an expensive character. But I must declare for my whiskey, undoubtedly Scotch, of a peaty flavour, small still, and, above all, a clean bed.

I have to thank the editor for his handsome testimonial, and Mr. Keene for his flattering estimate of my angling gifts.—I am, &c.,
CREEL.

FISHING FOR GREY MULLET.

SIR,—As this subject seems at present of interest to the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, I should like to put on record what I know of it. Many years ago, I passed some weeks annually at a then little frequented place, Cardrop, in the Firth of Clyde. I make no boast when I state that, although a mere school-boy, I was already an adept with rod and gun, and at all kinds of sea-fishing. But there was one fish I could not catch—the grey mullet—there called the "half-salmon," although they swarmed close to the house in which I spent my *villegiatura*. In fact, this fish was to the people there something mythical, or at least mysterious, only to be taken by one man, who used to come from some distance when the tide was low, and always in the evening. Saving to this man, these mullet were practically non-existent. Being anxious to penetrate the mystery—for I was a keen and successful angler—I set myself to watch his movements, but he had always friends with him who stalled me off, for he made much of his secret, of which he was proud in the highest degree. I found, however, that he used a salmon rod, of some twenty feet in length, and a fly draped with a white feather, called in Scotland "a lythe fly." This was common enough, but the mullet would not take it. What, then, was the additional attraction? By dint of watching I found it out. It was the bivalved oval spout-fish, like an elongated cockle, only much larger, called on the Clyde "garrocher," the scientific name being, I believe, *Mya arenaria*, and common on all the British coasts. Part of the flesh of this shell-fish, probably the spout, which is exceedingly tough, be put on his fly. He angled only at low water from the end of a rude stone wharf, used by the ferrymen, and regularly succeeded in taking a number of mullet from 3 lb. to 5 lb. in weight. Circumstances prevented my following up my little discovery, but twenty years afterwards a near relative did so, with great success, on the identically same spot. As this mullet is a fish in every way worthy of notice, the anecdote may be of use to many anglers, hitherto baffled by its shyness, and if any find it of service, I shall be amply rewarded if they make their report in your columns.—I am, &c.,
J. D. DOUGALL.

A CURIOUS QUERY.

SIR,—Being a constant reader of your paper, and having had an all-England fishing contest and a dispute, I venture to ask you the following question:—"If a man hooks a fish, and the same breaks his line and the fish sails up the canal and other anglers can see it, through the float sailing on the water, and one of them throws in his line and it gets entangled round the aforesaid float (mind you, he throws in with that intention): Can he weigh-in the fish and claim a prize, according to the rules of angling, and providing also the rule marked in small book had been read to the competitors. Kindly answer this per letter, and also insert answer in FISHING GAZETTE of Saturday next.—I am, &c.,
THOMAS STONES.

Farnworth, August 29, 1881.

[The rule Mr. Stones refers to, is that "all fish must be *bona fide* taken with the fair and complete angle, and by no other means or device whatever, but by fair art and hands of the member, weighing the said fish in landing net to be allowed any member." We have told Mr. Stones, in our opinion, the fish was only landed by "B" for "A," who had caught it, and could himself have landed it, had "B" called his attention to it. If the fish had taken "B's" bait, after breaking "A," then it would be fairly "B's" fish. What would the Central Association judges say in a case of that kind?

Suppose "A" shot and wounded a partridge, and "B" came along, and pulled it out of a hedge, it would be "A's" bird, even if he had lost it, unless "B" could prove he shot it.—ED.]

FISHING IN CHESHIRE.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me whether any fishing can be had in any of the meres or rivers of Cheshire?—I am, &c.,
A CONTRIBUTOR.
August 29.

THE TROUT PLACED IN THE THAMES BY THE WINDSOR AND ETON ANGLING PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of *Bell's Life in London*.

SIR,—As I understand you have recently published a paragraph in your paper, evidently written with no goodwill to this society, I trust to your sense of justice to publish also the following statement.

The trout had been bespoken a very long time, and were supplied by the same person who supplies the Reading, Maidenhead, and other Thames Associations. In fact, I cannot hear of any other person who supplies live trout at all, other than the small fry. I had also made proper inquiries respecting him, and had been assured on the highest authority that he was thoroughly reliable. When I saw him in July he told me that those he had ready were of the same size as he had been just turning into the river at Reading, and when he telegraphed to me a fortnight ago, he said he had ready for us a "beautiful lot—the last he would have this season." These I purchased and put in our waters. I am sorry your correspondent did not admire them. I did not see them myself, being absent from home; but a member of our association who was on the spot, states "that he saw the last 17 that were turned in, and the water-bailiff is not likely to have kept the largest to the last, and can assert that not one of them was under 10 inches in length, and as for their being sickly, they ate almost every gudgeon and minnow in the punt well, while confined there, and were feeding very freely in many parts of the weir stream the day after they were placed in the river.

I do not know whether your correspondent is a member of our association or not. If he is, it would have been better taste if he had written to me on the subject, or brought the matter before the committee; if he is not, he might have remembered the proverb about looking a gift horse in the mouth (for all fish turned in by the association are simply presents made by them to the angling public). In either case, I shall be greatly obliged to him if he will inform me from whom better fish can be obtained, and put us in possession of funds to purchase as many as possible.—I am &c.,

CHARLES CALDECOTT JAMES.

Chairman of the Windsor and Eton Angling Preservation Association.
The Timbralls, Eton College, Aug. 29, 1881.

"MULLER'S TOPKNOT" (*Rhombus hirtus*).—I have just received from a correspondent to the FISHING GAZETTE, who is now fishing in North Wales, a very pretty specimen of the above for diagnosis. This fish is the true "Muller's topknot," and is so much like the figure in "Bloch" that it might almost be said to have sat to the artist. These little fish have been very scarce on the Devonshire coast for some seasons past. The autumn of 1871 produced many examples, including Bloch's topknot (*pleuronectes punctatus*), which I gave to the Albert Museum in Exeter. This was also very like Bloch's figure. Both Yarell and Couch are very imperfect, and it has been said that it is almost a question if they had the same species in view. Now is the season for finding curios in the shape of new and strange fish; the warm waters of the gulf stream being intercepted by cold and storms often oblige rarities to succumb, and in many instances are found on the beach. Any assistance I can render in diagnosing am most willing.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

MESSRS. W. H. and L. COLLINGRIDGE, of the *City Press*, announce the completion and occupation of their new buildings, 148 and 149, Aldersgate Street, which have been erected upon the site of the offices destroyed by fire in April of last year.

A PLEA FOR THE BIRDS.—The Corporation of London happily wrested Epping Forest out of the hands of certain English "landgrabbers." The pleasures of a rural and woodland walk are greatly enhanced by hearing the lark sing like "an angel in the sky," or the songthrush and the blackbird, the linnet and goldfinch, or the chaffinch, and others of our small feathered friends, warble and make merry. The magistrates will do a duty to the public by prosecuting those heartless fellows who, for gain, would catch all these birds in and near the People's Forest at Epping, and elsewhere. The love of birds is a generous sentiment; it is one that might and ought to bind the exalted and the lowly in one bond of brotherhood and union for the protection of songsters everywhere, especially near the metropolis. In these wild and semi-revolutionary times, certain people think they can kill or catch any wild birds, &c., without let or control. These men must be taught to respect the feelings of the honest and respectable classes of all grades, by fines and even imprisonment. There are already far too many poor starlings and sparrows caught merely for idle persons to shoot at, slaughter, or main, and all for paltry prizes. And who, moreover, authorised these people to kill and slay the deer in the same forest?—INDIGNANT.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, 28th, a match took place at Wraybury, 16 members competing—A. Shakel first, W. Streeton second, H. Scott third, B. C. Booth fourth, and several other members weighing-in fish.—A. SHAKEL, sec.
August 30.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society were sent to the Thames last Sunday, the result being an excellent show of roach, Mr. Wellsted being at the head of the list, and taking the cake with over 7 lb. The following gentlemen had fish:—Messrs. Leach, Brooks, Barber, Money, Key, and myself.—T. BENNETT.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 28th:—Mr. Mortimer, bream and roach, from Amberley; Mr. Castell, some fine roach from the Roding; and Messrs. J. Chambers and Mark, roach from Penton Hook.—CAS.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING CLUB.

The return visit to the above club took place at the Wheatsheaf, Havestock Hill, on Tuesday, August 30, eleven clubs being represented, and a large number of friends were present. A capital and enjoyable evening was spent, harmony being the order. Amongst those who contributed to the enjoyment were the chairman (Mr. J. Amies), vice-chairman (Mr. R. Lealand), and Messrs. A. Sargeant and Heckford, of the Duke of Cornwall A. C.; Mr. Roxbee, N. W. A. C.; Mr. Roland, Waltonian A. C.; Mr. Huggett, Duke of Norfolk A. C.; Mr. Roberts, Prince of Wales A. C.; Mr. Blackmore, St. John's Wood A. C.; Mr. Dobell, Cambridge Friendly A. C.; Mr. Hurst, Hampstead A. C.; and Messrs. Jackson, Leith, and Barr, of the Little Independent A. C.; a duet by these gentlemen upon a miniature concertina and banjo being much appreciated. Messrs. Wm. Harrold and H. Jones also appeared to great advantage. Mr. Wm. Brown presided at the piano. The next visit will be paid to the Duke of Norfolk.—J. AMIES.

August 30.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Brother Perkins, $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of bream and roach from the river Ouse; Brother Taylor, 7 dozen gudgeon and 7 barbel from the Thames. The first match will take place on Sunday, the 4th of September, at Amberley, for five valuable prizes, presented by Brothers Bates, Emms, Harrison, Rudkin, and A. Cox. Members must obtain their privilege and railway ticket from Mr. Clout, Berkeley Castle, Rahere Street, Goswell Road, St. Luke's, E.C., on Friday evening, between the hours of 8 and 10. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that since the opening of our club, which took place on the 18th of May this year, that we have been very fortunate in obtaining some extraordinary large fish, which, I am pleased to say, have been sent to Mr. Miller, of East Street, Walworth, to be preserved. I am willing to show my fish against any single member of any club in London. The fish to consist of roach, chub, and tench, and must have been caught within the present season. The amount of the stakes to be settled on arrangement.—GEORGE G. TAYLOR, sec.

August 29.

[Send report to 12, Fetter Lane, in future.—ED.]

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On August 28 the members of this society paid a visit to the Upper Thames, but met with very little success. Mr. C. Russell had roach, dace and chub, Mr. J. J. Holmes some very nice dace; all the other takes were very small. On September 4 a sharp contest is expected for a prize given by Mr. Churchman, sen., for the gross weight of all fish.—J. CHURCHMAN.

August 30.

GOOD INTENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a good show of fish at our club on Sunday night last. Mr. Maybury, roach; Haines, dace; W. Hughes, roach; Rodgers, roach and dace; J. Pluckrose, bream and roach; W. Wheeler, dace; E. Pluckrose, bream and roach. On Tuesday night Mr. J. T. Richards had a good show of roach, many of the fish over 1 lb. each; Mr. Wood had a tray of roach; Mr. R. Murphy had roach, perch, and dace—one dace 14 oz., another 13 oz., one roach 1 lb. 3 oz., one perch 1 lb., all taken from the Lea. Our distribution of prizes takes place on Tuesday, September 13.—R. MURPHY.

August 31.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members showed some very fair samples of fish on Sunday last, from the Avon:—Messrs. Hutchings, Mullins and Butler, roach and bream. From the Thames—Messrs. J. Watling, C. Warren, W. Watling, Armstrong and Hewitt. From the Wey—Messrs. Theobald, J. Fitch and J. K. Fitch, some very good roach. From the Lee—Messrs. Young and Cooper, roach. Mr. Major roach from the Colne.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

August 30.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the Gresham Angling Society's meeting on Thursday evening Mr. Jardine proposed a vote of sincere condolence with the family of the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe, which was very feelingly seconded by Mr. T. Crumplen, the hon. sec. Mr. Rolfe was a warm supporter of the society, and had undertaken to paint a valuable picture to be presented by himself, as their first prize. Mr. Jardine, in a touching speech undertook to present the society with a picture by his old friend, Rolfe, as a substitute for that their late member had promised to give, and his remarks were supplemented by speeches from Messrs. G. Austin, C. S. Bentley, Bryant, Captain Alfred and others, all expressing their sense of the loss the angling world had now sustained. It was also decided to charge an entrance fee to all members joining after the close of the present season, the members separating after a very pleasant evening, spent in the discussion of prizes and general piscatorial topics.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society were out on the 28th inst. competing for a prize presented by the hon. sec. The takes, though small, made up for want of num-

bers by being of good quality. Amongst the most successful in having fish were our indefatigable member, Mr. Morley, with roach and perch from Pangbourne, 4 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and Mr. A. Bell, bream and roach from Weybridge, 4 lb. $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz. One bream, a veritable picture, of 3 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz., has gone to be made beautiful for ever. The competition is continued next Sunday—members of the K.C.U. please note this.—G. TREADWELL, hon. sec.

August 29.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several of the members were again successful on Sunday last. Mr. Obbard with roach and dace from the Lea; Mr. Gorsuch sen., with some splendid roach from Thorney Broad. Messrs. Long, L. Gorsuch, J. and G. Drew, Parker with roach and dace from the Thames. Mr. Lucy jun. had also roach from Fulborough.—THOMAS WILLIAM LUCY, Secretary.

Aug. 30., 1881.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first club match of the present season was fished on the 28th ult. at Staines Mr. Garrard taking first honours and Mr. Stidolph second. Mr. Williams's prize will be contested on the 4th inst., "all fish to weigh and go where you please," as the donor expressed himself.—W. R. M., sec.

PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club held their third match this season in the Egginton Canal on Saturday last, but owing to the wet season there was very little fish taken, the first twelve members taking the principal prizes. First prize, J. Cadman, Esq.; second, Mr. W. Tunnicliff; third, Mr. W. Elliott; fourth, Mr. J. Hibbert; fifth, Mr. J. Hutton; sixth, Mr. J. Saxton; seventh, Mr. C. Hardy; eighth, Mr. J. Moore; ninth, Mr. C. Pashley; tenth, Mr. W. Torman; eleventh, Mr. C. Lewis; twelfth, Mr. T. Stafford; and Messrs. J. Grimley, J. Bland, F. Tunnicliff, J. Hodgkinson and S. Thorpe *nil*.—W. TUNNICLIFF, sec.

August 28.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The members of this society have lately been having some rare sport among the barbel, dace, roach, and gudgeon in and about the tidal limits of the Thames. On the 28th they competed for prizes in the same neighbourhood, and had some excellent sport with the above-named fish. Among those members who succeeded in reaching the society's headquarters and exhibiting their fish were Messrs. Canton, Smithers, Frith, and Dale.—PIXIE.

August 31.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

Our competition at Pangbourne, on the 21st August turned out a very poor affair, the weather being very bad and the takes very small. Mr. James Flynn taking first and third prizes, Mr. Lockyer the second; Mr. Underdown, 2 lb. 11 oz. bream. On the 25th, Mr. Monk, 20 lb. 5 oz. roach and 1 lb. 5 oz. dace; Mr. Valler, 3 lb. 6 oz. roach; Mr. Briscoe, roach.—J. GOUBOT.

STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members proved very unlucky on the 28th ult., Messrs. Gretton, North, Marrow and J. Brookman having a few roach, the largest take being 1 lb. $8\frac{3}{4}$ oz. Mr. T. Gretton wins the prize for the gross weight of fish taken during the month of August (Sunday fishing only) with 12 lb. $15\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; Mr. E. Morrow that of the heaviest roach with one of 1 lb. 1 oz.; and Mr. Thomas Millington that of the heaviest perch with one of $6\frac{1}{4}$ oz. The complimentary visit to the club took place on Tuesday, the 30th ult., and special thanks are due to the Burdett Angling Society, the members mustering in great force, upwards of a dozen being present.—T. GRETTON, sec.

August 31st.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 31st ult. Messrs. Meadway, Beckett and a friend visited the Colne, and succeeded in getting some roach, dace, chub and perch, some of the dace going over 10 oz. each; 11 lb. fell to the rod of Mr. Meadway, and 6 lb. 9 oz. to Mr. Beckett. This being the evening for deciding as to where and how the competition for the 14th September, the members mustered much earlier, and I must say, much more strongly than they have done for some time; among those present I noticed Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Tanner, T. Clarke, and many more, nearly all of whom had some proposition to make, which made the meeting rather lively and warm. Towards the close it was proposed and carried that the members of this society go to Pangbourne, and fish from the bank for the silver cup and other prizes given by Dr. Carpenter and others for competition on September 14th.—PIXIE.

September 1st.

WALTONIANS.

On the 24th, Mr. Rushbrook weighed-in a little over 6 lb. of roach and dace. On the 28th a prize of a guinea was fished for at Pangbourne, Mr. Roland was the winner with 7 lb. $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; the other takes were of fair average. The following are the names of the gentlemen weighing-in:—Messrs. Bowering, Good, jun., Packman, Waltham, Jukes, R. Dodge, Giles, W. Dodge, Starr, Malcom, and Lester.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 26th Mr. J. Collins succeeded in getting 8 lb. $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of roach and dace from Kingston. Mr. F. Grigg, the same day, fishing at Elstree, captured three nice tench, weighing 7 lb. $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz., the largest turning the scale at 2 lb. $10\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; he also had 2 lb. of roach. The 28th brought to a close the competition for the last named gentleman's prize for which Mr. Boalch weighed in on this day 8 lb. 3 oz. of roach and dace taken from Richmond with C. Brown. Mr. Bayley, out with Chamberlain, 3 lb. of roach and dace; Mr. Weatherhead with a boat at Hampton, 2 bream weighing 7 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the largest going 4 lb. 2 oz. At 10.45 the following was the result of the four Sundays' competition: Mr. Boalch, 1st., with 26 lb. $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz., in three shows from Richmond, punt-fishing; Mr. Bayley, 2nd., with 15 lb. $9\frac{3}{4}$ oz. in four shows; 3 from bank and 1 from punt; Mr. Weatherhead, 3rd., with 7 lb. $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz., 1 show, from boat; Mr. Evans, 4th, with 2 lb. $3\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 1 show from punt. Several other members contested, but by some unaccountable means never could succeed in getting to the headquarters in time to weigh-in their fish for these prizes. Members, do not let Messrs. Schwartz and Co.'s competition slip your memory; it takes place on Sept. 11.—PIXIE.

August 31, 1881.

WAVENEY AND OULTON BROAD PROTECTION SOCIETY.

At the meeting of this society, on Wednesday, 24th ult., a sub-committee was appointed to consider the necessity of setting aside certain months in the year as a fence time for pike and perch, it being now manifest that the wholesale destruction of jack when out of season, and the scarcity of perch, imperatively demand some immediate course of action to recoup the stock of these waters.—CREELE.

FISHING FOR SALMON - BASS—GREY MULLET—
LARGE PIKE—CARP IN AMERICA.

I CAN sympathise with Mr. Huggett's observations concerning in the capture of grey mullet. Some years ago I greatly astonished the good folk, frequenters of the old pier at Brighton, with my Nottingham rod and spring winch, with its 150 yards of fine silk line. I was voted mad—as I sat one very calm evening, in a small boat, moored below. However, I managed to land six splendid bass, ranging from 4 to 8 lb. with this apparatus, much to the astonishment of about three hundred people, who had heard of the supposed maniac, and had come “out for to see,” not a reed shaken by the wind, but a Thames fisherman killing fish the “locals” had no idea of trying with tackle finer than that necessary to rescue a man from the water.

* * * * *

And what splendid fellows those salmon bass are on the hook. As soon as they feel the hook, they bolt with a mighty rush, and woe to the tackle, if you are unprepared. I lost several tackles at first, but at last learnt the manners of the beast. I should not mind another little game of the same sort.

* * * * *

Wilcocks, in his “Sea Fisherman,” gives the following methods for the capture of this fish:—Fly fishing with a light coloured fly—or any salmon fly; ground fishing (*i.e.*, paternoster style), and drift line fishing. With all humility I add the above style.

* * * * *

The grey mullet swims in shoals, and Young (“Sea Fishing as a Sport”), tells of a swarm, which, on being brought to land (taken by a seine net), weighed fifteen tons. It is a ground feeder like a barbel, and as capricious in its biting. Like barbel, also, it may be baited. Carp-like again, Wilcocks says they will follow each other in jumping over the line of the net.

* * * * *

Again, *re* jack. “Leviathan” gives us a very interesting article on the sizes to which the fish has attained. He has forgotten to mention the other 36 lb. possessed now by the Hammersmith United Anglers—I think—which was taken from Rapley Lake, Windsor Great Park, in a net, by my father (the Royal fisherman) and sent for casting and stuffing to Mr. Buckland. It was, I believe, originally intended by the ranger as a present to the Queen, but it seems that Mr. Edon, finding he did not get paid for the stuffing, etc., disposed of it. I think 1871 or '72 was the date of its capture, and a full account of it is to be found in “Land and Water” of the week succeeding capture. At that time it was the largest known pike in England, and supposed to be not more than twelve years old.

* * * * *

Yarrell speaks of much greater weights; amongst others of the famous Halibrun fish, 350 lb.; of the Loch Ken capture, 61 lb.; Loch Lomond, 79 lb. Here is a catch of pike mentioned by the same writer! “Four days’ sport (in Horsea Broad, Norfolk, producing 256 pike, weighing altogether 1146 lb.” This was by “trimmering.”

* * * * *

Just another word before I finish with the subject, and it is addressed to “Leviathan.” He says, referring to pike getting rid of hooks, and speaking of the Colne (Joe Heath’s water), the “second occasion . . . was when he killed a 12½ lb. pike in the throat of which he found another flight. . . . The latter was lost by Keene, a Thames fisherman, of Wraysbury.” The italics are mine.

* * * * *

Now, I don’t remember this. I am certainly the only fisherman of the name—who lived at Wraysbury—where I resided for two years, and cannot recollect fishing in Joe’s water for jack at any time. However, the matter is of trivial importance, though it is as well to be exact even in small things.

* * * * *

The Americans have found out the gameness of the carp—and also its beauties. Says a correspondent of that excellently conducted paper “Forest and Stream,” “They were pretty to look at, one of them a daisy, with dorsal fin extended, with golden splotches, and sides like the gold flashes of an evening sun, and bright silvery scales like the mail of a Naaid Queen.” How’s that, oh! poet-anglers, for a mixture of similes? Fancy a daisy with a dorsal fin!

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

NORFOLK.

“Oh, the gallant fisher’s life!

It is the best of any;

’Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,

And ’tis beloved by many.”

—Watton.

AND all those who are in the least way sceptical about the gentle art being beloved I should advise them one fine day to make an excursion up our old river, and they will come away under the impression that there certainly is some amount of truth in the matter.

And now for sport during the past week. It is again a puzzler where first to commence. I will begin at Brundall, and I might almost have written a separate report, entitled “Pike Fishing Extraordinary,” at this place. I am extremely pleased to find that my old friend Hewitt, the water bailiff, was right in his predictions about a good pike-fishing season; for last week, in one day, there were taken in this neighbourhood no fewer than 194 pike!—two gentlemen alone succeeding in landing 42 fish out of the number.

Whether they have all migrated from other parts of the stream to this particular spot I am at a loss to know. But certain it is the river teems with them, and boys have actually been seen to take them with a piece of bright tin having hooks attached to answer the purpose of a spoon.

Such a multitude of these freshwater sharks must be playing great havoc amongst the roach, &c., and the sooner a great many of these gentlemen are slain the better, for, although they afford good sport, yet, at the same time, they are exceedingly destructive. There have been also some capital takes of roach here, and I do not know a better spot on the whole stream than this for sport amongst roach.

I saw a very nice catch taken by our esteemed friend Mr. Greene, of London Street, on Friday last, although the wind was such that it must have been a difficulty to have kept the boat moored. I should like to see better accommodation for anglers at this spot in every respect, for, as I have remarked, this certainly is the favourite place on the river, and anglers often experience many rebuffs, there being only a limited number of boats kept, and some of these not very first-rate.

There is ample room near the railway station to make a splendid fishing resort, and I am informed on good authority that a spot has just been purchased with a view to establishing a place of the kind. I am also informed that it is proposed to have at least fifty boats for the purposes of angling, rowing and sailing, private hotel for refreshments, such as tea, coffee, &c.; to erect a structure for accommodating clubs and outings of all kinds; to keep and let out for hire all kinds of fishing tackle—in fact, to be the very *beau idéal* of the real angler, for, although an angler is supposed to rough it in many senses, yet no one more than he likes good accommodation and comfort.

Anyhow, I wish the projectors every success in their undertaking; and as it is only ten minutes’ ride from Norwich, and one minute from the Brundall railway station, I do not see in what way it will lack success.

I have seen many good catches, both from Buckenham and Cantley, chiefly roach, which are in splendid condition. Not much has been done amongst the bream, as the recent heavy rains have made the water thick.

I have just heard of a fine tench being taken in the Waveney, weighing over 6 lb., but like a great many more fine specimens, found its way into the stewpan instead of into the preserver’s hands.

ANGLER.

VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS.

THOUGH many hints are thrown out from time to time, and heartily endorsed by our respected editor, that the numerous correspondents of the FISHING GAZETTE would, in their reports, state what baits and flies are used, they have produced but scant results. Where you have no personal knowledge of the various parties named, how very wearisome many of those river and club reports are, being just like so many repetitions of when and where A. B. C. took so many fish weighing so many pounds. It is no doubt very flattering to Messrs. A. B. C. to see their great achievements so chronicled, and I doubt not but that those reports are cherished lore to their friends; still, it may be questioned, are they of any practical use to the great body of anglers? Did they but give us a dash of the water they fished in, and report the various baits, natural and artificial, by which the fish were taken, they would convert a tiresome report into one of general interest; at least such is the view taken in a part of the country where clubs are not. Some writers so far forget their nationality, as not even to name the weather! Seemingly, all that is valuable in their eyes is the great take and heavy weight, but the reader, wearied by the ever recurring figures, passes them rapidly by. Ah! here is a nut with a kernel, though it is only a few lines from D., who has been down at Blank

river, which was clear as gin. Your reporter had stated that no fly equalled the March brown for that river, yet he, fishing from early morn until dewy eve with a large and beautifully dressed specimen of that fly failed to catch a single fish, adding that the day was bright and fine too. The kernel is in the lesson taught by this statement, and which may even dawn on D., and perhaps on the rest of the alphabet, that there are better flies for a clear water and a bright day, than even a large March brown. Had those important items of weather, water and fly been omitted, all the knowledge gained would have been that D. was a duffer. By the bye, those "Notes by the Editor," are a capital idea, embodying as they do the practical knowledge of an experienced angler on all novelties, as well as other fishy subjects, as they are brought before the public.

Now for another suggestion, though, perhaps, not an original one. Have we no publisher enterprising enough to bring out a Fisherman's Entomological Companion? It should be an illustrated work, with the flies drawn life size, beautifully, and coloured to nature, as may be seen in many of John Van Voort's entomological works, as well as, no doubt, in those of many other publishers. In those specimens in which varieties occur, two or more coloured drawings may be required, noting the districts where such varieties occur, drawings of both male and female, their various synonyms and life history. It might be urged, If you wish to know such particulars, why not study it out for yourself, and make a collection of such flies as you may think fit? There are many negative reasons. To name some, such a collection would be too local and limited. Then there is the difficulty experienced in retaining the extremely delicate colours in both bodies and wings, both of which are addicted to shrivelling up past all kenning, in spite of all the care you can use in drying. (Note, all illustrations must be coloured from the living insect). Then, too, of what use would any collection, private or public, be to the angling world, or to the professional fly tier? Should the question be asked, Is such a work wanted? I say, yes, both by the angler and the professional fly tier. By the angler, who generally is much better acquainted with the artificial, than with the natural fly. By the professional fly tiers, who, to judge by their products, must more frequently work from written or trade instructions, than from any personal knowledge of the flies they seek to reproduce. I do not here allude to any "entered apprentice" in the craft, but to those who are rapidly approaching their 33 degree. Neither do I seek to disparage their works of art, as, until we have a series of strictly accurately coloured flies, how, in the name of reason, can better results be attained. Their work is in many cases perfection, so far as their knowledge of the fly extends, and I allow that with those flies good results often follow; but, at the same time, have we not also too often to record a total failure, when the fish are well on the feed on some special fly; a failure entirely to be laid to the charge of fishing with an unnatural artificial fly. Is my reader still dubious. Then catch any dun or spinner you please, examine it by means of a low magnifying power, then look at your artificial fly with the same power. Are you still satisfied? Does the eye of a fish magnify in any such manner? That I cannot say, but lucky is the angler, whose eyesight can compete with that of the fish he seeks to capture.

W. S. L.

Barnard Castle.

THE "WOODCOCK" OF THE THAMES.

(By YE PILGRIM FRY-ER.)

THE sportsman sets a greater store on his first woodcock of the season than on several pheasants and partridges. Why? Because the "cock" is a far rarer bird, very highly prized for the table, and is migratory, coming with the October full moon. The native trout is the "woodcock" of the Thames, as is the red mullet that of the sea. The Thames "cock" has, in the few past years especially, been a very rare fish; he is also highly prized for sport and also for the table. The coarse fish—the destructive pike and eels, and the rest—we have, like the poor, always with us. It has been the very commendable endeavour of the Angling Preservation Association, at Chertsey, Windsor, Maidenhead, Marlow and Reading—seeing that the Thames "woodcock," *i.e.*, trout, had either got so very scarce, or so very wary as seldom to be taken—to very materially increase the "spotted cocks," and render their capture worthy of the prize of the angler's highest calling. Hence the river, in this respect alone, must be strictly protected.

Your correspondent, "Leviathan," has happily given some data whereby a person well up in figures might estimate the approximate damage done by that big brace of Kew pike. Given a 3½ lb. pike (the Godstow fish) swallowing a barbel of 6 lb. and a chub of 3 lb. as a day's grub, how many and what weight of fish had the Kew old sinners dined and supped on since they had been in the Thames? Does any sane man doubt now that pike and eels should any longer be tolerated in the Thames. All jack that get flooded out into the ditches should be either turned into the ponds in London parks or sold to "gate-money" pools and lakes, or given to the poor.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—[ADVT.]

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TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

London, Sept., 1881.

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

London, August, 1881.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1881.

NEW BAITS FOR ROACH.

IT is somewhat remarkable that we should have had two new and quaint baits for roach during the last two years. "Stinking Gladwin," said to be of Chinese origin, and worthy of its name, had but a short existence, and all the puffing could not hold its fragrance in favour; although, had it been effective, with the ardent fisher its odour would not have proved an insuperable objection to

its use. King's Natural Bait, which appeals to our patronage as "white, sweet and tenacious," appears to be destined to have a longer reign, its value being endorsed by several truthful anglers, including the testimony, after trial, of the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE. The signal failure of the one nostrum, and the proved success of the other, has, it would seem, turned the attention of the caterers of piscine food to the likelihood of there being something in the belief of the old writers upon angling literature, upon that *veraxio questio* the utility of oils and scented baits which has in later times been so prolific a source of controversy and exaggeration, and in which it is now suggested there may have been both truth and fiction.

Again arises the question, Have fish the sense of smell, and to what extent? It is conceded, says Greville Fennell, in Pennel's "Fishing Gossip," that almost all animals have this power, more or less; and that in some the gift takes the characteristics of the marvellous; and until it is proved to the contrary, it would certainly seem, according to all the accepted laws of logic, that creatures with nostrils should be admitted into the category of smellers. We might, indeed, thus easily settle the question, and say, in approved parliamentary language, the "noes" have it. But against this prominent feature of the argument, we get the somewhat sophistical blow, that there exist individuals, who, like the blind deprived of sight, the deaf of hearing, and it may be added, the unfeeling of the sense of touch, are those equally bereaved of the olfactory attribute. Man, as a general rule, possesses a greater perceptive sagacity in this facial organ for the detection of coarse and objectionable odours than the gentler sex; while the latter, apparently ignorant of the presence of much that is offensive to the ruder nature of man, can analyse shades of difference in the essential odours arising from a flower, almost to the extent of determining thereby the exact period of the day. There are few of us but are acquainted with some one or other of our fellows who will faint at the smell of a rose, become pale and sick in the too close proximity to a melon or pineapple, who cannot sit down to table if there be vinegar at the board, and, on the other hand have a vigorous relish for exhalations unbearable to the rest of the community.

Fennell then goes on to show by a reference to reliable authorities that bait is rejected by different descriptions of fish according to its staleness, and instances that it is easy to get an affirmative to the assertion that mouldy bread is repugnant to the delicate palates of trout, roach, chub, &c., either used as ground bait or in the form of paste. The same objection to a dead or putrid worm may be noticed in reference to trout and perch. It may be urged that the aversion is arrived at by a close ocular inspection on the fish's part. But, if this were the case, we must give the fish a feline power of seeing in the dark. But, says this writer, "Smell in fact is less fallible than sight, if we argue from our own perceptions; for there are a great many things that look repulsive which are good to eat, while there are few things, if any, that smell objectionable, which, while in health, the stomach or the palate will tolerate." Nature has soldered the links of her chain with admirable simplicity. When fish take to eating stale or corrupt baits, either by day or night, it will be so much the worse for the abundance of diet of the aquatic beetles and larvæ destined to take wing in a lighter sphere.

As the FISHING GAZETTE has already had several articles upon baits, I will endeavour in these contributions to avoid going over the like ground, and at the same time not quit the path upon which I started, which was directed to the important question: Whether or not there exists in the proxed success of this novel new bait of Mr. King any evidence that fish are really sufficiently susceptible, and to be moved and won by

"Ethereal airs ever present, but intangible."

I have no faith in theorists and dreamers, but I place my faith in men of practice and action—men who accept nothing that personally concerns them and those around them, as granted; who take themselves the two jugs to the door, and tell the milkman to put the water in the one, and the last issue from the cow in the other—that he, the recipient, may mix the opposing ingredients, if he so desires.

I had written thus far when I received the following letter from a friend and veteran angler staying at Lechlade. "We, Sam and I, fished for roach about two miles from this, all Monday and Tuesday, with gentles, paste and red worms. Our takes were not grand, the gross weight of our two bags being 35 lb., which included chub, dace, perch and gudgeon. Upon leaving off on Tuesday night to avoid punting against the stream—now somewhat more than usually strong from the recent rains—we left our craft, as we thought, well hidden by bush and sedge in a little creek, and trudged back to our inn. We were down on the water early and afloat over a swim we had previously baited, when, to our mortification, we found that the locker of our punt had been broken open, and our baits 'borrowed' with a few miscel-

laneous articles, of no use to any but their owner. What was to be done—worms we might get by pulling up the flag-roots; gentles, perhaps, by going back to the butcher's in the town; and paste we could have made had we brought other than brown bread with us for our breakfast and lunch. We might search under the alder leaves for maggots of its flies, scratch deep under cow-pats for beetle larvæ, paddle in the river and manipulate with our toes for mussels—all these suggestions occurred to us, but we did not adopt any. A pipe of the aromatic weed was our only resource and consolation, when, after its inspiration had had its influence on Sam, he suddenly startled me by crying, 'Eureka!' and, seizing the nose bag in which we had brought our daily provender, he brought forth two tins, one of Lazenby's lobsters, the other of shrimp paste. After thanking our stars we had not left our tackle in the punt to the mercy of the natives, we went to work with our novel bait. We both tried the shrimp paste for about an hour without a nibble, not altogether with a prejudicial result, as we felt assured that had it been less salt, it would have been more effective. But when we both together proffered a nice square piece of the lobster to our quarry, the effect was simply extraordinary. We had nothing else to do but attend to ourself, with the landing net between us, seldom out of hand of one or other, and before 2 p.m. we had filled both our bags with splendid roach, up to 1½ lb. each, and a dozen or so of chub, three of which weighed together 13 lb. 2 oz. I ought to say that the tail of the lobster was the best, if not the only part we could use, as, it being firm, it adhered to the hook. And now comes the singular part of the business, which, at the same time, I consider, involves a natural consequence. The next day, having been provided with a tin of the same brand, and the day being still more apparently propitious than the former, our takes were below the average of the three others. Sam sapiently accounted for this by suggesting we had fished out the swim, and that we could as well expect to get any more fish out of it as we could expect to find another lobster in the tin we had so profitably emptied by ourselves [and the assistance of the roach. It was useless my attempting to maintain that to fish out a hole was absurd, and to quote the highest authorities in favour of my opinion. Sam was obdurate—if not rude; and in his turn referred to those instances in which immense takes of barbel had been made at a single sitting, the fame of which being spread, the swim made famous, not a significant capture had followed. Not satisfied with this, he thrust upon me an old anecdote of the late Mr. Sumner, the well known sea-fisher, who being importuned by a friend to visit him in the country, was only induced to do so by telling him that something in a pond close to his house could be heard floundering about during the night. Sumner could not resist this. He went down with his tackle, and after leaving his card at the hall-door, put his tackle together, arranged his basket-seat by the side of the miniature lake, and commenced fishing. Great was his success, for shortly he had grassed seventeen fine perch. When the master of the house came out to tell the ardent fisher that breakfast was ready, and his family were only waiting for him: 'You must, my dear sir, really, excuse me,' said Sumner. 'I had a cup of coffee and a rusk before quitting town, and the fish are biting—no angler under such circumstances can quit the water.' 'I see,' observed his host, counting the fish with his cane as they lay upon the lawn, 'You have already taken seventeen. Pray come in, to oblige me, and leave the other fish until after breakfast. I only put a dozen and a half in yesterday.' 'And yet,' added Sam, triumphantly, 'you would maintain that a water can be fished out.'" Here, then, my correspondent would have me conclude that the lobster's tail did not fail, but the fish did. D'ye see?

CREEL.

PISCATORIAL FRAGMENTS.

UNSIZEABLE FISH.

IN reference to the bringing into a suburban club-room some undersized fish, it is not correct that the matter came under the notice of the T.A.P.S., and that for want of sufficient evidence no legal action was taken. My good friend L. B. will excuse my just mentioning this in order to set the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE right, as it is evident he has been misinformed, and he will be as pleased as any one to have the correct version given. At the same time I may mention that where fish are brought to a club-room of an unsizeable character, it is for the angling society to take action, and the adoption of a rule which would give power of expulsion might be rigidly and influentially enforced. A preservation society has only power on the water, or on the banks, where proof can be established the fish were actually caught in the Thames. In the case referred to, I have always had occasion to speak favourably of the fisherman, as I have never found undersized fish in his well; and the few hours Mr. Spreckley was fishing with him he was perfectly satisfied. I have had other

friends out with him since, and they have also spoken well of him. If he has erred in this instance I am sorry for it.

EXAMINATION OF PUNTS.

One of these examinations took place last week; but it was an unfortunate day, as there were only about one dozen of punts out between Teddington Weir and Richmond Bridge. It was most gratifying to find the hearty welcome accorded to Mr. T. Spreckley and Mr. W. H. Brougham by the anglers who expressed themselves delighted at the movement. And it is remarkable the moment the inspector's boat draws alongside of a punt, the professional fisherman opens the lid of the well for the keeper to use the hand net to get out the fish, and with a peculiar look of satisfaction that all will be found right. In two or three instances applications were made by the anglers for a few small dace for jack-fishing which were cheerfully complied with. The head river-keeper at Twickenham has strict orders to examine the boats as they come on shore in the evening, and I have substantial evidence that he does his duty in this respect, but, of course, he cannot always be there. I may just say, in reference to partially-paid keepers, that my friend L. B., who is generally correct in his judgment, is not only right there, but the matter which he refers to has for some time been under serious consideration, and is under process of consummation.

FISHING IN THE TIDAL WATERS.

Although the river has been out of condition for angling, and the baskets of fish from 20 lb. to 40 lb. each have dwindled down to about half those weights, it is not because the fish are not there. It not only arises from the cold temperature and the discoloured water, but from the large amount of ground bait, lying in the various swims. It is no matter of chance for me to report that Mr. Dorée and Mr. Vicars, in a day's fishing last week, made a basket of barbel, roach and dace estimated at 17 lb. I am pleased, at a time when fishing is not at its best, to congratulate them on such a result, although it bears no comparison to the 30 lb. and 40 lb. baskets which have been made and verified by the river keepers, who have passed the fish as sizeable ones. I have often heard doubts expressed on the accuracy of these returns, and a wonder assigned that the Thames possesses portions of river where such marvellous captures can be made; but there are plenty of anglers ready to confirm the statements, and I have no doubt, when the gentlemen I have referred to go out again, under more favourable circumstances than last week, they will return with a heavier basket of fish.

FISHING FROM THE BANKS.

The bank anglers have had a good time of it lately, and it generally happens when the punt anglers do the least these men do the best. This arises from the fact that in discoloured water the fish are to be found under the banks. I have always felt a strong desire to do all I can for the benefit of those who fish from the banks, and it is at all times a source of gratification to me when I hear of their success. I was told the other day by a looker-on that he had seen and counted no fewer than seventy-two fish caught in the hour by an angler on the shore, and he remarked that other anglers were catching fish. Some people disregard the value of a Thames dace as an article of food, but, from experience, I think the back of a dace is not to be despised,—it is palatable and wholesome. I would like to look a little beyond the fact of good takes of fish being made by the bank anglers, and imagine the pleasurable feelings they have in taking the fish home to their wives and families; and I should not be far wrong in my imagination if I ventured to say they would be as much valued as some do salmon or other sea-fish. I remember some time ago the head railway porter of my suburban station asking me when I had any roach or dace to spare he would gladly accept them, and he added: "I prefer them to salmon or cod-fish." Here is a truism, and at once clothes my idea with correctness. The preservation of a fishery, if only to benefit this class of anglers, is a grand thing; and those who can afford to assist in the work should not be stingy in their pecuniary support.

THE LATE MR. H. L. ROLFE.

As a personal friend of over thirty years, I may be permitted to express my deepest sorrow in the loss occasioned by his removal from amongst us. England has lost one of its greatest fish painters, and a large circle of friends are left to mourn over his death. As one amongst those who paid their last respects to him at the Brompton Cemetery on Saturday last, I could hardly realize the thought that he was gone for ever; and that the old studio in 31, Nicholas Lane would be closed, after the enjoyment of so many happy visits to an old and valued friend, and where I have had the pleasure of meeting so many others, whose friendship I also thoroughly enjoyed. Happily, I am in possession of one of his fish-paintings which I received from him as a gift, and

which I shall now highly prize as a lasting memento. His name will live in his works, and will never be forgotten. I would add one closing word of sympathy and condolence to those he has left behind in his domestic circle, and who have need of much consolation.

B.

MY FIRST BIG PIKE.

THE O river and I are very old friends, though I have not fished it quite so much within the last few years. It is a coarse-fish river; but a less tame, a more charming one of its class, to my taste, and within my knowledge, does not exist. It is good—as times go, very good—for all my coarse fish, pike, perch, and chub. And it has a fair sprinkling of good trout.

My favourite haunt on the O was S, one of those rare Old English villages where the houses and cottages are all thatch, and weather-stain, and gable-end; and the streets and lanes are all nooks and turns. A leafy and a lively village, too, is S, especially in spring-time, amid its garrulous rooks, for ever flying in and out of their immemorial elms. It boasts also of its Abbey—not a ruin like Tintern, but a residence like Newstead—

“An old, old monastery once, and now
Still older mansion.”

By the courtesy of its owner—a descendant of its founder, a scion of one of the oldest and noblest families in England, and a man of science not unknown to fame—and by a like liberality on the part of the proprietor of an adjoining estate, I had the privilege of angling over some six miles of the river. So I had plenty of elbow-room.

The O has great individuality. Sinuous as a serpent, it winds and glides along, in sharp streams that alternate with deep, gloomy pits of pools. I have in places plumbed sixteen feet sheer down from off the bank. At a dead low summer-level, when the run of the river is almost dry, the effect of those black pits is very striking. Over the water, and under the water, centennial, almost millennial trees—living and dead—lean their lusty or withered giant trunks and limbs far across the water, in many a wild spot, till they make almost an Enchanted River of it. The banks are high and broken. And below—bulrush here—and water-lily there, and flag or stump here again—tell to the pike-angler tales which he would not, for all the world, were left untold. Altogether the O, round about S, is the ruggedest English lowland-river, and the awkwardest to angle withal that I am acquainted with. I speak of the best parts of the pike-water, the streams and pools. For in the long, deep mill-dams the river is more open, and on the level, and is easily enough fished. In those dead reaches, however, for some reason, unknown to me, though certainly not peculiar to that river, a pike of any decent size is very rarely indeed caught, even, they say, on a trimmer or a night-line. And yet sometimes, when the sun is shining, and the hay is making, a splash—as of a Newfoundland dog—will be heard, and then only a few feathers will be seen floating where a moment before the old moorhen was leading her brood across the river. Those still deeps, though, yield capital perch-fishing to the paternoster. For ugly-place-paternostering—which, to my mind, is by far the best form of paternostering—give me the O! How I have there, from the top of a high bank, with an 18 foot rod, and a line well-nigh as long, just got the reach out to the end of a sunken tree, where the tips of its branches were peeping out of the deep water, and have gently dipped the lead and minnows down right alongside of the rubbish, till I touched the bottom, only to haul up the next instant a good pounder! That's what I call paternostering—where you have to aim straight, and make a long shot, and fight hard with your game when it falls. No angler worthy of the name ever minds risking the loss of his tackle in a good cause. As for the “unnumbered and enormous” chub, what should I not have done among them, O Whiteman! slogging out the baby-frog at long-range with a salmon-rod—had I only known of that deadliest of devices—when the great, golden fellows were sailing all about the surface of the pools—like rich galleons over the Spanish Main—in those bright, hot September days. Ah! how I should buccaneer them now!

One thing about the angling at S which always sank into my heart of hearts—softly, not sadly—was its complete seclusion. I always had the river all to myself, save such times as I had the genial companionship of my old pal, Old Joe, or occasionally in later years, the accompaniment of friend F.

The Dun Cow was my inn at S. And many are—or, alas! were—the happy days and weeks which have been mine beneath its hospitable roof. I used always to meet there with that kindly, homely, unostentatious, unceremonious comfort which your Grand Hotels never can afford. Anything in reason I could always have, and what more would any reasonable mortal—in other words, any true angler—ever require? And I was all alone in my glory. I was

Lord of the Valley. I was sole angler-lodger. And—for I had got to know all the village by heart—I could give, or take, or give *and* take a glass to and a glass with one and another, whoever might chance to drop in whenever I might choose to idle or dangle a bit about the Dun Cow bar. There I could sit talking of the farmer's crops till I tired, and then saunter off, rod in hand, to look after the angler's also, by a little seasonable aquiculture. Not, reader, that I was, I hope, a very lazy angler, on the whole, or a very lushy one, all those christenings, and harvest-homes, and ploughing-matches and minnow-matches to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Owing possibly in part to the fact that my visits to S were mostly paid in the early autumn, ere the summer heats and taints had died out of the water, and the frosts and the floods of the fall had rotted off and washed away the weeds, and routed out the jack, and sharpened up their appetites, I—though I at times made fair takes—never managed to get *good* hold of any of the large fish; never caught any approaching to what Patsy Ryan* of Killaloe, (or Kill-a-lot) County Clare, once, on Lough Derg †—off the Tipperary shore—aptly called “a dangerous pike.” I lost several of that species from time to time, by their leaving the bait, or by the bait leaving them, but without breakages. Old Joe, who had fished the river from his boyhood, had caught pike up to about 10 lb. weight occasionally. Once, indeed, he had had the laugh over me by catching a 9-pounder, close to my side, one August evening, on the very day I had come down from London for my holiday. He had beaten the Cockney, he said, *hollow*. But somehow he never managed to bring the larger ones to land. They were too old for him. Why, I hardly know, for much larger ones there certainly were. And Joe is the best dead-gorge-angler from the bank of a river like the O who has ever come within my notice. He is, moreover, a rough diamond of the first water, a *character*, with a dry humour as delicate of flavour as

“Chambertin with the yellow seal”

to a connoisseur. Joe had the misfortune many years ago to lose the sight of one eye. But—less unlucky than the Postmaster-General, or the poor old ferryman at Castleconnell on the Shannon, he (like the Senior Galloway of Chertsey) saved the sight of the other. And O! that other orb! I can only liken it to that effulgent single organ of vision which forms so prominent a feature in the title of *Bell's Life*. And the motto underneath that unocular illustration—“*nunquam dormio*”—how exactly that expresses the sleepless vigilance, the restless intelligence of Joe's luminary, whether he is looking round in church, or is running up and down those wild river banks and waving his magician's wand weirdly over the water, or is standing in his garden, and shying up at the weathercock over the church spire till he makes it spin round and round again, and the jackdaws on the top of the turret below all jubilantly clap their wings, and cry out “caw! caw!” For Old Joe, be it known, is, or was, one of the deadliest cock-shyers in the county. But I shall never catch my first big pike if I go on in this fashion.

Well, once upon a time, as I was coming down from Town for a day or two's pike-fishing at S, the morning's post brought me a woodcut, snipped out of *Judy*, depicting the immortal Ally Sloper and a friend as irate anglers, with one *tittlebat* and two entangled lines between them, and a puddle at their feet. And beneath *all that*, writ small in a neat (but disguised) lady's hand, were these words: “This is Mr. A. and Joe S. gone a-fishing”

“Nathless he so endured,”

as Milton says of Satan; nevertheless I set off as undauntedly as ever that Old Gentleman, the Prince of Darkness, could have done, with a couple of dozen of lively dace, in the full hope that they would effectually counterwork any machinations of the Malignant Fairy against my good piscatorial intentions, and prevent her from making them—*good for nothing*. Next morning at S. I met with a young lady who, “from information I received,” I had reason to believe was one of the sisters of that anonymous libeller of two honest anglers. But I held my peace. I kept dark as Nox or Erebus over that scandalous communication. I had just been down to “Footbridge” and had found the river in height, and in tint, and in *tofo* all that I could desire. Rain had fallen freely, but not too heavily in the night. The spinning-baits were very bonny ones. The day would *do*.

“My hopes were high, my heart was proud”

as Lucifer's. And I said gaily: “I'm going to catch your sister a good pike to-day, Miss M. Will you come and help me land him?” “With the greatest of pleasure, Mr. A.; I shall be passing your way presently, as I have to call at R (a house by the river) and I'll look out for you as I go by.” About 12 o'clock I made off to fish. “Rather late in the day,” you'll say. Well, yes, but

* His feats among the salmon—with William Fogarty—may be read of almost any week now in the *Field*.

† The Lake of the Red Eye.

that was all that Miss M.'s fault, not mine. However, once begun, I went to work with a will, I might even say with a vengeance. But yet—and with everything, apparently, in my favour—when one o'clock came, and with it Miss M. in all her smiles, I had not had a single run. "Well, have you caught that good pike yet?" I shook my head. "No? Why you know you can catch nothing but tittlebats." "What will you bet me, Miss M., that I don't catch that good pike yet?" "The usual bet." "Which is?" "A pair of gloves." "Booked," I exclaimed; "but what time do you give me for the job—till dark?" "Oh dear no! I shall be driving home through the village by 3 o'clock: so it must be done by that time or not at all." "As thou sayest, so let it be!" And away—with all the Zephyrs of Sweetnesses after her (in plain English, whilst I kept blowing kisses to her)—away scuttled the pretty Miss M. to make her morning call. I lit a pipe. I had no thought of lunch. Two o'clock came, and still never the stir of a fin. All of a sudden though, just as I had let my heavy belly-leaded bait sink down almost out of sight, where a strong stream ran into a deep pool, and by a smart wrist-action (I was pitching, not casting), had brought it back with a seductive twirl, there was a flash—and a tug. But at his very first bolt the brute had me into his haunt, one of those unseen, sunken stumps with which that chaotic river-bed abounds, and we were not long before we parted company. He broke me. I had been fishing with two lengths of the stoutest salmon gut below the treble-twisted, the spinning-flight being on gimp. And one of those single-gut lengths &c., was carried away. He was far too good a fish to lose, whatever his dead-weight might have been. And I am sadly afraid I was exceedingly like the sailor, who

"Knew not what to say, and so—he swore."

However, I knew well enough what to do, viz., to mend my tackle and make the most of the rest of my time. And that I did—doggedly. By and by I looked at my watch. "Good heavens! it's close on 3! That bet's lost, by all that's awful, and I shall be the butt of those Three Graces as a tittlebat-angler for evermore." I had just jumped over into a long meadow, at the far end of which was a noted jack-catch, where a ditch ran into the river—"Devil's Dyke," they call it. I said to myself, "I'll walk sharp across to D.D., and have a couple of casts there—it's a pet spot of that uncanny Old Joe's—and if I don't run a fish I'll give it up for a bad job and bear 'the whips and scorns' as best I can." I went. Devil's Dyke! Devil's Luck! At the second cast, or, rather, pitch—with a rush and a splash worthy of Old Scratch—he came—a good fish, to me a grand fish. "Nay, nay, my friend! This is no partnership at will, but one for life, till death do us part, I trow. There's no single gut on now, look you! And as for those hooks, you may shake your head, my honey, but they'd hold a horse." I pass over his struggles. The dance of death came to an end at last. But I had neither net nor gaff, and the bank was high, and the river deep. There was no going down stream with him, for that diabolical hedge from under which he had shot. So I towed him for a hundred yards or more to the first shallows above, and there—walking in from the shelving bank up to the tops of my fishing-boots in the water—I landed him duly—by the eyes. *He was a lump.* I didn't stop to cut the hooks out of him, nor to admire his marblings or shudder at his murderous fangs, as Maudle or Postlethwayte doubtless would have done. But I just undid the trace, and bundled him into my jack-bag, neck and crop—or rather—head out at one end and tail flopping far astern out at 'tother—and made straight tracks with him for mine inn. I had scarcely hunted out the weights, and put him in the scales (he bumped them at 11½) and laid him out in state—

"He looked so grand when he was dead"—

when lo! those sounds for which my ear was straining, those sounds of wheels and of hoofs—and up drove the very radiant Miss M.—and alit, as brilliant as an Empress-butterfly on a gravel walk. All in the rough, and looking as downcast and done-uppish as I could, I met her at the door. She gave a glance at my face. "Of course, Mr. A., you haven't caught that good pike?" "My dear Miss M.," I said, bowing very low, and speaking very gravely, "I regret to say that I never, or at least that I hardly ever, make a bet with a lady, but it's my lot to lose. The present occasion, however, I am happy to inform you, is a pleasing exception. There he lies." And I pointed to the bulk. "Good gracious! You don't mean to say you've caught that monster?" "Why not, Miss M.? You know I promised you a good fish for your sister, and I always like to keep my word. Will you kindly take him, and make my compliments to her, and say Mr. A. begs her acceptance of—a tittlebat. And mind! I've debited you with that pair of gloves. Seven and three quarters—and lavender, if you please!" And then, with many fearful and wonderful little ejaculations of amazement, and horror, and admiration (all mixed up frightfully, in the usual way) the young leviathan was lifted into the trap, after the young lady, and driven off with; yet not before Old Joe had seen him.

"Josephus," I said to him when we two were alone again together, "aren't you ashamed of yourself, to let a Cockney come down from London, and bring his bait, and win a lady's bet, and beat you on your own river—like that? Why, he's a better fish than you have ever caught in your life, old man!" The Sleepless One scintillated sadly. "And so he is."* But that was a slice of luck—a happy accident. One thing, however, was no accident. Had I been of little faith and less patience, had I not fished my best up to the very last, I should never have caught my fish, and won my bet. And, as a mere money-matter, what I would have given—what would I not have given? to win it in the very way I did! O, the sweetness of that revenge! Heaping coals of fire upon her curly head would have been nothing to it. Verily, the British Angler is like the British Soldier, he never knows when he is beaten, and so—times and oft—he contrives to turn a dire defeat into a glorious victory.

I have caught far more "dangerous pike" than that since then. I had several larger ones only last autumn in Ireland, one a twenty-one-pounder, as you know, Mr. Editor, to say nothing of salmon. But that is the story—I hope I have not exhausted your patience, gentle reader?—that is the true tale of my first big pike.

A. R. I. E. L.

London, June 16th, 1881.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE first chills of premature winter, while they have sent the big, crafty, brown carp, broad-sided bream, and those hard-pulling rascals, the leather-snouted barbel, a bit off the feed have had a quite contrary effect upon that bravest of all brave winter fish, the jack, or, as our provincial friends almost invariably dub him, the pike. Whether the fish weighing 9 lb. 2 oz. I reported last week as taken spinning by Mr. Underwood at Elstree was hungry or not, I must leave the readers of the GAZETTE to judge from the following facts. Though not of very heavy weight the fish was so handsome and well proportioned that Mr. U. decided to have it preserved, and sent it for that purpose to Mr. J. Lancaster of 2, Jeffries Place, Camden Town, N.W., who, when about commencing operations on his subject, discovered that this defunct cannibal had, previous to biting gimp for the last time, made a hearty, if indigestible, meal of one of his own species. This fish, having been withdrawn, was found to measure 14 inches from tip to tip; further investigation resulted in the discovery inside this glutton of a second little brother, which upon being extracted, was found to measure 11½ inches. Both these fish had been pouched tail first, the lower parts being somewhat chawed up, partially digested and smelling offensively. I saw the heads of both the little victims on Thursday last, they had been washed in some fluid, and were a little shrunken, but proportioned to the measurement given above. Extraordinary as the whole thing is, I have no hesitation in believing the particulars as given here and furnished by Mr. Lancaster, whom I have known for many years, and always found a scrupulously truthful man.

I hear—I hope it is incorrect—that the big jack, 24 lb., recently taken spinning at Walton, fell to the rod of a local professional fisherman. I hope it is not true. I hold, and always have held, that by this sort of thing the professional wrongs his customers; and though he is too shortsighted to see it at the time, he does himself harm.

Mr. W. G. Austin, of the Bloomsbury Angling Club, has taken, whilst angling in the neighbourhood of Bedford, a monster jack, said to weigh 35 lb., which has been sent to Mr. Cooper, of Radnor Street, St. Luke's, to be set up. What says the gentle Jardine to this?

A member of the Richmond Piscatorial has taken in the tidal water a jack weighing 17 lb. The fish was shown and weighed at the club house, not by the water, so the weight can be depended upon as correct.

Mr. Pears, the well known soap manufacturer of Isleworth, has joined the above society.

Mr. Bond, of the Sun Hotel, Kingston, has presented the R. P. S. with five guineas to purchase a suitable prize for a day's competition, any kind of fish, between Hampton Court and Kingston, during September; all fish to be weighed same evening at his house. Such a handsome prize should secure a large entry. At the meeting of this society on Wednesday it was decided that an hotel keeper who lets punts is not eligible to become a member of a fishing club on the ground that he is pecuniarily interested in the sport.

The father of the R. P. S., treasurer Abbott, has returned to town from Ostend after a pleasant sojourn at that watering

* Old Joe has killed some larger ones since then, though.

place, and describes a process of fishing with a windlass, which, in his opinion, was not altogether so satisfactory as with rod and line. The veteran angler received a hearty welcome from his brother members, the chairman proposing his health and the pleasure they felt at seeing him back once more. A friend of mine who has just returned has been having some grand sport among the bream and roach in the neighbourhood of Maldon, in Essex.

A special meeting of the committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association will be held at Simpson's Hotel, Strand, on 8th inst. at 4.30, when some important matters will be dealt with.

The United London Anglers' Central Committee met on Monday evening last at the Bald-faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. After the minutes of last meeting had been read and confirmed, the hard-working secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney gave an interesting report of a recent interview Mr. Murphy and himself had had by appointment with Mr. Marston, the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, from which Mr. Murphy and himself had come away highly pleased. I will not put my worthy chief's modesty to the test by repeating all the kind things Mr. Ghurney said, and Mr. Murphy heartily endorsed, but the gist of his remark was reminding the delegates from the numerous societies present of the great interest our editor has always shown in all matters connected with the welfare of anglers of all classes, but in particular with that of the numerous clubmen of the metropolis and suburbs, the bulk of whom belong to the working classes. Speaking of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, Mr. Ghurney reminded his hearers that Mr. Marston's handsome donation of £5 ss., was one of the—if not absolutely the first—ever sent in support of that institution that our editor's desire to promote the good work was not of a transient nature was amply proved by the friendly notices and words of encouragement which appeared at frequent intervals in the pages of the GAZETTE, and lastly by the trouble he was taking to organise an angler's tournament, the proceeds of which were to be presented to the Angler's Benevolent Association. He begged to remind those who were in a position, and felt inclined to, that they were perfectly free to present any prizes on their own conditions for competition. At all events, he added, in conclusion, it is the clear duty of our anglers to give Mr. Marston all the support in their power by not only being there themselves, but, if possible, by bringing a friend or friends with them. Some business connected with the efficient preservation of the River Lea, including a vote for extra payment to police constables for twelve nights' watching the river was then got through. A new society—"The Original Alexandra"—was duly proposed, seconded and enrolled. A number of gentlemen entered their names for the Delegates' Annual Dinner at the Rye House on Sunday next, and several more valuable prizes were given for competition on that occasion, after which the usual vote of thanks to the chairman brought the business to a close. I must not, however, omit to mention that Mr. Chambers, the secretary of the Cavendish Anglers gave a detailed account of the recent assault committed upon himself, and two brother members in the neighbourhood of Twickenham, particulars of which I forward the Editor, and which, no doubt, he will insert in another portion of the FISHING GAZETTE. Much sympathy was expressed with Mr. Chambers, and I think it likely something will be done to recoup himself and companions for the trouble and expense they were at in prosecuting those persons and getting them punished.

The Inaugural Dinner of the Society of Caxtonian Anglers took place at their clubhouse, the "Falcon," Gough Square, Fleet Street, on Wednesday evening, the 31st August; the chair being ably filled by Mr. William Cate, the host and treasurer, Mr. B. O. Colnaghi proving an efficient *vis-a-vis*. There were present, among other visitors, Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, J. Stead (the Cure), and L. Bonvoisin. The dinner was excellent, and some good toasts and speeches and capital songs made the evening speed along only too quickly. Of the society itself, which is founded on the anti-gross-weight principle, I will have to say more on a future occasion. At present, I will merely add that, with a capital locale, a jolly host, who is himself an angler, a committee of well-known rodsters, and an excellent code of rules, the Society of Caxtonian Anglers has fair prospects indeed.

Mr. T. Hoole, the sec. W. C. A. of L. and P. A. S., has received through the secretaries of the Reading and District and Maidenhead and Bray Associations receipts for rewards recently voted to Wm. Clark and Jas. Field, who were instrumental in obtaining the conviction of persons guilty of illegal practises.

Mr. T. Hoole and Mr. Clout are in communication with respect to the alleged recent netting in the river Arun. The matter will be considered at the next monthly meeting of the association on Friday, on which occasion the complaints made by the railways con-

cerning misuse of privilege tickets by certain persons, will also be gone into. I shall be much more free to write about this after next Friday's meeting of the association has made many details which have come to my knowledge public property.

From Chertsey that careful, painstaking fisherman, Haslett, writes to me:—I have not done much this week; the cold winds have been against the barbel and bream biting. Four hours with Mr. Allen, 3 barbel and 1 chub. 4 lb.; with Mr. P. Geen, 2 barbel and 1 chub, 3½ lb.; on Saturday with Messrs. Clench and Nattress, 2 barbel, some good roach and 1 chub; on Sunday half a day with Messrs. Bonvoisin and Sanguinette, 2 barbel and some very good roach; and on Monday some three hours' fishing at the weir 2 barbel and some fine roach and dace. My correspondent goes on to say the weather has changed, and there are hopes of some good fishing next week. There are plenty of fish here—barbel and bream—the latter weighing from 3 to 4 lb. each. From Elstree some good jack and tench have been killed, Mr. Underwood on Sunday last having five of the former fish taken spinning, heaviest nearly 6 lb. Among the tench on the same day Mr. Pluney and friend did havoc to the tune of nearly 37 lb., some of the fish scaling close upon 4 lb., 3 lb. 11½ oz., and 3 lb. 12½ oz. each.

DINSDALE ON TEES.

ONE of the most interesting sights I know, is to watch the salmon leaping this weir after a flood in early autumn. The weir is an upright wall of horse-shoe shape, with the convex curve up stream, about sixty yards perhaps across, with a mill at one end and a fish ladder or pass at the other. Many of the more prudent fish go up without much trouble this way, but the majority, like the vast multitude of mankind, rush blindly and without forethought at the obstacle in their path, and, of course, fail. At any moment half a dozen aspiring fish may be seen in the air, jumping obviously short, splashing against the smooth wall of water, and carried back by it into the mighty seething cauldron below; while, about once in five minutes, a wavy line shooting upwards from the edge of the fall proclaims a successful athlete. Many make the most absurd shots, leaping perhaps a sufficient height, but some yards below the falls; others bang themselves against the masonry at the end; many try to take it sideways and cross each other's path, with occasional collisions. Both water and air are alive with them. My companion counted fifty-three jumps in one minute. All day long they are at it, and all night too, for aught I know. There must be many thousands of fish in the pool, and it is said that they all get up sooner or later.

I greatly wish I were an artist and able to paint the scene, the majestic sweep of the falling water, with the hanging woods on the further side, would make an admirable picture; while to the numerous fish in the air might be given a slightly human expression of eye and mouth, indicating the triumph, disappointment, hope, disgust, envy, &c., which they doubtless severally feel. At the top of the weir would, of course, be the conventional angler, splashed all over, and all but toppling backwards from the shock of a salmon which has just rushed up between his feet.

The Tees is subject to very rapid and violent floods. Last Tuesday morning the dam was covered some feet deep. When I visited it on Wednesday there was a fall of about 4 feet; the next day about 5 feet. Many visitors come to see the wonderful sight, and one can hardly help applauding a successful leap as you would a good hit at cricket.

Tuesday, the last day of August, was also the last day of netting on this river, and not even the famous fishmongers' shops in Bond Street could boast of a more beautiful show than did the fisherman's cottage at noon on that day. Salmon grilse (here called summer-cock) salmon trout, and a few bull-trout, some seventy of them altogether, and of the whole numbers not above four looking reddish and out of condition. The mode of fishing is peculiar. As I first approached the spot I observed what I supposed to be a hat floating down in the middle of the pool—presently more of it emerged, and it appeared to have a motion somewhat independent of the stream—next a sort of porpoise or merman landed on a shallow. This turned out on closer inspection to be a man entirely cased in one shining black waterproof garment, into which he gets through the neck. He pushes before him, at right angles to the stream, a rod 18 feet long upon which the net runs by rings. The net is that usually known as a "trammel" net, but this peculiar adaptation of it is called a "shackle net." Sometimes the fisherman goes in a little too deep; then, on landing, he calls to his mate: "Now then, Bill, hold me out like a wheelbarrow." He then plants his hands on the ground, and his mate lifts him up by the legs, and a torrent flows from the capacious neck of the porpoise, C. C. J.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"The cock shuts his eyes when he crows,
Because he knows it by heart."

I all but shut my eyes when I write "the river is in good trim for all-round fishing"—very often a guilty conscience telling me that I am treading on the thin line between fact and fiction. To the gentle reader my anxiety only is that they should come down and see glorious old Father Thames in all his radiant beauty of colour, instead of doing the la-de-da-dy whine of the "Rhine" and its wine. To the piscator, for putting a little *colour de rose* in my report, when the water is what would be called bad by a lavender-kid-gloved angler, I apologise, on the plea (well known to a good man) that the best takes are had frequently under the most adverse state of the elements. The water is now in excellent order, without any of the rose colour, as above, and good hauls are daily being had, all stations being full of business. At Hurley, Mr. Lee, fishing from the Bell, has had a capital take of fish, and Mr. Harrison 10 lb. of perch, least over 1 lb., and two best 1 lb. 14 oz. and 1 lb. 11 oz. respectively. Mr. Wilkson, one jack, 7½ lb.; and another gentleman to-day, one jack, 3½ lb. Messrs. Dotman and Nott, out with "the Boy," have been busy, but only small miscellaneous baskets made in two days. Water in good trim for barbel, perch, and roach.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing, especially for jack and perch. Prospects look better for angling for the next week or two. Roach were biting very well last week. Some good takes were had here. One day, ten dozen of good roach; Tuesday, four jack; Wednesday, some good perch and two jack, largest jack over 4 lb., taken by a lady.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for all-round fishing. My takes during the week are as follows:—1st day, Mr. Palmer, jun., fishing with me, caught five barbel, one eel, and some nice roach; 2nd day, Mr. Yarborough, four barbel and a perch; 3rd day, Mr. Herman, one barbel and three dozen roach and dace; 4th day, Mr. Yarborough, three barbel, two chub, and some good roach; 5th day, Mr. George Palmer, five barbel, two chub, and a dozen nice roach; 6th day, Mr. Yarborough, 28 lb. of bream, barbel and roach.—G. ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Kingston).

The water is good for all fishing, but no one comes. I have had a lot of men who called themselves fishermen, but they came out to strike, not to fish.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water in very good condition for all-round fishing. Prospects of sport for the next few days are very good. Since my last report Mr. King has taken three more trout with the artificial bait, one of 5 lb.; the others 1½ lb. each, the two latter he returned to the river. The fishermen have been doing well with roach and dace; I caught from three to five dozen in a day; in two days, nine dozen very fine roach and dace, several weighing over 1 lb. each, and four perch.—W. ROGERSON.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind S.W.; water in good condition, and I am pleased to say we have been fully employed, and I have been obliged to engage my neighbour's punts and to send some of my customers back to London without wetting a line for want of punts; but if all's well I will take care this does not occur next season. This week I have had thirty-six punts out, being eleven more than last week, and I am glad to say that each day the takes are improving, but are not so large as I should like to see them. This day the Rev. Mr. Limpus and Dr. Clark, with Joe Dobbin, took 9 dozen roach and dace, 1 perch and 3 nice barbel. Spiers, with Messrs. Wings and Hammond, Covent Garden, 8 dozen roach and dace. Pert Hammerton, with Captain William, 7 dozen roach and dace; George Coxen, with Dr. Smith, 6 dozen and 2 barbel.—A. PERRIN.

N.B.—The reports read in the *Referee* are not given from my house, the correspondent being Boycotted.

Thames (Windsor).

Water is in capital condition for all-round, angling having cleared well within the last few hours and is of average height. Barbel have been feeding better, though so far the season has been the worst I ever knew for this fish. On the 4th inst., James Gray with a patron took fifteen and one chub, largest fish 5 lb. Richard Gray on same day had seven barbel, one of which afforded capital sport being foul hooked in the tail. Bank anglers are getting nice baskets of roach and perch, all of which are in good condition and of good size. In the old river, barbel, chub, and roach have been had, Mr. Carey having a pretty show of roach taken from bank in a few hours, going 11½ lb. At Datchet barbel have been feeding better, and a good specimen of this fish has been had, going 9 lb. The Slough anglers have been tickling roach, the brothers Harley especially, one of whom took a nice chub on hair tackle, going 3½ lb.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Dove (Ilam).

Fishing on the Dove this week has been uncertain; last Wednesday week the water began to clear after the flood, and the fish rose well in the afternoon, one visitor at the Izaak Walton Hotel (Mr. Thomas) getting 6½ brace of good trout. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there was a very cold north wind, and no fly of any consequence; baskets being limited to two and three brace. On Monday I fished the Wye below Bakewell, got four brace, three fish being grayling, all taken with Foster's grey palmer. On Tuesday I fished the Dove for an hour before lunch, and got 2½ brace of fine trout, and after lunch went out again and got six brace of trout and grayling, several fish being nearly, and one over a pound weight. I threw in many small fish, and took every fish with Eaton's dun bumble, fishing up stream. I hope to get a dish from the Manifold to-day. The trout are in splendid condition, and also the grayling, which are just coming on. The rivers are in good order; Dove as clear as crystal, Wye slightly coloured, as is also the Manifold. The best flies to use are Eaton's dun bumble, Foster's intermediate and Foster's grey palmer—a favourite with the grayling. Mr. Prince, the obliging landlord of this most comfortable hotel, very wisely keeps a small stock of the flies for each month, and also some casts, and I need hardly say that this is a great boon to anglers, who may run out of any particular taking fly.—R. B. MARSTON.

Dove.

I have this week been doing the *dolce far niente* at Scarborough, so that I know little about the Dove except what my letters tell me. This, however, I can say, namely, that sport in Scarborough Bay and off the pier has been excellent. I saw a gentleman last Wednesday with a fine basket of flat fish—whiting, gurnet, &c.—which he had killed in less than two hours. I am glad to say that this gentleman is a subscriber to the GAZETTE, and little as I expected it when I got talking to him, is a well-known south-country fly-fisher, and a regular reader of these Dove notes. As to the river named, all my information is that it has now settled down into nice order for angling. Trout, grayling, and chub have been rising fairly well at the whistler, and coarse fish have been biting well at the cockspur.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Tiverton).

The river is in excellent order for salmon fishing. The late floods seem to have brought up a fair number of fish. During the past week the following gentlemen have been successful in killing one each or more, viz.:—Capt. W. Davis, L. Smith, Esq., and Henry Mudford.—WM. MUDFORD.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Streams high. There has been nothing doing in trout fishing since my last report. Sea fishing: there has been some good catches taken with hand lines this last week. On Friday and Saturday the boats had some good sport, the best boat on Friday catching between 80 lb. and 90 lb., and on Saturday over 100 lb., consisting of mackerel, cod, whiting pout, conger, shad, &c. Monday wet and stormy, with a heavy sea. Tuesday and Wednesday all boats at sea, and returned, after fishing the tide, well satisfied with their luck. There is quite a variety of fish catching—pollock, conger, cod, bream, whiting, mackerel, &c. The fishermen anticipate a good herring fishing, as the sea is all alive with fish; one can stand on the rocks and watch the shad mackerel jump out of the water. A fine conger was caught with hand line from the rocks off the Capstone Parade on Tuesday evening. I see a fine string of fish now just passing my window, over a hundred weight. Weather still fine, with good takes of fishing for the next few days. Several gentlemen, fishing with rod and line from the jetty, have caught some fine pollack, dabs, &c.—E. COMER.

Kennet (Reading).

A good day in the Kennet yesterday (September 7), Mr. Goodhead and myself taking upwards of 80 lb. barbel.—FRED STURLEY.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

The late rain has greatly improved the waters, and those who have gone in for roach and perch together have gone away much pleased with the result of their takes. As regards jack, down here they appear small indeed, for they are so fine that anglers cannot see them. Should the weather remain fine, the waters will be in good condition and the sport improve.—S. SEWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

Owing to the rains the river is full and the water rather discoloured, but notwithstanding this some good sport has been had on well baited swims amongst bream and roach, which are now well on the feed. The principal catches during the week have been a 5 lb. carp at the Powder Mill Lock by Mr. West, and a pike of the same weight by Mr. Wells, the well-known All England cricketer. Prospects of sport for the next few days good, providing the weather keeps fine.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse (Kempston).

I have had some excellent sport here on private water—fly-fishing for dace and chub. At the same time I landed and safely returned six yearling trout. These were caught just below Kempston Mill. Two years ago I predicted that, if trout were put into this river, they would first be found here. The Bedford Angling Club would do well to place future fry hereabouts, and not put them lower down the stream, where they have to run the gauntlet with Master Pike. They might then possibly drop down when larger, but here will always be their favourite resting-place. The swift gravelly runs are just the desideratum required by this my favourite fish. The water is rather too thick for pike and bottom-fishing, and ground baiting is necessary for the latter.—THOMAS FORD.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland).

The Hon. Hely Hutchinson had some good sport since last I wrote, killing a fine salmon of 8 lb. on Wednesday; two on Thursday, 7 lb. and 8 lb., and three on Friday, of 8 lb., 7 lb., and 4 lb.; he also got several large baskets of good trout. The river is now in splendid order, and large numbers of fresh-run fish are travelling up the river. Mr. Richard Hutchings landed a splendid salmon on Monday, weighing 25 lb.; Mr. Mansfield had also some sport during the week. On the lower waters all the rod-fishers are quite dissatisfied that the season is to close so early, as it is only now the river is in its best order for the year. The Trent fishing was very good this week; large baskets were had each day. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Helen had some sport on the Anner. Tom Rower and Billy Magrath had great fishing on the Suir at Gurteen, and Mr. Bradford, on Grove stream, caught some splendid trout.—DORA.

Swale.

I am still keeping holiday, hence my report of this stream must be meagre. Floods are still the order of the day. These mean a full larder for trout, but

starvation for the farmer. Weat think you of this, ye single-hair fishermen of the North? A friend of mine in Surrey whom I have recently visited caught in one week 130 brace of trout, nothing under 1 lb., and up to 2½ lb. He had 17½ lb. of brace in one day, which weighed on an average of 2½ lb. each. I had a turn with him, but not on the same stream. We kept nothing under 3 lb.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

Little doing in this locality worthy of report last week. The river was bank full, and so much discoloured that successful angling was altogether out of the question; while the present one, with the water in capital order for bottom fishing, only poor baskets have been made. I can only account for the bad sport anglers have met with, is owing to the flood water bringing down a lot of natural food, which has taken the fish off from anything artificial. I visited the river yesterday, but only succeeded in taking a couple of fish worthy of mention. A roach, 1 lb. and a chub, not in good condition, 4 lb., later on would have weighed at least 2 lb. heavier. Other anglers out the same day did very little better. Mr. W. Reynolds took about 5 lb. of roach and dace, and Mr. Savatard, about a similar lot. I think it my duty to bring to the notice of the Trent Conservators, the filthy state of the River Tame at Croxall, which, if my informant speaks correctly, is produced by the paper mills at Tamworth, for years this portion of the Tame was considered one of the best for angling in the Midlands. At the present time the water, although it should be clean, is of a nasty black sickly colour, and from the number of dead fish I found on the banks last Saturday, and which have evidently been left from the flood water, I can arrive at no other conclusion, but that the water is badly contaminated with some foul refuse. A friend of mine calling the attention of one of the farmers residing in the locality to the number of dead fish, he remarked "This is nothing to what I have seen. I counted over forty dead chub a few days ago." I trust these few remarks will be the means of putting the powers that be on the alert. The latest report from the river, is that the water is all right, but the sport almost *nil*—the weather, although fine, is dull and cheerless.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water fined down more rapidly last week than I had anticipated, for by Saturday it was in fairish condition, and on that day some very good catches of fish were made. Two fishing matches took place on that day close to Newark. One was the Newark and Muskham Fishery Association's annual match, and the other the employes of the Trent Ironworks. The former was won by Mr. Cubley with 15 lb. of roach, &c., and the latter by Sam Howitt with 4 lb. of dace, gentles being the favourite bait in both cases. In fact, some very good bags have been made just lately with gentles. On Monday two anglers had 25 lb. of roach and dace, gentles in this instance doing the trick. The water is now in good condition, and anglers can ply their avocation until further orders. The weather was very wet and uncomfortable on Monday and Tuesday, but yesterday and to-day there has been a decided improvement, and anglers will find the weather and water favourable for sport if the present condition of things should continue. Gentles and worms I recommend as the leading baits just now—the former for roach and dace, and the latter for barbel and bream. A friend of mine captured a brace of nice pike on Monday, the biggest 7 lb., Gregory's celebrated "clipper" being the successful lure. Barbel should come on if the baiting is properly attended to—in fact, the prospects look very fishy for the next few days, and anglers should be fairly "in it."—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham.)

Although the river has been in splendid condition for bottom fishing with worms, the fish, with the exception of one or two cases, have refused to take that bait. The best catch came from Burton-on-Trent, where on Tuesday a capital basket of barbel were taken, several of the fish weighing 6 lb. and 7 lb. each; these were taken with worms, and the roach and dace, on two or three occasions, took the same bait freely; but lower down the river the barbel fishers could not get the barbel well on the feed, though several places had been previously baited. A few fish were taken with scratching, but the barbel also almost refused this noted bait, and the rodsters were somewhat puzzled to know the reason why. I guess it was owing to there being a little colour in the water. The river is in its best form when quite clear for scratch fishing. On Monday sixteen nice chub were caught at Fiskerton, the largest being 3 lb. These were taken with wasp grubs, and maggots for groundbait. The present time is the best in all the year for worm fishing; but if the fish will not take worms use scratching, wasp grubs, or maggots. The river is still in good order for all-round fishing, and should the weather continue fine there ought to some good takes of barbel and bream made.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both rivers are running down nicely, and are getting into first-class order for fly fishing. The higher lengths of both streams are now in first-class condition for fishing, and I am pleased to say that some fine baskets of both trout and grayling have been killed, chiefly with Eaton's honey dun bumbles, grey goose duns, little reds and sand flies. One gentleman, a clergyman, killed 8 brace of large sized trout and grayling in the Rowsley Meadows last Monday, every fish was killed with my little honey dun bumbles, similar baskets being made both off the Chatsworth and Derby Dale Club waters. There have also been some fine trout killed by dibbing with the small bluebottle flies, off the Derwent, same nearly 1½ lb. each. The bottom fishers on various parts of the Derwent have done well during the past week with both wasp grubs and gentles. One angler killing a brace of trout with the maggot that weighed nearly 3 lb., this was in the deeps at Matlock. There have been some good baskets of coarse fish killed in the Derwent close to Whatstandwell, some of the trout, dace, and roach being very little short of a pound a piece. Sport on the ponds has also been good during the past week with both trolling with the Derby trout killer bottom and fly-fishing. The tight line party have done well amongst the eels during the week, the large dew worms being the best baits used.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Although the weather still continues very dull and opposed to outdoor sports, there has been no heavy downfall of rain for some days, the rivers have had a chance of running down and there is a splendid minnow water on the Yore to-day; there have been, however, no good baskets of either trout or grayling come under my notice, but dace and coarse fish have taken the maggot freely. Next week I hope to be able to record some successful fly-fishing and will also give a few good flies to use for grayling during the autumn months.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

DEATH OF MR. H. L. ROLFE.

THE editor being absent from London, intelligence of the decease of our esteemed friend, Mr. H. L. Rolfe, did not reach us in time for notice in our last Saturday's issue. By the death of Mr. Rolfe, the now vacant "niche" he so long and worthily filled in the particular branch of art he made his own will not be readily filled up, and among those friends who enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of his acquaintance a grief is felt that time alone can efface. Singularly amiable by nature, it is no wonder that all who knew him say they never heard an unkind word fall from his lips. An ungenerous thought he never harboured, and if ever a disagreement occurred among his friends he was always the peacemaker. In that "little studio" in Nicholas Lane, made so delightful by his presence and the productions of his "master hand," were often seen followers of the "gentle art" he so much loved and was almost as great an expert at, as he was in the delineation of the fish he so loved to capture. Let one be but "an honest angler," he was sure of a welcome there.

But it seems as a dream that so short a time since we passed very pleasant days with him in an old "cathedral city," arranging exhibits intended to develop piscicultural and piscatorial knowledge and art; and many visitors to the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition will remember his genial smile and tall and courtly presence, and when they hear of his death express heartfelt regret that he has gone from the midst of us never to return.

Letters have reached us from all quarters—from friends and acquaintances—one and all expressing much sorrow at the decease of our respected friend, and many of them congregated last Saturday around his grave in Brompton Cemetery to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory. "Requiescat in pace."

38, Old Change.

A. G. J.

INAUGURAL DINNER OF THE SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

THIS society, which has only been recently established, bids fair to occupy a very prominent position among London angling clubs. It already contains over forty members, it has an admirable president in Mr. Cate, who is ably supported by Mr. John Esson as vice-president; it has a most efficient and active secretary in Mr. Stephen J. Field, and it has a thoroughly practical committee, which has framed a code of rules of a very praiseworthy character. Although pointing towards the direction of competing for specimen fish only, they have not as yet abolished the gross weight competitions, for which some of the members appear to be anxious. They have, however, laid down a standard of sizes far above those generally adopted by the London clubs, as, for instance, jack are 20 inches, perch 10 inches, roach 9 inches, barbel 15 inches, dace 7 inches, gudgeon 5 inches, and others in the same proportion. The rules altogether are framed to encourage sportsmanlike practices, and it is certain that anglers joining the society will be of a true type. The inauguration dinner took place at the club house, the Falcon Hotel, Gough Square, Fleet Street, on Wednesday evening, Mr. William Cate was in the chair, and in the absence of Mr. John Esson his position in the vice chair was worthily filled by Mr. Colnaghi. Amongst those present were:—Messrs. Thomas Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, Leo Bonvoisin, George Little (Little and Co.), J. Knighton, Thomas Matthews, George Reeves, A. Mayman, Alfred Brooks, George Reeves, jun., W. H. Cate, J. H. Stead, Walter Pelham, W. Pyne, Field, Dickinson, J. Sargeant, &c. The dinner was of a first-class character, admirably served up, and elicited expressions of great praise. The first toast was the loyal one, which anglers never omit, of "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," which, as the chairman justly observed, was one of mutual appreciation. Then came the toast of the evening, "The Society of Caxtonian Anglers," which the chairman good-naturedly remarked was a society of anglers banded together in a kind of brotherly feeling. He regarded the sport of angling as an innocent amusement, and he always found anglers good men. Their society was a new one, and in prosperous growth. He looked upon it as an association for the good of all and to do good to each other. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm. The Chairman then gave "The West Central Association of London and Provincial Societies," which he was satisfied had been instrumental in doing much good and had in reality called their society into existence. Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, in an eloquent speech, replied to the toast, which was frequently applauded by those present. Mr. J. Knighton proposed the toast of "The President of the Society of Caxtonian Anglers," whom he had known for a great number of years, and he was satisfied a better man never lived. He was eminently fitted for the position he occupied, and under his presidency he was certain the society would go on prospering and to prosper. The toast was drunk most heartily, with musical honours. Mr. Cate briefly, but in well-chosen words, replied; and afterwards gave "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," which was of a time-honoured character, and both soundness and honour were attached to it. It had been engaged in increasing the stock of fish in the river and well looked after its preservation. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who was received with loud expressions of applause, in his reply, said he regarded the society as one of a purely philanthropic nature, and he worked for it with all the energy he could for the benefit of all classes of anglers, not forgetting those who fished from the banks and who were well entitled to his attentive consideration. He then referred to the "Angler's Benevolent Society," of which he was also President, and strongly urged the Caxtonians to support it. He had seen cases relieved in sums of £1 and upwards, which he was satisfied lightened many a heavy and

afflictive burthen to their poorer brethren. After noting some of the alterations it had been proposed to get made in the bye-laws, Mr. Spreckley resumed his seat amid great cheering. The Vice-Chairman then gave "The Press," and coupled the name of Mr. W. H. Brougham with it. In his reply Mr. Brougham observed he was an old Caxtonian, having been born to the art of printing. He had been connected with the London press for fifteen years, and it always afforded him pleasure to record the doings of the angling clubs, and whether as attached to the press or with the Thames Angling Preservation Society his services and assistance would always be exercised in the interest and for the sole benefit of anglers. A number of other complimentary toasts followed, and each toast throughout the evening was interspersed with some capital singing, Mr. Sargeant ably presiding at the pianoforte. Mr. J. H. Stead, so well known as "The Perfect Cure," entertained those present with a highly amusing song, introducing a complete string of popular melodies, and Mr. Walter Pelham gave an illustrative description of a Penny Reading of a very entertaining character. Mr. W. H. Cate sang his songs in a masterly style, and was loudly encored. The evening did not close without passing a well-deserved compliment to the host and hostess for their splendid catering. The society has already some good specimens of fish as a nucleus to the formation of museum.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BREAM.—You will find a full description of the fishing at Dagenham Reach in the correspondence a week or two back.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

LARGE PIKE.

SIR,—The Rapley Lake Pike was cast by the late Frank Buckland. The cast was painted by the late H. L. Rolfe, and is in the museum of the Piscatorial Society. The fish, to quote a good authority, Mr. Edon, who skinned, "set it up," weighed 35 lb., and it was purchased by Mr. Hoole, who presented it to the United Anglers, Hammersmith.

Rapley Lake was cleaned out for a carp-stew some 17 years previous to the "netting" of this pike, and Frank Buckland's opinion was, that it had got in by some means, or been put in, soon after the lake was cleaned, and that it was, therefore, from 16 to 17 years old.

The pike caught by me, January 24th, 1877, near Leeds Castle, Kent, weighed 36 lb., measured 46½ inches in length, and 26 inches in girth. It was a female, and the roe weighed 3¼ lb.; the eatable flesh 23½ lb.

The 37 lb. pike I caught, November 4th, 1879, was 47 inches in length; 29 inches in girth; also was a female; the roe 1¼ lb.; and eatable flesh 25 lb. weight.

Mr. J. Lodges, 28½ lb. pike caught, December 27th, 1880, was 45 inches in length, and 22 inches girth.

Referring to the 12½ lb. pike, with the flight of 13 hooks down his gullet, it should have been, I think, "lost by Keene, a Thames fisherman, at Wraybury," and not of Wraybury.

In re the 19 lb. trout exhibited at the Gresham Angling Society. It was not "weighed-in," as incorrectly stated by your correspondent L. B. Nor did any newspaper report say it was, although they were in other respects inaccurate. The fish was placed in my charge by a friend for preservation, and whether caught by "spinning," or with "fly," I cannot say. It was a male "Salmo Eriox," in most beautiful condition, measured 33 inches extreme length, and 21 inches girth. I have sent it to S. F. Sanders to be "set up," and shall be pleased to show it to L. B. when completed.—I am, &c.,

September 7th.

A. G. JARDINF.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

SIR,—Having seen your remarks in last week's FISHING GAZETTE relative to the above, and also read the report, we have written to the secretary, asking him for full particulars relative to establishing a branch society in Hull, in connection with the same, if not objected to, and we think if branch societies could be formed in other towns, to work under a consecutive committee in London, the affair would eventually become a great boom to all anglers, and be the means of contributing to the benefits of the brotherhood, and also bringing forward a friendly feeling amongst all angling clubs, which has been so long looked forward to.—I am, &c.,

Hull, Sept. 5.

H. J. W.

FISHING IN NORMANDY.

SIR,—Can you tell me whether there is any good river-fishing on the coast of Normandy, and whether living is expensive there? Will you inform me of some quiet little place if you know of any? I should like you to answer me as soon as you can, as I think of leaving town very shortly.—I am, &c., J. M. H.

71, Marylebone Road, August 31.

[Being away from town, we are unable to refer to any guides. Consult the Angler's Diary (price 1s. 6d.) published at the Field office. Perhaps some reader will help you in next week's paper.—ED.]

FISHING AT PURTON, WILTS.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent who asks about fishing at Purton, Wilts—I don't think there is any nearer than Salisbury, which is six miles distant. There is good fishing in Salisbury—both private and subscription—bottom fishing in the Hampshire Avon, and plenty of fly fishing, if you can get

leave of Lord Pembroke and other land owners. Trout, I am sorry to say, are scarce, but good grayling are abundant up to 3 lb.—I am, &c., C. E. GUEST.

P.S.—If not too late in the day, I should like to mention that as a preventive against midges I have found camphorated oil a good thing, simply rubbed on the face and wrists. I have used it for years.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—Your correspondent L. B., evidently because it is too much trouble to reason, again launches into argument wholly illogical. It is simply ridiculous to declare that as the number of anglers increases "there is no compensating advance in the resources of the said river." Two important facts affect the result—control and define the value of x , the number of breeding fish left in a river at the end of the season. In the first place, as I have shown before, rivers are self-compensating; the more they are fished, the more they are the resort of an increased number of anglers, so much the more do the fish which they contain become excessively shy and wary. No doubt Mr. L. B. is prepared to deny this, as it conforms with the experience of all real anglers, and so does not suit the views of the modern protectionist. I have before stated that the number of excessively shy, uncatchable fish, which are of large size and therefore very prolific, are always sufficient, under normal conditions of the water, to keep up the race in absolute abundance. But there is also invariably a large proportion of younger fish which escape capture, and assist materially in the reproductive act.

Nature herself is self-protective. There is a divinity which doth hedge in the fish, for the fecundity of the latter is plainly a means provided for the consumption of a given end—the preservation of a race from unnumbered foes. Glancing casually a little deeper into this matter, we find that a fish of 10 lb. weight yields approximately the following number of eggs—a number truly marvellous: in the case of the trout, 10,000; the carp, 450,000; the pike, 150,000; the perch, 600,000. On this account, one of the main objects of the pisciculturist, after effecting the abolition of successful poaching, is to see that the internal conditions of the river are such as to ensure the hatching of a considerable portion of the spawn, and the subsequent maturation of a fair proportion of the young.

When making allusion to the subject of poaching, I have one additional clause to mention, which, by some sad oversight, found no place in the *Mundella Act*. I have been brought up in a school of angling that believes it a dishonour to one's craftsmanship to take fish by any means other than the rod with its appended bait, wielded as the experience of long years has shown to be needful.

I have always had the idea that the great test of the real angler is knowledge of the resting places of the fish in all waters and at all times, with the modes of fishing most suitable for the occasion; consequently, when I find men professing to be anglers eliminating the whole or a greater portion of this needful test, according to circumstances, I can only justly observe, they are not anglers but poachers, mere "pothunters;" and when I hear these very pothunters asking for legislation for the prevention of poaching, and conditions conducive to the multiplication of fish, I can again only truthfully answer—Why, I am with you heart and soul? I would stop all forms of poaching with the utmost rigour; and first of all we must stringently prohibit "groundbaiting," as essentially unmitigated poaching—more truly the work of a marauder than is livebaiting and trimmering. Yes, I am with you heart and soul in fish-protection, so long as your propound legislative acts the result of sound knowledge of fish, and at the same time not onesided, and giving those apparently disinterested and noisy advocates the option of fishing quietly in close time in private waters, said to be overstocked, or in waters where it is the avowed intention to decimate coarse fish. When Thames and Trent anglers abnegate the poaching luxury, the groundbait, I shall be more inclined to believe in the integrity of their desires; till such time, I hold them guilty, and esteem it a condescension to even argue with pothunters; only doing so that error may not be promulgated without refutation. I need no further assurance from Mr. L. B., in the form of letters or otherwise, that there are many who docilely follow in his footsteps. Were I not well assured of this fact, I should not now be writing, as controversy would then be needless.

"Pernicious doctrines," Mr. L. B.! I repudiate the imputation, and hurl it back with ten-fold emphasis on your own groundbaiting-confederacy. And now I must turn to another phase of the question. My opponents constantly demand a revelation from me, but the last thing that occurs to them is to reason things out for themselves. I am now asked, How am I to account for the alarming decrease of jack and perch in the Thames? In the first place, I must reply, on what data does the alleged alarming diminution of these fish rest?

As I have before stated, increased wariness causes an apparent diminution of numbers, for fewer fish then come to shore. Perhaps, however, the alleged dearth is owing to the fact that London anglers cannot poach for pike with groundbait, as in the case of many other fish; and now, as the intellect of the fish progresses, the skill of the Londoner is pitted against the shrewdness of the fish, and the latter has the best of it, being certainly the superior genius, as, despite all his efforts, the Londoner cannot contrive some new device in poaching sufficiently innocent in outer garb that can pass muster as fair angling. Viewing the matter in another light, I have never yet heard of shepherds rearing wolves in their sheep-walks, or the oriental farmer tigers for the benefit of their herds; but I do know of a proverb relating to killing a goose with a golden egg, and no sane angler who is an angler at heart, such as "Ephemera," Mr. Francis, or yourself, Mr. Editor, has ever, to my knowledge, advocated the cultivation of pike in a much-fished preserve of other varieties, except in the case of ponds that could, in case of need, be cleared of the ravenous omnivores. I was once informed of another proverb, which laid down the law to this effect, "You cannot burn your candle at both ends"—a proverb applicable in this case; for you cannot encourage pike with a fair prospect of rapid increase of other coarse fish; though if you leave the carnivorous perch and pike to shift for themselves, and increase the number of herbivorous and other coarse fish, perch and pike will likewise become plentiful, in accordance with well-known laws of nature; for will they not fatten on vast deposits of spawn, fry, and full-grown fish, to such an inordinate extent as to incite them to breed unfailingly? In relation to Mr. L. B.'s second question as to the Waveley and Oulton Protection Society, I have merely to remark that the preservation of the pike, if carried out, is a step in a retrograde direction—is a thing that would not be entertained for a moment in Germany and China, and is only the evident result of the teaching of some who, being dressed in a little brief authority, always are able for a time to obtain an acquiescent and unreasoning following. East Anglia may listen with heartfelt joy to the voice that proclaims the slaughter and absence of her carnivores; but be not too sanguine! Truly B., in a recent article, gave it as evidence of twenty-three years' practical experience

that certain fish may for a whole season appear wanting whilst actually abundant.

Finally, in answer to L. B.'s whole question, I deny the dearth on the evidence of reports. Reverting specially to "Creel," I must ask this gentleman to read again my letter of invitation. I think, if he does this, he will find that the words were not fairly intended to bear the interpretation he attributes to them. I presumed that "Creel" had already a knowledge of the streams of Westmoreland, &c. I knew that my acquaintance was considerable; I therefore desired "Creel" to visit the places named in the FISHING GAZETTE, by requesting him to name the thirty streams. Why should either of us visit the waters again, when we already know them well? However, as "Creel" appears to advance an argument that I desire to shift from my position—and as he will make the most of such a verbal misunderstanding—I am prepared at the present time to meet my opponent's arguments in the FISHING GAZETTE, whilst I will endeavour to contrive some expedition of the nature "Creel" desires; but I fancy this gentleman's modesty is rather considerable, when, after accepting what he deemed a free invitation, he was so unabashed as to propose that the excursion should extend through a period of two months, the whole to be at my expense; an expense which could not be less than £60 for the two self-appointed, disinterested—feeling, at least on my part—piscatory commissioners' walking-distances. I can manage up to fifty miles in the day, with the requisite impediments on the back. Shortly, my courses of lectures recommence next week; I have no time available for the trout streams of Cumberland, &c., until after next Easter, when three weeks are at my disposal. Perhaps Mr. Keene would be willing to take me at Christmas, for a period of four weeks, to investigate the coarse fish of the stream to which he alludes. Until nearer these periods, adieu. Mr. "Creel," I consider it "coolness" to presume to adduce facts in this paper without adequate proof. It is likewise coolness to misquote, and render "jostling each other almost," simply, "jostle each other." The cases named were not at spawning time, with "the fish all there," but were as follows:—I only append a few cases from various countries and districts—Norway, Laerdals Elf: trout, April 11th and July 7th, 1878. Thames, October, 1874: dace, &c., as stated. Kennet and affluent waters: trout, chub, rudd, and perch, June, 1873. Cam and Ouse, 1873. Cam and neighbouring waters, 1874: dace, bleak, chub, roach, rudd, bream, eels, pike, and carp. Wales, certain rivers all throughout the summer, 1875. I might multiply occasions, but this is needless.

The last sentence of the first paragraph of "Creel's" letter, relative to his own want of knowledge of the present proprietors of the Westmoreland streams, seems an evasion of an answer; and where is Mr. Keene ruminating?—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

SIR,—Is not Mr. Bonvoisin in his attack upon your correspondent, Mr. Balderston, and all who think with him, trying to draw an untrue premise. Allowing Mr. Balderston and his friends the wish to angle all the year round, does it follow that they wish to take fish out of season?

I do not believe it, as I know several anglers who think with you, Mr. Editor, and they are old practical fishermen, who would scorn the idea of *taking spawning fish*. Might they not point the finger at Mr. Bonvoisin, and say, are not you, and your followers doing worse by angling directly the Act allowed you, viz., 16th June?

Why rush at unclean roach, bream, barble, &c.?

For your favourite Act is still the failure it always was.

If ever it is altered it will be mainly through the publicity given to its defects in the FISHING GAZETTE. And not by Messrs. Geen, Hoole, Bonvoisin and Co., who seem perfectly content to let the thin end of the wedge remain.—I am, &c.,

ANOTHER WHO WOULD LIKE THE ACT ALTERED.

A NEW ANGLING CLUB.

SIR,—Yourself and readers of FISHING GAZETTE will be glad to hear that a club has been formed at the above hotel, by thirteen residents of Acton. At a meeting held, August 30, it was resolved that the club be called the Acton and Ealing Society. The necessary officers were appointed. Mr. Bocking, chairman; Mr. Eydmann, vice-chairman; Mr. Brooks, host and treasurer; Mr. Williams, hon. secretary. On Sept. 5, Mr. Eydmann, jun., weighed-in dace; Mr. Dean, weighed-in a small trout.—I am, &c.,

BLACK BAG.

NATURAL BAITS.

SIR,—In your issue of the 13th August, there is an article headed as above, and signed by Mr. J. H. Keene. No one having in any way questioned the contents, I take the liberty of quoting several authors who differ from Mr. Keene, in the hope of obtaining well authenticated information on the several points in the natural history of the insects which I have ventured to dispute and also to contradict a claim of Mr. Keene's, that he is the only writer who has estimated the freshwater shrimp at its real value as a bait.

1st. The caddis, Mr. Keene states, is chiefly, in the Thames, the larva of the alder fly. One page 193 of his fourth revised edition, Mr. Francis Francis writes in his "Book on Angling":—"the caddis has nothing whatever to do with the Ephemera; it is the home of the Phryganidae exclusively, and their plenty will determine the abundance of sand, garron, edge, cinnamon, and other flies of that class only." And again, on page 192, Mr. F. F. writes:—"Among the Neuroptera are the Ephemera, as the May flies, duns, and spinners; the Perlidae, as the stone and willow flies; and the Sialidae of which we have but one sample, though that is a host in itself, viz., the alder fly. The Trichoptera used for the most part, include only the family of Phryganidae, if we except the silver horns." Mr. Ronalds, in his 7th edition of "The Fly Fishers' Entomology" states that "the alder is one of the Neuroptera or nerved-winged flies; and comes from a water pupa," of which class, he only gives one (the Cinnamon) as belonging to the Phryganidae (query, derived from the Greek word for a dry stick?) family, and the order of Neuroptera, the other members of this family belonging to the order of Trichoptera, and being the sand-fly and the garron. The Rev. C. Kingsley in "Chalk-Stream Studies" says:—"these live sticks are the larva cases of the caperers—Phryganidae—of which one family, nearly 200 species have been already found in Great Britain." He then refers in the next paragraph, to larvæ of water flies having the sides fringed with what look like paddles, but which are gills. Of these, one part have whisks at the tail, and swim freely. They will change into ephemera, &c."

The following paragraph reads:—"Some, again, have the gill, on their sides larger and broader, and no whisks at the tail. These are the larvæ of Sialis, the black alder, Lord Stowell's fly, &c. Methinks, from the above authorities, one

might draw the conclusion that the alder is not a Phryganidae, and therefore does not come from a caddis.

However, in confirmation of Mr. Keene, Theakstone, in his "Flies of the Streams of Ripon," gives No. 43, the light dun, as the ore fly, or alder, and states that this fly is the produce of the caddis, and are plentiful in May and June, and in autumn (query, does the alder appear in the autumn, as I do not ever remember to have seen it after June?). Also an article of H. C. Pennell's "Fishing Gossip," Etymology of Bait, by W. Pinkerton, states that the alder fly comes from a caddis, and also that "in this state (in its case) the larvæ of the Phryganidae are the caddis, case worms, or caddis of our old writers on angling." Mr. Francis, page 493, in his list of baits, gives the caddis or caddis, as the same insect, whereas, Mr. Keene, says that the caddis or creeper is the larva of the May fly (query, is not stone fly here referred to?).

2nd. The caddis or creeper is stated by Mr. Keene to be "the larva of the May fly, and is as ugly as its imago is fairy-like and beautiful." He has previously stated that "it is, as the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE must be aware, the larva of the May fly" (and continues as above quoted). Has not Mr. Keene confounded the stone fly, which is the May fly of Scotland and the North of England, with the May fly or green drake of the South, the creeper of the stone fly being much used as a bait for trout, but as far as I know the larva of the green drake (or May fly) is not referred to in any angling work. Indeed, in Mr. Keene's own work, "The Practical Fisherman," and which I believe first appeared in sundry numbers of the *Exchange and Mart*, on page 236, one reads "in the case of the stone fly, after leaving its case, it creeps to the shore, and there passes several days before it becomes a fly proper. In this state, it is the creeper of Northern anglers," &c. Again, on page 241, of same work, under the "stone fly." This fly comes from a water larva, called the crab or creeper, which is often used itself, and is a capital trout bait. Mr. Francis also states that the caddis or creeper is the larva of the stone fly, see pages 218 and 494. In "Chalk Stream Studies," Mr. C. Kingsley makes the same statement.

Mr. Keene, in writing about the freshwater shrimp claims that "it has never been estimated by any writer (except myself) at its real value as a bait for trout, perch, chub, roach and dace."

If he will refer to the "Book of the Roach," by Greville Fennell, and published in 1860, on pages 71-2, he will find quoted a portion of a letter written by Josiah Heath, of the Wraybury water. "The roach feed greedily on them, as do dace, chub and eels. . . . Do you think these shrimps will do to bait with? I certainly believe, sir, if they could be imitated artificially, they would do well to whip for dace." These shrimps have been tried with great success. They are readily caught in dozens with a small gauze landing net. Again, on page 77, "Freshwater shrimp, if alive, should be hooked through the tail, the point coming out at the upperside."

In the newspaper called *The Country*, referred to by Mr. Keene in his remarks about the horse leech, and issued on February 1, 1877, in reply to a query of mine, I think Greville F. gives, on page 130, directions how to use the freshwater shrimp for perch. Reference is again made to this shrimp in the issue of February 15, 1877. I have also a strong impression that an article appeared, I fancy in the *Field*, within the last twelvemonth; but after searching more than once for it have not been successful.

Perhaps some of your readers may have noticed this article which described fishing with the freshwater shrimp in Holland.

Might I also ask Mr. Keene if he still adheres to the statement made in "The Practical Fisherman," page 213:—"It is seldom one gets even a Chers, Colne, or Wick trout above 3 lb." I ask the question mostly in respect to the last-named stream, which, I presume, is that which flows through High Wycombe.—I am, &c.,

J. B. J.

TO ANGLERS.—Taken by mistake between Watford and London, a 20 feet roach rod, a jack rod and landing-net stick. I will bring the same on producing the one I lost.—Address, T. Wyatt, 106, Princess Street, Edgeware Road.

"I wish to ask the court," said a facetious barrister, who had been called to testify as an expert, "if I am compelled to come into this case, in which I have no personal interest, and give a legal opinion for nothing?" "Yes, yes, certainly," replied the mild-mannered judge; "give it for what it is worth."

ANGLING CONTEST.—Last Monday week an angling match took place at Malton amongst the members of the Wakefield Tradesmen's Angling Club, the scene of the contest being the Old Derwent, above Old Malton, permission to fish in which had been kindly granted by the Hon. H. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P. for the South West Riding. Thirty-four members of the club took part in the contest, and as to each 30 yards were allotted a good space of river bank was covered. The men fished with varying success until four o'clock, and when the secretary of the club went his round with the scales, the following was found to be the result:—1, Mr. Hebden, 4 lb. 11½ oz.; 2, Mr. King, 2 lb. 15 oz.; 3, Mr. Taylor, 2 lb. 12½ oz. Out of thirty-four competitors twenty were successful in catching fish, the day being favourable for the contest. After the match the club sat down to an excellent meat tea at Mr. Rawlinson's the Sun Hotel, where they concluded an enjoyable day.

THE NEW FISH MARKETS.—In view of the applications which will be made to Parliament next session, for powers to build additional or enlarge the present fish market at Billingsgate, the City authorities have already retained counsel to appear on their behalf; while the Metropolitan Board of Works have also selected the counsel who are to appear and promote the Bill, of which they will shortly give public notice.—*City Press*.

FORGET-ME-NOTS.—The peat in the Kennet Valley is said to give that dark and rich golden tinge to the big trout in the river. It does something more besides that—it lends additional beauty to the exquisite colouring of the wild forget-me-nots that form a flowery fringe to certain ditches, or small water-courses, here and there between Woolhampton and Thatcham. These flowers can be sometimes seen from the railway looking south. The large, yellow, waxen-like buttercups also flourish in places along the valley earlier in the summer; and the lapwing—the layer of the much-prized "plover's" eggs—is here permitted to bring forth her young in peace, and now and then a brood of snipe are bred in one of the small island-like bogs. Good coveys of "birds" also in the grass. No prettier decoration for the mantel-piece can be found than the mingling of a bunch or two of the heather growing on the grand old Berkshire commons, with the heath grasses that all seem to be in their beauty when partridge-shooting comes round. Wild flowers, too, were never more sought for and loved for their own sakes than now. Fashions may change, but the unheeded children of moor and dell, and hedgerow and bank, and cornfield, will always be popular among all the wayside wanderers from hamlet, town or city.—THE PILGRIM FRYER.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Wood, roach, 11 lb.; Mr. Thorpe, roach and dace; Mr. C. A. Medcalf, roach, 3 lb., dace $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., one roach weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., from the Avon; Mr. Larkman, bream and roach, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., from Dagenham; Mr. Moir, bream and roach, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb., from the same water; Mr. Farebrother, roach and gudgeon, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. G. Carrington, roach $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb., dace $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and one chub 2 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Howlett, roach and dace. On Wednesday, September 7th, a roach fishing basket and a large bleak preserved in case, the property of the late William Bath, will be disposed of by chance for the benefit of his widow.—J. WOLLEDGE.

August 28.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society visited Amberley on Sunday last, and competed for three prizes given by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Dawe gave a splendid winch and running line, Mr. E. Mallett gave an inkstand, and Mr. J. Deeley, sen., gave a pair of pictures. After a spirited contest the result was as follows:—Mr. T. Wall won the first prize with 2 lb. 1 oz. of bream; Mr. T. Fiddes won the second with 1 lb. $14\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bream and roach; and Mr. Jones the third with 1 lb. 9 oz. of bream. The following gentlemen also weighed:—Messrs. Deeley, jun., Hines, Soar, Hayes, Dodson, Marshall, &c.—H. MALLET, sec.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

Some of the members of the above club were out on Sunday last, and were rewarded with fair takes of fish, the following gentlemen in particular, Conn, Hulse, and Allen, the latter having one roach 1 lb. 2 oz.—WM ALLEN, sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, the 27th of August, the members held their first annual outing at Westernsted, which consisted of cricket, fishing, and athletic sports. The first part of the programme was the cricket match, which proved the members could use the white cane better than the willow. The sides were:—W. H. Clarke's and Mr. Noah Clark. First innings, W. H. Clarke's side, 12; Noah Clark's, 8; second, W. H. Clarke's, 38; Noah Clark's, 38; W. H. winning by 3 wickets. Next was a walking match against time, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, by Mr. Ingram, age 74 years, lost by $\frac{1}{2}$ minute. Next a walking handicap, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, won by Mr. Artis; second, Mr. Park. Next came the race of the day. Mr. Tree and Mr. Gambling (the worthy chairman of the society) 100 yards, both gentlemen weighing 17 stone 4 pounds; a dead heat at the finish, and pumped out. The tug of war ended the sports, Mr. Noah Clark's side winning by two overs. The fishing competition was the last on the board, in which Mr. Anscombe was declared the winner; Mr. Noble, second; Mr. Ash, third; and Mr. Taylor, fourth. Next came the dinner, which was amply provided by Host Brown at the Old Crab Tree. The members, numbering between 20 and 30, paid their due respects to it, and after speeches and songs they all returned home, to all appearance the better for their day's enjoyment. On Monday, the 5th, a peg-down took place at Barcombe, but, owing to the thick water, only nine members put in an appearance. The first prize was taken by Noah Clark; Mr. John Upton, our honorary treasurer, second. Mr. T. Tree, who did not compete, and whose reputation as an angler is good, brought to bank a fine bream weighing 5 lb. $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., which was at once sent to Mr. Saunders, of London, to be cased for the room.—GROUND BAIT.

September 8.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

The Central Association's return visit took place on Monday last at the Convivial Angling Society, Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, City. The attendance was very good. Seventeen clubs were represented. The next visit will be paid to the Canonbury Angling Society.—J. A. FITCH, jun.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 4th:—Mr. J. Chambers, roach and dace from Penton Hook; Mr. Castell, roach and chub from the Roding; and Mr. Pratt bream and roach from Amberley.—CAS.

CONVIVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club met at the Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, where the following gentleman weighed: Messrs. E. Whitehead, Hewett, Sparrow, West, Hodge and Adams. Mr. West had a nice show of fish, the best of which was a fine trout caught in the Lea, which weighed 3 lb.—W. E.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society met on Sunday, September 4, when the following members had roach and perch:—Messrs. Anderson, Fuller, Bunn, Malley, Eagles, W. Richardson, Vale, Barson, James, Venour, Midson, and Fortescue. Total, 47 lb.—S. MALLEY, secretary.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the above society took place at the club-house (the Great Eastern Wine Vaults), on Tuesday evening last. Previous to the commencement of the usual business the secretary (Mr. A. Palmer) read some letters which he had received from Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., and W. H. Grenfell, Esq., M.P., both gentlemen having signified their intention of becoming hon. members of the society. The purport of Mr. Birkbeck's letter was that although he had many claims from his own division, he thought the East Angling Piscatorial Society worthy of all support, and should, therefore, be proud to be enrolled as one of its members, and promised at all times to do his utmost to further the interests of the society. W. H. Grenfell, Esq., M.P., also said he should, whenever occasion required, use his influence in aid of anything for the benefit of anglers. The latter gentlemen inclosed a cheque for £1 1s., to be devoted to the prize fund. The wind-up match of the season was arranged to take place at Honing, on Monday, the 12th of September. Fourteen new members were elected, and prizes to the value of about £10 were promised.—Norwich Argus.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on Sunday last. The fish being considerably more numerous than the members that went out, Mr. Smith showing up with a good tray of roach and dace of about 11 lb. Mr. S. Gay

bream of about 3 lb., also a grey mullet of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. from Amberley; myself about 6 lb of bream, and a nice dace of 5 oz.—A. THOMAS.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some fine trays of fish were exhibited at the society's house on Sunday last, Mr. Blackman having a nice tray of barbel (nine fish), scaling 26 lb., the largest being a beauty of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Smith also a nice show of roach, dace, chub and perch, about 15 lb.; one of our new members, Mr. Gay, hooked on Sunday (while fishing at Staines with a tight line and hair hook) a splendid bream, which was calculated by several that saw it to weigh between 6 lb. and 7 lb., but through the top joint breaking before any one could assist him with the landing net the fish was, I am sorry to say, lost; several other members and myself were pretty successful.—A. THOMAS.

The Hope, Bird Street, S.E.

GLOBE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of this society were well filled on Sunday, September 4th. Mr. J. J. Holmes winning Mr. Churchman's prize with a good basket of handsome roach, dace and perch from the Wey; Mr. C. Russell making a good second with roach, dace and perch from the Thames, and Mr. W. Moore third, with some excellent perch. On Sunday, September 11th, a valuable prize given by Mr. C. Russell will be fished for.—J. CHURCHMAN.

September 7th.

GOOD INTENT.

There was a capital show of fish on Sunday last. All our trays full. Mr. E. Pluckrose, bream, one fish scaled 4 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Howe, jack; Mr. Philpott, bream; Mr. Haines, roach; Mr. W. Hughes, roach; Mr. Donovan, roach; Mr. W. Wheeler, dace and roach; Mr. Maybury, 15 lb. of fine roach; and Mr. Gadbury, ditto. Our distribution of prizes takes place on Tuesday, the 13th inst. Our worthy treasurer has given his annual donation of £1 to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. The club has voted the same amount.—R. MURPHY.

September 8.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We fished at Woking on Sunday last for three prizes. Mr. J. Fitch won the first; Mr. Theobald second; Mr. Juker one for the heaviest jack. The following also had fish from the same place:—Messrs. Parkin, J. K. Fitch, Young, Butler, J. Watling, and C. Warren; Mr. Stanmer, jack from Welsh Harp; Mr. Major, a fine tray of roach from the Colne; Messrs. Reynolds and Armstrong, roach from the Colne; Messrs. Warne and W. Watling, roach from the Thames; Hutching, roach from Amberley.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of the society held on Thursday was numerously attended, and some fine roach were weighed-in by Mr. Graham Bennett, a member of the committee. The present meeting room having proved too small for the purposes of the society, it was determined to remove to larger premises in Bishopsgate Street, where every accommodation could be afforded. Mr. Thompson will still be host, and continue his functions as treasurer. Three new members were proposed for election. The prize committee held a meeting previous to the general assembly, Mr. Field very ably presiding. The society's prizes, and also those privately offered, were then discussed and arranged, Messrs. Jardine, Austin, Crumplen, Cartwright, Parker, and other gentlemen, taking part in the proceedings, which did not terminate until a late hour. A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Field for his conduct in the chair.

HAMMERRSMITH UNITED.

It seems that friend L. B. has not quite emptied Elstree Reservoir, as two of our members gave it a trial with very fair success on Sunday, Mr. Pinney taking five tench, weighing 14 lb. 8 oz., largest 3 lb. $8\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Peachey seven tench, 19 lb. $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz., all taken with worms. Several members weighed-in fish also.—VORTEX.

September 5th.

A large number of our members have been out during the past week with varied success. The best takes are—Mr. Rackstraw, two days, barbel, roach and dace, also a fine lot of brook trout; Messrs. Hobden, Walters, Stedman, Hitchcock, Lewis and Smith had perch, roach, dace, gudgeon and eels. Messrs. Green and Hoole, as usual, had some big fish—barbel and chub. Messrs. Permy and Peachey took on Sunday last a dozen fine perch, the lot weighing over 34 lb., the largest going nearly 4 lb.—T.M.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, September 4, Mr. C. Green had some pretty roach, Mr. J. Barnes and Mr. E. W. Turner also had roach; Mr. H. Butt perch and roach. The three special prizes given by Messrs. A. Salmon, G. Wood and W. H. Hawkes will be fished for on Sunday, the 11th inst., between Burn Mill and Harlow Mill. Also the three special prizes given by Messrs. G. Rolt, A. Salmon and C. Hambridge will be fished for on the 14th inst., competitors to choose their own fishing water. Mr. J. Barrett has given a handsome cup to be fished for, the members to name their own conditions. Major Twohey will also give a prize to be fished for on the same conditions as the cup.

September 7.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 4th inst. the members of the above society were out with varying success. The competition for the secretary's prize was concluded, the winner turning up in the chairman, Mr. Woelfell. The following are the takes: Mr. Woelfell; roach from Pangbourne, 7 lb. 9 oz., Mr. Morley, roach from Staines, 1 lb. $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and Mr. Bell, roach from the Wey, $15\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—GABRIEL TREADWELL.

September 6.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a pretty show of roach, perch, dace, gudgeon, and some fine eels, on Sunday. The following members weighed-in:—Messrs. Letch, Hurwood, Petrie, Wightman, Grey, Raine, H. Moore, Mead, Scott, Humphreys, and Heclas.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Full trays again predominated at the above society on Sunday last, the three w's making no difference to the members. Mr. W. Edwards had roach from the Ouse; Messrs. Laundry and Lucy, jun., roach and bream from Pulborough; Messrs. G. Drew and Parker roach, dace and perch from the Thames; Mr. T.

Longman had 15 lb. of roach and dace from the Kennet; Mr. Neagus with 6 lb. of roach from the Stort. Mr. Obbard was the winner of the monthly prize.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.
September 7th.

PECKHAM BROTHERS', ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Williams's prize was fished for on the 4th, and won by Mr. Stidolph, and the prize given by Mr. Pritchett for the largest jack taken during the month of August, to the share of Mr. W. Matthews. Three prizes given by Messrs. Garrad, Minard and Stidolph, will be fished for on the 18th, in the River Lea, from the Rye House, one mile towards St. Margaret's.—W. R. M., sec.

PHŒNIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last month a prize of half-a-guinea was given by Mr. W. B. Clark, for the gross weight of all fish, which was won by Mr. Bentley with 57 lb. 13½ oz. of fish. Last Sunday three prizes half-a-guinea each were angled for at Pulborough; about 30 lb. of fish were caught. The first by Mr. Milton, Mr. Parker, second; Mr. Upton, third. G. Bently, G. Barr, H. Parr, Maynard, Crisp, Hamilton, Titmus, and Ward having a nice show of fish. The gross weighed-in up to last Sunday being 469 lb.—W. ELBOWN.

P.S.—I enclose our list of prizes. [Not enclosed.—ED.]

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The undermentioned members fished for a series of prizes at Pangbourne, on the 4th inst.:—1st prize, won by Mr. Duncan, roach, 5 lb., but was disqualified; second member took 1st prize, Mr. E. Smith, roach, 2 lb. 15 oz., 10s. 6d.; 3rd, Mr. J. Rogers, roach, 2 lb. 3 oz., 10s. 6d.; 4th, William Fowler, roach, 2 lb. 1 oz., 7s. 6d.; 5th, J. Caborn, roach, 1 lb. 8 oz., 5s.; handsome scarf pin and 5s., not being won, will be fished for on a future occasion. The weather and water was all that could be wished, and we fully expected heavy creels. The roach begin to get into deep water this month. On the 28th ult., Mr. Caborn was the only member who weighed-in fish on the above date. Other members were out but did not weigh-in through being late. Mr. Caborn had a nice little show of fish; one trout, one chub, one dace, one perch, the remainder roach; four of the fish weighed 4 lb.; total, 11 lb. 5 oz.—J. CABORN.

Sept. 5.

SOUTH LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Thursday last Messrs. Goodey and Cook fished in Virginia Water, but owing to a rough wind the sport was poor. They had some 3 lb. roach, 5 lb. perch (one 1¼ lb.), and a small jack. On same day Mr. Boorman brought into club 22 lb. bream, and on yesterday (Sunday) took 15 lb. more bream, both from Dorking. Mr. Head, from same place, yesterday, 12 lb. bream and 2 lb. roach. Mr. Buck, from Cookham, some nice roach and dace.—G. H. FIELD.

September 5.

P.S.—Mr. Sarjent was at Datchet yesterday and took some chub and barbel, but could not get to club house in time to weigh-in.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Saturday last one of the clubs in connection with the above society, The Waltonians, held at the house of Mr. John Duckworth, the Wharfe Tavern, Albert Square, met for the fourth contest of the season in the society's reserve, Ridgehill Lane, when some useful and ornamental prizes were competed for, but owing to a drizzling rain and strong wind the catches were not up to the average. One of the old anglers of the district, Mr. Wm. Sidebottom, officiated as weigher with his usual ability. After angling for one hour and a half, time was called, and they retired to their meeting house where the president, Mr. Wm. Thorpe, presented the prizes to the successful competitors as follows:—1st, copper kettle, William Jackson; 2nd, copper kettle, Samuel Greenwood; 3rd, knives and forks, Ellis Sidebottom; 4th, china, William Thorpe; 5th, china, Thomas Smalley; 6th, set of jugs, John Simmister; 7th, money prize, William Cobbe. The remainder of the evening was spent in singing and reciting by the members and their friends.—JAS. B. UDALE.

September 5.

STEPNEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening, the 31st of August, this society held their third annual dinner at their club house, the Beehive, Rhodeswell Road, Stepney, which proved very satisfactory to all concerned, an excellent repast being provided by the hostess, Mrs. Franklin. After the cloth was removed, the secretary read the balance sheet for the year, which showed a very respectable balance in hand. The club prizes were then presented to the following:—Mr. Pross, three prizes; Mr. Marrows, two prizes; Mr. Lees, two prizes; and Messrs. Morrish, Brock, Ruston, and Williams, one prize each. The remainder of the evening being devoted to harmony, both vocal and musical. Mr. Pross, of this club caught at Amberley on the 7th of August last a roach weighing 2 lb. 1 oz., which is now in the hands of Mr. W. Brock, in course of preservation, and will soon adorn the walls of the club room.—W. PEIRCE, secretary.

September 6.

THE STOKE NEWINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had but a poor show of fish on the 4th inst., Messrs. North and Morrow being the only members weighing-in, the former gentleman having, among others a nice roach weighing 1 lb. 1 oz. The monthly prizes for competition during the present month are as follows:—Mr. Thomas Millington gives a prize for the heaviest bream; Mr. E. Morrow gives a prize for the heaviest jack over 2 lb. weight. The same gentleman also gives a prize for the heaviest perch. Conditions: Only fish caught on Sunday to weigh; start when you like.—THOS. GRETTON, secretary.

September 6.

UNIVERSAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION (HULL).

On Monday last the members of this association had their annual excursion to Watter Priory, the country seat of C. H. Wilson, Esq., M.P., for Hull. On arriving at the Priory, the party were formed and taken in a group at the east-end of the large lake by Mr. Walker, photographic artist of Hull, in angling costume, after which ten prizes given in the association's fourth match of the season were competed for. Throughout the day the weather with much difficulty kept fine, but the water in the lake was muddy caused by the past heavy rains and small takes of fish were the rule. Several well-fed golden carp were taken, one scaling 3 lb. ½ oz., together with many bream and roach; and when angling

was discontinued at five o'clock, the respective weights were announced of the successful prize winners, and out of thirty-four the following were declared the lucky competitors—first prize, W. Phillipson; second, W. H. Barker; third, W. Crossland; fourth, J. Matthews; fifth, J. Milner; sixth, W. Hall; seventh, J. Jagger; eighth, H. J. Jackson; ninth, J. Connolly; and tenth prize, J. W. Walker, of Brigg. The total weight taken was 2 stone, 13 lb. 12 oz., and worms and gentles the most successful bait. On the match being over, the members were taken to the Priory where all sat down to a well-provided tea, and after doing full justice to the same, the thanks of the association were tendered by Mr. James Richardson, the president, to Mr. Wilson, for his repeated hospitality, and the party, after viewing the magnificent grounds of their leading patron, returned home, all being highly pleased with their day's outing.—W. H. BARKER, hon. sec.

Hull, Sept. 6, 1881.

WALTONIANS.

On September 4th the following gentlemen weighed-in:—Messrs. Good, jun., Greenfield, Waltham, best take 4 lb. 4½ oz., Rosser and Roland.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

September 6th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On Friday Mr. J. Collins out with J. Johnston junr., of Kingston, succeeded in getting a nice show of dace and roach, weighing about 9 lb., On the same evening the members met to decide finally as to where Messrs. Schwartz, Bansback, Vicary and Sebert's prize should be competed. The members met in a very strong number, among whom were Messrs. Dale, Irons, Brown, Vicary, Grigg, Collins, and many more. After various places had been proposed and lost, it was finally decided that Bourne End should be the place. Messrs. Grigg and Bayley, accompanied by Mr. Fox, will start to survey the neighbourhood on Saturday morning. Members wishing to start on Saturday can do so with this understanding, "that no fish will be weighed for these prizes that have been caught before a given time after the arrival of the first train from Paddington to Bourne End on Sunday morning." Mr. Bayley will meet those members, and their friends who arrive by that time at the station. Now, my friends, you will have to be up and doing pretty early on Sunday morning, for the train leaves Paddington at 8.20.

On the 4th Mr. F. Grigg fishing at Shepperton managed to get some chub, perch and roach from the bank.—PIXIE.

September 7., 1881.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIALS.

I went barbel fishing on Sunday with a friend, and caught three above Maidenhead Bridge. About half-past twelve some one in livery said, "Caught any fish?" "Yes, three barbel." "What size?" "Don't know weight; 2 measure about 13 inches, and 1 larger." "Are they in there?" "Yes." He then goes to the bag, takes out one, two, three, and throws them in the river. "What are you about?" "They don't measure 12 inches from eye to end of tail." "How do you know? why did you not measure them before throwing them in?" The largest would have measured near 15 inches extreme length, as my friend there, who landed it, can prove. We put it down to weigh 1¼ lb." In speaking of this matter at the hotel, I find the man, whom, I understand, is an assistant bailiff, is very much disliked about there; indeed, they threaten to do for him if he usually acts in such a disrespectful manner. He certainly deserves to be disliked. I should be sorry to injure him myself, as I like to see a man well up to his work in preserving the fish, and my fancy was rather tickled at his confounded impudence; but after the feeling I heard expressed about him, I should certainly advise him to be more particular about the manner in which he carries out his duties. The show of fish on Sunday was very small, the best fish being a barbel of 2 lb. 2 oz.—H. ADEANE.

CAPTURE OF A SNAKE.—Tuesday afternoon, the 6th inst., Mr. Wales, of the Royal Oak, Lowestoft, with a party, was fishing on Fritton Decoy, when a snake was observed making straight for the boat. One of the party struck the reptile on the back with an oar, and instantly hauled it into the boat. Though evidently injured by the blow, it was very lively, and exhibited its long sting until it was further disabled. Its length is 2 feet 11 inches and a little more than an inch in diameter in the thickest part. It is also prettily marked (striped).

CONVICTION OF POISONING FISH.—The practice of "fuddling," or poisoning trout streams has prevailed to such an extent in the West Riding of Yorkshire, that the Leeds Rockingham Angling Society have determined to take stringent measures, and if possible suppress the operations of the "gang" who indulge in this form of "sport." On Tuesday, August 30th, William Noble was brought before the West Riding magistrate, at the Leeds Town Hall, and charged with the above offence. Mr. Grisdale, solicitor to the society prosecuted and George Straytor, one of their watchers, proved that on the 20th of July the prisoner was taking fish out of a stream which had been poisoned, and which the society has the privilege of preserving and fishing. The sentence was £1 and costs, or 14 days, the prisoner electing to serve the time. We hope this will act as a warning. The Leeds Royal Angling Society, is determined at any cost to put down this nefarious practice and we trust their efforts will be attended with success.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Kedditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedeon spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. Has been tried with remarkable success, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedeon fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

SEVERE LAWS RELATING TO THE TAKING OF UNDERSIZED SALMON.

THE Scotch in early times had some extremely severe prohibitions against the killing of salmon. In the *Regiam Magistatem* are preserved several laws relating to their fisheries, couched in terms expressive of the simplicity of the times.

From Saturday night (as still upon many British salmon rivers) until Monday morning, they were obliged to leave a free passage for the fish, which is styled the *Saterdayes sloppe*—Qy. stop? Alexander I. enacted "That the streame of the water sal be in all parts swa free, that ane swine of the age of three years, well feed, may turn himself within the stream round about, swa that his snout nor tail sal not touch the bank of the water." By a law of James IV., the third offence was made capital—before that the offender had power to redeem his life. "Slayers of reide fish, or smolts of salmon, the third time are punished with death; and sic like quha commands the samine to be done."

DO FISH SLEEP?—Our own familiar friends, the freshwater fishes, must surely sometimes sleep, like the rest of the world? But when do they take their rest? The very big fish—such, for instance, as that Newbury ten or a dozen pounder trout—(a prosperous holiday to him!)—might take his rest in peace whenever disposed for a siesta. Not even a five-and-twenty pound pike that the late Mr. Fielder, of St. Mary's Hill, once caught in the Kennet, or a modern kinsman equally big, would dare do a fall with a fish like the Newbury trout, whether the latter were asleep or wide awake. I daresay there have been more young ducks and green peas on Dr. Hooker's table at Kew this summer than for many a year. The smaller shoal fish—the roach, the dace, the gudgeon, and the pretty bleak, must have a fitful sleep, if they ever sleep at all, with one eye open at least. Or do the rank and file sleep in "companies," with sentinels all round to give the "danger-signal" when the enemy is approaching? Can eels (like cats) see best in the dark? Confusion to all of 'em except in the flying-pan or pie-dish!

Down with the pike that prowl about,
In search of the pretty spotted trout;
And the swans and eels that eat the spawn
As clean as a new-mown daisy lawn!

I have seen years ago in the country, a lot of little boys set the shop bell ringing by shaking the old fashioned half-hatch door, and bring the lollipop and

"parliament" and alicamipanic vendor hurrying out, and he'd do a "chevy," after the urchins. The dash of a fine trout, or big perch among a "school" of dace or minnows, produces the same sort of skedadling hither and thither over the scour. I fancy the prowling pike, on the contrary, singles out his victim—perhaps fascinates the latter with his basilisk "blinkers," and the struggle is then short, sharp, and very decisive. But the most cheeky of all fish is, I think, a 2 ounce perch collaring a full-sized minnow or a chub of like weight "going for" a whole "maiden" lobworm! I recollect once seeing an angl—no, not an angler! but say a "hedge" Cockney, pull out a 3 oz. jack, close to the "Old Sluice House Tavern," at Hornsey, (since demolished) and he seemed as proud as possible of his handiwork! Well, most things in this world go by comparison, odious though that often is. Perhaps by this time our Hedge Cockney has done even mightier things with his angle. It used to be thought a prize if an ounce dace or gudgeon were caught in the New River. Hence a three ounce jack was a jolly catch. Only just fancy the horrid surprise of a sleeping 4 lb. pike being assaulted with a felonious and cannibal intent by a fourteen pounder! Such things do happen, we know for certain. Still, drowsy, asleep, or wide-awake, our very dear friends, the trout, and our more numerous plebeian perch and roach, &c., when not half-poisoned by the filth from factories, enjoy life probably much about the same as human bipeds. They have their days of happiness mixed with vicissitudes, and often luck in escaping from their natural and unnatural enemies. It is said that only one herring can go down the throat of a whale at a time; it would be equally interesting to know the dimensions of a pike's throat—say a twenty-pounder—without "stretching."—THE PILGRIM FRY-ER.

"MR. BOATMAN," said a timid woman to the ferryman who was rowing her across a river, "are people ever lost in this river?" "Oh no, ma'am," he replied; "we always finds 'em again within a day or so."

"FOR daily blessing most men forget to pay their praises, but let not us, because it is a sacrifice so pleasing to Him that protects us, and gives us flowers, and showers, and stomach, and meat, and content, and leisure to go a fishing."
—Isaak Walton.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 47, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1881.

BARBEL-FISHING.

IN this letter I shall continue my remarks on the different methods of baiting barbel places, and will endeavour to show the cause so many fail to get the fish on the feed; and I hope the Trent anglers will not be offended at what I am about to say. I will first begin with a circumstance that occurred at Farndon, near Newark, which has always been noted for its barbel-fishing. Two

gentlemen had engaged me to go down with them, and they had previously sent down to a fisherman residing in that locality a good lot of cheese, scratching and worms, to bait three places; and when we got down to Farndon, the fisherman was there ready to take us down to the first swim. On our way one of the gentlemen said: "Now, Mr. Fisherman, what is your opinion of the day, and what sport are we likely to have?" He replied: "I expect you will make a great catch." Now the reader must understand that I was well acquainted with every barbel swim in this locality, and had taken a great number of fish at most of the places. We stopped first at the head of a weir, and our fisherman said: "I threw a pint of cheese in this spot yesterday morning, and you will have to fish with a plumb, or leger as the London anglers call it." "Well," I said, "if you have baited this place with cheese, I guess we shall not kill a single fish. A stream like this, running so fast and only 5 feet, was only suitable for worms." We, however, tried it for an hour without getting so much as a bite, and I proposed to move on to the next spot, and perhaps we should have better luck. When we got to the place, which was a deep and almost a still water, which I knew to be 12 feet deep, our fisherman said: "I put in this place a thousand of worms; and I know there are plenty of large barbel in this hole, if you can only persuade them to feed." I now began to feel a little angry, and could not help saying, "Then you have done another stupid thing. Why did you not put some scratching in this spot? We shall catch nothing here with worms, excepting perhaps a few eels;" which turned out to be so, and we quickly departed to the other place, and the fisherman said: "I gave them about two pounds of well-cooked scratching in this place and cut it very small." Now this was a swim eight feet deep, and the stream ran so fast, that I never could properly fish it with anything less than a good-sized cork float. I said: "Well, I suppose, the scratching you threw in yesterday morning is by this time down at Newark, for it never could possibly stop in a stream like this;" so, of course, there was another failure. Not even a bite did we get, so the gentlemen now seemed quite disgusted, and after giving the fisherman something we bid him good day. Now these are a few of the causes why barbel-fishers so often have blank days, and I can assure them that it matters not what sort of stuff you are going to employ, it will be perfectly useless unless you select the right sort of place. So much for the doings of a Trent fisherman, number one. The next good thing came off at Wilford, near to Nottingham, where one of our old anglers baited a noted barbel swim with three pints of cheese thrown in at three different times. There was no doubt any quantity of fish in the place, as the end will show. I had baited a place just above with worms, and was going to fish it next day, and when this angler came up after giving the fish the last lot of stuff, said: "I have baited in the willow bed below. There is a lot of fish in the place, so I have given them three pints of cheese. Don't you think I shall make a good catch?" "That," I answered, "is impossible for me to tell." On the following day I got the barbel well on the feed at worms, and when they began to slack biting, and the place required a rest for an hour, I went down to our friend below and asked him what sport? "Not a bite yet," he replied, "I expect they will come on to feed shortly." But they did not, for he only caught one barbel all day. He then gave them a few handfuls more cheese. The next day he fished the place with similar result, only one fish. He now gave the place up in disgust. I told him that if he did not intend fishing it again, I would have a turn at them with worms in the course of a couple of days. Which I did by first giving them eight hundred of worms, and for three days after the fish bit well, and during the time I succeeded in killing 140 lb.; so much for the doings of another Trent piscator. Of course the reader will easily guess the cause, which was simply he had overdone the place by throwing in too much cheese, which completely sickened the fish. A few remarks on fishing with scratching, then I will close this letter. Some three years ago there was a very old stale water on the Trent, and barbel would not look at worms. Several of us took to scratching fishing, which went off very well. I was at Barton, with about half a pound of scratching, well cooked, for the day. I fished the slack places on stone work, and used a tight float, the bait being stationary on the bottom, and after throwing in a small bit of stuff, could generally catch three or four fish at each place. While I was at this work, down came three Trent anglers, who, it seemed, had been observing what I had been doing in the distance. "What are you fishing with?" said one. "Scratching," I replied. "Can you spare us a bit, for we have only got worms?" "Yes, certainly," and give each as much as I could spare, and then retired, and happened to meet the same party on the following Saturday, fishing the places they had seen me at a few days before. I asked them what sport? "Not a fish," replied one, "and we baited these three places yesterday with a stone of scratching. I said, 'Good day, gentlemen.'" Now, by the overbaiting, this favourite length of mine was completely settled for the remaining part of the season. These were Trent anglers. In my next,

among other hints on barbel-fishing, I shall have a few remarks to make in answer to your correspondent, respecting the float and leger, and perhaps after he may change his opinion, and think differently as regards float fishing for barbel.

W. BAILEY.

PISCATORIAL OPERATIONS AT GRANTHAM.

A FEW days since, as two boys were fishing in the Grantham Canal, one of them managed to hook a big fish, which he succeeded, with the assistance of the other, in keeping on the line for some time, and there was every prospect of it being so well on they would be able to land it. The fish, however, as fish sometimes will, even with the best of anglers, broke away when hopes of landing it had arrived; and in its final effort left a portion of its jaw on the hook. It must have been a last attempt at release as the fish was picked up dead a day or two afterwards with a broken jaw, and proved to be a jack of about 17 lb. The fact of such a monster being hooked in the canal, proves the water, in its preservation by the Grantham Angling Association, to hold some good representatives of the finny tribe. Great praise is due to the executive of that society in its efforts to provide for the members some good sport, and that by a subscription which all classes can afford to pay, thereby debarring no angler in Grantham from joining it. On Monday next, under the auspices of this excellent association, the Eighth Annual Fishing Match is to take place in the canal for a series of prizes. The President, Earl Brownlow, contributes the highest prize of £2, and the society offers five others, varying in amounts from 5s. up to £1, whilst the tradesmen and others of Grantham also give a number of prizes. As the portion of the canal to be fished is some distance from the town, a boat is engaged to take the competitors at the uniform rate of 1s. 6d. each, which includes the journey and the entry requisite to compete. There can be no doubt, with the encouragement thus afforded, the match, as regards numbers, will be a successful one, as some ten days previous to the time, over sixty tickets had been sold, and all that appeared to be wanted was a favourable day and a good condition of water. The efforts of Mr. W. George Ogden, as the secretary of the association, in making its work both popular and effective, is entitled to high commendation, and at a time when the angling interests need careful protection. The number of anglers are now so largely on the increase, it can only be hoped that those who have the means of supporting the association, whether anglers or not, will do so. The object is a truly philanthropic one, and should be generally recognised and encouraged; and when gentlemen can be found who will, as members of a committee, effectively conduct its operations, the general public should freely accept their claims for support. The Grantham Angling Association, by its example and efforts to obtain permission to fish, evidences what can be done in other places, not merely in providing sport for the anglers, but in the protection of the water under management from unsportsmanlike practices. The canal itself abounds with a variety of fish, and is one of those places where the working of the Freshwater Fishery Act of 1878 has proved a great benefit, as, previous to the passing of that Bill, there was nothing to prevent the anglers from fishing all the year except by arrangement. The Act was freely accepted by the Association as of necessary importance in giving rest to the fish during a recognised close period. The time will come when the Act will either be improved or superseded by one of a more complete character—including amongst other essentials in the preservation of the scaly family—the adoption of a uniform measurement of the various kinds of fish, thereby checking the disgraceful slaughter of the innocents which exists in different parts of the country where no angling associations are in existence to discourage the evil; and there can be no doubt such associations, in addition to the successful one at Grantham, would become more eminently useful by possessing an Act of Parliament which would make the taking of unsizeable fish a punishable offence. I am now on a visit in Lincolnshire to work out some piscatorial intelligence for the benefit of my brother anglers; but an opportunity was afforded me of witnessing a day's shooting near to Grantham, which I accepted, as most of my angling friends are good shots as well as skilful piscators. There were three guns in operation, which were used by Mr. Fred Burdett, Mr. Joseph Tyrell and Mr. Clixby, and the result forty-three hares, 30½ brace of splendid birds and nine rabbits. I have seen several good days' shooting in my time, but I never remember witnessing a prettier days sport, and only about 200 acres of the land was shot over. The birds were all young ones, and there were instances when over thirty got up at once. I am sure the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE will excuse the digression I have made in placing upon record so glorious a result.

B.

DINSDALE ON TEES.

No. II.

THE omission of a comma between the words salmon, grilse, &c., in the article last week would convey the impression that mature fish were not caught here on August 31; but this was by no means the case. No fish is here called a salmon unless it exceeds 7 lb.; all below this are called grilse, whether they are actually on their first matrimonial tour or not. In the course of the day referred to, about a third of the fish taken counted as salmon, and half as grilse; the remaining sixth were made up of bull trout and salmon trout. Grilse were never observed during recent years to be so plentiful as they are this autumn, which augurs well for the future prospects of the river.

The weir, or dam, is said to have been built by Emerson, a great mathematician and engineer in the early part of last century; several previous ones had been swept away, but he had observed the manner in which beavers invariably construct their dams, and his work, built upon the same plan, has stood for 150 years. One can wade along the top (when the stream is not too strong), and admire the strength of the fabric, consisting as it does of huge stones 4 or 5 feet long and 2 feet broad, clamped together with iron and lead in the old Roman style. When a fish gains the top he stops a moment as if to collect his thoughts, then a satisfied wag of his tail sends him on into the deep water above. In former days, that is to say, before the passing of the recent salmon Acts, there was a "fish lock" at each end of the dam, where the simple closing of a pair of lock-gates imprisoned all unfortunate fish who tried to discover a roundabout passage; or, tired with unsuccessful attempts at charging the cataract, sought for repose in the quiet of a treacherous side-eddy, instead of wisely falling back to recruit their strength in the safer waters of the lower parts of the pool. This arrangement, of course, enabled the owner of the fishery to secure at least double the number of fish at no trouble or expense at all beyond that of taking them out.

On September 1, the nets were off, and the angler's heart throbbed with eager hope, but alas! the water continued thick and muddy for two more days, from the turbid water brought in by the Skirm, above Croft, about which the heaviest rains had fallen. On Saturday, September 3, the keeper still shook his head at the colour, but thought there was no harm trying. The pool below the falls is about 300 yards in length, divided into the basins by a narrow but deep channel where I felt sure that there was the best chance of a fish. On the right, or Yorkshire bank, a perpendicular cliff of reddish rock, much over-grown with trees rises to about 100 feet; under this the fish mostly lie, and the nearer you can reach the foot of the rock with your fly the better. Every angler begins at the top of the pool, as close to the weir as he likes to go; it is no use fishing off the weir, as the fish are there so eager about getting up that all such inferior desires as feeding or playing are far from their minds. It would not be difficult, however, to hook one fish if you were poachingly inclined; and if a fish chooses to take your fly with his tail or back fin, many people might say it was not your fault.

I was, on that morning, the third angler on the water, and I had followed my predecessors as far as the deep channel before any signs of life had been felt at the end of any of our lines. Here I fished as slowly as possible, making my fly hang, as well as the stream permitted, over every foot of ground. A vigorous and hearty tug soon rewarded this policy, followed not by the delightful whirr of the reel, the sweetest of all music, but by the sickening knowledge that "he was off." The barb of my fly was gone! (Mem.: Examine your fly frequently if there is a bed of shingle behind you. My own fault losing him. I ought to have heard the fly strike the stones.) Well, it is no use crying over spilt milk or bewailing a lost fish, and I do not believe he can warn his brothers and sisters as a perch can; and whether a keen appetite, or a playful humour, or an irritable temper, had prompted him to seize my fly, there are doubtless others in the neighbourhood in a similar frame of mind. And as it proved; for within five minutes I was enjoying the highest human happiness—the delirious joy of fighting with a vigorous fish well hooked. The ice once broken, the game proceeded merrily. By luncheon time I had also landed his brother, and before we left off, from failing light, ten beautiful grilse had left the pool in a manner they had scarcely anticipated upon entering it.

On Monday morning the river was in flood again, and again continued thick for three days. On Thursday seven grilse were taken by two rods. On Friday the river was again turbid, and I was obliged to end my visit to this charming spot.

It struck me as curious that, of 17 fish, taken in the two days, and certainly quite 13 more lost, making not less than 30 rises, every one should have been a grilse, and not a single large fish have taken the fly, though there were any number of twelve to twenty-four pounders leaping at the falls. Is it that, like chil-

dren or puppies, the younger fish also are more inclined to play with whatever attracts their notice, and more easily beguiled to their destruction by a very slight temptation? Another puzzle: whereas on the first day I took all my fish in the narrow and deep channel above described, on the second day not a single fish was hooked there, but every one quite at the top of the pool. There must have been some cause for this.

C. C. J.

A FEW DAYS AT HICKLING BROAD.

"COME out, 'tis now September"—and we came out, but the bream wouldn't. Still, the rudd did, and though not the quarry we meant to seek, a rudd of 2 lb. or so is a formidable rival to the biggest pair of bellows, and, in my opinion, much better sport.

To come to details, it will be best to confess at once that as a bream-slaying expedition, our trip was a failure; only one little one being hooked by anyone, as far as we could learn, during our visit.

This one fell to the rod of my pupil in the gentle art, and did not tend to make him in love with bream, for it was about as lively as a toad, and weighed $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.!

Perhaps September is late for bream. They were feeding well in August, bushels or "skips" of them having been brought in and buried within a few days of our arrival.

It was on September 1st that we began, and the weather, it will be remembered, was very rough. As soon as we found what we might expect in the bream holes, we started for the sound leading into Hickling Broad, and, having found a sheltered, though shallow spot, tried once more. After taking a good perch or two, and some of the inevitable roachlings which will hang on the biggest of lobworms in the Norfolk Broads, I hooked something which seemed like a lively bream, but gleams of gold and scarlet soon showed what it was. This was indeed, an improvement. But our glee was transient, as, after a turn or two, the hold gave way. Soon fortune smiled again, and we had a warm ten minutes, taking three or four rudd in rapid succession—all good fish, from 1 to 2 lb. each, besides losing others. Then came a lull, and, looking round, we noticed that, in spite of the waves, the rudd could be seen rising at some ground bait which had floated away. Pulling up our anchor, we drifted towards the fish, and, fishing very shallow, secured several more, the largest just 2 lb. The weather getting, if possible, worse (so much so, in fact, as to be dangerous to our racketty boat), and little perch taking the place of the rudd, we started for the row back to Martham, and reached our comfortable quarters at Mrs. Dove's, Loxwood Villa, close to Martham station, in good time for the substantial meal that awaited us.

The next day was a repetition of Thursday, excepting that, knowing the spot, we got more fish, and that my hopeful pupil extinguished me (it is a way he has) by taking a rudd of 2 lb. 10 oz. or over, which was landed, by the way, with the remains of my umbrella. This fish has been sent to Price's, Euston Square, to be preserved.

On Saturday the weather improved much, but the fishing didn't, quite the reverse, in fact. We rowed into the Broad itself this time, some two or three miles, and tried in the centre, the wind having gone down; but it was of no use, and what fish we took (about sixty) were from the Sound. This was our worst day, nothing being taken much over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

On Sunday we went to the fine old parish church, and on Monday had a long day to finish up with, resulting in the capture of 120 fish, chiefly rudd, ranging from 1 lb. 2 oz. to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—of course we returned the same fish. The method by which we had best sport is worth mentioning. Finding the rudd were all near the surface, we threw out pieces of crust, and watching the rises, cast the bait at the fish as it were, only allowing about 10 inches of depth, and using fine tackle and paste. Sometimes, for a quarter of an hour together, this plan would bring a good rudd to boat at every cast. I tried artificial fly also with some success, but discontinued it finding it took small fish only. Nottingham tackle would have been very effective. Perhaps some of your readers will try it and inform you of the result.

There is plenty of room at our lodging, which was cheap as well as comfortable, the three rooms for five days coming to exactly the same as our night's lodging and board at the Two Bears, Yarmouth.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

THE "DERBY KILLER."

SOME reader of the GAZETTE asked the other day for a good spinning bait; their name is legion, and yet we thought we had seen most of them. The other day on the Dove, near Ilam, we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. John Bullock, of Firs Cottage, Burton Road, Derby, spin the bait called the "Derby Killer," which he makes, and sells, and uses. Our readers are well acquainted with the capital descriptions Mr. W. J. Bullock has given in this paper of his methods of spinning the natural minnow. We should very much like to see these two expert anglers fish a match—Mr. W. J. B. in his style, and Mr. J. B. in his. Only it would have to be some stream where the natural bait is allowed, which is not the case on the Dove. Mr. John Bullock is a perfect master of the style he likes best. He uses a stout bamboo spinning rod, with upright rings, and a fine sixteen-plait silk line, his bait is one of his own "Derby Killers," which he uses without trace—simply fastening his reel line to the single swivel which is placed on the gut a foot from the head of minnow. His objection to having to swivel at the head of the bait, is that it gets "across" sometimes and causes the bait to wobble. The "Derby Killer" is an attractive looking minnow made of gutta-percha—leaded—and it spins magnificently, the fins which turn it being similar to those of a good "Devon." Although he was not wading, and the water was clear as crystal, Mr. Bullock got five brace of nice trout. Large grayling are frequently killed with this bait. Mr. Bullock can throw it to any spot with wonderful precision. We saw him, standing on a high bank, with trees over and round him, send his bait beautifully 25 yards across the river and kill a trout which had been rising on the opposite shallows. Mr. B. makes the bait in all sizes, and we can advise our readers to make a note of his address.

THE BELHUS HUNTERS.

IN our issue of the 3rd of September, we called the attention of those of our readers—and they are by no means an inconsiderable or unimportant number—who combine hunting with angling pursuits, to the approaching sale of the Belhus hunters. The annual sale which Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart., has now carried on for the past six years, may fairly be classed as one of the most important gatherings which the revolving cycle brings together; and the hunters which are dispersed at the yearly sale can certainly lay claim to be some of the cleverest and most splendid hunters to be found in the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. The well-known judgment of the worthy owner of Belhus, together with the great care and discrimination he evinces in purchasing the hunters which are dispersed at the annual sale, have had the effect of attracting buyers from all parts, abroad as well as at home. In our advertising columns, this week, will be found the catalogue of this important sale, and the full details of the forty first-class hunters which Sir T. Barrett Lennard offers for public competition, under the hammer of Mr. Tattersall, *without reserve*, on Thursday next. Any one in want of a good hunter, and with money enough to purchase, cannot do better than make a selection here. The forty hunters catalogued are certainly a splendid lot, indeed it would be hard to find their equal. They comprise some magnificent specimens of the weight-carrying hunter, and there are few finer animals than De Merrimac, Kilconnell, C. B., Lismore, and the Brigadier. The sale is set down to commence at one o'clock; and we may mention that there are two ways of getting from London to Belhus, namely, by the 10.50 train from Fenchurch Street Station to Rainham, which is four miles from Belhus, or by the 10.30 special train from St. Pancras Station, which will return from Rainham Station at seven o'clock p.m.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

FROM Chertsey, a note comes from Haslett, the fisherman, that the wind has been back in its old quarter, due north, and that the fish have been right off the feed, barbel particularly so. He adds, "You may judge of this for yourself from the fact that three days' fishing with Mr. Abrahams, in three well-baited swims only produced five barbel, one chub, four perch, and three dozen of good roach and dace; however, the weather has turned a little warmer, and to-morrow (Wednesday and Thursday), I am going in for bream, and, I think, I shall get them." Messrs. Geen and Hoole, at Penton Hook, on Thursday, fared, if anything, worse; Mr. Geen just saving the dreaded blank by a brace, one barbel, and one roach.

All last week the sport was brisk at Elstree, but on Saturday the wind shifted, and on Sunday very few tench were killed. All

the punts and boats were engaged, and many were disappointed. Messrs. Humphries and Pearce, fishing together, succeeded in getting about 40 lb. of jack. Messrs. Marshall and Aldis got, the former a handsome well-fed jack of close upon 6 lb., and a brace of good tench; the latter, a couple of pretty jack and a small tench, the jack were feeding very fairly, and many takes were had of which I could not get particulars.

Re the 19 lb. trout. In answer to Mr. A. Jardine's remarks, I wish to state that I never wrote in my notes that the fish was "weighed-in" at the Gresham Angling Society, though I said it was weighed; and in this I still presume I was right. Indeed, it is almost impossible to imagine so grand a fish shown at an angling society without being tenderly, almost reverently placed into the scale while a group of eager piscators throng round watching the process of piling on the blocks of metal, until, amid a buzz and notes of admiration, the exact weight avoirdupois of the beautiful deceased is ascertained.

Until I saw Mr. Jardine's letter, I was in hopes it might still have turned out a Thames trout taken spinning as reported in *The Daily Telegraph*. Had it fallen to Mr. Jardine's rod, I assure that gentleman that among the many who would have congratulated him, none would have done so more sincerely and heartily than the writer of these notes.

From Goring, under the woods, the capture of a 16 lb. pike is reported. While from the Arun, Mr. A. Gunston, of The Brothers Well Met, is to be credited with the capture of a handsome roach 1 lb. 12 oz.

Complaints have been made by anglers that they pay in the requisite amount to the secretary of their society, entitling them to membership in the Anglers' Benevolent Society, but that weeks, and in some cases even months, elapse before such amounts are forwarded to the general secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney. Now this delay arises, in many cases, from a most excusable desire on the secretaries' parts to get a good batch of names and send them all at once; but by doing this they may unwittingly wrong their fellow members, as no angler is considered a member, or can be entitled to benefits in case he requires such, unless his name is on the general secretary's books or he holds one of the printed receipts, books of which are issued only to the working committee of the society who are thus able to enrol anglers at any time or place, providing they know them as members of a society. I sincerely trust secretaries will act upon my well-intentioned hint, and in justice to their members send in the names and money of those desirous of joining, as they get them. I may add that I shall be very pleased, if any secretary wishes it, and will drop me a line to the address beneath my signature on each privilege card, to run up to his society on a meeting night, and save him all the trouble of writing, forwarding cash, &c., by enrolling as many of his members as wish, there and then, and giving them printed receipt at time.

A STOCK OF FINE GUT.

CALLING on Mr. Gillett, of 40, Fetter Lane, a few days ago, he showed us part of his stock of gut. He has over five hundred pounds' worth, and some of it is as fine in quality as any we have seen for a long time. He has also got some very good rods, which he will sell cheap, as they are old stock, and of course so much the more real value, as being thoroughly seasoned.

FISHING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. BULLOCK'S interesting article on "The Salmon and his Capture" which appeared in your issue of the 13th ult., has struck a chord in one who is a keener than he is an accomplished angler. Of course, I take it that the fact of a man being a Highlander and resident in the Highlands will not operate against his prospects of having an article inserted, on angling, in the *FISHING GAZETTE*. Mr. Bullock speaks of the longing eyes of the angler who looks in at Grove's or Towell's windows and sees the noble *salmo salar* of great weight and fine proportions these exhibit; but for my part, and I am devoted to angling until I get a day at the grouse, give me a look at the beautifully finished flies of Messrs. Snowie (sons of the late famous Hugh Snowie), of Inverness, or those of Mr. Hugh Morrison, Dingwall, and my imagination can picture a beautiful half dozen of grilse or salmon lying stretched on the green grass or the purple heather which is found on the banks of the Inver and Kirkaig rivers in Sutherlandshire. Yes, sir, to one who has done—done it so lately as the 30th ult. on the Inver—the landing of six good, lively fish on a bright summer's day is an achievement to make his "mouth water" in all time to come, until he can do a greater feat and land seven, and it is an ambition worthy of a worthier man. There are flies and flies. You may get beauties to look at

and pay half-a-crown or three and sixpence each for them, but the chances are that you will not get salmon with them; although, truth to say, when fish are in humour to take they will almost go for anything. Yet, after all, there is something in character, and a name is good for something even while allowance is duly made for the rose which would smell as sweetly if known by some other cognomen. For instance, I would back Mr. T. B. Snowie's "Highlander," in the evening on the Kirkaig to beat any fly whatever, but for a lure that deserves its name, let the river be in what state it chooses provided the size of the hook is properly regarded, the "butcher" is the executioner—the very Calcraft of the river.

The "black doctor" is a charmingly effective fly, and the "Jock Scot" is a universal killer. Some good anglers stick up for the "dusty miller," and I vote for the "captain"—such a captain as was made and supplied to me by John Smith, keeper to Mr. Whitbread, M.P. Smith is quite an amateur fly maker, but he is a proficient angler, and I got three salmon in less than an hour with a "captain" made by him. The Hon. C. H. Erskine, who is an accomplished and an indefatigable angler, did most execution this season with a "black doctor," but Mr. Hely Almond, of Lovett's Public School—a grand institution—the Eton, Harrow, Rugby, or Winchester of Scotland—goes for the "dusty miller"—and he is (not the "miller" but Mr. Almond plying him with his equally famous "man," Johnnie McLeod, beside him) not to be beat by any angler in all Sutherland, which is the crack angling county of Scotland. Lochinver is the angling capital of that county and it is remarkably good fun meeting at night in the smoking room of the Culag Hotel, there to fight the battles piscatorial of the day o'er again, surrounded by a choice crowd of sportsmen who have a ducal library—a most valuable one, too—at arm's length, or within arms' reach of them, to settle knotty points withal. I say, lolling at one's full length and taking it easy in the late hours, and discussing this "rush," that "rise," and the other difficult "landing;" then Rorie Grant did this; Tom Burd did that; Johnnie "Louie," or Munro Kerr, or Johnnie "Logie," or Davie McLeod, or Norman, or "Big John," or big "Murdoch," did the other clever thing in gaffing or following a fish. It is not often easy to do the latter in rough ground such as is met with on some parts of the Inver and Kirkaig; and it is little to say that the Chief Commissioner of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland—that distinguished general, Sir Arnold Kenball—has not time to notice representations courteously made to him regarding the paths on the banks of the famous streams named.

Any one known to use the worm in angling for salmon would be sent to Coventry at once in the Highlands; but it is suspected that not a few do occasionally commit the atrocity when "shades of even are closing o'er" them, and their baskets are empty. I cannot believe that such a method is pursued openly in any country, but the temptation is admittedly great when fish are seen amusing themselves in crowds, and yet will not look at your fly. My friend, little Grant, or Tom Burd, say, would as soon think of hooking his grandmother with the gaff as attempting to get a salmon with a "scoured worm—Mac's fly." Since leaving Lochinver on the 10th inst., I learn that very fair success has attended anglers there. Up to the 17th inst. the following are among the results:—Mr. Morecroft, two salmon; Major Smith, Shropshire Yeomanry, one; and Mr. Almond one on the Kirkaig on 11th inst.; 12th, Col. Pretymann, late 60th Rifles, a grilse; and Mr. Earp, the Grove, Derby, three salmon, one a 12 lb. fish on Kirkaig. 13th, Capt. Burstall, late 60th Rifles, two salmon on the Inver, 9 and 7 lb.; and Mr. Almond, three, 7, 10, 14 lb.; Major Tickle, 28 lb. trout on Loch Fewn, and a 6½ lb. grilse. 15th, Mr. Earp, a grilse; Capt. Sconce, a salmon of 11½ lb. on upper Inver; Capt. Burstall, three grilse; and Mr. Almond, two salmon aggregating 13 lb. 16th, the latter gentleman, two salmon, 10 and 7 lb.; and Capt. Burstall, who is a most indefatigable and excellent angler, had a 10 lb. salmon and a sea trout on the Kirkaig. Tom Burd with him, as the lawyers say! When salmon are being got, one does not stop to notice even first-rate baskets of trout, and such have been here omitted for fear of encroaching too much on your space.

The most extraordinary achievement of the season was that of Mr. William Neill, of Leeds, who went to the Kirkaig on a very unpropitious day with some very cheap flies, and a common tanned fisherman's line, &c., yet he landed two salmon of 9 and 8 lb. respectively.

The rivers were in heavy flood during the week, and consequently "dirty" as well, so that fishing was done under difficulties.

If you go to Lochinver, Mr. Editor, I can recommend a drink for the after dinner hours, which is superior—immeasurably so—to brandy and soda, whisky and cold water, or even toddy. Ask for a bottle of ginger ale and insinuate into it a glass of good Ord, or Clynelish whisky, and if you don't say it is *As you deserve to*

be a T.T., and thus not merit good liquor being spilt and spoilt on you.

As regards the scenery of the district, I think it can be frankly declared to be insurpassable in this mountain land. The drive along the northern bank of Loch Assynt commands a view of remarkable beauty and grandeur. There are two fine hotels at Lochinver, the Culag, until last year a seat of the Duke of Sutherland—and the Lochinver, a house of well-established fame.

CAMPBELL ROSS.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

THE annual dinner of the delegates and honorary bailiffs of the River Lea in connection with the Central Committee, took place on Sunday last, September 11th, at the Rye House. Three valuable prizes, given by the president of the Kenton Angling Society, and one by Mr. M. Fowler, of the Sir Hugh Myddleton, were competed for by arrangement. On the arrival of the train about 10 o'clock the delegates and bailiffs mustered in the Rye House Gardens, and shortly afterwards they were formed into a group and a photograph of all present was taken. At 10.30 time was called to commence angling, the following being the conditions:—The boundary, the Rye House Fishery, with the exception of the meadow side from the bridge up stream; all fish to be weighed in accordance with the River Lea bye-laws; and prizes to be taken by the first four heaviest weights of any fish (except bleak, eels and gudgeon). At five o'clock sharp the anglers mustered in the garden to weigh; the chairman, Mr. S. Morgan, weighed the fish, the secretary, Mr. G. Ghurney, officiating at the book. Unfortunately, there were only four persons who had fish that were eligible to weigh, the result being:—Mr. W. Allen, Bermondsey Brothers, first prize, one jack; Mr. C. Walken, Norton Folgate, second prize, one perch; Mr. W. High, Alexandra, and Mr. C. A. Metcalf, Amicable Brothers, dead heat for third and fourth prizes with roach. The water was very bright, otherwise the day seemed very favourable. At 5.15 the bell rang for the company to muster at the dinner table, which was very soon responded to. The swims being well baited, business soon commenced. At the termination, after the waiters had been cared for, Mr. Teale was summoned to the room, and a unanimous vote of thanks was passed for the way that he placed the dinner on the table.

The first toast was proposed by the Chairman, "Success to the United London Anglers' Central Committee," coupled with the health of the Secretary, which was responded to by Mr. R. Ghurney by a few brief remarks on the present prosperous condition of the committee, and thanking the delegates and bailiffs for the kindness and courtesy always shown by them towards him in all transactions connected with the Central Committee.

The second toast, proposed by Mr. R. Murphy in a very appropriate speech, was "Success to the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies," responded to by Mr. W. H. Beckett, the vice-chairman of the Association, in which he expressed the great pleasure he felt in the amicable and friendly way in which the Association and the Central Committee were working together for the one great object—the benefit of the London and provincial anglers.

The third toast, proposed by Mr. Letch, of the Little Independent Angling Society, "Success to the Central Association," was very appropriately responded to by Mr. M. Phillips, of the Great Northern Brothers, in which he explained the flourishing condition of the Association, and that he was convinced that the time had arrived when the Central Committee and the two Associations would work for the general benefit of the angling fraternity, and that their interests were the same, and that he was sure there was no ill-feeling on the part of the Central Association towards either the committee or the West Central Association.

The fourth toast, proposed by Mr. Manning, of the Izaak Walton Angling Society, "The health of Mr. J. F. White, President of the Kenton Angling Society," for his generosity towards them that day. Mr. White, in reply, stated that it gave him very great pleasure in being in company of so many anglers and friends of anglers as the delegates were. They were very welcome for anything that he could do to enhance their pleasure and sport, and hoped next year to have the pleasure of acting in a similar way.

The last toast, "Health and Success to the Honorary Bailiffs of the River Lea," duly responded to by Mr. G. Oram, in which he thanked the committee for their kindness and consideration towards himself and his brother bailiffs, and they would do all in their power, as they had done before, to protect the river day or night.

The meeting then broke up, it now being close on seven o'clock, and many wishing to catch the 7.20 p.m. train to reach their club rooms to give an account of their pleasant day's outing.

Thirty-four sat down to dinner. The following delegates and bailiffs were present:—S. Morgan and R. Ghurney, chairman and secretary; J. Bunn (the Dalston), C. J. Miller (Hearts of Oak), G. Manning (Izaak Walton), Letch (Little Independent), W. Phillips (Great Northern Brothers), M. Allen (Bermondsey Brothers), J. Aldridge (Hoxton Brothers), J. T. Cundall (Alliance), C. A. Medcalf (Amicable Brothers), Chambers (Cavendish), Brookman (Stoke Newington), Peirce (Stepney), Hearn (Burdett), R. Breedon (Sociable Brothers), F. Bates (Bridgewater Brothers), W. Jones (North Eastern), D. G. Munro (Edmonton and Tottenham), G. Moore (Never Frets), C. Walker (Norton Folgate), J. Huntley (Kenton), R. Murphy (Good Intent), W. H. Beckett, vice president (West Central Association), W. Fowler (Sir Hugh Myddleton). The following bailiffs were

also present:—Messrs. G. Oram, W. High, F. Scott, J. G. Baylee, and W. Bick. There were also present, J. F. White and C. Donne (president and secretary, Kenton Angling Society), W. Sully (Great Northern Brothers), Mr. Henwood (North Eastern), Mr. T. Feetcham (Metropolitan Angling Society) was absent through illness.

SMACKOWNERS, FISH-DEALERS, AND BILLINGSGATE.

FINDING you have devoted considerable space to the interests of fish, fish-dealers, and Billingsgate, in your valuable paper, would you kindly allow me, as an old Billingsgatonian, to venture a few remarks, although, perhaps, the remarks I am about to make will not meet with the views of many concerned in the fish supply of the great metropolis? But all I wish is merely to show how I evade the trouble and expense of patronising Billingsgate at all. Old Billingsgate is within my recollection, long before the waterside was reclaimed and added to the then so-called New Market. The old portion has been remodelled and improved several times since; also the building of the Coal Exchange, and the poor fellow falling through from the skylight roof on to the tessellated pavement below; and the inadequate room and talk there was then for vehicles, not excepting the costers' barrows from the New Cut and Whitechapel, which were there by hundreds. Also the old man called "Paul Pry," who used to look after the vans and carts belonging to the dealers from the surrounding suburbs; also the narrow, dingy, dirty Darkhouse Lane, where such names as Stevenson, Russell, Foxall, and many others, used to carry on extensive trades in their dismal shed-like shops. Soles were sold at this time by the basket, called a bushel, heaped up, and called cauliflower tods; this was, in my opinion, the forerunner of the present short supply of what was then called the fishmongers' friend (soles), they being had all the year round. These baskets used to contain innumerable quantities of small soles, called slips and tongues, and great were the dissensions then as to their smallness; the best judges used to go in for the lightest baskets (as they held the largest fish), the heavier baskets being closely packed with smaller, thus the heavier weight. At this time, also, the coal bunkers and lockers at the public-houses—which were boxes made under the settles and elsewhere, and used by the bobbbers for putting their overalls in from morning to morning—were used as receptacles for the contents of the fishermen's and boys' boots, who used, when they came ashore, to thrust two or three pairs of soles, fine ones, too, into them, and relieve themselves by placing them in these places; then, standing at the bar, await a customer—of which there were not a few—would show them privately, complete a sale, and then, if possible, replenish the boots again. I have seen shoulders of mutton sold for 3d. per lb., and thighs of mutton for 5d. per lb. in the same way. I could say on, but sufficient has been said to show that Billingsgate has been known to me for a number of years. Now to the question, "Smack-owners and fish-dealers." For some few years past Billingsgate to me has been but very little known, as a source from which my supply has been procured, and of which I am not an isolated member, as many others doing immense trades have done so for many years—and whereby such expensive items as horses, carts or vans, servants and stabling for market purposes are entirely done away with; also the portage (or bobbing) for conveying the fish from the market to the purchasers' conveyance. I have paid myself as much as 20s. a morning for such. Many tradesmen pay considerably more, which amounts to something considerable during the year. I presume that it is not generally known—therefore some advantage and benefit may accrue by making it so—that at most of our fishing stations, viz., from Cornwall, Plymouth, Torbay, as far as Grimsby, and even to Wick, immense quantities of fish are sold to buyers from London, Manchester, Birmingham, &c., and even France. But there are smack owners who reserve and provide for customers supplied by them direct (before either of the above buyers can purchase) and from whom you can depend for a regular and plentiful supply of the finest and choicest of the catches, at such prices that would astonish the retail dealers of London, &c., because you have them direct from the smack owners; the best of the best sent off forthwith. No waiting for truckloads to be made up, no three or four days' delay, no commission to pay, no market expenses, no wear and tear of rolling stock. Simply the carriage to pay, and a trifle on returning each bundle of empties, kits or boxes; and the expenses paid for portage or bobbing alone at Billingsgate would go some considerable distance in defraying the above carriage. I am afraid that I have already encroached too much upon your valuable space, but should any further knowledge be required I shall feel great pleasure in answering. With regard to Billingsgate market being retained, most certainly retain it for the benefit of all whom it may concern. But when, or, rather, before, the Coal Exchange was built was the time the extra convenience, &c., should have been made; but as it is, in my opinion, only merely a matter of traffic, and if that portion of the ground facing the Custom House, or the whole site, if possible, could be secured, the water frontage would be most convenient. There would be less destruction of fish than there usually is by rail, more room for quicker delivery from the railway vans, and also a sharper sale in the market, and then old Billingsgate will stand as, and before all others, the proper and only site required even now for the metropolitan fish market.

—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

River seemingly in grand condition for summer fishing, but most fish are dead off, perch affording best sport. Weather simply delightful.

Thames (Goring).

Water here very low and clear; in good order for jack and perch. Prospects look better for fine weather; jack and perch biting very well. I was out for six days with a gentleman and lady. Took about 40 lb. of jack and perch. Best day was on Saturday, 23 lb. of jack. Monday, with a gentleman, some good perch. Tuesday, three jack going 16 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the river being so very low and bright the fishing during the last week has been very bad. Different gentlemen, fishing with me four days, had takes as follows:—First day, Mr. T. Abbott, one barbel, two chub, three roach and a perch (ledgering); second day, Mr. Long, five barbel, four perch, one chub, and one dozen and a half of roach (ledgering); third day, Mr. Field, one barbel, two dace, one chub and two perch (ledgering); fourth day, Mr. Palmer, two barbel, two chub, three dace, one roach and an eel (ledgering).—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The water is low and bright, so wants careful fishing; should the weather keep fine perch, roach, jack, in fact, all sorts of fish, ought to feed if properly fished for. This has been an unfortunate week, one large carp lost from the bank after 20 minutes' play, 80 yards of line, one from the punt, after having him about the same time, the hook gave way. Best day, 8 barbel best 6 lb. broke 4 times, they will hold them with the fine tackle. A private boat of jack 6 lb., and a barbel 4½ lb. with artificial bait. I got some nice perch, and the gudgeons are now on the feed, and a few nice roach have been had from the bank.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The water a little bright, but in good fishing order. The sport during the last fortnight has not been at all up to the average for Richmond, as is always the case at this particular time of year. The fish have taken to feed a little better to-day, and I think there will be an improvement during the coming week. The sport has ranged from 3 to 5 doz. roach and dace each day. Mansel and Brain have been getting a few perch and barbel. All the punts have been out every day; some days there has not been enough for the demand there has been.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

The water is very low and bright. Prospects of fishing not quite so good as they were last week. H. Purdue, three days, eleven dozen roach and gudgeon and two jack weighing 4½ lb.; fourth day, 12 lb. roach and dace. Mysell, fishing three days, first day, five dozen roach and dace; second day, five barbel, one jack of 3 lb. and two dozen of roach; third day, three dozen of roach, four dozen gudgeon and one perch of 1½ lb.—W. ROGERSON.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers have been in very good condition for fishing this last fortnight, and some very good baskets of trout have been taken, both with the fly and the minnow. Mr. E. Locke caught over eighty in three days. The weather now is very bright, with frosty nights, and the rivers are running down so that I am afraid there are not many good days left for us before the season closes. Salmon have made their appearance, but not in large numbers. The Rev. George Jellicoe caught a grise of 8 lb. on Saturday. Another of 8 lb. on Monday, and yesterday a salmon of 10 lb. The reason why the salmon have not come up in any number it is supposed through some obstruction caused by the new railway that is being constructed between Tiverton and Dulverton station. It crosses the river Exe in two or three places.—W.

Dove.

This river has now run down into nice order for angling, either with the fly or worm, though the water is pretty clear. I hear that bottom fishers have done very well during the week near Rocester, plenty of chub, roach, and bream, having been caught with the cockspur worm. Fishing has also been pretty good in the preserved water near Sutton-on-the-Hull. Barbel have been very backward at biting this season on the Dove. Few large baskets have been taken, none of them to be compared to what were caught in the autumn of last year. The Dove is not, perhaps, the best barbel river in the Midlands, but at any rate there ought to be a good few in it as many fish come out of the Trent, rather than remain to be poisoned with the filthy pollutions from the Burton breweries. Scratching is now proving the most acceptable to the fish named. Trout have risen during the week—the best time being in the middle of the day, but the small blacks on the water have absorbed most attention from the speckled ones. Grayling have likewise been well on the feed, and this beautiful fish is now getting into the very best of condition. One taken this week with the ephemera palmer scaled 2½ lb. The night line fraternity have been busy amongst eels, some big ones having been captured near Uttoxeter. In the Henmore and Manifold, Foster's intermediate and the Derby kill-devil are

getting the best fish. These tributaries are still full of water, but not at unfishable height.—THE SPODGER.

Dove (Ilam).

This river has been in good order all the week, clear, but with a fair volume of water. Mr. John Bullock, of Derby, had two brace of trout one day, all taken with the Derby killer, which I have much pleasure in recommending very strongly to all the anglers who use artificial minnows for trout. I have had some fair sport with the fly, chiefly with the grey palmer and the dun bumble. I had two grayling of about 22 oz. each, and some good trout. The grayling are rising more freely every day now. Trout still in fine condition. I got two brace yesterday in an hour and a half. There are several anglers at the Izaak Walton.—R. B. MARSTON.

Exe (Exeter).

The heavy rains of the past week have kept the river in such a state of high flood that fishing with the fly has been quite impossible; in fact, it has been too big even for worm fishing. We are getting a nice change now, although it is still high and discoloured, but prospects are now looking good. Trout, that are in the lower waters have it all to themselves, not having heard of one being taken. Salmon and peal are abundant, and some excellent sport with the former is had daily. Two and three per diem is the average, weighing from 15 lb. to 20 lb. each, several have been lost through being slightly hooked. Some five or six peal about 2½ to 3½ lb. each have come to bank. Pike are well on the feed as several have found pigs' melt not to be had at every meal. Roach, dace, perch, plentiful good creels of the latter from all parts; F. G. junr. on Friday last took 43, and 30 eels. Bass fishing should be looking up, for on Saturday about one hour before high water at Turf, there were thousands playing around the stern of a vessel moored off there; these are the first seen so far up the river this season. Bream and mullet are plentiful in the Estuary, where several sunfish have been seen; and a Fox-shark or Thresher (*Squalus vulpes*) also a Swordfish (*Xipias gladius*) both splendid fellows, were taken last week, a sunfish was also taken near Ilfracombe. Canal fishing very poor no doubt owing to the thundery weather but we may expect good sport now. Weather cool, wind N.N.E.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Harlow (Essex).

Water in splendid condition. Several pounds of roach taken in one day's sport.—J. SHIRNEILD.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There has been a few fine trout taken this week from the streams known as Slade bottom, also some fine eels taken from our streams, with lob worms for bait. Mr. Hepel, a visitor, fishing with rod and line from the rocks adjoining the Ilfracombe Hotel, hooked six fine lobsters, but his landing net being so small he could not get them into it, consequently he had not the pleasure of saving either of them. Our sea fishing still continues good; there has been more fish caught this last week than there has been for the season. C. A. Teape, Esq., a resident, and J. Carter, Esq., a visitor, went out on Saturday for a fishing expedition, and returned, after three hours' sport, with 130 bream, average weight 1½ lb. each, also several whiting pout. Monday and Tuesday the boats had splendid catches of bream, codlin, whiting pout, shad mackerel, pollack, &c. Wednesday the trawlers went down in Barnstaple Bay, and returned in the evening with a few fine soles, plaice, thornback, &c., also boats out with pleasure parties, their catches of fish averaging from 80 lb. to 100 lb. per boat per tide. Any gentleman fond of sport, this is the place for them to visit, as the coast is full of fish of all kinds. Weather at present very moderate, with a little wind blowing from the south. Prospects good for the next few days.—J. COMER.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river is in splendid condition for all kinds of angling, and fish, as a rule, are well on the feed. Several parties have been out jack fishing, and have done well. Mr. B. St. John Wagborne has caught two or three brace; Mr. F. Buley, a brace, close to the town bridge in the High Street; while Mr. G. Payne and Mr. A. J. Snelling, while fishing off the Castle on Thursday, caught a brace of pike in addition to a nice basket of bream; Mr. J. Buley, fishing below the town with a live bait, grassed four chub weighing 6 lb.; while Mr. R. Leonard, above the town, caught seven with the fly, the largest weighing close upon 2 lb. Other anglers besides those above named have been doing well, though the ground fishing is somewhat uncertain. No doubt, if the weather continues fine, there will be a good deal of execution done next week.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Ormesby Broad.

The weather for the past week at Ormesby has been very dull, with much rain, and the fishing has been very quiet until the last three days, when some gentlemen belonging to the Gresham and Caxtonian anglers have had some fair baskets of bream, roach and rudd. If this fine weather should continue I shall expect to see some good baskets of fish brought in.—S. RICHMOND.

Ouse (Kempston).

I have had some good catches of dace and chub in the rough water below the mills, which is in the private occupation of Mr. Thorn. Sundry juvenile visitors have done but poorly bottom fishing. The weather has been too cold up to Tuesday for the fish to rise freely. I have seen four more young trout rising at the fly, but could not find it in my heart to prick their delicate little noses. I hope, if spared, to make their acquaintance at a future date. The best catch that I have heard of this week was by the Rev. H. Carpenter, who had 70 roach, weighing 17 lb. As an evidence of the large number of eels in the Ouse, I may state that 5 cwt. were caught in two traps in one night at Kempston, a short time ago. The largest weighed 6 lb. odd, whilst the four biggest bumped the balance at 20 lb. What a lot of fry catch a vast number of slimys must devour in one week. Why rod-fishing is nowhere compared to the slaughter of these water snakes.—THOMAS FORD.

Severn (Kidderminster).

The Severn is low and fine, therefore it is not in good condition for all-round angling. If the weather should continue fine, I think some good takes of dace and trout may be taken with the fly. Should a small fresh breeze come on so as to tinge the water, good baskets of fish may be expected. Mr. A. G. Tittley, of the Swan Hotel, Kidderminster, succeeded in taking six pike weighing 36 lb., being an average of 6 lb. each, spinning with the gudgeon, in the river Avon, at Bredon, near Tewkesbury, the largest weighing 13 lb., the smallest 2½ lb.; all in fine condition; caught in 3½ hours.—EDWIN LAWRENCE.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The end of the trouting season is now fast drawing to a close, and on the whole it has been one of the best for some years past, both as regards the size of the fish and the number taken. The largest fish have fallen victims to the natural minnows, which in the Severn is by far the most killing bait for trout. With the present state of the water greying fishers have all that can be desired, and evidences are not wanting of the presence of *salmo thymalus*, as several braces of nice fish have been taken below Shrewsbury. Should the weather prove favourable, we may hope that these graceful fish will afford sport in the declining days of the fly fishing season. The "fall of the leaf" is not without fatal effects to the young fry of the salmon, and the slaughter of the innocents will continue as long as a certain class of rod and line men can follow them with any chance of success. The genuine rodster, however, cannot but look with pity and good-humoured contempt upon those who, through gluttony's vile sin, pursue this kind of amusement. Up to the present week, which, owing to the lowness of the water and other influences, has not been productive of much sport, bottom fishers have had a glorious time of it among the roach and dace (roach running large), the most successful lure being wasp-grubs and maggots; paste fishing for roach having been somewhat a failure. Perch fishing has resulted in good takes as regards numbers, but the quality of the fish have been somewhat indifferent. Chub come rather slowly at present, but they are in the river, and with a little patience and colder weather his chubship may render a good account of himself. The next two months are the best in the year for worm fishing, and anglers should not go out without them. Well-soured brandlings are best for low, clear waters, but for muddy or coloured water fresh ones have proved the most killing.—W. D.

Stow (Suffolk).

Although the weather was bad in the extreme, I made the best I could of it, for my holiday was short. On Monday I commenced in earnest to fish with a long white cane rod. I began with the roach, and, to my great satisfaction, they fed like tigers, till the rain came down, and I was obliged to retreat. Next day I tried perch fishing, and no sooner had I wet my line than down went the float and a perch of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. came twisting out of the water. I took eight perch in as many minutes. Then a few more from another hole, and so on, till another heavy rain and a blow from the north-east told me to go home once more. On the Friday a friend from Brighton (secretary of the Brighton Anglers), and myself tried the bream. Although we were told we were three weeks late, we determined to try the lobworm, and succeeded in killing 20 lb. of bream between the showers. If London anglers do not know of such a place as Bures, St. Mary's, seven miles from Markstey, on the Great Eastern line, it is time they did, and only fifty miles from London; there is Mr. John Death, of Bures, and Mr. Webber, both having boats, and excellent anglers, and know the river well. Mr. Cousins, of the Queen's Head Inn, will provide anything the angler can wish, such as beds and provisions, at moderate charges.—A.C.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland.)

To-morrow will be the last day of the open season for salmon and trout fishing, and we cannot understand why we are cut short six weeks of the best part of the season, however we hope a satisfactory change will soon be made so as to please the anglers on both the upper and lower waters. The rivers Nore and Barrow with their tributaries remain open till the 1st of next month, which streams are about our neighbourhood. The season here on the whole has been only pretty fair, it was good to April, and then the next few months' dry weather left the river too low, however, in August the floods revived the fishing considerably, and since then it has been very good, though they take well in September; still it is a well known fact that they greedily take in October, which makes us the more anxious to get that month, especially as the fish are now and will be in the best condition till November next, when they begin to ascend the streams, previous to spawning. Mr. Luther, Mr. Hayle, and Tom Power had some very good fishing on the Suir this week.—DORA.

Swale.

This will be a good time for the autumn fly-fishing, if the waters are only right, but as I have been making a tour of four southern counties during the last three weeks, I cannot say what is doing locally. Let visitors, however, use the light brown, freckled dun, iron blue drake, and needle brown, and if they know how to throw a fly, they will not come home with an empty basket.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

The river although low and bright is still in capital form for the angler. Roach, dace, and chub have been fairly on the feed at both the small cockspur worm and gentles, the former doing the principal execution, and will no doubt prove the most favourite lure of the season. The following takes are reported:—Mr. Thornton, 8 lb. good roach, Mr. Rickett a similar lot, and a grayling over 1 lb., Mr. Reynolds some capital roach and chub, with a trout 1 lb., all taken with worms. Mr. James Gregory, a miscellaneous basket of roach, dace and chub, and Mr. Savatard 10 lb. fine roach. To-day the weather has been simply delightful; grayling are reported to be well rising at the black gnat, which, by the way, have not been conspicuous by their absence. The past week the water at times has been simply black over with the little pests, and it is really a wonder anything has been done. Bottom fishing prospects decidedly good.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

The water is in grand condition for all-round angling, and the weather has been all that could be desired yesterday and to-day, although it was very wet and uncomfortable the beginning of the week. Sport has not been very good this week, as a general rule, a few odd good catches have been had, principally chub. I saw one good basket of those fish, numbering twenty-seven, taken with wasp grub, but none of them very large. Two Nottingham anglers had a few very good chub, two of the fish weighing over 4 lb. each. A few good roach have also been taken this week with worms, gentles and paste, the best fish weighing 1 lb. $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and 1 lb. 2 oz. respectively. I have not heard of any catches of barbel or bream, but they should "come on." Chub with wasp grub; roach, &c., with worm, gentles, or paste; barbel and bream with worms, while a bit of white scratching may be used for a change, if the water gets very fine, will be about the programme for the Trent just now.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Waveney (Beccles).

I this day heard of a 2 lb. perch being caught in the Waveney, near Beccles, by Mr. Arthur Scott. This is good news, as perch are rarely seen in the present day.

When the weeds go down I hope to hear of some good luck, as there are plenty of fish in the Waveney. What a lovely winding stream it is; and about 30 years ago, near Horlingham, some Norwich anglers caught a splendid lot of perch, six of which scaled 15 lb.—ESOX LUCIUS.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a beautiful porter-coloured water come down the Derwent yesterday (Wednesday) from the rain which fell up in the woodlands, which gave both the fly and ground bait fishers a good time of it; and I am pleased to say that some handsome baskets of fish were killed with both the fly and bottom fishings, chiefly off the Chatsworth and Darley Dale Club waters. Both grayling and trout have been rising pretty freely on both rivers during the week, but have been very difficult to be caught previous to the rain coming, owing to the great quantity of small midges and black gnats on the waters. On the Wye the small honey dun bumbles, dotteril, and little red have all taken fish. On the Derwent the honey dun bumbles, grey goose dun, reds, and small blacks, have also all killed fish, the bumbles being the favourite for both rivers. When you see a good fish rising, either trout or grayling, taking everything in the shape of a fly going over them, try them with the three different flies at the points I mention. First, dotteril; if this he refuse, try him with red fly, ribbed with gold twist; and if he still refuses, try him with the small black or lean fly. I have very often found these three changes very successful generally. Yet there are times when I believe no man can deceive the fish, especially in thundery weather; also when rain is hanging about. As soon as we get some good sharp frosty nights grayling will begin to feed freely at both top and bottom, especially when those nuisances of midges are killed, which are now out by thousands.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

As I expected, there has been some good sport with the fly on both the Yore and Wharfe since my last report; both rivers are now in capital condition, and grayling are beginning to rise nicely. I have had two day's fishing on the Yore since last week, and met with fair success, but I killed more with the maggot fished on very fine tackle than I did with fly; but the days on which I fished were very cold, unpromising ones, with little or no fly upon the water. The following are good good grayling flies for this and the next month on either the Yore or Wharfe:—Dark olive bloa—wings, inside of waterhens, wing feather; body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark olive hackle; tail, three small rabbits' whiskers. This fly, if dressed fine, is a capital killer on a cold dull day. Small willow fly—body, light brown silk; wings and legs, feather from inside of a snipe's wing, hackled on. Large willow fly—body, mole's fur spun on yellow silk; legs and wings, a copper-tinged grizzled hackle. It is rather difficult sometimes to obtain hackles of the right kind for this fly, but Eaton, of Starkholmes, dressed some for me last season exactly the proper shade, and they killed well. Space prevents me writing further on the subject in this week's issue, but I hope to continue the list in my next report. The above-mentioned, in addition to Eaton's bumble and little red, will prove amply sufficient for present requirements.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

WALTONIANS.

On September 11th, two prizes were fished for. A guinea Thames rod (bait), given by Mr. Packman, was won by Mr. J. Dodge, with 5 lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; second prize, for the largest roach, won by Mr. Starr with a roach 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Good, jun., had 5 lb. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; the takes by Messrs. Togwell, Waltham, Crabb, Rushbrook, Greenfield, Roland and Malcom were of the small average. On the previous Wednesday Mr. Waltham weighed in 11 lb. 10 oz. of roach, and I weighed-in a teach from Elstree 2 lb. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

September 14.

A pike of 22 lb., in splendid condition, was captured by a boy, with a threepenny line, in a pond near Oxford the other day. *Sic transit!*

HOW TO BE AGREEABLE.—Call upon people out of season; upon business people especially in business hours, for a long friendly chat on things in general. If you see an angler fishing a good stream, walk along the side so that all the fish can see you, and ask him what sport? Stop people in the street if they seem to be in a hurry; if they are not in the latest cut and newest garments, say you thought your friend was going to the tailor's. Always assist the teller in the midst of a story or a statement. Come in late to church, or the concert, or to dinner. Always laugh in the wrong place or about a minute too soon. Tell some anecdote that comes as near as possible to some unpleasant circumstance in the family affairs of a person present. If at a loss for conversation, the small-pox or drainage will fill up the gap.

Hauling fish through the surf is better than wasting time in the Senate.—*Daniel Webster.*

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Kedditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. W. G.—We understand that Cook's Ferry Fishery, on the Lea, is now in the hands of a club; if this is not the case we shall be glad to know.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FISHING AT BEDFORD.

SIR,—“Rover” was indulging his roving propensities last week, and so far had he roamed from the abodes of civilisation that your GAZETTE did not reach him in time for this to appear in last week's issue.

The information I gave was obtained from one of the club's keepers. I was in hopes of having a day's fishing in the club waters during my recent visit to the Ouse, and I asked their keeper, whom I chanced to meet, the price of a day ticket, and he said 1s. 6d., and also told me of whom the ticket could be obtained. He said nothing whatever about having to obtain it through a member, and I therefore thought the water was open to the public at that price.

That the dear old Ouse, upon whose banks and on whose bosom I have spent so many happy days in years gone by, and whose every pool and eddy, deep reach and shallow, I know for sixty miles of its course, has passed into the hands of an exclusive club, I regret to hear; and this selfish spirit, as evidenced by their secretary, was no doubt the cause of the many hard things I had said about the club by prominent men in Bedford lately.

With regard to the latter part of your correspondent's letter, which he seems to hold in *terrorem* over my head, I beg to tell him that I am a law-abiding individual, and one of “that certain class” that angles for sport *pur et simple*; that I never fish in private water without obtaining leave, and always try to act the part of a friend to angling clubs which are formed for the common good.

The convictions stated were for fishing above the navigable part of the river, and where it passes through private grounds; had the offences been lower down the result might have been different. The first one was apparently near to where Mr. J. Ford was fishing on the 1st and 2nd, the other one, for which the fine was 1s. and 5s. costs, also occurred in a part of the river which has quite recently, I believe, come into the possession of the club. In days of yore Clapham used to be free water, except where it run at the bottom of private gardens, and the Uxbridge magistrates recently tried a test case of a similar nature, and decided against the prosecutor. I may as well state, so as not to raise the hon. sec.'s (Mr. E. Bicknell) ire, that the pike mentioned in my totals were not captured within 30 miles of Bedford Bridge.—I am, &c.,

ROVER.

P.S.—I note your remarks, Mr. Editor, about weight, and will comply another time—they did not include fish thrown back.
September 12.

THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

SIR,—Several members of the various clubs inform me they have enrolled their names with the secretaries of their society, and they have not applied to me for tickets of membership. I beg to inform secretaries that this may lead to very unpleasant circumstances, as no application for assistance could be entertained unless the member's name is entered on the books of the society.

I have questioned some on the subject; the answer has generally been, “I have got a few members, and I am waiting for more before I send, as I do not wish to give extra trouble.” I beg to state that nothing can be a trouble to me when I am doing my duty and benefiting my brother anglers. I hope in future secretaries will send for the cards of membership for their members as soon as they receive notice. If only for one, I shall be happy to forward it to them.—I am, &c.,

R. GHURNEY, sec.

RIVER LEA ANGLING PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—Mr. A. Wheeler, King's Arms, Waltham Abbey, having issued notice that, on and after Wednesday next, September 14th, all persons found angling on the towing path at Waltham will be prosecuted by the War Department, I beg leave to issue a counter notice, on the authority of the Lea Conservancy Board, that by their permission anglers may fish from their towing path of the River Lea, at Waltham, and that they will defend any infringement of their rights, or those of the anglers to the utmost.

The War Department have no right to interfere with persons so fishing, but, if they do so, the Board will take up their cases. If any names or addresses are demanded, the persons applied to, will do quite right in refusing to give them.

A set of nets and a notorious poacher have been captured in the neighbourhood of Horse Shoe Point. Full particulars will be published, when the summons is heard before the magistrates.—R. GHURNEY.

THE “FISHING GAZETTE” ARCHIMEDEAN SPINNER, No. 3 SIZE.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me where the above spinner is to be had? I bought one of Messrs. Alfred, but unfortunately lost it; and I have applied both at Messrs. Alfred's and Messrs. Kewell's, and they do not now keep them. I found it very successful among the pike.—I am, &c.,

L. JACKSON.

PIKE-FISHING WANTED.

SIR,—I should feel greatly obliged if you or any of you correspondents would tell me of some quiet inn on or near the Norfolk Broads where good pike-fishing may be had during the month of November next. Also the name of any similar place in Devon or Somerset where good sport may be had during the same month. I see Slapton Ley closes Sept. 30.—I am, &c.,

CROYDON.

[You will get good pike-fishing by staying at the Sportsman's Arms, Ormesby Broad (rail to Ormesby, a few miles from Yarmouth), or by staying at Coldham Hall Inn, Brundall-on-Yare, or at Buckenham or Cantley on the same river; also in Oulton Broad, 3 miles from Lowestoft; there are many fine pike. Spinning the American spoon is the best plan; Thames dace seem to have no attraction, possibly because the broads and rivers so abound with small fry. You

should also try Wroxham Broad. But, if you go to Norwich, and call on Mr. Palmer, at the Great Eastern Vaults, he will put you right. We would advise you to go to Tiverton for pike-fishing as there are heavy pike, and the canal in the neighbourhood.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE WEY, AT GUILDFORD.

SIR,—Could you or any of your subscribers inform me whether there is good fishing in the Wey, at Guildford; and, if so, whether it is above or below the town of Guildford?

Some information in your valuable paper as to the use and mode of preparation of best sorts of ground baits would, I am sure, prove acceptable to many of your readers, whose good fortune it has been—but now, alas! is no longer—to fish waters not needing these adjuncts.—I am, &c.,

MEBCATOR.

Clapton Park, E., Sept. 12.

[Will some reader kindly answer this?—ED.]

RIVERS FISHED OUT!

SIR,—In re rivers fished out. In No. 228 of the FISHING GAZETTE, your correspondent “L. B.” asks Mr. Balderston to account for the alarming decrease of pike. In this week's number we find by the same writer, “L. B.,” an account of a pike, weighing 9½ lb., feeding upon two of its own species, one 11½ inches long and the other 14 inches; not that this is any novelty, as I have seen a 6 lb. pike taken by a jack, 12 inches long, used as a live bait, at Cook's water on the Lea a few years ago.

How now, Dear Bon, you see your friend, the pike, you wish to protect, no doubt having consumed all the delicate trout, roach, &c., within his reach set to work upon members of his own species, finding it otherwise impossible to satisfy his rapacity; and yet we are asked to legislate to protect a ravenous and destructive creature like this. I trust, if another meeting of anglers is convened, the question will be the protection of roach, &c., and not so much time wasted over the pike as occurred at the last meeting held at the Society of Arts.

—I am, &c., A ROACH FISHERMAN, WHO WAS PRESENT.

P.S.—Having travelled about a good bit this season, and observed fish priming, I refuse to believe in Mr. “L. B.'s” theory, that the rivers round London are fished out. No, Mr. Editor, there is plenty of fish, but it will take better men than “L. B.,” “H. K.,” or “Creel,” to catch them.

4, Hampton Street, Walworth, S.E.,

Sept. 10, 1881.

CAPTAIN ETHERIDGE, SQUIRE PHILLIPS, AND THE BEASLEYS.

SIR,—Everybody must admire the promptness and the success which attended Captain Etheridge's movement ament the intended netting of a reach of the Thames by persons hired by Squire Phillips, of Culham. I think, however, that the nets not having been put into the water, was a good thing; because, otherwise, life might have been endangered, and a most, or more, unseemly struggle might have taken place, probably in very sight of a Justice of the Peace, and son of a former Master of the South Oxfordshire Hounds. Nor, do I think that Squire Phillips will, upon calm reflection, have any nets made to “sweep every fish out of his reach of water,” unless he is fully satisfied of his right to do so. But if this right, or allegation of right, is contested, are the Thames Rights Defence Association prepared to defend the public rights in a court of law?

I should think the anglers in Oxford, as well as those in Abingdon, must be deeply and especially interested in that portion of the River Thames in dispute. No doubt funds from outside sources—nay, even from the London Corporation, let alone the pecuniary support from thousands of anglers—would surely soon be to the fore against any assumption of exclusive right to fish or net by riparian owners.

Country gentlemen like to live at peace with their neighbours. It might have happened that men of another sort, and with nets of quite another description, had intended, a night or two before the “First” of September, to make a clean sweep of such coveys of partridges as then roosted in the few fields of barley, cleared fields, or grass lands, belonging to Squire Phillips. These poachers would of course have had no right to be upon the land for any, much less unlawful, purposes; and if, again, Mr. Phillips had intended merely to test the right, or alleged right, to a certain stretch of the river, he need not surely have sent to Oxford for netters.

The most agreeable way for any riparian owner anxious to test his right, would be by agreeing to enter into a friendly action with the Thames Rights Preservation Association, and let the question be settled once and for all by Her Majesty's judges sitting in Westminster Hall, or at the County Assizes.

I cannot help thinking that if, thirty years ago, a second or third class dealer in Leadenhall or Old Newgate Market had attempted to corrupt the keepers, or earth-tappers, or employ even poachers to steal the fox cubs in summer in the Nuneham covers, or at Waterferry Park (Mr. Henley's) or elsewhere, a jolly fine row would have been kicked up by members of the South Oxfordshire Hunt, and especially so by the late J. J. Phillips, Esq., the M.F.H. Fox-hunting would have been spoiled in the district named, and if the Beasleys had succeeded in netting the river on the day in question the sport of the angler would have likewise been seriously injured.—I am, &c.,

London, S.W., Sept. 12.

FAIR SPORT FOR ALL.

FISHING IN CHESHIRE.

SIR,—In reply to the inquiry of “A Contributor” in your issue of the 3rd inst., I have to state that there is very good fishing to be had in the meres and rivers of Cheshire. The meres being principally in private grounds, permission is somewhat difficult to obtain, but it is sometimes allowed. There are, however, two, which are free, Pic Mere, near Northwich, and Ache Mere, near Delamere. The rivers are to a great extent free, and where preserved there is little difficulty in obtaining permission.

The River Weaver is free for several miles. The Dane free at Northwich, but preserved higher up the stream. The Bollin preserved in the upper reaches, but free below Dunham Massey, after the hay is got in, and permission is readily granted by the farmers, &c., on the bank. Lostock Brook free at Northwich. Smoker Brook at Plumley, 2s. 6d. per day.

Wrenbury Brook is preserved, but I believe permission can be obtained by stopping at the Salamanca at Wrenbury. All the meres contain pike, bream,

perch, roach, rudd, eels, and in one or two fine trout and carp are found. The rivers contain pike, trout, graining, chub (small), roach, gudgeon, and eels, also small perch.—I am, &c., W. R. R.
[There is also very good roach-fishing in all the canals in Cheshire.—Ed.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Balderston, in his letter reaches—if, indeed, he does not exceed—the utmost limits of controversial licence. It must be evident, to those who have read this correspondence from the first, that long since Mr. B. lost his temper, and began to try and strengthen his position by calling his antagonists, Mr. Keene, “Creel” and myself, and indeed all those who dared to differ from him, some very naughty names. When a man loses his temper, whether in an argument or in a physical fight, he generally strikes out wildly, and, as a result, finally gets floored.

I would, Mr. Editor, with your permission, quote certain portions of Mr. Balderston's letter, not merely to prove that they are not couched in a language recommended by any “Polite Letter Writer” extant; but because this language is, in most instances, used to strengthen, transparently unobtainable accusations, cover misconstrued meanings, and to enable the writer to evade giving direct answers to inconvenient questions.

Mr. Editor, as you know, and many hundreds of your readers know, I have for many years devoted a considerable portion of my leisure to the question of fish and fishing. I have mixed freely with anglers of almost every social grade, and had greater opportunities of taking useful notes than most people, not only on numbers of our English waters, but on several of those of Italy, France, and particularly of Belgium. Since my connection with the anglers of London, I have spared neither trouble nor expense, so far as my limited means would allow, to become better acquainted with these subjects, particularly with that portion of them which affects the permanent interest of the sport. I have met men who differed from me on certain points, and, after fair arguments, have generally either convinced them or altered my own opinion as I saw the necessity for so doing. But it is the first time in all my life that I have been told, as I have been by Mr. Balderston, that I considered it too much trouble to reason—“evidently because it is too much trouble to reason.” Then, further on, that I am not a real angler. “No doubt Mr. L. B. is prepared to deny this, as it conforms with the opinion of all real anglers.” Then Mr. Balderston, still quoting me, goes on to say, “It is simply ridiculous to declare that there is no compensating advance in the resources of the said river.” “Nature herself,” he adds, “is self-protective.”

Yes, granted, against her natural enemies—fish of prey, spawn-devourers, as eels, aquatic birds; terrible floods, which often sweep away millions of ova, and, receding more or less quickly, leave hundreds of mature fish high and dry to perish miserably, generally in the early spring, when their lives are most valuable as spawners and millets. Then, it must be remembered that much of the female spawn is never fertilised at all and is practically lost. True, Mr. B. quotes the wonderful prolificness of fish; but he does not go into, or seem to attach anything like the importance they deserve to, these and many other natural causes which are at work in great measure to counteract it. It may be taken that only a portion the female spawn deposited is fertilised, that much of it is devoured or destroyed before it is hatched, and, in short, that, from the causes above stated and others, only a comparatively small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of eggs contained in each female fish ever develop into sizeable fish. Now it is on these sizeable fish and their immediate progenitors that Mr. B. wants us to believe the work in our metropolitan rivers of thousands of rods has no material lessening effect. I said that as anglers increased—in some waters almost to an alarming extent—there was no compensating increase in the number of fish, and I defy Mr. B., with all his sophisticated rhetoric, to convince men of sense that there is.

Mr. Balderston, in the next two paragraphs, is simply stupendously ridiculous. There is no mistaking his meaning—“all persons who use ground bait” (and 999 per 1000 do), are pot-hunters and poachers. And he “esteems it a condescension even to argue with them.” And you, long-headed men, who have thought this question carefully over for years, and arrived at conclusions identical with those I have expressed—simply because they are the only true and possible ones—are said to follow “docilely in my footsteps”—oh! it's too absurd. And you, my good masters from Trent and Thames' sides, at the bidding of the new piscatory prophet—I was almost writing Herod—Mr. Balderston—you Baileys, Guests, Woodwards, Wheeldons and Fennells, etc., forego your greaves, your grains, your delicate pellets of bread and bran, your carrion gentles and bullocks' brains, your wriggly lobs; and as for that baiting pot of yours, J. P. W., please don't mention it again, lest the somewhat raven-veiled prophet have a fit of virtuous indignation, and an obituary notice, with a border black as “the raven's wing,” appear in next week's GAZETTE.

Mr. B., then, instead of answering my question, “How do you account for the alarming decrease of jack and perch in the Thames?” first asks, “On what data does the alleged alarming diminution of these fish rest?” and in the next paragraph goes on to deny that such does exist. To the first question, and to the assertion that follows, I would reply, go for information to the societies which have the preservation of the river in hand. Ask gentlemen like Messrs. Spreckley, Brougham, Jardine, Geen, and Cleach—all on the committee of the T.A.P.S., who have some of them known the river as a fishery for a score of years, several of them residing on its banks, with hourly opportunities of making observations; and, if you are not satisfied with these, go to the professional fishermen and afterwards to the casual pike and perch anglers you may meet upon the banks. All will tell you the same tale; but if you are still incredulous, go to the river itself and try, and if you fished it for pike and perch years ago, you will, unless you wilfully close your eyes to the evidence of your senses, soon find out the truth of what you at present prefer to doubt, because you find it impossible to refute. With regard to the proposed protection of pike and perch during the spawning season by the Waveney and Oulton Protection Society, Mr. B. speaks of it, if carried out, as a step in a retrograde direction, and adds, “It is a thing which would not be entertained for a moment in Germany or China.” Then follow the usual little courtesies towards his opponent for which Mr. Balderston, like the “Heathen Chinee” he sets up as a model, is peculiar.

But, all joking apart, that's very artfully put; and, moreover, what you say about Germany and China is true and sounds very plausible. But surely, Mr. Balderston, though it might deceive some, you know the difference between our English rivers and lakes and the stews of Germany and China—you know that, though a vast proportion of the freshwater fish captured by rod and line anywhere within a reasonable distance of our large towns is consumed by the working classes, yet we look upon our waters less as food-producing mediums than as the means of affording innocent and healthy recreation to thousands, and thus we tolerate—nay, encourage—the continued existence and increase of

fish which otherwise would be outlawed—not merely jack and perch, but also chub—rare devourers of small fish, and, as I heard Mr. Willis-Bund call them, greater foes to trout fry than even jack and perch—the spawn-devouring eel, the more than indifferent-eating barbel and bream, the latter also credited with spawn-gobbling propensities. All these and several others would find little favour with the “fish farmers” of either of the countries named, whose *piece de resistance*—whether of Germany, whose scant seaboard militates against her having a good and regular supply of cheap sea-fish; or of China, where the unfortunate Celestial of the humbler class is continually warring against absolute want in his densely over-populated country—is the carp, pure and simple and the breeding, rearing and fattening of which fish for the market is reduced to a science. The difference, in short, between these nations and ourselves is that we mainly protect our fish for sport, while they cultivate fish simply for food. We forgive the bold handsome pirate who levies toll upon his smaller brothers, because we know that, by and by, when the cold north-easter blows, and most other fish are tucked up in their winter quarters, he will rush with a dash, and a swirl, and a terrible tug, at our spinning bait, causing the wind to play a (to our ears) melodious requiem upon the strained silken line, while the limber rod bends again as he ploughs away down, down, into the deeps, and anon attempts to baffle us by rushing into the swiftest run, trying the steadiest nerves, causing breath to come short and quick from between the clenched teeth. Well, in sportsmen's breasts these few words, blunt and homely, may awake an echo; on Mr. Balderston, I fear, they will only be wasted, and made the subject of ridicule.

There are, dear Mr. Editor, several other points in Mr. Balderston's letter which I would take up, but I find I have already encroached far too much upon your valuable space, and I will therefore only add that I would much rather this was allowed to be my last letter, and that Mr. B. would address his remarks to “Creel” and Mr. H. Keene, both skilled writers, whose views are identical with mine. In my opinion Mr. Balderston is trying very ingeniously to prove that two and two make five. Until there is a chance of this succeeding, I see no reason for carrying on a correspondence which, seeing the utter abhorrence in which I hold Mr. B.'s doctrines, is exceedingly distasteful to me.

Between Mr. Balderston and myself and those who think like me, including my friends Messrs. Geen and Hoole, who have been mentioned by name in this correspondence, I am satisfied, with the utmost confidence, to let the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, and the anglers at large, judge.—I am, &c.

L. BONVOISIN.

P.S.—As a rule, I never notice anonymous correspondence, but I may tell your other correspondent, “One Who Would Like, etc.,” that he is entirely wrong in his fact. Mr. Balderston does advocate fishing all the year round; the very gist of his correspondence is that rod and line fishing should not have been interfered with by law.

Messrs. Geen, Hoole and Bonvoisin never advocated fishing in June, and they are now trying to get the whole of June closed. The first fortnight in June being included as a close season in the present Act, was mainly the result of their remarks and votes at the first meeting at the Society of Arts room in 1878, and of the evidence Messrs. Geen and Ghurney, and other gentlemen chosen to represent the thousands of London club anglers, gave before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. About getting the Act amended—while readily estimating at its real value the publicity given to the whole question in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE—I would remind your correspondent that Messrs. Geen, Hoole, Bonvoisin and Co., as he sneeringly calls them, have taken most energetic action in the matter, as witness the late meeting at the Society of Arts, convened mainly under the auspices of the Association of which they are the principal officers, and the subsequent deputations to the House of Commons, Sir Joseph Bailey, Bart, etc.

Though of secondary importance, I may inform your correspondent that Messrs. G., H., and B. do not rush at unclean fish on June 16th, but leave the rods alone until well into July.

In conclusion, I cannot help regretting that your anonymous correspondent should have sent you a letter so utterly at variance with well-known facts; as so doing, and the unavoidable reply, are not merely a waste of your valuable space, but also a waste of the time of those upon whom the duty of replying devolves.

FISHING AT LEICESTER.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me, through the medium of your valuable paper, where I can obtain some good fishing near Leicester?—I am, &c.,

ANGLER.

[The “Anglers' Dairy” states that there is pike, roach, perch, chub, carp and tench fishing in the Soar. The water below the town is much polluted, and of not much account. The Wreke (except close to Melton, where it is polluted) about five miles below the town, and which falls into the Soar at Syston Mill, is good, and is preserved chiefly by H. C. Woodcock, Esq. (Rearsby), who kindly gives permission to anglers for the asking. This river is noted for its chub and bream holes. There is good roach fishing between Syston and Melton Mowbray, a distance of nine miles. Perhaps some reader at Leicester will kindly inform us if this is incorrect.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Thorpe, roach and dace, Mr. Lewis, roach and bream from the Aun; Mr. Moir, roach and bream from Dagenham; Mr. Patrick, roach and dace, Mr. G. Carrington, roach, dace, perch, and chub; gross weight, 6 lb. 1½ oz. Some of the dace were very fine, weighing over 10 oz. each. An appeal is now made on behalf of Mr. D. Thorpe for assistance, by a complimentary ticket benefit, to be held at Deacon's Music Hall, on Wednesday and Thursday next, September 21st and 22nd. Tickets only will benefit. Tickets can be had of several well-known anglers, also of Mr. C. A. Medcalf of the above club, and of the secretary, T. WORLEDGE.

September 11, 1881.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

A member of the above society would have much pleasure in fishing Mr. G. Taylor, of the First Surrey Angling Society, a match (bank fish), for a sum, stakes and conditions to be settled on arrangement. Sunday 11th, members went to Pulborough, returning with some good shows of fish. A. Shakel, bream; H. Scott, bream; A. West, roach; T. Bowling, dace and roach; R. Smith, bream; A. Glass, roach and bream; D. Davis, bream.—A. SHAKEL.

Sept. 12.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

We had a fair show of fish from the Thames on Sunday last, the most successful being Messrs. Owles, Frost, and Ayton. Mr. Allen also weighed-in a small jack that won for him the first prize at the Rye House competition of delegates. Mr. Taylor, 1st Surrey, weighed a chub $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb., from Hampton Court.—WM. ALLEN, sec.
Sept. 13.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fine weather in these parts have given us more sport. Mr. Sharp killed 19 lb. $11\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of bream; Mr. Seymour, 5 lb. 9 oz. of bream and roach; Mr. Ortis, two carp weighing 11 lb. $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz., and 7 lb. $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of bream; Mr. Hassell, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of roach; Mr. John Tree, 5 lb. 10 oz. of bream; Mr. Anscombe $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; and Mr. Ash $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of bream. Although the Ouse is cloudy the fish seem to feed well. Messrs. Cardy and Park both had creditable catches from Chichester, but they cannot recommend the water as fishable. Mr. G. Saunders broke away with a large carp, he not being quite prepared for such a fine fellow, as his tackle was fine.—GROUND BAIT.
September 14.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 11th:—Messrs. Martin and Perry, roach from Chertsey; Mr. Castell, 3 lb. 9 oz. roach from the Roding; Mr. Pratt, bream from Amberley; Mr. Payne, a jack from Penton Hook; and Mr. Mark, roach from same place.—CAS.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society met on Sunday, the 11th of September, when the following gentlemen had a very fine show of roach and perch:—Messrs. Fuller, W. Richardson, Forte-cue, James, Malby, Munn, Long, Marman, Slade, Anderson, Eagles, Midson and Venour.—S. MALBY, secretary.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 11th inst. the undermentioned weighed in fish from the Thames, Elstree and the Arun:—Mr. J. Green, roach and dace; Lumby, roach; J. Hall, dace; T. Bigsby, roach and tench; E. Henries, roach, chub, jack and dace; T. Lee, roach and dace; G. Gough, roach; E. Harrison, roach and perch; H. Harrison, roach and perch; J. Whittridge, roach and dace; A. Duck, roach and dace; J. Trowbridge, roach; gross weight 40 lb. The members will fish a sweepstakes in conjunction with prizes on the last Sunday in September, at King's Langley, all fish to weigh but jack. Mr. L. Bonvoisin paid a visit to this society on Tuesday evening, on behalf of the Anglers Benevolent Society, and I am very happy to say that a few words from him led to an explanation as to how it was that the subscription had not been paid over to Mr. Ghurney before, therefore those thirty members who have paid up will be able to receive their tickets next Tuesday evening, upon application to Mr. G. Dixie. The next return visit to this society will take place on Tuesday evening next, on which occasion the members will be most happy to meet any of the brother anglers, to pass the evening in harmony and good fellowship.—PIXIE.
September 14.

GOOD INTENT.

We had a good show of fish on Sunday last. W. Hellens, roach; J. Pluckrose, bream; Gadbury, roach; W. Wheeler, dace; G. Hughes, roach; Haines, roach; Maybury, roach; Barrington, roach; Guntrip, bream; G. Bates, jack and perch; Dowse, jack, &c. Our distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday last, the winners being so numerous I cannot take up your space with the whole of them; the most successful being Osborn, Maybury, Bell, J. T. Murphy, Hadkiss, &c.; there were close on £100 worth of prizes to distribute. After they were distributed we had £60 given for this year, and many more to come. We had some capital singing, and a most enjoyable evening.—R. MURPHY.
September 15.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed some nice roach and dace from the Wey and Thames:—Messrs. J. Fitch, Mullins, Hewitt, Theobald, Inher, Hutchings, F. Watling, W. Watling, Young; Mr. Major, 6 lb. 15 oz. of roach from Colne. Mr. J. Fitch had a pretty tray of roach and dace on Monday, weight 11 lb. 10 oz.—J. A. FITCH, sec.
September 13.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Thursday, 15th inst. The society's prize list being finally discussed and settled, Mr. T. Crumplen, the hon. secretary, read a feeling letter from Mrs. Rolfe, written in reply to the society's vote of condolence on the death of her husband, the late eminent artist. A fine show of fish have been weighed-in during the week; carp, by Mr. White; bream, by Mr. E. Bennett; and grayling and trout, by Mr. Jardine. The grayling were very fine samples, and in splendid condition. The society now numbers nearly 160 members, and having outgrown its present quarters, removes to the City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, from the 6th of October next.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 6th, Mr. Walters visited Elstree and returned with tench, roach, and perch. Messrs. Penney and Green visited the same place the following day with satisfactory results; Messrs. Hobden, Chick, Aldridge, Lewis, and Hitchcock also had fish. The competition for the club prizes will take place on the last Thursday and the last Sunday in the month. Conditions, anywhere on the Thames, bank only.—VORTEX.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On the 31st of August, a meeting of this society was held at the Seven Stars, Fish Street, Hull, for the distribution of prizes won at Saxby Bridge, on the River Ancholme, the following being the winners thereof:—First, Mr. John Cheeseman; second, Mr. Robert Jackson; third, Mr. F. J. Hamlyn; fourth, Mr. H. Vinson; fifth, Mr. R. Speck; sixth, Mr. W. H. Barker; and seventh, Mr. H. J. Willett, after which the third match of the season was arranged to take place at Newport, on the Market Weighton Canal, on Thursday, Sept. 8, and on which day, the weather proving favourable, a goodly number availed themselves of the opportunity of competing, but, owing to the late rains, the canal had been run off, consequently the "takes" were below the average. The successful competitors were:—First, Mr. J. Cheeseman; second, Mr. J. Jagger; third, Mr. H. J. Willett; fourth, Mr. Charles Haldenby fifth, Mr.

Robert Speck; and sixth, Mr. T. Noble. The gentlemen who have succeeded in obtaining "points" in the President's Silver Challenge Cup, 1881 and 1882, and the Society's Gold Cross, 1881, are, up to the present time:—Mr. John Cheeseman, six points; Mr. Joseph Jagger, five points; Mr. W. Hague, two points; Mr. Robert Jackson, two points; Mr. W. H. Barker, one point; Mr. F. J. Hamlyn, one point; and Mr. H. J. Willett, one point.
Sept. 1881.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members competed for three special prizes on Sunday last, the 11th instant, in the river Stort. Mr. G. Wood secured first honours; Mr. H. Butt, the second; Mr. E. W. Turner, the third. The weights for the third prize was very close, Mr. Turner being only $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. over Mr. B. Crook. Another competition for three special prizes took place on Wednesday, the 14th instant. Mr. J. Hilliar, jun. was first; Mr. G. Bliss, second; Mr. W. H. Mecham, third. Messrs. J. Hilliar, sen., and G. Bliss, will give two special prizes to be fished for on a Wednesday; conditions to be named on next meeting night.
Sept. 15.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The Junior Piscatorial Society held their first dinner on Thursday, September 8th, at Mr. Tagg's Island Hotel, Hampton. A fishing contest was entered into by twelve of the members for a prize, won by Mr. Palmer (their President) with about 3 lb. weight to spare. Contest commenced at 11 a.m. till 5 p.m.; time stated for weighing-in the fish, after which eighteen of the members sat down to a most enjoyable dinner, provided by Mr. Tagg in his best style, and after a harmonious evening the members returned to town. Since my last report, the weighing-in has not been much. Mr. Hewitt, fishing at Hampton, on 28th August; roach, 6 lb. 4 oz.; dace 1 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Harvey, at Teddington on 30th August, roach, 10½ oz. dace 5 lb. 5 oz.; Mr. Woodman, same place, roach, 10 oz., dace, 6 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Hewitt, at Laleham, on September, 1 chub, 2 lb. 5 oz., roach, 4 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Palmer, at Hampton, September 5th, perch, 3 lb. 1 oz.; Mr. Palmer, at Shepperton, roach, 4 lb. 11 oz., perch, 12 oz.; Mr. Palmer, at Hampton, 2 barbel, 3 lb. 2 oz.—ALF. H. BISLEY.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on Sunday evening:—Mr. Hopton, from Ouse, bream, perch and eels; Mr. Petrie, Rickmansworth, roach; Mr. Grey, Rickmansworth, roach; Mr. Scott, Rickmansworth, roach; Mr. G. Watson, Maidenhead, roach and dace.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.
September 14.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A competition took place in the river Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on Thursday, the 8th inst. This being the day of the visit of H.R.R. the Prince of Wales, H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and the three Princesses to this city, the muster was very poor, only sixteen members putting in an appearance. The waier was found to be low and bright, and dead against angling, and this, coupled with the thunder hanging about, caused the takes to be very meagre. On weighing-in at the appointed time at the Cross Keys, the winners were found to be Messrs. H. Wood, J. Evans, R. Ellinger, R. Smith, J. Cozley, and J. Travis, in the order named. The fish weighed-in were grayling, chub, roach, and dace, with which this river abounds. We have been most unfortunate in our club competitions, having had the weather and water against us on every public outing, which is somewhat disheartening; but the members must remember that this will not be always so, and that the next excursion may retrieve the past. The quarterly meeting will be on the 29th inst., when I trust every member who can will be present, as several important matters, including the date of the annual dinner, will be discussed, and it is not pleasant or encouraging to have a scant attendance on these occasions.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.
September 12.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members went out on Sunday last, and met with very good success. Mr. Meagus, roach from the Stort; Mr. Lucy, jun. roach from the Lea; Messrs. J. and G. Drew, with roach, perch and bream from the Thames. Mr. W. Longman arriving too late with ten pounds of roach from the Kennet.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The roach competition will take place on Monday, the 19th instant. Fish caught only on the Thames can be registered. For further particulars see Annual Book.—JAMES LANDER, Hon. Sec.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The barbel competition in connection with this popular suburban angling club took place on Wednesday last. There were two prizes offered, the first was won by the energetic president, Mr. F. C. Clench, with 14 lb. 4 oz. of barbel, and the second by Mr. G. Nafress with 9 lb. 12 oz. In fishing for barbel at Chertsey, Mr. Clench, for the first time in his life, succeeded in catching a brace of Thames trout, both of which he would have returned to the river as being out of season, but the larger one of about 4 lb. he handed over to Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey Bridge, for fish-hatching purposes, as that gentleman has been anxious to obtain one in order to get some ova of the real Thames fish and it was very kind and thoughtful of Mr. Clench to remember it.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

Not a great deal doing, the last two Sundays being bad for our banksmen. On the 3rd Mr. Lockyear, 4 lb. 8 oz. roach, 1 lb. 4 oz. dace. On the 4th, Mr. Underdown, roach; Mr. Goubot, roach and dace. On the 5th, Mr. Monk, 6 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace. On the 6th, Mr. Irons brought in a nice show of rudd from private waters, of 6 lb. 12 oz., and one tench. On the 10th, Mr. Lockyear, 1 lb. 8 oz. roach and a fine gudgeon, the largest our members have seen, and it has gone to be preserved; Mr. Pike, 4 lb. 10 oz. roach and dace. On the 11th, Messrs. J. Goubot and Bromhead managed to find a stray barbel each and a few roach and dace, while my hard working friend, Mr. Underdown, was unable to find a fish. Mr. Monk takes Mr. Briscoe's prize for gross weight for the first three months.—J. GOUBOT.

SOUTH LONDON.

On my return on Sunday evening, I met Mr. Sargent, who had been fishing Windsor. He had succeeded in capturing three nice barbel, the largest weighing over 6 lb.—PIXIE.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

A competition took place to-day among the members of this society at Pangbourne, for prizes of the following value. 1st, £10 10s. 0d.; 2nd, £5 5s. 0d.; 3rd, £2 2s. 0d.; 4th, £1 1s. 0d.; 5th, £1 1s. 0d.; 6th, 10s. 6d. Reaching Pangbourne, weather beautiful, but water very clear and bright. Perch only taking live bait, gulgeon preferred; scarcity of this article among the members. Evening, all members got fish. Society's headquarters 10.45, just arrived. Result of weights, Mr. Meadow declared the winner of the first prize; Mr. J. Howard, jun., the second; Mr. Boalch, third; Mr. Beckett, fourth; Mr. Pugh, fifth; and Mr. Langlois, sixth. Mr. Pugh informed me that he received an invitation last week from Mr. Meadow to have a day's fishing in the Colne, and he succeeded in getting 11 lb. of nice roach, the largest going over 1 lb. 3 oz. Also Mr. C. Hoblyn, with T. Neale, of Henley, lost a nice jack, going about 18 lb., though not have a landing-net. I trust that Mr. C. Hoblyn will not forget the landing-net next time he goes jack-fishing. Members of this society are requested to bear in mind that the next competition will take place on October the 12th, on which occasion Mr. C. Banskback gives £3 3s.; Mr. Pugh, £2 2s.; and Mr. Wymer, £1 1s.—PIXIE.

September 14.

UNITED BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society met by invitation from Mr. A. G. Titley, the worthy host of the Swan Hotel, Kidderminster, to partake of a fish supper which was caught by him in three hours and a half. It consisted of six pike, weighing 36 lb., which fish was served up in first-class style, and gave the greatest satisfaction to all parties present, it being the first fish supper given to club members in this district. The fish were caught in the river Avon at Bredon, near Tewkesbury, and were landed by Mr. William Anderson, a well known fisherman in the district, who is always ready to assist any angler at Bredon, and point out the best place for angling. He can be found on inquiry at the well known hostelry, the Oak Inn, Mr. Grainger's, where every accommodation and very moderate charges, with every information as to angling, may be obtained. The house is situated within three minutes' walk from the railway station, and the river about ten minutes, so that every facility is given to anglers visiting there; there is plenty of fish, and of a large size, especially bream and chub. After supper a very pleasant evening was spent; Mr. John Taylor occupied the chair, and gave some very useful advice to anglers in reference to the greater preservation of fish generally, and do their utmost endeavours to put down netting, and promote honest angling. Several good songs were sung by Mr. James Redding, Mr. Foster, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Yarsley, as well as speeches from other members, concluding with a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Titley for their splendid gift by musical honours. Mr. Titley thanked all kindly for the honour done them, and said he hoped it would not be the last fish-supper that they should have the pleasure of providing.—EDWIN LAURENCE, sec.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The competition which took place among the members of this society on the 11th, at Bourne End, for a work of art (£10 10s.), given by Mr.

Schwartz, 2 vols of a piscatorial work by Mr. Banskback, £1 1s. by Mr. Vicary, a felt hat by Mr. Sebert, 10s. 6d. by Mr. Bedford, and 10s. 6d. by Mr. Delehaye, was well attended by the members, thanks to Mr. Boalch the worthy secretary, and the Great Western Railway, the former for arranging with the latter for one of their two-horse omnibuses to take up those members at the society's headquarters who wished to go on Sunday morning. By this means several members were enabled to go, who otherwise could not have gone without rising very early, and getting worn-out before starting from Paddington, or else incurring the extra expense of a cab there and back in order to weigh their fish in time. Societies whose headquarters are some distance from Paddington, and whose members, when they have parties of 8, 16, 24, or 32, wish to travel on this line, would do well to communicate with the company. However, I will get back to the original. The members started from the society's headquarters at 7.30, they reached Paddington, thence to Bourne End, in good time. Here they were met by Messrs. Bayley, Brown, Dale, and Grigg, who led the way to "Ye Ancient Hall where weary travellers love to call." The host of which, I must say is not a 'midget.' "Mijn avon vu D. Lambert?" he is the nearest approach to that gentleman that I have yet seen, he weighing 240 stone. Notwithstanding his size he sells some very good ale, which gave great satisfaction to all present. Refreshment being done, the drawing for swims took place. No. 1 falling to Mr. Banskback, and 25 to Mr. Delehaye, the first being situated just past the boathouse, "Down where the water lilies grow," and the other some distance along the river towards Marlow. All members were restricted to tight-line fishing much to the disappointment of several who would much have preferred using their Nottingham tackle, one member especially, he having just received 1000 worms from Nottingham. However, all had to abide the rule, and towards the afternoon, between the showers, excitement began to rise, and rumour, with her many tongues, stated this member was well to the front, and then that member had just caught several large perch, and towards the end it was generally believed that Messrs. Cain, Bedford and Collins held the first three prizes. Time being called they all returned to the worthy host of the morning, where some partook of tea and others imbibed his far-famed ale. 7.35 saw them in the train and on their way to London, and at 9.30 in the company's omnibus, by which they reached the sweet village of Walworth safe and sound by 10.30. The weighing of fish commenced, and the following is the result:—First, Mr. F. Grigg, with 2 lb. of roach, dace, and gudgeon; second, Mr. Renault, 1 lb. 8 oz. roach, dace, gudgeon, and perch; third, Mr. Cain, 1 lb. 7½ oz. roach and dace; fourth, Mr. Collins, 1 lb. 3¼ oz. roach, dace, and perch; fifth, Mr. Bedford 11½ oz. roach and dace; sixth, Mr. Bayley, 10½ oz. roach; and Messrs. Fox, Evans, Howard, Peirson, and Delhaye also had fish. This brought to a close the competition, in which, like all pegged-down affairs, there was plenty of excitement, but very little fish. The next competition will take place on September 26th, for the following prizes, the conditions for which will be discussed on Friday evening next:—First prize, £3 3s., given by Mr. W. Brown; second prize, £1 1s., given by Mr. Russell; third prize, 10s. 6d., given by Mr. Ions.—PIXIE.

September 13, 1881.

AWARDED

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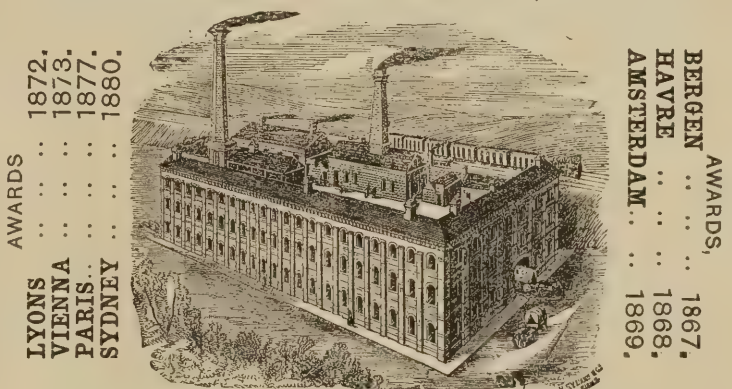
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London, Sept., 1881.

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London, Sept., 1881.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1881.

BARBEL-FISHING.

MR. J. P. WHEELDON in his article on this subject, said that he thought we Trent anglers were too much wedded to the float, and said if we were to adopt the leger business we might succeed among the barbel much better. Well, perhaps, he was right in one sense, for I do believe the Trent fishermen do prefer using a travelling float to any other method of barbel-fishing, and I will show the reason why, but before I do so, I

will just mention a funny case. I have been with a gentleman barbel-fishing for the last fourteen years, and we together have successfully fished both Thames and Trent, and although my friend always carried a small bag containing cut shot, and corking weights, I never could persuade him to find room in his bag for a plumb* or two. He would say, "No! I have never used one, and I do not intend doing so. I dislike that method of barbel-fishing so much, that if I was compelled to use one, I should be inclined to give it up altogether. It would send me to sleep, and you would one of these fine days have to drag me out of the water." Well, so far as I am concerned, I have not used a plumb for a great number of years; but I must say, I generally put a few pike leads in my bag to only use when a place had been baited, and the wind happened to turn so contrary, that it was impossible to properly fish the place with a float, or when the water had unexpectedly come down too thick for the fish to see a travelling bait—these are the only times I throw lead in the water in the form of plumbing. I certainly have a dislike for it, and I have a good reason, for, from my long experience in barbel-fishing, I feel satisfied that the fisherman who can send a float properly down a stream, and understand what he is doing has twenty chances of killing fish to the leger's one, and I am prepared to prove it, and I will give a reason what in my opinion, is the cause of so many barbel fishers on both Thames, Trent and other rivers containing barbel preferring the leger to the float. It is simply this: there is such a wide difference between the two styles of angling for barbel, and the travelling float requires such a great amount of practice before the angler can successfully catch the fish that I have known many rodsters to give it up, because they could not succeed in doing the work to their satisfaction. There are, I know for certain, a great number of barbel fishers who have no more idea of the proper use of a travelling float than the rod they hold in their hands, the method altogether beats them, so there is nothing else they can do but throw a piece of lead in the water, and wait patiently until a fish finds the baits. He may, of course, occasionally take it out and throw it in another direction, but the same thing must happen, that is the bait must remain perfectly still on the bottom, and I think that unless the fish be very eager to feed, they will not go grubbing about to find a bait that has perhaps lodged between two stones. Now in fishing a place with a float where you can get a swim, say of twenty yards, the reverse of what I have stated is the case. We will suppose the angler is fishing a swim from the bank, and the place has been previously baited with a thousand of worms; if there is any stream it is impossible for the stuff to stop in one place—some of it will decidedly go down to a distance of 20 yards or more. Then before you start in the morning, you cut up say 50 lobs and throw them in a few yards above where you intend to stand to fish. And here the angler ought to know that the head-part of cut worms sinks the quickest, being the heaviest the middle part of the worm will go a little lower down, and the small bits probably to a distance of twenty yards, so that the fish have a chance of feeding all along the swim. You now send off your baited hook which is often taken as soon as it gets to the bottom, if not, you have still a chance half-way down the swim, should these fail you have still a last chance of hooking a fish at the end of the swim. This latter part of the business, however, seldom happens, when the fish are anything like well on, which is generally the case after a baiting. You hook the fish mostly for a time at the top of your swim, and after you have killed several fish the remainder get a little shy and drop lower down. You must, however, stand your ground and hook the fish at a distance, and land them where you stand. Now we will suppose two anglers are fishing the same swim, one with the leger and the other with a travelling float. The former will sit, say five minutes without a bite; how many swims will the latter have during that time? and he also has the chance of presenting his bait every time it is sent down the stream to a greater number of fish, therefore his chance of hooking a barbel is certainly greater than the one who is using the leger. Besides a bait when travelling is always more attractive than a stationary one, because it looks more like the groundbait you have thrown in, and which the fish stop while it is going down the stream. Perhaps the readers will understand what I have stated, and must see at a glance that float-fishing for barbel properly done is far superior and much more killing than fishing with the leger. In my next I shall have something to say on the danger of losing a barbel in a baited swim, and the consequence. W. BAILEY.

OLD SCOTTISH SALMON LAWS.

IN a recent number you printed a short paragraph on the above subject. Without being a narrow-minded or super-fervid Scot, I may fairly claim for my ancestors a great deal of homely common sense, and these laws are a case in point. The capital

* Plumb is the Nottingham name for the leger lead.

punishment was probably a *brutum fulmen*, but if not, it was neither more nor less than in keeping with an age when human life had not that sacredness it possesses in these happier times. The salmon, to a poor and in those days most imperfectly cultivated country, was invaluable. Every season brought it swarming up the rivers, affording a rich and highly nutritious food. That this food was most abundant is undoubted. Searches have been made in vain for apprentices' indentures, stipulating that they should not be fed on salmon more than some three days in the week (a popular belief, however, and quite accepted in my young days), but I can vouch for the fact that when my father was a boy the fishermen of Irvine, Ayrshire, every morning wheeled their "take" round the town and sold the fish at one shilling each, irrespectively of the size of the salmon. Nay more, if they found the owner of a house absent, a salmon was deposited at the doorstep, and it was left in the option of the householder whether or not to pay for it.

The "Satterdaie's Sloppe" gave the fish a fair chance of ascending to the spawning beds. "Sloppe" does not mean "stop," but an opening. It is in modern times termed a "slap." An opening into a field is a "slap," in which there may or may not be a gate. All obstructions to the free passage of the salmon were removed entirely during close time, and during the open season the "heckles" (racks) of the "cruves" were raised from six o'clock at night on Saturday until sunrise on Monday. This was the Saturday's slap. These "heckles" or "hecks" were also ordered to be of three inches in width between the bars, to permit the free passage of the younger fish at all times, and in 1477 it was *inter alia* ordained that "they that hes cruves in fresh waters, gar keep the lawes anent Satterdaies slop, and suffer them not to stand in forbidden time; and that ilk heck of the said cruve be three inche wide, and quha that beis convict thereof, to pay five pund" (*i.e.*, Scots, or 8s. 4d. sterling). If this meet the eye of any acute lawyer he will not need to be told that, at least to me, this phraseology seems very loose, and that the "convict thereof" appears to be threatened with a fine for keeping the laws and for having his hecks of the legal width. But doubtless the judges in those primitive times knew very well what they were about, and were little bound by precise words while they interpreted the spirit of their short and emphatic laws.

J. D. DOUGAIL.

GLEANNINGS.

By CREEL.

IT is now, alas! more than thirty years ago when in the North of Cumberland, following the course of the river Line, a tributary of the Esk, and after its many-headed springs among the sombre hills of Nichol Forest, in or near which the two affluents, the Black Line and the White Line join near Stapleton, I had reached the more level country not far from the ruins of Shank Castle, and had just determined to put my rod together when a black cloud collected over my head as if by magic, and a few large drops of rain falling prepared me for what followed. Down came the rain, not as well-conducted rain generally does and ought to do, but in a perfect block, and I, being but thinly prepared for a long walk, was soon perfectly saturated. In this condition I made for a bothy across a lonely moor from where I could see fitful puffs of wood smoke issuing before the wind. This I found was inhabited by a shepherd, his wife and daughter. The latter, a strapping wench of about sixteen summers at once, made me welcome, urged me to remove my wet coat, and replace it with a dry cloak of her mother's, piled more logs upon the hearth, and left me to doff yet further my wet garments and wrap myself, Indian Warrior fashion, in the folds of a blanket while my clothes got dry. Where she went to I knew not; but as she was gone some while, I looked around for something with which to amuse myself, and found in a nook on the ingle side, a few books, the reading of which, however, was not easily accomplished from the battered and disconnected state of their leaves. Printed books are never "private,"—if they are they should be burned; but here was one amongst them with a cover of parchment and clasps of metal, a description of family scrap-book, and into which from time to time anything worth preserving had been recorded, now in one handwriting, pretty plain to decipher, and now in another, which would have puzzled an expert. I peeped into it stealthily like a cat into a cupboard, then closed it, then peeped again. "If you will kill snakes and adders," I read, "strike them with a large radish." This was too much for me. I was deep into the book at once. As the serpent tempted Eve, so did the adder raise my curiosity, and all thought that my eyes might be trespassing over forbidden secrets, being dismissed, I arranged my blankets dressing-gown fashion, and gave myself up to the contents of "Ye Familie recepteboke."

Under the head of "The Adder" I found: "If thou art bit or stung by adder or snake, take the juice of the ashtree leaves, squeeze into good wine or beer, then cover the place stung with this, and it will cure it. To handle adders and snakes without harm. Wash your hands in the juice of radishes, and you may do it without harm. If those you love are sick, take the juice of vipers made into a broth, boiled in an earthen vessel and stirred with a stick of elder tree. The fat of viper is good for sprains and inward ulcers."

"The price of snakes should be one shilling for twelve; for vipers the same, but alive."

"To catch snakes or drive them out of your garden. Take the boughs of an ash tree, while the green leaves are on them, and where snakes or adders come strew them, and they will depart. Some burn old soles of shoes upon the place where they are, and they will be gone, and come no more. Some take the roots of centaury (the popular name of various plants, generally herbaceous) and carry where they come, and they will depart, or deers' suet strewed up and down. Wormwood will turn them. Smoke lily roots, or hart's horn, burning them in a frying pan, and pass it over the place, and they will come no more."

"How to kill moles" occupied three pages of the book. Here are two or three of the means to be employed:—

"Pour the juice of wild cucumber in their holes, and it kills them. Some pour the dregs of oil into their holes, and it kills them. Some take white hellebore, bruise it small, and mix it with wheat flour, white of an egg, wine and milk, and lay little cakes of it in the mouth of the hole, then the moles will eat it, and it certainly kills them. If you take a live mole and put her into an earthen pot, stop it close, then make a fire, and set the pot on it, and if there be any moles thereabouts hearing her cry, they will come together to the place, and you may kill them."

It is clear there was no notion at that period that the mole was the natural drain-pipe layer of the land, as well as an excellent top-dresser.

There were several equally cruel suggestions for the destruction of rats. Here are the more innocent:—

"Take wild marjorum, and burn it in your rooms. It will drive rats and mice away as long as the scent remaineth. Some take the head of a rat or mouse, and pull the skin off it, and lay it where they come, and it frights them that they will come no more."

The receipts were particularly rich upon weasels.

"If you would drive away weasels, catch a hedge living weasel, cut his tail short and let him run, and the rest will go with him.—Shakespeare. To gather together weasels into one place, beat the guts of a lizard in spring water, and pour it in such places where they come. Take wheat flour, sal ammoniac and honey, make these into a paste, and lay it in places where they come and they will eat it, and it immediately kills them."

"Fig-leaf ashes cast on the root of trees kill caterpillars. Some take a gallon of crabs (apples) and steep them nine days in water, and sprinkle the trees with it, and it kills them."

It would be a humane thing to discover any remedy for the pestering visitation which cattle suffer from flies. Hitherto all nostrums appear to have failed. Here are cures upon which the writer, as a shepherd, claims to have placed confidence.

"If you would keep your cattle from injuries by flies, anoint your beast with oil wherein Bakeler (*sic*) hath been boiled, and the flies will not come near them. Some anoint them in the beginning of spring with juice of carworden leaves, and that preserves them all that year. Take origanum and allum, heat them with milk, and sprinkle them in the place where they come and it will kill them. If you would gather flies together and hive them, get a deep earthen pot and lay in it beaten colliander, and all the flies in the house will enter it; then put a close lid on."

My host was clearly a bit of a poacher, for there were several devices for taking game.

"If you would take partridges, get wheat flour, and with good wine make it into paste, then roll it into pieces the bigness of a pear and scatter them where they come, and it will make them drunk immediately, and you may take them up."

A somewhat similar practice is recommended for taking wild ducks and geese, and there was the long list of nostrums for the capture of fish contained in ancient angling works. The following, however, we do not recollect to have met with before—

"Some take nettles and cinquefoil, and juice of houseleek, and stamp them together. Then take it into your hand, and go into the water, and stir your hand to and fro, and they will come to you that you may take them."

"If you would keep birds from fruit, hang garlick down the branches of trees or cornstalks, and they will not come near."

There are others than birds who share this aversion to garlick.

"To fatten chickens in a little time, take rice ground, and scald it well with milk, mix it with ground sugar, and give it to

your chickens in the daytime, but no more than they can eat. Give it them warm, and let it be as thick as paste, give them beer to drink, and they will be quickly fat."

The writing was obviously from various hands, and written at various times, and occasionally the same receipt was repeated from some other contributor, but they all appeared to delight in capitals, which began almost every word. Now and then I came upon a riddle or a conundrum, which gave a variety to the perusal, a hint that perhaps I may follow with advantage.

"What kings and queens, and their servants, be they that are burned once a year, and are cut and torn as small as flesh to a pot? They are the kings, queens and valets among a pack of cards."

"What is that which hath a beard of flesh, mouth of horn, and feet like a griffin? It is a cock—for his beard is flesh, his bill horn, and his feet like a griffin."

"What is that which is as high as a hall, as bitter as gall, as soft as silk, and as white as milk? It is a walnut; for it groweth as high as a hall, and its shell is as bitter as gall; the rind that covereth the kernel is as soft as silk, and the kernel as white as milk."

"What is that which is as small as a nit, and serves the king at every hit? It is salt."

"What is that, the more it is, the less men fear it, and the less it is, the more men dread it. It is a bridge; for if be little, we are afraid to go over it; but if it be big, we fear no more to go over it, than to walk on the ground."

"As long as I eat I live: but when I drink I die. It is fire."

Then the volume was interspersed with dreams and their import, too free for quotation, excepting that "To dream of little rain and drops of water is good for plowmen."

"To dream of cats is to be scratched by your wife or daughters."

Then several entries had been made concerning moles on the person, and the whole of the human form divine was mapped out with extraordinary fidelity. But I may not thus skip over the fleas:—

"Take lime beaten to powder, and strew it in you chambers. Some take two or three onions and soap lees, and boil them together then sprinkle the room with it, and it kills the fleas. Boil the root of wild cucumber to a pickle and do the same. Take mustard seed and the herb daphines, and boil them in water, and do the same. Take a roasted apple, and take the skin and core from it, and beat it in a mortar with as much quicksilver as will make it into an ointment, therewith anoint the places to which fleas go. To gather all the fleas together in a room. Get a small piece of wood as big as a man's arm, rub it over with hog's grease, and all the fleas will stick to it and then slay them. Some take a dish broad and shallow, fill it with goat's blood about half full, and set the platter under the bed, the fleas will come to the smell of blood, hop into it and stick."

Many virtues are there attributed to tobacco and ale out of number. "Tobacco chewed in the mouth, but not to swallow the spittle, is a universal medicine for the dropsy, and all otherswellings in every part of the body."

There are likewise many rules for health, which for the most part inculcate the truism that the best of all secrets for a long life is "to bring the appetite into subjection to reason," and one of the tenets says, "the difficulty is in finding out an exact measure; but eat for necessity, not pleasure; for lust knows not where necessity ends," and under the instructions to find out the measure of meat and drink it gives: "Pass not immediately from a disordered life to a strict and precise life, but abate by little and little the excess; for ill custom comes on by degrees, and so by degrees must be left off."

We recollect something like this argument being used, in reference to the indulgence in an excess, by a great physician, and it was well answered by asking the doctor, whether, if a child of his fell into the fire he would pull it out by degrees?

After this we found a list of "those we may not marry;" "our grandmother, &c.," and "what we ought to remember." Amongst the latter we are wisely told that, "He that will not refer all personal trespasses to arbitrators, but will rather go to law, is accounted an unreasonable man, and no christian."

Then we plunged into a very long-winded series of hints about the weather, in which the moon, the sun, the stars, the clouds, the mists, the rainbow, animals and vegetables take their share of occult meaning. "How to write a love letter from man or woman," and "offer of marriage from man or woman." "To bring a backward man to book." "To tell whether a maiden loves you by bots on a cow's back." "To bring a wished-for letter, go up the stairs backwards."

It is told elsewhere how in Russia the soldiers and peasantry are cured from a too great indulgence in their favourite liquor; by mixing the same with all the food they take until the stomach fairly revolts against it. The following appears to be a more

speedy and simple remedy. "Steep a snake in the liquor he (the inebriate) is most fond of, and let him drink unwittingly thereof, and he will not return to the same drink." If he sleepeth in drink before dinner, smear his face, hair, and hands therewith, whether dripping, porridge, or broth. He will wake and call to eat. You will tell him he hath fed like a pig and shall have no more, and bid him look in the glass. He will feel his wattle empty and it will correct him ever after.

The cures for warts are manifold, and I recognised many as still holding their own amongst even people of education. Who does not recollect the "stolen piece of beef wherewith to rub the warts and then bury the meat"? Here is, I fancy, a new recipe: "If one do buy warts of them that have them, and gave them a pin therefor—if the party that hath the wart prick the same pin in some garment that he wears daily or commonly, the wart or warts, without doubt, will diminish and wear away privily, and be clean gone in a short time." Beneath this was written: "I have tried it and found it true," followed by several signatures.

"It is well to know if you are overlooked by wise women (witches), you can cure yourself and others by squashing a toad under a flat stone, then tearing the hind legs off—don't cut them off—then dry them in the air on a line; when hard put them in a bag made of an old man's smock (frock), and hang it round the neck. If the good woman becomes uneasy this is a sure sign the charm is working; do not speak or answer her for three weeks, and she will have a fit, when all power over you will depart."

As the storm had left off and I had turned my clothes before the blazing embers until they were dry, I closed the volume (not a tenth perused) my note-book as reluctantly, left a coin on the parchment cover by way of atonement for prying, and departed again for the Line on my way, to which, I met the lassie returning with a bowl of milk she had hospitably gone some distance to fetch for an absolute stranger she might never meet again! When I arrived at Carlisle, during dinner I recounted my adventures and read out some of my notes. Before the week was over, the parchment-covered book, with its brass clasps and quaint contents, was resting on the library shelves of Netherby. CREEL.

A RED-LETTER DAY IN AN ANGLER'S DIARY.

AWAY down in sunny Somerset, through a charming valley of rich grass land flows a little brook which joins the river Brue, a short distance below the old-fashioned town of Bruton; it is well stocked with trout, which, though small, show capital sport as they rise freely and fight gamely when hooked. On a morning in the month of August, your scribe with another disciple of old Isaac were putting together our rods, and arranging our casts preparatory to a day's fly-fishing on a portion of this stream, which is well preserved by a gallant captain whose fine mansion and pleasure grounds are picturesquely placed on its banks. The plop, plop, of the rising fish told us some of the good ones were on the feed, and hastened the completion of our preparations. A red ant and a cochybondhu was the selection I made for my first essay; and creeping stealthily within reach, I cast over, and in the twinkling of a bed-post was fighting with a game little fellow of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., which eventually was transferred to the basket. Shortly after a shrill whistle from my friend T. gave notice that he also required the services of our attendant with the landing-net. The small stream has been made the most of, dams having been built across it here and there, thus giving a piece of deep water above, and a brawling pool below. One of these I next approached and took from it three plump little fish of $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. each. T., the meanwhile, fishing a similar pool further down, contributed his share to the contents of the basket; so we angled on until the bright August sun, so welcome to the farmer, shone out hot, and for a time put a stop to our sport, or at least made it more difficult of success. T., who was a bit of a philosopher, and whose maxim was that it was useless contending against nature, consoled himself under the shadow of a fine elm tree with his pipe and some claret and water; but as I did not often get a chance of fishing such a well-stocked piece of water, and had journeyed some miles to do so, kept on, and by dropping under the bushes where the rays of the sun could not penetrate, picked up now and then a fish, but they were mostly small, and after I had worked off a trifle of my superfluous ardour came to the conclusion that T. was the wiser man. So we commenced an attack on the provision hamper and mooned away the time watching the well-fed cattle enjoying their midday siesta under the shade of the fine timber which adorned the landscape around us, or dozing to the music of the purling stream, until about four o'clock, when we pulled ourselves together and again commenced the fray. We fished steadily up the stream until we came to a fair-sized pond formed by one of the dams before mentioned; here our sport commenced in earnest, and the services of our netsman were in continual request. I have fished in many streams with the usual varied luck of an angler, but I

never before nor since saw fish so mad on the feed as on this evening; and in a short space of time we had filled our baskets, which we sent to the inn to be emptied, whilst we fished our way back to the park, where we were met by the keeper who advised our having a cast in the sheet of ornamental water which forms its boundary. Such counsel was not to be gainsaid, and we at once followed it. Here was a sight to gladden the heart of any fisherman, the whole piece of water, some three or four acres in extent, literally boiled with rising fish, but it was difficult to approach them without being seen, as a smooth lawn sloped gradually to the water, but by creeping cautiously we each got a good fish; but the disturbance caused by our struggling captives alarmed the remainder, and we had to wait some ten minutes before the wished-for dimples again broke the surface. We caught one or two more decent ones, then passed on to the stream below. The shades of even were beginning to fall, so we each substituted a coachman for our stretcher, and took a brace or two more. We then packed up our rods and betook ourselves to the inn, where on the low yard wall we laid out in graduated order our spoil, forty-six brace of trout ranging from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. each, and I need not say we were contented and happy fellows, and felt on good terms with everything and everybody; and I at once mentally resolved to mark this as a red-letter day in the diary of

RED ANF.

TO

MR. JOHN BARTLETT.

ON SENDING ME A SEVEN-POUND TROUT.

Fit for an Abbot of Theleme,
For the whole Cardinal's College, or
The Pope himself to see in dream
Before his lenten vision gleam,
He lies there, the sogdologer!

His precious flanks with stars besprent,
Worthy to swim in Castaly!
The friend by whom such gifts are sent,
For him shall bumpers full be spent,
His health! be Luck his fast ally!

I see him trace the wayward brook
Amidst the forest mysteries,
Where at themselves shy aspens look,
Or where, with many a gurgling crook,
It croons its woodland histories.

I see leaf-shade and sun-fleck lend
Their tremulous, sweet vicissitude;
To smooth, dark pool, to crinkling bend,—
(Oh, stew him, Ann, as 'twere your friend,
With amorous solicitude!)

I see him step with caution due,
Soft as if shod with mocassins,
Grave as in church, for who plies you,
Sweet craft, is safe as in a pew
From all our common stock o' sins.

The unerring fly I see him cast,
That as a rose-leaf falls as soft:
A flash! a whirl! he has him fast!
We tyros, how that struggle last
Confuses and appalls us oft!

Unfluttered he; calm as the sky
Looks on our tragicomedies,
This way and that he lets him fly,
A sunbeam shuttle, then to die
Lands him with cool *aplomb*, at ease.

The friend who gave our board such gust,
Life's care, may he o'erstep it half,
And when Death hooks him, as he must,
He'll do it handsomely, I trust,
And John H. write his epitaph!

Oh, born beneath the Fishes' sign,
Of constellations happiest,
May he somewhere with Walton dine,
May Horace send him Massic wine,
And Burns Scotch drink the nappiest!

And when they come his deeds to weigh,
And how he used the talents his
One trout scale in the scales he'll lay,
(If trout had scales) and 't will outsway
The wrong side of the balances.

J. R. LOWELL.

Elmwood, 1858.

THE NETTING FRACAS AT ABINGDON.

THE following letter, which will explain itself, has been conveyed to Captain Etheridge, the Board of Thames Conservators' Inspector of the Upper Waters:—

September 7, 1881.

To Captain Etheridge, R.N., &c.

SIR,—I am instructed by my committee to convey to you the sincere thanks of over 4000 or 5000 members of the affiliated metropolitan anglers for the action taken by you in the attempted netting, with a flue net, of the Thames at Abingdon on the 24th of August.

We are very sorry indeed to hear that you, while strictly doing your duty, were subject to insults.

We have had to thank you upon more than one occasion for preventing that worst of all engines, the net, from sweeping the grand old Thames of its finny inhabitants.

The London anglers, numbering over 20,000, will ever feel indebted to you, as will their provincial brothers.—I am, &c., T. HOOLE, Hon. Sec.

The Captain's reply to the above is as follows:—

To Mr. T. Hoole,

Hon. Sec. W. C. Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies.

SIR,—I have received, with great pleasure, your kind letter expressing the satisfaction of the London anglers at my conduct in preventing a late wholesale attempt of illegal netting by a notorious and desperate gang; and I beg to assure the societies, through you, of my firm intention always to do my duty in this respect whatever may be the consequence, and an expression of approval by so vast and influential a body represented by you is indeed a cheering incentive to carrying it out.—I am, &c.,

HENRY N. ETHERIDGE,
Superintendent of Upper Thames, &c., &c.

Our readers will be glad to hear that since the threat made by Mr. Phillips to oust the captain so soon as he, Mr. Phillips, was made a conservator, as he expected to be shortly, a movement, almost electric, has passed upon both sides of the river in additional favour of this gallant defender of anglers' rights. It may be new to many that the captain is no angler himself, but that upon his appointment a certain well known and active piscatorial writer, "interviewed" him, and ere he quitted his presence so imbued him with the importance of extending his attention to the fisheries—then really not greatly insisted upon by the authorities—that he promised to do so, with what result is now no longer a matter for question.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE annual competition for roach in connection with this society took place on Monday last, and a considerable number of members entered themselves as competitors. The prizes were of a tempting character, the first being three guineas, and the second two guineas, with an additional prize of one guinea for the heaviest fish. The match was confined to the Thames. In the club-room at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, there were at least fifty members on Monday evening eagerly waiting for the return of the competitors, but up to half-past nine o'clock none put in an appearance with any roach. Mr. David Goodger occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. F. G. Pearce, T. Gillatt, T. R. Sachs, James Lander, W. H. Brougham, H. J. Alfred, Henry Gray, M. H. Blamey, B. Perelli-Rocco, J. Beasley, W. Forman, Thomas Huggett, &c. It was late before any decision could be given, as several of the competitors had no fish that would come up to the standard of six ounces. The award was at length declared, Mr. Forman carrying off the first prize, and the prize for the heaviest fish, amounting altogether to four guineas, and his only fish were one of 14½ oz., and another of 7½ oz. Mr. Beasley taking the second prize with something considerably less. It is remarkable that in one place where two of the competitors were fishing for roach they did not get anything but dace, whilst the bank fishers close by were getting roach up to 1½ lb. each. A proposition was made in the club-room to get up another roach competition in November from public waters, and the sum of £3 13s. 6d. was at once subscribed. Two gentlemen were proposed for election.

THAMES FISHERY CONVICTIONS.

THE following convictions have been made under the new bye-law of the Lower Thames, which relates to the laying of night lines or fixed lines in the day, Mr. Hickson Briggs prosecuting on behalf of the Thames Angling Preservation Society.

At the Brentford Bench on Saturday last George Chamberlain and William Dunn, both of Twickenham, were charged with laying night lines in the Preserves, at Twickenham. The case was proved by Henry Walters, head river keeper of the T.A.P.S. The defendants were each fined in the sum of £1. This being the first case under the new bye-law a mitigated penalty was given.

At the Sunbury Bench on Monday last, William Essom was charged with laying a fixed line in the Thames at Staines, the said

line having on five hooks baited with worms. The case was proved by river-keeper Alfred Thompson, of the T.A.P.S. The defendant pleaded guilty on the ground of ignorance. Mr. Thomas Spreckley, who, with Mr. W. H. Brougham, was present, instructed the solicitor to ask for a nominal fine, as the society was only desirous of making an example, and as a caution to others. The Bench thereupon only fined the defendant in the sum of 15s.

THE LATE MR. H. L. ROLFE—A REMINISCENCE.

THE intelligent angler should be equal to most exigencies he may meet with at the waterside, and the inventive faculty be ever at his service in the midst of difficulties. In former days the angler made his own tackle, and therefore had additional confidence in the strength of his rod and line. There are few accidents more annoying than to find your rod part company at a ferrule, and see the dismembered joint follow the line after the fly.

Upon such occasions the ingenious disciple of Cotton, instead of indulging in bad expletives, which little harmonise with the surrounding scenery, accepts the situation in a philosophic mood, and sits down on bank or boulder, takes out his knife, thread and wax, and sets to work to repair the fracture as best he may. If he gets hung up in a branch of opposite bough, he exhibits no violence, for he knows that excess of temper will only make the matter worse, but recollecting that "persuasion is better than force," shakes the line gently, and it often drops off without further entanglement. In the case of getting fast in a sunken snag, his plan is, if the clearing ring is absent, to lay hold of the line and pull straight with a moderate pressure from all available angles. But a clearing ring should be considered as necessary to an angler's outfit as the plummet or landing net. It will, however, sometimes happen that even with the clearing-ring the removal of the hook is not readily obtainable. If this be the case, and wading is out of the question, the object must be to save as much of the line as possible. Therefore the strain should be put upon it as low as can be reached, for with many lines they are not worth much, nor can they be thoroughly depended upon, after they have been subjected to so extreme a test. In salmon-fishing nothing tries the temper more than a sulky salmon, which, after getting its head well down,—perhaps under a jutting piece of rock, obstinately refuses to move. In such a strait, when fishing in Scotland with the late kind-hearted Rolfe, he suggested I should try a sheet of paper. Taking a portion of the *Field* journal, he kindly operated for me. He made a hole in the paper, to permit the reel and butt end of the rod to pass through, and the wind being at our backs, assisted by a little shaking of the tackle, the paper messenger to the "obstinate beastie," as our gillie designated the salmon, travelled down and was carried under water, following the course of the line by the strength of the current. By the time—perhaps a minute at most—when it arrived at its destination, it was well saturated, and became in a pulpy, poultice-like state, which, covering the head of the fish, to the extreme astonishment of Mr. Salmo Salar, determined him, although thus hoodwinked, to change his quarters, and off he went, helter-skelter, he knew not where, but still subject to the curb and rein which was upon him, and perfectly cured of this description of piscine jibbing. I recollect, likewise, Mr. H. L. Rolfe, who was ever great in expedients, while pike-fishing with me at Stowford, near Salisbury, having lost his last flight of hooks, rigging up another with single hooks, cut from other tackle, but then he was for the moment posed, for what was to be done for a swivel? The swivel of his watch chain and the key of his watch were at once improvised, and fish came to bank as they had done with his highly-acquitted apparatus.

Mr. Rolfe, or "Le Baron," as he was known among his intimates, supported his father until in extreme old age the latter was removed by death. He was a most excellent husband and father, and while more a man of business than are most artists, his professional transactions, and as a picture dealer, were conducted in a way that gained for him the confidence of every one.

CREEL.

EELS!

"HOLLO!" says the diligent reader of the GAZETTE, "here's Keene talking about eels again!" and he forthwith votes me a bore, and refuses to read beyond the title of the article. But by your leave, fair sir, the subject is one on which I shall again and again hold forth, till I get a great deal more interest taken in it, for the unconsidered eel is an animal which cannot be ignored from any point of view. The utilitarian will pronounce him a very important article of food even in these days of fish scarcity and overcharge, and there are many little items of

its general history of considerable moment to the aqua-culturist and sportsman.

The subject is opportune at this moment also, inasmuch as that the eel about this time makes its downward emigration. On dark cloudy, rainy, warm nights its flitting is the most numerous. Atmospheric disturbance—Shakespeare notes this accurately, as he did everything else—seems congenial, and a warm thunder shower increases the vitality of the creature to such an extent as to render its desire for seaward migration almost irresistible. Acting on this impulse it swiftly pursues its way, and it is quite probable that a journey of an hundred miles might be performed, supposing no obstacle in the way, in a few days, so rapidly and unhesitatingly do eels travel on a convenient flood.

In the tributaries of the Thames, eel-nets are often used by the fishermen. I can recollect my father having splendid catches out of the little stream called locally the "Bourne," which enters the Thames near Chertsey. The Thames, unfortunately, however, is not fished in that way, and thousands upon thousands of eels are annually lost—absolutely and utterly lost—because of this. The quantity of eels passing down into the estuary of the river with the autumnal floods cannot be estimated, because of its enormity, and no effort in the lower Thames is made to catch them. On they go, over weir and through sluices, till the reeking filth of the sewage outfall is reached. Some, I imagine, die here, and others pass out to sea. It is obvious they cannot return higher than Teddington Weir, and it is therefore fair to say they are lost to the river for ever.

Now, I ask, why is this state of things allowed to go on when the remedy is so supremely apparent? Properly-constructed traps or bricks at each weir would capture nearly all the emigrants, and if by chance a different kind of fish were caught, why, it could be returned to the water. Besides, another aspect of the question presents itself. When the eels are chiefly running, the water is generally so inconveniently high and discoloured that the fishermen have no more work to do than frozen-out gardeners. Let certain men be employed in each locality to attend to the traps or bucks, and then let the catches be vended to the said fishermen for second sale. It is seldom that one can, in ordinary times, get a dish of eels from the Thames under a shilling a pound, and even then the fish are greater in demand than supply.

If a surplus eventuates, the London market is always open. Then an autumn and winter industry might arise from which good would arise to the professional fishermen particularly and the public generally.

So much for the eels of the Thames—than which there are none brighter and cleaner anywhere. Now for a word or two as to eel-culture. I think it need not be repeated that the eel is a fish spawning in a manner similar, if not exactly like, other fish; and that for this purpose it is not absolutely necessary for it to visit salt water. No one, I am sure, will gainsay the statement that the eel is an eminently desirable fish either, for the table. These facts being granted, we may pertinently ask: why is it not grown in a systematic way? I will tell you—all whom it may concern: It is simply because we Englishmen don't like trouble. "If our ponds and streams produce these *fera nature*, without trouble," say we, "let them do it, and we will profit by the fact, in so far as the results come to hand." But why should it be so? The most barren piece of water, if it be, or can be, made constant, is more productive than the best arable land, if its resources be used with intelligence. The practical application of these platitudes in this connection is: If you have a pond or stream, howsoever barren of fish, stock it with eels, and keep it clear of excessive growths of weeds. Eels can be fed with fresh offal or worms, and then they will never desire to roam to fresh fields and pastures new.

(To be continued.)

SNATCHING OF FISH.—In spite of all the efforts of the river-keepers, this disgraceful system is carried on, and it is difficult to prevent it, as all those who have authority to stop are known and watched. The following report of William Milbourne, one of the river keepers in the employ of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, is only one instance of the kind: "On Tuesday night, at one o'clock, I was at the sewers at Surbiton with John Milbourne and Palmer Scott. We saw two men snatching at the sewer. As soon as they saw us coming, they sent all their tackle in the river and ran away. I have got their tackle out of the river, which consists of a rod, reel and landing net. At the end of the line there are two large triangular hooks for snatching."—B.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Kedditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait, the tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"The miserable have no other medicine,
But only hope."

—SHAKESPEARE.

Thames anglers during the past fortnight have had little to comfort, except hope, for, with the water seemingly in such capital all-round fishing condition, I never knew of, or indeed experienced (for I have been daily out), such execrable luck. Roach will none of it, and perch, chub and barbel seem almost as difficult to entice, but gudgeon have been fairly on. At Streatley and Maple Durham a few nice perch and chub have been taken, but in attempting roach it was found that two or three could be extracted from a swim, and it was then good-bye. From Henley I glean from two sources of the following:—Monday, 28 dozen of gudgeon with two rods; Tuesday, 23 dozen ditto with three rods; Wednesday (half a day) 19 dozen ditto; these capital catches being had by Messrs. H., C., and J. Hodges. Messrs. Craufield and Littlewood, fishing below Hambleden (one day), 23 dozen of good gudgeon. Mr. and Miss Pritchard, out with Parrott, 22 dozen and 8 gudgeon, one jack of 5 lb., and a perch going 2 lb., all being had from one swim near Culham Court. Mr. Pritchard, again out the following day with Parrott near Bolney Court, 7 jack, scaling together 27 lb. At Medmenham, Captain Smith a barbel of 4 lb., taken foul whilst perch-fishing with minnow. Mr. Troupe, a barbel of 4 lb. and some chub. Messrs. Jarvis and Bunning, some chub and perch. Young, with two patrons, on one occasion, 5 barbel, best 4 lb., and 18 perch; and on another day 32 dozen gudgeon. At Hurley, Messrs. Lee, Harrison, and Co. have had some splendid quality roach, and an eel of 2 lb. Tom White, at Newhock Weir, a jack of 7 lb., which took a deal of reed mowing to get out. Mr. H. Thompson has been deserving success in the Hurley waters for this week past, but, beyond one jack of 5 lb., and another of about 2 lb., and a few roach and perch, has done little. Mr. Thompson on Thursday, while out with a friend (Mr. Fitch), became so tired of swim after swim without any roach result, that at last he fell asleep, to be eventually awake by the cry of "Thompson, you've a bite!" and to find the roach well on, and to land a nice one of about 1½ lb. Need I say that, while Mr. T. was napping, his friend, "like a nice," obtained a fish from the well and inserted it on the hook? Mr. T. was, and will be, perfectly innocent of the joke until he sees this in print. At Marlow, Mr. Phelps, with White, some 30 barbel, none, however, very large. H. Rockwell has been having some roaching with a patron, on one occasion getting some 18 dozen, the take dwindling down daily until nine fish alone rewarded a long day and journey. At Bourne End, Brown has had the fortune to capture a jack of 15 lb., and also another of 9 lb.; and at Cookham on Monday, Mr. Wigg got a jack of 16 lb. 2 oz., which, from its length (42 inches), should certainly have scaled some 6 lb. or 8 lb. more. Mr. Grazebrook is also credited with a 7 lb. jack, and Mr. Worboys, of the "Bell and Dragon," several decent fish from the same waters.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River in good trim for any seasonable fishing. Weather delightfully fine, with breeze from south-west.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and clear; not much doing since my last report. Roach not on much—weather has been too fine for much fishing. Rain is wanted now. Gudgeon have been biting well here. Twenty dozen a day with one rod have been taken here and some good perch. My best day was on Tuesday, two jack—largest jack over 5 lb.—and some good perch.—JOHN RUSH.

Since sending my last report the weather has changed. Jack and perch have been biting well. I have been out to-day (Thursday) and took some good perch; largest perch 2½ lb., and 1 perch 2 lb., and a gentleman and lady who were jack fishing took 32 lb. of jack, largest jack 15 lb.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The late rain has improved the river very much, and is now in good order for all-round fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me four days, their takes were as follows:—1st. day, Mr. Green, 3 bream, 1 barbel, 2 chub, and 22 roach, (legering); 2nd. day, Mr. Warner and friend, 3 barbel, 1 dozen roach and dace, with gentles; 3rd. day, Mr. Long, 1 barbel, and a dozen nice roach; 4th day, Mr. Geo. Palmer, 4 barbel, 1 roach, and a dozen fine dace, (legering).—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is low and clear, and almost all the fish feed at times. The weather has not been two days alike for some time, and I do not think it will at least for some few days to come. We have been mostly jack-fishing. I got broke nine times in one day, next, five fish; Mr. A. Nuthall in a few hours, best 8 lb. A curious case happened to him, getting two jack at the same time, and getting foul in sunken tree, lifted the tree and saved the fish. John has been jack-fishing, four, five, and six at different days, best 7 lb. 6 oz. Some private boats have caught one or two. A private boat caught five barbel, best 6 lb. 2 oz., and a few good chub. John's best day with Mr. Bond, of the Sun Hotel, Kingston, was four fish, the best 17 lb. 4 oz. He was a fine fish. There has not been much done on the banks, the water being so low and clear.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The rain of Tuesday night—and it is raining at time of writing—will improve the river very much. The water was getting as clear as filtered water, and the fish were very shy; in fact, there were few fish caught within fifteen yards of the punt, but with all the energy of our puntsman they have given their patrons all their skill, and opened a few of their eyes in the matter. The Nottingham buckle can be used in bright water, and it affects every man. I have been out, I think, every day, and have caught from two and a half to five dozen roach each day with a barbel and a perch. Occasionally there has been upwards of 100 perch taken in this last six weeks, and they would average quite 1 lb. each. I had very bad luck this afternoon, after playing with a fish for over one hour. He got foul of a stump, and I broke the tackle and string to clear it, as we never saw the float after the time we hooked the fish till he was gone, I think he would have been one for Cooper to preserve.—JOHN BUSH-NELL, fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham.)

Wind south-west, rainy; water in good condition for all-round fishing. I am pleased to say the takes of fish are still improving, both in size and quantity. Mr. Cook, of the Star and Garter Hotel, St. Anne's Hill, Wandsworth, with spins took 20 lb. of fine roach and dace and two barbel, and one day with Mr. Swaby and friend 18 lb. of ditto and two barbel, and Mr. Curtiss 16 lb. of ditto; Pert Hammerton one dozen, Mr. Howse and Goodwin seven dozen, Captain Smith eight dozen, Captain Moss 18 lb. two barbel. George Coxen, with Mr. Hancock, of Tunbridge Wells, took a nice basket of fish in six hours, also two fine barbel, and Mr. Brown six dozen and 1 barbel. Joe Dobbin, in three days, 36 lb. and two barbel. The tide will suit for a whole day's fishing next week. N.B. I am sorry to have to remind my customers again not to take any notice of reports that appear in the *Referee*, as the correspondent is entirely "boycotted" by all Twickenham fisherman.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water in very good order, though rain would improve and heighten it. Sport in the neighbourhood has been fair. Jack have been running, though not very large, two best fish going just over 6 lb. each; several small ones being had. In places barbel have been feeding. Sunday, Paice, of Etonwick, had thirteen barbel and one jack, 9½ lb., which was fouled with the worm tackle in Boveney Weir. At odd times, before breakfast and in the evening, I have been trying the barbel in front of Windsor Bridge, about ten yards from second buttress, and found them at times well on—taking since my last seventeen fish. Monday evening, with a customer, we found them well on, and in three-quarters of an hour had seven very plump fish out of it, darkness preventing us from fishing—though small, being only about 15 lb. weight, all the fish, with the exception of one, have been in splendid condition. Lumsden has had another bream, at Surly Hall, going 5 lb. Roach have been had in good bags where fine tackle has been used, especially from the old river. Gudgeon are still biting very free, though but a few punts have been out for them.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

During the recent fine weather many good catches have been made, both by residents and visitors. Boiled wheat has been a good bait. I have been too busy this week with the land question—surveying—to pay much attention to the waters, but I hope to run over myself in a few days to see what the pike say. Thus far only a few have been caught, and they have been generally very small—two or three-pounders.—THOMAS FORD.

Barle and Exe (Dulverton).

These rivers are rather low for the time of year, but still are in fair condition for angling, and should the weather continue fine, we shall have at least a few days' more sport. Some very fine baskets. A trout has been taken during the past week with fly and minnow. The flies killing, the best being the female blue upright, the hare's ear, red ant and silver twist. Very few salmon have come up, and none have been caught here since my last report.—W.

Burnt Mill (Essex).

On Sunday last the water was in splendid condition after the storm in the morning. A splendid show of roach and trout was taken in one day's sport, also a splendid show of gudgeon and chub taken by J. Shimeild and Mr. Machin, jun.

Dove (Ilam).

This river is still low and fine. We could do very well with a fresh. The small blacks are still out on the water in force, and they are very troublesome. In both the main river and the tributaries the Derby killer is still "fetching" the big trout. I was glad to see an appreciative notice of this lure in the GAZETTE last week. It has been many times referred to previously in my notes under the title of the "Derby Kill Devil," by which name it is also known. Plenty of chub have been killed during the week with wasp-grub and 1 scratching, and grayling have been nicely on at the maggot as well as the fly. Roach have now got into the reed beds, where they should be fished for and nowhere else. Some capital baskets were obtained on Saturday at Rocester, while rodsters have also succeeded well at Uttoxeter.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

I have not heard of any freshwater fish being caught since my last report, and in sea-fishing there has not been such good catches with hook and line this week as last Friday and Saturday. The best catches were from 20 lb. to 40 lb. per boat per tide. Monday there were some fine codlin caught, weighing about 6 lb. each. Tuesday, all boats out, their catches varying from 10 lb. to 30 lb. each boat of whiting pout and codlin. The trawling skiffs fishing in Barnstaple Bay caught more soles and plaice than they have any week for the season. A fine ling was caught off the jetty, weighing 16½ lb., with hand line. There has been some fine pollack caught this week with rod and line from the pier and the rocks off the Capstone Parade. Wednesday, blowing strong from the south-west, so there are very few fish caught, best boat about 10 lb. Thursday, moderate, I saw some fine strings of fish taken along with a few small conger eel. Bream appear to be going, there have been very few caught. Prospects of fishing good for the next few days.—E. COMER.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The rain has made the water somewhat heavy, but in good condition for angling. There has been during the week some excellent sport. Mr. Isaac Buley on Monday took a large perch, a grand eel, and a splendid perch below the town. Mr. B. St. J. Wagborne has been amongst the jack, and Mr. Russell Owen has also been having some sport. Mr. R. A. Dallas Beeching has had

some grand bream and roach-fishing opposite Tonbridge Castle on Monday and on Tuesday he took an eel weighing 1½ lb. On Wednesday the weighing-in club had a competition near the railway bridge 'at Barden. Everything appeared favourable, but the fish were not on the feed. Only the first prize was taken, and that with three bream and a single roach. Mr. Owen hooked two pike with a worm during the contest. The first one he landed, but lost the second, which was a grand fish. To show the perversity of the finny tribe, the next morning an angler, on the same part of the river, grassed a splendid basket of bream, and a jack of 4½ lb., which he took with the tail end of a lob-worm on a gut bottom. The prospects of sport, if the weather continues fine, look well.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ormesby Broad.

My friend, Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, the respected president of the "Stanley Anglers," writes to me from the Angel Hotel, Great Yarmouth, "Just a line, to tell you of some good sport we had at Ormesby on Friday last. Mr. Elliot, of this town, and Mr. Fowler, of Manchester, and myself, had 144 bream. Three of these fish turned the scale at 3 lb., and there were many between 2 lb. and 3 lb. We took nearly all the large ones with Nottingham lobs, and in the early morning. I am just off now to Ormesby to stop at the Eels Foot (which, by the bye, I found very comfortable last time), with a thousand splendid Nottingham worms, to try my luck to-morrow. We are taking some nice whiting, gurnards, balts, and a few codling, with rod and line, off the Britannia Pier." During my visit into Lincolnshire, I was glad to notice the arrangements of getting to the Broads from Petersborough. By a union with the Great Northern, the Great Eastern and the Midland Railways, both Yarmouth and Lowestoft are reached in through carriages in about two-and-a-half hours. I pointed out this attractive facilities to some of the Lincolnshire piscators, and who have since willingly availed themselves of getting to the Broads for some good fishing. Since the above was written, Mr. Wheatstone has sent me the result of his second day. It was 242 bream, the largest 3 lb. 2 oz.; and, in addition, Mr. Fowler caught a perch of 2 lb. 13 oz., which has been sent to London for preservation.—B.

The weather for the past week at Ormesby has been very fine, and the fish have been well on the feed, fishermen having a good time of it with baskets of fish from 10 lb. to 28 lb., the most successful fisherman being Mr. J. W. Adamson, of Great Yarmouth, with 15 stone of bream in three days—Monday, 19th, 57 bream weighing 91 lb., six of them scaling 18 lb. 4 oz.; Tuesday 20th, 47 bream, weighing 76 lb., seven of them turning the scale from 2½ to 3 lb. 1 oz.; Wednesday 21st, 29 bream, weighing 41 lb., and one jack 3 lb. All the bream were taken with marsh worm and gut lines. If any of the readers of this valuable paper are coming to Ormesby they will find the water in splendid condition.—S. RICHMOND.

Rye House (Lea).

The water is very bright. Several fishermen have been down, but no fish taken. The wind west and cold.—WM. COWELL.

Severn and Teme (Worcesterhire).

These rivers are in excellent order for angling, either with the fly or the long tackle, at the fords or swims; in fact, it is all the true sportsman can desire. There is a good supply of fish up now, and the prospects are good for autumn fishing; many good baskets of grayling, trout, dace, chub, perch and roach, but all agree that eels are scarce this season. I have not seen a good take yet of that most beautiful flavoured fish the silver eel. Mr. Wm. Hopkin has taken in two outs 2½ brace of grayling and near 12 lb. of white fish; Mr. A. Bosworth, five dozen of roach and a few large chub; Mr. F. Hopkins 1½ brace of grayling; Mr. Guillian 4 brace; Mr. B. Smith and Mr. A. Davis caught very large baskets of grayling, some fish weighing 20 oz. each. The flies for this and the next month are the pale blue, willow and red ant; some large fish are taken with the grasshopper. Trout fishing closes with this month, and the members of the Boughton Club, also the members of the City Club will close their scales for weighing trout, and sit down to their half-yearly dinner early next month.—JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland.)

The following is a copy of the application which is to be sent to the inspectors of Irish fisheries:—"We the undersigned salmon and trout rod-fishers of Clonmel and its vicinity, beg respectfully to protest against the season being closed so early, and would ask you to call a meeting at your earliest convenience to enquire into the matter. It is the opinion of some of our most experienced anglers that October is one of the best fishing months of the year, for both salmon and trout, there being a fresh run of fish during that month which take freely, and if the season remained open until the first of November, it would encourage a good many more anglers to take out licenses, and add greatly to the preservation of the river from poachers. It is a well-known fact that the spawning fish do not run earlier than the second week in November." We have already about seventy signatures to it, amongst them some of the most influential names in the county. We understand that the rod-fishers about Cahir are also sending a similar application.—DORA.

Swale.

Operations on this stream are now drawing to a close. The season ends with this month. The falling temperature is sweeping away all but the very hardiest of aquatic flies. The needle brown (willow fly), however, continues upon the waters in full force and best perfection, but the recurrence of rain once more makes against fly-fishing. Natural fly-fishing is also ended.—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in capital trim all the week for all round angling, and the weather up to to-day has been all that could be desired, and sport has been pretty good, some of our rodsters having pretty good bags of various fish. Mr. Cubley had about six dozen fine roach in two afternoon excursions to the river side; Messrs. Longdon and Bulman had good bags of roach on Monday, all these fish being taken with the creed malt—in fact, some very good lots of roach have been had with creed malt this week. Chub have been taken in fair quantities from various swims up and down the river, the wasp grub being the most fatal attraction for these fish. I have heard of a few barbel and bream having been had with worm, but a big catch has not come under my notice this week. The best general bag of fish that I have heard about this week was had by Mr. Bulman last Monday, when he had three dozen roach, about half a dozen chub, and his basket was topped up with three fine pike weighing 27 lb., the biggest weighing 13½ lb., the whole of his catch weighing 4 st. Weather to-night is very wet and cold, and the wind in a nasty quarter; and, to tell the truth, I don't half like the look of the prospects for the next four days, unless a great

alteration occurs in the weather. Anglers who try the roach might take a little creed malt with them, but I think gentles and cockspur worms will be a better bait than malt under the present circumstances, notwithstanding that malt has killed some good bags of roach this week. Worms, I believe, will be found the best general bait just now, considering the present state of affairs; but I have mentioned the most killing baits that have done the most execution this week, and so anglers can have their choice. To-night the water is in capital condition, the weather in bad condition, and the hopes of the angler in a worse condition than either; but hoping against hope, there may be better weather with the dawn of another day, and the angler will not have to gloomily exclaim, "Sic transit gloria mundi."—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham.)

Anglers as a rule have very queer ideas, which, when firmly fixed take a deal of convincing to the contrary. More especially does this happen among the jack fishers, who seem afraid, or do not care to commence pike-fishing before October; which I think is going a little too far, because we know that pike spawn at the end of March, and surely five or six months is sufficient time for them to recover from the effect of spawning, and be in proper condition to be angled for. There is not a doubt about this being correct; as at the latter end of last week a gentleman fished a noted spot up the river with a spinning bait and succeeded in capturing 55 lb. of jack, the largest, 11 lb., all of which were in prime condition. The water has been in splendid condition for barbel fishing, and the weather, with the exception of an occasional shower of rain, has been all that could be desired, though, as a rule, the fish have not bit well. Several places were baited with worms, and the result was eight and nine barbel, which was hardly enough. The last item of news received from Shardlow, W. Bailey, jun., with a gentleman, after a small baiting of worms, took thirteen barbel, the lot weighing 50 lb., this is, so far as I know, the best catch of the week. Chub have nearly refused to take worms altogether, but the wasp grub has proved a very deadly bait, the fish taking them unusually well. One angler in about four hours hooked out 55 lb., some of them going 3 lb. and 4 lb. each, maggots were thrown in for groundbait. Roach still refuse to take malt and wheat, but take kindly to maggots with a little bran and bread for groundbait. River still low and clear, with every prospect of good sport, if the angler will only watch what the fish are taking.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Sporting on all of the Derbyshire rivers has been first class up to yesterday (Wednesday), when we had a heavy thunderstorm, which discoloured the rivers, and completely took the fish off the feed on Friday last. Mr. C. Wesley took 9 brace of large fish on the Wye, in the Rowsley Meadows, all with Eaton's small honey dum bumbles. Then, on Saturday, A. N. Bromley, Esq., of Nottingham, killed 15 brace on the Dove, every fish killed with Eaton's yellow dun. On the same day, 10 brace of grayling where killed on the Derwent, near to Whatstandwell, with bumble and red flies, and baskets from 7 brace to 9½ brace per angler have been made on most parts. Gayling have been rising well, and those anglers who have had the proper flies have done well. I am sadly afraid the weather has set in for a lot more rain, as the barometer is very low, and we have had a deal of rain fall this afternoon, Thursday. The bottom fishers have done fairly on the Derwent during the week, chiefly with maggots and small red worms, killing both grayling, trout, and a number of coarse fish. The leaves are getting very troublesome to the fly fisher on both streams. Graylings are now in most excellent condition, and trout are going out of condition fast.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

SCOTCH NOTES.

LADY ANGLERS.

WALTON CLUB.—The last competition of this club took place on September the 16th. The prizes were as follows:—First, Mr. R. Scott; second, Mr. Potts; third, Mr. MacRitchie; fourth, Mr. Grant. Mr. Scott, heaviest trout and best half-dozen.

THE TWEED—KELSO.—During the week salmon angling has been engaged in with some success on various casts. Net fishing having closed for the season, salmon have free passage up the river, and already a considerable number of fish have been seen, grilse being much more numerous than for some years back. Between five and six o'clock on Tuesday evening, his Grace the Duke of Roxburgh, fishing in Floors Castle upper water, killed two salmon, which weighed 22 lb. and 14 lb. respectively, and five grilse. The Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh angled in the same water on Wednesday, and his Grace killed four, while her Grace killed two salmon. In the Mertoun water, the Hon. H. Brougham killed a grilse on Wednesday, and one on Thursday. Yesterday Mr. Drummond, Ednam House, caught a grilse of 9 lb. in the Junction water.

STENNESS LOCH, ORKNEY.—Very good sport has been enjoyed lately on this loch by tourists, who are yearly visiting the place in larger numbers. On Saturday four of these visitors had good baskets considering the day, landing about 15 lb. of trout. The following are a few of the baskets caught lately:—One rod, 30 trout, average weight ¾ lb.; another rod, 32 fish, 14 of which weighed 29 lb. From a dozen to twenty fish have been a common take. Sea trout seem pretty plentiful at present, and the other day two fine fish were landed with the rod, the one weighing 2½ lb., and the other 5½ lb. A large number of these and heavier fish are killed with the net. A goodly number of lady fishers have visited the loch during this and last season, and one of them—a young lady from London—killed 72 fish with the rod in one day. Although nets are still being used in the loch, the "otto" has been but seldom seen this season. As showing the number of strangers who have been on the loch this year, it may be mentioned that one fisherman, who keeps a canoe and boat, has had no fewer than 116 visitors since the 12th of June. These were from all parts of Britain, and included the Duke of Marlborough and Duke of Roxburgh.—*Scotsman*.

THE angler, I think, dreams of his favourite sport oftener than other men of theirs. There is a peculiar excitement in it, which perhaps arises from somewhat of the same causes which make the interest in searching for ancient treasures, opening Egyptian tombs and digging into old ruins. One does not know what is under the surface. There may be something or there may be nothing. He tries, and the rush of something startles every nerve. Let no man laugh at a comparison of trout-fishing with antiquarian researches. I know a man who has done a great deal of both, and who scarcely knows which is the most absorbing or most remunerating, for each enriches mind and body, each gratifies the most refined tastes, each becomes a passion unless the pursuer guard his enthusiasm and moderate his desires. It is nothing strange that men who throw their flies for trout should dream of it.—W. C. Prime.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. P. B.—We should recommend you to try Maidenhead, and if you can engage the services of Harry Wilder, as fisherman, he will give you every information.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

TROUT TAKING PASTE.

SIR,—Yesterday I received a letter from a friend who is away in Derbyshire doing a fortnight's angling, in which the following occurs:—"Sport on Monday very indifferent; took scarcely anything all the morning, so gave up the fly at noon. Having brought a little bottom tackle with me, I rigged up and made myself comfortable beside a fishy-looking creek running about thirty yards inland, with a sharp spring joining it at the end. I sat nearly half an hour, and was just beginning to despair, when—tug! strike! got you! and after much plunging and rushing I landed—what do you think?—a beautiful trout of three-quarters of a pound weight. I took two more of similar size after this at intervals of about three quarters of an hour, all, strange to say, with paste, but did not see a roach all the afternoon."

Now, as I never before heard of trout being taken with paste, I should be glad if you, or some of your correspondents, will inform me whether this is not very unusual, and if you consider there is anything in this new bait that would encourage trout to take it, or if these three were taken merely by accident.—I am, &c.,

273, Regent Street, W., September 16.

[It is unusual to fish for trout with paste, but trout are almost omnivorous. We heard of a fine Kennet fish being taken with a piece of fat bacon the other day. Fish are certainly attracted by scent, and the scent in Mr. King's bait may prove attractive to other fish than roach.—ED.]

G. MARRIS.

DIMENSIONS AND WEIGHT OF TROUT.

SIR,—In the description of a day's trout fishing in the Colne at Denham, given in Sir Humphrey Davy's "Salmonia" is to be found the following as to the dimensions and weight of trout:—

"Haliens.—Oh! no, he is, I think, above 5 lb., but not 6 lb.; but we can form a more correct opinion by measuring him, which I can easily do, the butt of my rod being a measure. He measures, from nose to fork, a very little less than 24 inches, and, consequently, upon the scale which is appropriate to well-fed trouts, should weigh 5 lb. 10 oz., which, within an ounce, I doubt not, is his weight."

"Physicus.—Oh! I see you take the mathematical law, that similar solids are to each other in the triplicate ratio of one of their dimensions."

"Hal.—You are right."

"Phys.—But I think you are below the mark, for this appears to me an extraordinary thick fish."

"Hal.—He is a well-fed fish, but in proportion not so thick as my model, which was a fish of 17 inches by 9 inches, and weighed 2 lb.; this is my standard solid. We will try him. Ho! Mrs. P.! bring your scales, and weigh this fish. There, you see, he weighs 5 lb. 10½ oz."

I have no doubt that Sir Humphrey was right, but I must confess that I cannot, taking weights of ¾ lb. and upwards, now work it out satisfactorily.

Probably many of your numerous trout fishing correspondents have made notes of the dimensions and weight of trout taken in the course of several years. If one or more of them would kindly send you some notes for publication, they would prove both interesting and instructive.

A standard weight for angling societies does not work well in practice, as so few members carry to the water-side the necessary weighing machine, they will, therefore, proceed by guess-work, and probably some member always gives himself the benefit of a doubt; unpleasantness is the result.

Our standard weight is ¾ lb., but it would be much more satisfactory if the length of a well-fed trout of that weight could be adopted as the standard; this length cannot be taken from a single specimen for obvious reasons, but the mean of several specimens must be taken.—I am, &c.,

Gaywood Road, King's Lynn,

September 15, 1881.

H. BRADFIELD.

[Some time last year or the year before, this matter was referred to in the FISHING GAZETTE, and an algebraic solution of the problem given.—ED.]

BOARDS OF CONSERVATORS AND ANGLING LICENSES.

SIR,—I have enclosed a report of the Severn Fishery Board's meeting, with the object of ascertaining the opinion of some of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE upon the subject. You will see that they get £297 on account of the power that the Home Secretary gives them under a clause in the Freshwater Fishery Act, to charge for rod and line, licenses for trout, nets, night lines, traps at weirs, and other instruments. Now, for all this cash, there are no extra keepers on in the Worcester district. You see by the sum of £230 for rod and line licenses at 1s. each, it shows 4600 anglers who are willing to help to pay for the protection of the fish during fence months, and it is with great regret we notice that there are no extra watchers in the pay of the Severn Fishery Board. There are often strong remarks made in Worcester as to the way the money is spent, it is really public monies and a public question; and I should like to see one or two practical anglers upon the Board. I really think when near £300 is paid by them, they should have a voice in the matter. Perhaps some one more acquainted with the subject will give it, or, rather give us, the anglers, some information. I ask these few questions for the purpose of ventilating the subject. I enclose a copy of the last report.—I am, &c.,

JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Portobello Inn, St. John's, Worcester.

[This is an important matter, and we trust anglers in various parts of the country will take it up. At least some thirty or forty thousand trout licenses are now taken out by anglers and, as Mr. Griffin remarks, their interests ought to be considered, as well as those of the salmon fisheries proprietors. Watchers ought to be on the water all the year round, and not merely "put on" when salmon are in the rivers. There is one great advantage these licenses give, they entitle the holder to stop poaching, and the Board which issues them is bound to prosecute, even if it is only a trout river.—ED.]

FISHING AT STOCKPORT.

SIR,—Could any of the many readers of your valuable paper kindly inform me if there is any fishing near Stockport, and if there is any fishing club in that locality, and you will greatly oblige,
A STRANGER.
September 18.

PRUSSIAN CARP.

SIR,—I should be glad to receive through the medium of the FISHING GAZETTE from some reader any information respecting the haunts, habits, and method of taking the Prussian carp.

If you will allow any gentleman space to give me full particulars I shall remain always yours faithfully,
JOHN J. HARRIS.

HARDY'S NEW WINCH FITTING.

SIR,—We have great pleasure in informing you and all interested in fishing that we have succeeded in making Hardy's patent winch fitting so that it can be adapted to hollow butts, and also to cane rods.—We are, &c.,

Standard Works, Redditch, Sept. 19.

S. ALLCOCK AND Co.,

RAIN AWNING FOR THAMES PUNTS.

SIR,—The many wet uncomfortable days I have experienced on the Thames punt fishing, especially winter time, has induced me to draw attention to the above subject, and see if there are no contrivances by which angling in heavy rain can be prosecuted under more comfortable circumstances. In my opinion, waterproofs are all very well, but it is the hands one wants to keep dry.

I have written to Messrs. Piggott, of Bishopsgate Street, to see if the cannot devise something in the way of a folding iron frame to carry an awning which shall cover the well of an ordinary Thames punt, which is my usual seat, and yet allow of striking freely upwards or right or left. The iron supports must be on the slant to allow of striking sideways, and the front so constructed as to be able to strike well up, as would be required when long corking or travelling for chub, &c.

Meantime, if any of your readers have had anything made similar I shall feel grateful for a wrinkle or two on the subject.—I am, &c.

B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

[Would not a sudden gust of wind upset a punt with an awning of any kind worth anything?—ED.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—Perhaps Mr. Balderston will pardon my remissness, but I have been so much more agreeably employed during the past few weeks in rambling about the south-west of England, rod in hand, than in arguing, that I cry guilty to not having even read his letter with the attention it deserves. I do not really see what special good can come out of a paper war on the matter. I hold the opinions held by nine-tenths of those who have been born and bred on the Thames—as I have—and its tributaries. I have watched with anxious interest the gradual decadence of the river and its various vicissitudes, and I have kept a watchful gaze on the other fishing grounds in its neighbourhood, and my opinion, notwithstanding Mr. B.'s laboured subtleties, is that under existing circumstances there is imminent danger of any or all streams being "fished out," as we understand the expression in its popular sense. I am certainly not inclined to chaperone Mr. B. during a fishing tour of four weeks, as he suggests, for the purpose of converting him to my convictions, for a "man convinced against his will holds to the same opinion still," and whilst fishing I find that the less the dogmatism the better the sport.

NATURAL BAITS.

I am truly obliged to J. B. J. for his letter on this subject. I will carefully look the matter up in a little time. At present a great pressure of other business necessitates a postponement. As to the final question about the size of Wick trout, I must confess I have considerably altered my opinion since writing the passage referred to. The articles, as J. B. J. is aware, were originally written for a bi-weekly paper, and thus the same amount of care could not be exercised as would have been taken had it been published in a different form. I hope to publish a much more careful work before I join the majority.—I am, &c.,

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—However much I might wish to comply with Mr. Bonvoisin's plaint, desiring me to transfer my attention to Mr. Keene and "Creel," and to whatever extent I may be disposed to recognise one's duty towards an opponent that cries, "Hold, I have had enough," yet I find the tenour of my adversary's letter is such that I cannot ignore its existence.

A charge, which I must rebut, is brought against me by Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, an accusation to which I will not submit, as my opponent in an unnecessary and much more aggravated form had been guilty of the very offence, which, he says, is my own peculiar property; and, moreover, his own delinquency occurred long before I entered the arena of this controversy. Thus, however much I have failed in this respect—and I do not yet recognise that I have transgressed—I had an example set in high quarters, and opponents must not expect to be allowed to employ "hard names" to those who differ from them, and not receive severe epithets in return.

In Mr. Bonvoisin's first letter of April 3rd, 1880, this gentleman, with the usual arrogance of his party, evidently assumes that it is only himself and members of his clique who have "the subject seriously at heart," and at the same time insults one of your brightest correspondents by writing, "I trust it will be thoroughly ventilated in your columns, not in a 'When to Strike in Fly-Fishing' fashion," &c.; whilst the subsequent *amende* aggravates the original offence. "The fence month" fashion appears now to give as little satisfaction to this critic as did its predecessor. In the same letter Mr. Bonvoisin employs the word "pothunters," though transferring its use to the mouth of a hypothetical working man.

In a letter of April 24th, the same gentleman tells us point-blank that "the great mass" of "sportsmen" are blackguards; and no subterfuge will avail, although Mr. Bonvoisin may inform us that the literal meaning of the passage indicates that in this country there is a small percentage of sportsmen and an overwhelming mass of blackguards. This great mass is said to consist of "netters, wirers, balers, snatchers, and men armed with rod and line (we will

not call *them* anglers) who take fish out of season." I have italicised two remarkable words, for, on the same ground, independent opinion and conviction, many others, as well as myself, may withhold the word angler from ground-baiting fishermen. Not content with the adoption of the word blackguard, as calculated to deter presumptive opponents from entering the field against him a neat comparison between any dissentients from his own views and Bill Sykes, also greeted the eyes of the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE. This was a very cunningly-wrought "infernal machine," contrived to fling consternation into the camp of the enemy. Happily, it was not every opponent that was to be dismayed by such a windbag—thank you, Mr. Keene—with curiously-figured pictures of destruction painted vividly upon it!

This case of abuse is not isolated, for, if we turn to the meeting of the Society of Arts, we again observe that no tolerance was observed towards opponents of the greatest experience, but that those who courageously stood forward to speak the truth were hooted and groaned down.

Bestowing a little attention to Mr. Keene, we find, in a recent contribution this gentleman wrote that Mr. L. B. was "not such a jack—" that is, such a jackass, the minus indicating the omission; the passage by inference insinuating that some opponent might be otherwise classified. I am also accused of writing "pleonastic nonsense," and my composition otherwise vilified.

Returning to Mr. Bonvoisin, we likewise observe that this gentleman refers to my views as "pernicious doctrines," whilst in a later letter also writing, "seeing the utter abhorrence in which I hold Mr. B.'s doctrines, is exceedingly distasteful to me." Be assured, Mr. Bonvoisin, that whilst I reciprocate with the most intense earnestness the feelings which are so cordially lavished on me, and in this respect will not be a debtor, when I can so justly repay; and, holding, as I do, the ground-baiting fishermen in a contempt more deep than the abhorrence which Mr. Bonvoisin entertains towards the takers of small and unseasonable fish, I await that final flooring at this gentleman's hands, which he is pleased to inform me is about to take place; yet, withal, I might remind him that it is not well for "him that girdeth on his harness to boast himself as he that putteth it off." "Stupendously ridiculous!" and "Oh, it's too absurd!" I am perfectly aware that such is the fact. It is, indeed, too deliciously ridiculous to ask London and Trent anglers to abnegate their own vices; to put the guilty thing away from amongst themselves; it is only others must be coerced, the preponderating mass of blackguards; it is ever yonder publican. It would be of no avail for Mr. Bonvoisin to tell me that ground-baiting is a science. So are many other forms of poaching. The work of a poacher is not learnt in a day, and ground-baiting requires some tact, though essentially a more vicious practice than the battue shooting of other sportsmen.

Having reviewed the manners of my assailants, as apparent in controversy and at private meetings, from which all but an unavoidable few of those that obstruct their progress are excluded, I must glance at any small amount of argument which Mr. Bonvoisin has at last found the leisure to advance.

Referring to the first and second paragraphs of the letter of September 17, but not being aware of any passage of mine that does show loss of temper, I shall say no more on the matter. The third paragraph is devoted mainly to self-eulogium, and requires no further comment. In the fourth, I find something to the point, as here it is denied that there is any compensating advance in the resources of a river as the number of anglers increases. Mr. Bonvoisin, do you really advance such a preposterous statement, and mean the world to believe in its truth? The increased wariness of the fish has already been mentioned by me as a compensating power; but, beyond this, the slaughter of heron and other waterfowl, the persecution of otters and several varieties of aquatic animals are also certainly compensating influences, tending to the increase of the number of fish, if not indirectly doing harm by the preservation of the least wary and vigorous members of the piscine races. Man, however, in his wild state may also be considered a natural enemy of the fish; and the amount of the latter taken by civilised races must not be set off as over and above the loss to the rivers which is provided against by nature, but only the difference in amount between the quantities taken by rude races by means of the leister, light and other rude implements and the amount that falls to the lot of the fine tackle of the moderns. This difference, if worthy of any transitory attention, is more than amply compensated by the destruction by man of the other natural enemies of the fish, and it therefore only remains for us to prevent poaching and render the bulk and internal condition of rivers as nearly natural as possible, and not as they often are, wholly unfit for animal life.

With your groundbaits and composites of the fifth section I leave the London anglers, and hope they may enjoy the use of chopped or battered worms, slugs, tallowy cheese scratchings, assafetida, bullocks' blood and brains, as well as paste and grain boiled in a mass with new milk and well selected urine: these formed into balls, or used separately, are no doubt suited to the instincts of those who use them.

On arriving at the sixth section I am referred to several gentlemen, who, it is presumed, will substantiate Mr. Bonvoisin's account of the approximate extinction of the pike in the Thames. I prefer to take more disinterested and reliable sources for information—information coming from all quarters and from men of every variety of experience and qualification, as found weekly in the reports of the FISHING GAZETTE and in other trustworthy papers, such as the *Field*, &c., and which show that the actual condition of things is simply the exact reverse of Mr. Bonvoisin's allegation. Mr. Keene's, as well as this gentleman's own words in bygone letters, have already indicated that the dearth is prospective and not actual. In the letter of the latter of April 3, to which allusion has already been made, we find mention of the inspection of large numbers of jack and perch, which, if scarce, could not have been inspected in large numbers; but in further proof I quote the following words: "No doubt that gentleman would also tell them to a trifle the average number of lean, ravenous little pickerels killed by the trailers in the T.A.P.S. during the early part of even the present season, and I venture to state the total number (not weight) would startle the enquirers." After this we find the words, "and that 'Ruff's' suggestion, if carried out, would pretty nearly, in two or three seasons, depopulate the river of jack." The uselessness of quoting more is apparent, for my opponents annihilate their own arguments by constantly making contradictory statements, for here is a case of proved abundance, and then alleged dearth is the war-cry of the faction.

On the subject of the German ann Chinese fish Mr. Bonvoisin again becomes illogical, for we may presume that in those countries where fish are used as a staple article of food the abundance of the fish is of paramount importance, and that the stews therefore must be maintained with the furtherance of this object in view. The Germans, however, realise the true nature of the pike; whilst the Chinese, though using the net freely and through sheer necessity requiring the fish as food, owing to a vast population, do not find themselves driven to follow the unsound mode of protection in vogue in England—the essential difference of opinion and practice in the two countries resting on two facts. In China it is impossible for experience to teach the fish to evade the net for a

prolonged period. In England, however, the Thames fish become wise, inasmuch that some of the trout are said to know the gut emanating from every tackle-shop in the great city; and thus we discover that the Londoner cannot catch these self-same intellectual fish, but the poachers, with their nets, can and do; and rich is the harvest thereof, and great is the contentment of these individuals, who, finding the great fish that are even too cunning for the ground-baiter with his pint pot of chopped worms, reserved for his special use by Acts of Parliament, and inept anglers, whose combined efforts provide no adequate means for the capture of one of the members of Mr. Bonvoisin's "great mass of the people."

Finally, however distasteful it may be to myself to argue with those whose views are held in detestation by me, still I feel bound to proceed, having once taken the subject in hand, and therefore I stand ready, the boulder-stone as I am, to block the way, if possible, of ignorance; a mark for the weapons of my antagonists to have the satisfaction of flooring, as they so kindly predict.—I am, &c.,

R. BALDERSTON.

[Mr. Balderston is essentially a trout-angler, and has evidently no taste for coarse-fishing. We prefer fly-fishing for trout to any other angling by a long way, but at the same time, when that cannot be had, we can thoroughly enjoy fishing of the next best description that may be attainable, whether jack, perch, roach, chub, bream, tench, etc., even to eel-fishing with ledger. Our experience is that the proper use of ground-bait is essential in order to catch barbel, roach, bream, and other ground-feeders. Life is too short to permit of stalking solitary specimens of fish, or looking all day into twenty feet of water for a shoal of fish, unless, indeed, the angler has nothing else to do; but the majority of London anglers have to snatch a day, or half a day, once a month, then to go twenty or thirty miles, and have perhaps three or four clear hours for fishing. Now in the case of trout the angler knows where they are to be found, he generally sees them rising, but roach, bream, etc., which go in shoals, may be anywhere, except in the likely-looking place the angler has to chance on. It is the over-use of ground-bait which does harm. We confess we could never stand some of the ground-baits which are used—horrid mixtures, enough to disgust one with angling for fish which are attracted by such stuff.—ED.]

FISHING NEAR GUILDFORD.

SIR,—In answer to "Mercator," I beg to inform him there is fair fishing to be had in the Wey, Guildford. Pike, perch, chub, roach, dace, bream, and occasionally trout are to be had.

I have not fished the water above Guildford, but have noted the many bends, corner points, sunken trees, with overhanging boughs; also deep eddies, &c., where several of the above named fish are to be found. Have heard of the fish being plentiful at Send, near Woking. I have seen many good takes of fish near Godalming—roach and dace, bream, 6 lb. to 7 lb. specimens; chub, 3 lb. to 4 lb. ditto; also good perch and pike. Members of the Godalming Angling Society are having some fair bags and specimens of fish. I myself have had good-conditioned pike from 4 lb. to 12 lb.

As to ground bait, the ordinary clay balls, made of bran and grains, with some gentles and worms stuck in them, thrown into a stream-swim will, by their wriggling attract the fish; as also will the bran and grain set free by action of water; for an eddy-swim, a pint or so of chopped lob worms will answer.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE W. KITSON.

Godalming Sept. 22.

NOTES FROM "PIXIE."

SIR,—This week complaints are made to me that very little fish can be got owing to the weeds and the clearness of the waters of the Lea, Thames, and the Arun, the latter having an extra difficulty added to it by being netted so much lately.

Mr. W. Breewood and a few friends returned from an excursion to Yarmouth. They visited Ormesby, Rollesby, and Barton Broads, with expectations of great takes of fish, especially after they had been informed that it was from here that a gentleman well known in the London angling world a few years ago caught such an enormous quantity of bream that he had them salted and barrelled up so as to enable him to forward them to the headquarters of a well-known angling society that then existed, and does now, in the neighbourhood of Walworth Common. However, they failed to realise to the full extent of their expectations, and had to do without the barrels and the salting ceremony, and content themselves with 8, 10, and sometimes 20 lb. a day, according to the condition of the weather. They managed to obtain good beds and every accommodation during their stay at Mr. J. Powell's, the Garibaldi, St. Nicholas Road, Yarmouth. Speaking of the above house, Mr. W. Breewood says:—"You know, Pixie, we can't all stand the price of the Grand Hotel, or hire a house, when we go to the Broads; and therefore you ought to let the 'boys' know where they can be accommodated for a time at a reasonable price, and feel as if they were at home in their own drums, which I am sure they will do if they go to old J. Powell's, who is as fond of angling as anybody."—I am, &c.,

PIXIE.

THE LATE ATTEMPTED NETTING ON THE THAMES.

SIR,—Is it really a fact that Captain Etheridge had no power to seize the nets in the above case? If this is so, I trust that those gentlemen who have cavilled at the meeting of the delegates of angling societies which took place some little time ago, will now be satisfied that one at least of the clauses agreed to will prove of great utility. That the officer appointed to prevent the law being broken should act as Captain Etheridge did, is quite within reason; but it seems a great pity that he could not take proceedings against the Beasleys, and also against Mr. Phillips the first named parties for attempting to break the law, and the second for inciting them to break it. Captain Etheridge's conduct in this matter has excited a great amount of hostile criticism in those parts where his conduct as a river conservancy officer is best known; and in this particular case for the following much talked-of event. Some little time ago whilst he was passing down the river he caught sight of a cast-net on a barge. Giving orders for his little steamer to be backed, he took possession of this net, and when asked for it by the owner, to whom it was a partial means of obtaining a livelihood, the answer of the captain was to the effect, "If you want it back again you must come to Trinity House for it." Now, sir, only supposing this cast-net was of an illegal size—of which there is no proof—if this seizure was legal, common sense would surely say that the seizure of the flue nets, pronounced by Captain Etheridge to be illegal, and over which he mounted guard on the towing path,

could not be illegal. These acts, and their seeming inconsistency, make anglers and others pertinently ask the question, Was Captain Etheridge afraid of entering into a contest in the latter case because of the position of the would-be breaker of the law? As the case now stands, Captain Etheridge, the chief officer of the Conservancy Board, on one occasion seizes a net, and on another contents himself with simply warning the owners of an illegal net against using the same.

Will some of your readers who have a knowledge of the law on this point, or who have had experience in cases of seizures of nets, kindly give, through the medium of your paper, their views on this subject? In conclusion, I would state that as netting is one of the greatest destroyers of the sport of angling, it would be better for anglers to know exactly how the law stands in relation to netting than to be in the state of uncertainty which a perusal of the above facts is sure to create.—I am, &c., S. J. W.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, Sept. 18th, a member of the above club found a Pulborough and Amberley ticket, the same can be had any night after eight o'clock at the William IV., Old Kent Road. Several members went to Amberley, the Thames, and Lea. H. Scott bream, R. Smith bream, J. Bowling roach and dace, D. Davis roach, G. Davis roach and gudgeon, A. Shakel roach. Members are requested to attend on Wednesday, Sept. 28th, to settle important business.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

Sept. 20.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of this club have weighed-in fish during the past few days. Mr. Dudley and Slater, roach and dace (Thames); Mr. Bocking, a good eel; while fishing for barbel at Teddington was broken away with a good barbel. Mr. W. Eydman weighed-in three jack from Thames. This society now has twenty-four members. Several valuable prizes have been given by members, principally for specimen fish. Any anglers calling at our clubhouse will be well looked after by Mr. Brooks, our host.—BLACK BAG.

George and Dragon, High Street, Acton, W.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we had a fair show of fish, the following members contributing:—Messrs. Hart, Bastain, Jennings, and Taylor, roach, and Mr. Harris a handsome show of roach and dace from the tidal waters.—H. TAYLOR.

September 21, 1881.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The competition of the 18th inst. was more successful than those of previous dates. Mr. Hassell took first prize with one carp weighing 5 lb. 14½ oz. and 9½ oz. of roach; Mr. Anscombe second, with 5 lb. 4 oz. of roach; Mr. Olive third, with 1 lb. 12½ oz. roach; Mr. Cross fourth, with 1 lb. 8 oz. of roach; Mr. Artis fifth, with 1 lb. 4½ oz. roach; and Mr. Collins sixth, with 1¼ lb. of roach and perch. The prizes and the donors were as follows:—Fishing boots by Mr. Artis, value £1 10s.; large photograph, by H. Spink; patent bait can, Mr. Cardy; complete anglers' knife, Mr. Saunder, Nottingham; reel and winder, Mr. Power; and a hair cushion for fishing-basket Mr. Gambling. Mr. Power fished very tight all day, but they would not take to his tempting bait. Messrs. Sharp and Ash went to Berwick; the first-named killed with tight line one carp 4 lb. 10 oz., one tench 1 lb. 1½ oz., bream 5 lb. 11 oz., and roach 10½ oz., and Mr. Ash, two bream 4 lb. 6½ oz. Mr. Sharp, who is very fond of tight line, found his mistake, he missing, unfortunately, a carp of very heavy weight.

September 20, 1881.

BURTON-ON-TRENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The above association had their second field day at the water between Rugeley and Armitage on Tuesday last, September 20. The party proceeded by the 8.40 a.m. London and North-Western to Rugeley, and on arrival the members scattered themselves into small parties at the various swims. The weather was favourable, but not very large catches were made. Some good roach, trout and grayling were killed. One grayling weighing 1 lb. was taken with gentles, perch with worm, and trout with fly. Altogether a pleasant day was spent by the Trent side in the fresh air by the members, who thoroughly enjoyed the excursion. At 8.58 p.m. Burton was reached, and the landlady at the Railway Inn, Rugeley, provided a substantial knife-fork tea, which was appreciated in a manner anglers do when a good day's outing sharpens the appetite.

P.S.—It would, I think, help our amateur anglers if the club reports would say what bait the fish were taken with, for I find on reading them in your paper that many do not give that information.—HON. SEC.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members who were out on the 18th succeeded in getting some nice fish, Mr. Leach heading the list with 13 lb of fine roach; Mr. Wright, roach and bream; Mr. Bennett, roach and bream; Mr. Money, roach and bream; Mr. Pearce, bream; Mr. Bush, jack, and Mr. Herbert, perch, winning the monthly prize for the gross weight. The next visit of the Central Association will take place at this society on Monday, 26th inst., at the Albion, East Road, City Road.—W. H. PEARCE.

September 19.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 18th. Mr. J. Chambers, roach from Penton Hook; Messrs. Martin and Strong, bream from Byfleet, the former 4 lb. 8½ oz., the latter 2 lb.; Messrs. Hobbs and Castell, roach from the Mole. Mr. Hales' prize will be fished for on the 25th, any water. The next return visit of the W.C.A., No. 2 District will go to this club at Cogers' Hall, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, on Tuesday next, September 27. Any club visiting us will receive a hearty welcome, and be sure of a visit in return.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members have been very successful, Mr. Turner having weighed-in over 70 lb. of fish. Mr. E. Withen had a pretty barbel going 8 lb. ¼ oz.; Mr. G. Walkley, 9 lb. of roach and dace; Mr. Maslin, roach; Mr. E. Wilson, two jack, 12 lb. 5 oz. and 13 lb. 8½ oz.; Mr. E. Wakeford, some beautiful bream between 3 and 4 lb. each; Mr. Willoughby, 5 lb. 4 oz.

of bream; Messrs. T. Smith, Stock, Sutton, Blunden, Valentine, and Innes all having roach and dace. The three cases of fish will be home on Thursday next to add to our collection of preserved fish, consisting of two chub 8 lb. 12 oz., one trout 5 lb. ¼ oz., one barbel 8 lb. ¼ oz., all caught by Mr. E. Withers. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next for important business. All members are requested to be at Clapham Junction Station on Sunday next for the match. From the Pack Horse, Staunes, to the Horse Shoes, Laleham, is to be the distance of water.—E. WILSON, sec.

Sept. 21.

CREWE No. 1 ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this large and important society, to the number of sixty-six, held their annual fishing competition at Minshull Vernon, on Saturday afternoon last. The tradespeople of the town hold this society in high esteem, and show their appreciation by annually subscribing for and presenting to the society a large and handsome number of prizes. There were thirty-three prizes offered, and precisely that number, strange to say, were successful in catching fish. After the competition the members retired to their head-quarters, where Mr. Samuel Jones (vice president), in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wallace Lumb (president), presented the prizes. The following is a list of the successful members:—1, James Bond, china tea service, given by Mr. Flood; 2, James Kelshaw, copper kettle, given by Mr. W. Lumb; 3, Samuel Hoole, copper kettle, given by Mr. J. Rawson, Oak Farm; 4, William Plevin, clock, given by Mr. Blackhurst; 5, Edward Dyke, knives and forks, given by the Mayor of Crewe; 6, Thomas Parker, fishing rod, given by Mr. Furber, High Street; 7, Joseph Fotherby, fishing basket, given by the Mayor of Crewe; 8, William Davenport, fishing basket; 9, Joseph Morgan, set of jugs; 10, William Massey, clock; 11, George Evans, fishing rod, given by Mr. Parsonage, High Street; 12, Robert Cole, prize given by Mr. Gladwell; 13, William Potter, landing net, given by Mr. Furber, High Street; 14, Thomas Humphries, reel and line, given by Mr. Parker, Royal Oak; 15, William Baker, pocket flask, given by Mr. Herd; 16, George Maywhort, reel; 17, Frederick Potts, line; 18, Thomas Mulliner, reel; 19, Lawrence Kenny, reel, given by Mr. Bartle, West Street; 20, William Dixon, reel; 21, Peter McCluskey, knot of gut; 22, John Lawrence, line; 23, Thomas Potts, reel; 24, Charles Barnett, line; 25, Henry Deverill, reel; 26, Henry Potts, reel; 27, Thomas Fotherby, knot of gut; 28, William Wilks, line; 29, Thomas Latham, line; 30, Joseph Williams, line; 31, Samuel Jones, knot of gut; 32, Henry Eaton, books; 33, Richard Scragg, pipe, given by Mr. J. Roney, High Street.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club met on Sunday last, when the following members had a very fine show of fish:—Messrs. Fortescue, Eagles, Bunn, Nunn, Anderson, Midson, Legge, W. Richardson, Slade, Malley, Venour and Vale.

September 20.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our shows of fish have hardly been up to the average during the last week or two, but on Wednesday last Mr. Darley shot a fine tray of roach and bream from Norfolk, weighing about 25 lb. Messrs. Palmer, Kemp, Goode, Darley, and B. Lowni have all given valuable prizes to be competed for on September 25th, the conditions being, all members to leave Angel Road Station by the 7.58 a.m. train, and book to Roydon, and then fish in the Stort or backwaters of the Stort.—D. G. M., sec.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some excellent trays of fish were shown at the Hope, Bird Street, Lambeth, on Sunday last, Mr. Blackman having a good sample of barbel weighing 17 lb.; Mr. J. Smith, ditto, weighing 14 lb.; Mr. T. Gay showing up with bream, weight 6 lb.; and myself, ditto, with 12 lb.—A. THOMAS.

September 21.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last the following members showed some nice roach from the Colne:—Mr. S. Smith, 7 lb. 7 oz.; Mr. J. Watling, 4 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. E. Young, 4 lb 2 oz.; Mr. Major, 1 lb. 11 oz.; Messrs. Theobald, J. K. Fitch, Parkin, Baker, Inker and H. Smith also weighed roach from the Thames, Lea and Wey.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

September 20.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

President—The Right Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P.
Vice-Presidents—Major the Hon. E. R. BOURKE; Mr. Alderman and Sheriff FOWLER, M.P.

REMOVAL.—The present premises having proved too small for the purposes of this society, it has been determined to remove to The City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., where the weekly and other meetings will be held on and after Thursday, October 6th. The committee are glad to announce that Mr. Thompson has become the proprietor of that well-known tavern, and will thus be able to continue his functions as host and treasurer. The accommodation there will be in every way worthy of the society, and it is trusted that the change will result in increased attendances at the Thursday meetings. Subscription and Entrance Fees.—The subscription to the society is £1 1s. per annum; all members to be duly proposed and seconded. An entrance fee of 10s. 6d. will be required from all gentlemen elected after the close of the present year, and until June, 1882, when the fee will be raised to £1 1s. Members whose subscriptions are unpaid on December 31st will be struck off the books of the society. The society's prizes are given exclusively for the largest specimen fish, such fish having been duly weighed and shown at the society's rooms. The private prizes embrace specimen fish, and also gross weights, but in the latter case the standard of the society applies. Members are requested to note that the meetings of the society are now held every Thursday evening, and the chair is taken punctually at 7 p.m. List of prizes and any further information may be obtained of the hon. secretary on these evenings, at the society's new rooms, 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

At the weekly meeting, held on Thursday, 22nd inst., a fine show of bream were weighed-in, taken near Yarmouth, by Mr. E. Bennett, fishing with Ward. Mr. Crumpley, the hon. secretary, mentioned that he had been deputed to represent the West Central Association on the Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, which he had only undertaken, feeling it to be a compliment to the Gresham Club, but trusted he would eventually armed with sufficient funds to make his services of some real value, a sentiment which was heartily endorsed by the members present.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On the 15th Mr. Hobden, fishing at Eynsham, took a perch weighing 2 lb. 8½ oz. The same gentleman was also very successful among the barbel on the 17th at the above mentioned place. Mr. Pitts kindly gave two guineas to be fished for on Thursday 15th and on Sunday 18th, one guinea each day. Gross weight. Thames only. The Thursday match was won by Mr. T. Hoole, Mr. Green being second. The Sunday match was taken by Mr. Hitchcock, Mr. Penney being close up. Messrs. Lewis and Reynolds were also among the old sort at Windsor. VORTEX.

Sept. 20.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society has removed to the Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, King's Cross—two minutes from the old clubhouse. Secretaries will please note. Brother bobs will always be welcomed by the host, Mr. G. Baynam.—G. TREADWELL, hon. sec.

September 21.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our table on Sunday evening presented a fairly good show, but not by any means up to the mark that we should like. Takes as follows:—Mr. H. Moore, bream; Mr. Letch, jack; Mr. Petrie, roach; Mr. Grey, roach; Mr. Raine, roach; Mr. Mead, roach and dace; Mr. Heelas, roach and dace; Mr. Scott, roach; and Mr. Humphreys, perch.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

September 21.

LEEDS ROCKINGHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society held their annual competition on the 8th inst., at Brafferton, on Swale, when a most enjoyable day was spent. The weather was charming, but the water was rather thick, consequently the catches were not so good as could have been desired. The numerous prizes consisted of a splendid clock (given by the club), landing nets, flask, creel, books, and other useful articles, presented by members and friends. The competitors exceeding twenty in number commenced angling at noon, and gave up at 4.30. The most successful were Mr. C. H. Bradford, who took first prize with 4 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Nettleton and Mr. Hellewell had each 3 lb. 14½ oz.; Mr. Hogg, 3 lb. 1½ oz.; Mr. Bramfitt, 2 lb. 15½ oz.; Mr. Ward, 2 lb. 9 oz., and Mr. Grant, 2 lb. 4½ oz. The fish caught were principally roach and dace, some of the former weighing upwards of 1 lb. Previous to the competition the members and several friends sat down to a magnificent lunch provided by the worthy host of the Fox Inn, in his usual inimitable style, and many thanks are due to Mr. Bannister for the splendid manner he has always catered for members of the club whenever they have visited Brafferton.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society showed some excellent trays of fish again on Sunday last, Messrs. Longman and J. Edwards being well to the fore, the former with 12 lb. of roach and dace, the latter with 6 lb. of roach, not bad for a maiden show, from Pangbourne; Messrs. L. Gorsuch and Long, with perch, dace, and chub, from Taplow; M. T. Burke had also a nice take of bream from Pulbore; Mr. W. Edwards had jack, roach, and dace from the Ouse.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

Sept. 21.

PRIDE OF DERBY ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above club held their fourth match this season in the Spondon Canal, the first ten being the prize-takers. Mr. J. Hibbert, first; J. Moore, second; C. Pashley, third; Messrs. W. Tunnicliff and J. Beevers, a tie; C. Lewis, W. Elliot, C. Hardy, J. Hutton, J. Cadman, J. Saxton, F. Tunnicliff, W. Forman, S. Thorpe, J. Bland, F. Slack, T. Holmes, and J. Grimlay.—W. TUNNICLIFF, secretary.

PRINCESS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

Twenty-six of our members started from the club house, the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, on the 11th inst., to fish for a peg-down match for several valuable prizes, at Weybridge; and, although the majority of them worked very hard all day, they were prevented from having any sport by the strong north-east wind. The only fortunate one among us was Mr. Wyeth, who landed a small bream, 13 oz. in weight, and, consequently, took the first prize, a handsome fishing-rod, presented by our worthy host, Mr. Wheatley. The whole of the members spent a most enjoyable day; so much so that they have resolved to have another day's outing together, and compete for the remainder of the prizes. It is decided to start on Sunday morning September 25, from Waterloo Station, for Egham, where the members will be pegged down, and, I hope, will meet with much better sport than they did at Weybridge. The first quarterly meeting took place on Thursday, September 8, when the members showed their appreciation of the work executed by the officers by re-electing the whole of them for the ensuing three months. Gentlemen desirous of joining are requested to communicate with the secretary, Mr. F. Robson, at the club house, as above.—MEDIocre.

Sept. 20.

SOUTH LONDON.

On Thursday last Mr. Sargent had 10 lb. of barbel from Datchet, one of which has gone to Gibson, of Barnsbury, to be made beautiful; weight, 6½ lb. He had another on Sunday of 4 lb. Messrs. Delhaye and Buck had some perch and roach from Richmond, out with Joe Brain. On Sunday Head had some bream from Amberley, but reported nothing doing there. The weather was very fine. Mr. Brown had a nice lot of chub, roach and dace from Woking, and our secretary, Mr. Palmer, some roach from Byfleet. Self was at Elstree yesterday. Caught a few roach. There was very little doing. The water is still very low. It ought to be good for fishing. They say it has risen a foot this last week.—G. H. FIELD.

Sept. 20.

WALTONIANS.

On September 18 there was a nice show of roach, 7 lb. 4½ oz., from Shiplake by Mr. J. Dodge; largest fish 1 lb. 7½ oz. Mr. Allen had the next best take with 3 lb. 7½ oz. Messrs. Good, jun., Togwell, Roland, Starr, and Greenfield also weighed-in fish; and I weighed-in a small take from Elstree, tench, 2 lb. 3 oz., and a small roach.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

September 21.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The members of this society will compete on the 26th for the three prizes mentioned in my last report at Windsor. Conditions, roving commission from Windsor Bridge to Monkey Island, bank only; "Nottingham" or "Shore-ditch." All fish to be weighed according to club rules. Fish to be weighed at the head-quarters before 11.30 same evening.—PIXIE.

Sept. 22.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A match took place among the members of the above society, on the 11th inst., and though the fish were by no means on a few fair catches were shown. First prize, £2, Mr. Buttery, bream, 11 lb. 4 oz., river Ouse; second, £1 10s., Mr. T. Hawkins, sen., two jack, 4 lb. 11½ oz., private water; third, £1, Mr. T. Hawkins, jun., two jack, 3 lb. 6½ oz., private water; fourth, 15s., Mr. Pink, two jack, 3 lb., Welsh Harp; fifth, 9s., Mr. Bayford, one jack, 2 lb., Godfrey's, West Drayton; also three minor prizes. On the 18th, but few went out; those who did had nothing mentioning.—HENRY ADAMS.

Sept. 19.

[In future please direct your report to 12, Fetter Lane, E.C.—ED.]

SLAPTON LEY, SOUTH DEVON.

How is it we scarcely ever hear of many London anglers visiting the famous freshwater home of big pike, and perch, and eels? I believe a man is certain of catching fish in Sir Lydston Newman's noted wildfowl decoy, with only a road separating the Ley from the sea. It is a good distance off, it is true; but while the Thames at Maidenhead and elsewhere is crowded with anglers, many of them, if desirous of first-class sport, can well afford to undertake the journey into South Devon. The pike in the Ley, like those formerly in Kew Pond, are fond of ducks. I should think if a poor moorhen, or even a coot or wild duck, brought forth a lot of young birds in the reeds and rushes, each old bird must have wondered to see a young moorhen or coot, or "quacker," suddenly do a dive, legs first, and disappear into the unrelenting jaws of the big jack? But, as winter comes on, immense numbers of wildfowl repair to the Ley, and remain there for an open *battue* by and by, after Christmas. The Ley would be the place, of all others, for a well-to-do club of anglers, like the Gresham, for instance, to journey down to Devonshire and fish for good prizes. There would, for certain, be none of your paltry 6 lb., or 5 lb., or 4 lb. winners of valuable money prizes. Besides, there is Torbay for sea-fishing; and some good sport here might be got if the Ley fishermen were to be fairly paid for their boats and time, &c.—OLD SPINNER.

PRESERVATION OF TROUT IN SCOTLAND.

At the annual meeting of the Trout Preservation Association, which was held at Glasgow recently (Mr. James Wilson, of Banterskine, in the chair) the annual report was presented. From this it appears the association has been doing good work. The watchers supply to the secretary at stated times the result of their work. The report says:—"The lochs seem to be well stocked with fish, as the spawning beds in the burns were well covered. The benefits accruing from this association are now becoming apparent on all the lochs, though your committee would wish to see the pike extirpated from Lochs Katrine and Ard. These lochs are difficult to fish with net for pike, but some mode of killing the pike must be adopted by the association if its objects are to be successful. It is known to anglers, in respect of Loch Lomond, that the nets have been taken off the Leven, and the consequence of this, and of properly watching the spawning beds, is the success which has been got on that loch this year in salmon, grilse, and salmon-trout fishing. The association, with the co-operation of the factor to the trustees of the late Sir James Colquhoun, have prosecuted the netting for pike of Loch Lomond, with vigour and success. Two complaints of poaching on the spawning beds in Loch Katrine were dealt with during the year. Neither was brought before the public court, as in the one case the offender was a boy, and his guardian paid £1 rs. to prevent legal proceedings being adopted, and in the other, on inquiry, the proof was found to be defective. Your committee were pleased with the watchers' operations, being satisfied that the burns which had been silted up during summer were cleared so as to allow free runs to the fish, and that there was no poaching on the spawning beds in the various burns watched. Your committee feel assured that so long as this association continues vigilantly to protect the trout in the various lochs, there is not any fear of these lochs being depleted, and anglers may enjoy a day's pleasant sport, free of charge, on any of the lochs under the supervision of this association."—*Land and Water*.

FINE PERCH.—Mr. G. Yarde, who is staying at Martham, in Norfolk, has been getting some fine perch; he yesterday sent us a brace, one of 3½ lb., and one of 2½ lb.; they are splendid fellows, and were taken with the American spoon-bait.

THE fisherman has a harmless, preoccupied look; he is a kind of vagrant that nothing fears. All his approaches are gentle and indirect. He times himself to the meandering, soliloquising stream; he addresses himself to it as a lover to his mistress; he woos it and stays with it till he knows its hidden secrets. Where it deepens his purpose deepens; where it is shallow he is indifferent. He knows how to interpret its every glance and dimple; its beauty haunts him for days.—*John Burroughs*.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

THE TROUT AT SLEAFORD.

I WAS in great hopes last year that my remarks in reference to the fishing at Sleaford would have raised up a local energy sufficient to resuscitate the old Angling Association; but the spirit of activity still lies dormant, and that beautiful stream which runs through the very heart of the town remains unprotected. When I was there the other morning, standing on the bridge which leads into the market place from the Great Northern railway station, witnessing the splendid show of beautiful trout, apparently up to 2 lb. each, I could not help regretting the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Sleaford were so apathetic and indifferent in being without an association, notwithstanding the liberal and respected agent of the Marquis of Bristol is ready and willing to afford every facility. The sight of such spotted beauties cannot fail to be a great temptation to poachers. I was informed by a friend of mine that only a few nights previously one of the local anglers happened to look out of his chamber window near to one of the bridges which span the river, and saw two men evidently of evil design—he called out “Good morning,” when the men looked round and could not tell from whence the salutation proceeded. He repeated the sentence, and this time the window was discovered, with the earnest gaze of the speaker fixed upon them. In not very polite language they gave him their blessing and told him he ought to have been asleep in his bed. The ardent angler, for he is a well-known lover of the rod, would see the last of them before he could resume his slumbering operations. If the native influence has been discouraged in fish preservation by some supposed unfaithfulness of service in the way of protection, it should not so easily die out; but there is time now to rise from the ashes and kindle anew the flame of zeal which once fanned over the beautiful river of Sle. It is a pity to see it neglected, and, as it were, uncultivated, when the stream is so natural for trout, and already possesses a good stock of the spotted beauties. How such a river would be sought after if it were only a short distance from London—it would not then be allowed to go unpreserved and unguarded from poachers. As I have remarked on a previous occasion, the Great Northern Railway brings other neighbourhoods in close access to Sleaford, and enthusiastic trout anglers would not mind the distance they travelled if they could only get some good fishing. Besides there are plenty of influential families who would willingly contribute not to fish, but to help to preserve the trout for the benefit of others if an association was rightly and satisfactorily worked. The Grantham Angling Association can boast of having Earl Brownlow as president, with the Duke of Rutland, Sir J. Thorold, Sir E. Welby-Gregory, Sir H. A. H. Cholmeley, and Major Cust as patrons, and Sleaford could easily command similar patronage. In the course of a recent visit to Sleaford I have spoken to several disciples of the famous Izaak Walton on the subject, and the only difficulty there appears to be is that of getting a secretary of equal energy to the late Mr. Boutel to carry on the work, and everything in my long practical experience directs itself to the same point.

If only some one could be found to take that office, and a meeting was called for the purpose of re-forming the old Association, I am satisfied all would be accomplished. For the love of the work, and for my ever-growing desire to labour for the anglers, I would gladly assist in so good an object as the establishment or in the resuscitation of a Preservation Society. If I could not personally attend a meeting in Sleaford, I would gladly give all the information I possess from my twenty-two years' experience of fish preservation—only let my remarks this time stimulate the piscators of Sleaford to immediate action. I shall then feel satisfied my two or three special visits to Sleaford have been attended with some satisfactory result. I shall shortly give an account of the fishing to be had at Peterborough and other places on the Great Northern line of railway, and make some reference to those neighbourhoods to which the members of angling clubs have access by means of privilege tickets. I have made some good practical use of my trip and of the facilities which have been kindly afforded me by the purpose.

THE “True Angler,” is thoroughly imbued with the spirit of gentle old Izaak. He has no affectation, and when a fly-cast is not to be had, can find amusement in catching sunfish or roach, and does not despise the sport of any humble brother of the angle. With him fishing is a recreation and a “calmer of unquiet thoughts.” He never quarrels with his luck, knowing that satiety dulls one's appreciation of sport as much as a want of success, but is ever content when he has done his best, and looks hopefully forward to a more propitious day. Whether from boat or rocky shore, or along the sedgy flank of a creek, he deems it an achievement to take fish when they are difficult to catch, and his satisfaction is in proportion. His enjoyment consists not only in the taking of fish; he draws much pleasure from the soothing influence and delightful accompaniments of the art. God be with you, gentle angler, if actuated with the feeling of our old master, whether you are a top fisher or a bottom fisher; whether your bait be gentles, brandling, grub, or red worm, crab, shrimp, or minnow, caddis, grasshopper, or the feathery counterfeit of the ephemera. May your thoughts be always peaceful and your heart filled with gratitude to Him who made the country and the rivers, and “may the east wind never blow when you go a-fishing.”—*Thad. Norris.*

For though of all field sports the motive and origin is to kill for the table, and not to kill for the sake of killing, still the sport to be derived from them lies in the excitement of pursuit and difficulty of capture, not in the number or value of the game. Wanton butchery of useless brutes and greedy pot-hunting are the Scylla and Charybdis between which the true sportsman, and he only, steers intermediate. It is the wariness, the subtlety and caution of the salmon, rendering it necessary to use materials of the slenderest and most delicate nature, and to apply them with the utmost nicety, which makes the triumph over him so far more enthralling to the real fisherman than that over the pickerel or mascalonge of equal weight, whose great voracity and inferior intellect permit the use of gimp hook-length and a silken or flaxen line instead of fine gut, tintured to the very colour of the water, and the casting line of almost invisible minuteness.—FRANK FORESTER.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1881.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING IN THE DOVE.

BY R. B. MARSTON.

HAVING recently for the first time visited the classic and charming river Dove, perhaps a few notes may be found useful to other anglers who may intend to fish it; and I think every true disciple of Walton should make a pilgrimage to it at

least once—let them go once and they will gladly embrace opportunities for going again.

The angler who for the first time visits a river should make a point of finding out the most convenient spot from which it can be fished by daily excursions. Having heard so much of the comforts of that home-like hotel, the Izaak Walton, at Ilam, I decided to stay there for a day or two at any rate. Leaving St. Pancras at 10.35, we found ourselves at the pleasant little town of Ashbourne at about 4.30. Mr. Prince, the proprietor of the Izaak Walton Hotel had provided a trap, and a drive of about four miles brought us within view of the lovely scenery formed by the valleys of the Dove and the Manifold, and the hills between, and on either side of them. To our right as we descend into the valley we see lofty Thorpe Cloud and its twin sister Bunster; these hills, one on the right, the other on the left bank of the Dove, form an appropriate entrance to the rocky gorge known as Dovedale. The left side of Bunster slopes gently down to the waters of the Manifold, and the Izaak Walton is situated on a gentle rise between the two rivers and right under Bunster; in the meadows at the foot of which the two rivers join. Following the course of the Manifold, to the left of our view we notice Ilam Hall, a noble building thrown into bold relief by the dark green foliage of the trees on the rising ground behind it. Arrived at the bottom of the valley we cross two streams, the first a mill stream, and then the rest of the Dove from which the mill stream has been drawn. The river before it is joined by the Manifold is more of a brook than a river, and throughout its whole course is fordable in waders almost every hundred yards or so. At the entrance to the drive up to the hotel is a signboard on which are figured the well-known monograms of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton.

The hotel is a long, low building, having the appearance of a large farm house. There is ample accommodation for visitors; and let me here say, once for all, that Mr. Prince and his family not only understand how to make visitors comfortable, but are thoroughly successful in their endeavours to do so. We found a welcome meal ready for us, and were not a little pleased to find that the first course consisted of Dove trout—and most delicious we found them, fully meriting Cotton's praises of them, when discoursing of his river and its fish during that pleasant ride with Viator from Ashbourne. Although the hotel is visited by hundreds of tourists, the charges are most moderate. I ought not to forget to mention that A. R. I. E. L.'S charming article, "Reminiscences of Dovedale," had much to do with the reasons for our visit, and, I was glad to find that it was fully appreciated by Mr. Prince, who keeps a copy of the GAZETTE containing it for the benefit of the angler visitors who meet of an evening in his cosy smoking-room to discuss whiskey and the fishing.

By staying at the Izaak Walton, anglers, after providing themselves with a shilling fishing license, issued by the Trent Fishery Board have the privilege of fishing on some miles of the best portion of the Dove above its junction with the Manifold, and, in addition to this, Mr. Prince can generally obtain for them permission to fish on the lands of some of his farmer friends. No charge is made, and, as compared with the charge of half-a-crown a day, which is made on the upper waters of the Dove and the Wye, the Derwent, and other streams in the neighbourhood, I need not point out that this is a considerable advantage.

The only fish to be found in the Dove, from its source to its junction with the Manifold, are trout and grayling and a few eels. Now, as regards the fishing, my experience, confined to a fortnight from the 1st to the 15th of September of this year, leads me to the conclusion that although somewhat uncertain, it is, on the whole, and as compared with other rivers, very good; in fact, very good indeed, if compared with similarly free fishing on other rivers. In addition to this, there is the charm of its old associations and its lovely scenery, and then it is comparatively so near to town. It is a long day's journey to the Whitadder or the Eden, the streams I like best of all I have fished—in fact, I consider the Eden the best trout stream in the country; it is full of splendid trout, bold dashing fellows too, when you get them in the rapids. But I must not run off into too much comparison with other streams, or I shall have no space to describe the Dove. I have no experience of the river from its source at Dove Head, about eight or nine miles above Hartington, until it reaches the latter place, and, indeed, the fishing is not of much account for the first four or five miles. Starting one lovely September morning from the Izaak Walton, a drive of some nine miles brought us to the little village of Hartington. We put up at the Charles Cotton Hotel, and got tickets to fish the Beresford length, price 2s. 6d. each.

The Charles Cotton is an unpretentious country inn of the better class, and I should think anglers would find it a comfortable place to stay at—charges very moderate. Here is a copy of the rules to be observed by gentlemen fishing the Beresford Club Waters.

No. _____ of Beresford Hall.
Mr. _____ is permitted to angle in A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq.'s, fishery in the River Dove, at Beresford, on the _____ day of _____

No gratuities allowed to be given to the Keepers.

Permission may be obtained throughout the fishing seasons, with the exception of the month of June, from the following gentlemen, on payment of 2s. 6d. for each day, and which will be applied to the preservation of the fishery:—Rev. T. E. Heygate, M.A., Sheen, Ashbourne; Wise, Son and Cooke, Ashbourne; Mr. Joseph Gould, Sheen, Ashbourne; and at the Charles Cotton Hotel, Hartington.

Rules to be observed by Anglers in the River Dove, at Beresford.

1. The permission to fish is strictly personal, and does not extend to companions or servants.
2. No fish to be killed less than 9 inches in length.
3. No fishing after nine o'clock in the evening.
4. No bait of any kind to be used excepting the fly; trolling or bottom fishing strictly prohibited.
5. No trout to be killed between 1st day of October and 1st day of April; or grayling between 1st day of March and last day of August, and neither within the month of June.
6. This ticket to be given up to the keeper.

This ticket entitles the holder to fish for about three miles below Hartington Bridge, and also includes a field or two above the bridge. There is a mill at the bridge, and the angler should not miss this water above the bridge. The best way to fish it is to get into the stream below the bridge, and then fish up-stream carefully to the weir; there are some deep holes full of fish on this short length; I rose several good fish, chiefly grayling, but missed them; they were rising at a little black midge, and I had nothing of the kind with me, unfortunately. The banks are high, and it is no easy matter to fish this bit with the wind against you, and some fear of slipping into deep-looking holes, for you must keep down near the water, and the footing there is a sloping earth-bank. Above the weir, which is a high one, I found that the water was almost dead, very deep, and much, in fact most of it, covered by trees. It was a bright hot morning, and I do not remember ever before in a river of this kind seeing so many or such fine trout as I here saw. They seemed carefully to avoid the few open spaces where one can get a fly on the water; but under the boughs they were quietly sailing about and rising in every direction at the small black midge before mentioned, which I noticed floating down on the surface in thousands. I managed to get a very fine cast with three small flies over one or two fish without scaring them—no easy matter in a bright sun and a bright water, with a surface as smooth as glass. They turned, looked at the flies, and then contemptuously rose at a midge close to one of them. At last, by taking advantage of the splash caused by a good fish, I induced another to take it, and landed a trout of about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. in splendid condition. It was now getting on for lunch time, and I walked back to the weir. Just under the first tree which overhangs the water on the left bank above the weir, I noticed a magnificent trout rising; I got a small palmer over him, and he took it splendidly. I gave him a gentle tug as quickly as possible, and after a splendid fight, in which he first tried to get to his hold under the tree, and then leapt twice from the water, I got him, as I thought, well in hand; in fact, I was reaching down to put the net under him, when he gave one more downward plunge, and to his good fortune got the line round a stump deep in the water, and was gone. To lose a fish between two and three pounds weight after exhausting him, is—well never mind what it is—all anglers who have experienced it will know. My collar was fast in the invisible stump, and after lighting a consol-ing pipe, I proceeded to get my running line round it and fish it out, hoping to the last that he might still be on. At last a black tangled mass of old briars and sticks came to the surface with my second fly firmly fixed in a long protruding stick, but no trout.

(To be continued.)

A PISCATORIAL VISIT.

FISH PRESERVATION AT PETERBOROUGH.

FROM a recent visit to Peterborough, I am glad to find it is not behind other places in the way of river preservation, nor is it wanting in ardent and enthusiastic anglers to maintain it in its integrity, and to keep it in full life and vigour. I have been for some time anxious to ascertain the character of Peterborough in reference to piscatorial pursuits, as in travelling through there to more northern parts, my eyes could not fail to detect the presence of anglers on the River Nene vigorously pursuing the business of the craft, but to what extent a single glimpse would fail to determine. According to my programme of arrangements for the month, as I generally prefer laying out my plans beforehand, Friday in last week was set apart for a special visit to Peterborough, but I knew of no one that I could call upon for information of the kind I was seeking. There was, however, no difficulty

in this; for I am an unbeliever in difficulties, although the first gentleman I called upon, Mr. Robinson, whom I had known for some time, but not as a piscator, informed me he knew nothing about fishing, and advised me to call upon Mr. Odan, the secretary of the Rowing Club, and here again I found that that gentleman had very little sympathy for the sport. He, however, received me very kindly, and obligingly offered to go with me to a devoted Waltonian—Mr. John Wheeler, the head master of Deacon's School (which, in pursuance of the new scheme passed under the Endowed Schools Act, 1869 to 1874, was opened in May last as a public middle-class school). I had to wait a little time in the schoolroom, as the boys were undergoing an examination in Euclid, and it was really a treat to witness the excellent discipline in the class and the readiness to obey on the part of the pupils. After the orders of "stop," "stand," and "leave" were strictly and silently obeyed, I had the pleasure of half an hour's piscatorial chat with Mr. Wheeler, whom I found to be one of the right sort, and willing to give me all the information I required without the necessity of calling upon any one else. He is not only himself a thorough angler, but his two sons, Masters J. and G. Wheeler, who are pupils in the school, are already disciples of the rod. Only a few days previous to my visit they had been angling in some private water at Peakirk, and returned home with a brace of nice jack each. It appears that the Peterborough Angling Association has only been in existence about seven years, and during that time, by strict preservation, the fishing has wonderfully improved. It possesses four miles of the river Nene, from Stanground Bridge to Allerton or Alwalton. No netting is allowed, and the anglers are limited to the use of one rod for angling with the addition of a paternoster or ledger line. There is one angling competition for prizes. Mr. Leonard Deacon is the president, and Mr. Grice is the secretary, by whom, with a good practical committee, the association is admirably worked, and it possesses 300 capital fishing members. The subscription is half-a-crown per annum. And now, as regards the fish in the preserved water: it has a fair supply of jack which have been caught up to 14 lb. each. Mr. Wheeler having taken them up to 10 lb. The bream are in great abundance, of the golden kind, and run up to 7 lb. each—perfect monsters. There is a splendid stock of roach which at times are caught in great numbers. I was informed that some of the best takes of roach have been made in the winter, when the water has been covered with ice, an opening having been made in some of the well-known swims for the purposes of angling. Perch have been caught up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, and there is at times some good perch-fishing. The dace are in great profusion, but not large in size, and afford excellent sport for the fly-fishers. After a rainfall at Peterborough, which is one network of dykes and drains, the eels get into the river in immense shoals, and in the unpreserved portion they are captured by the hundredweight, and if it happens to be on the market day, they are offered for sale in the market at about tenpence per pound. The result of my visit to Peterborough was very satisfactory, and incontestably proved that it not only possessed capital fishing, but some excellent anglers. I have personally to thank Mr. Wheeler for his kind courtesy and attention, and my acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Mason, the station agent, and to Mr. Corble, the inspector, for their general civility on several occasions.

FISHING EVERYWHERE.

As I returned from Peterborough on Saturday last, on my way to King's Cross, I was astonished to witness the number of anglers out on the Nene, fishing between the two bridges, I was told, in a special roach contest. There were about half a dozen punts, and the bank had a complete link of fishers as close together as it was possible to make a swim. It was, to my idea, a really interesting sight, and besides those engaged in fishing there were numbers of lookers-on evidently interested in the match. I left Peterborough, having been a few hours previously at Grantham, by one of the excellently-arranged express trains, which comfortably performs the journey in one hour and a half; and being Saturday afternoon, about three o'clock, the anglers, who are engaged in their business all the rest of the week, were enjoying their half-holiday in the numberless pieces of water which are to be seen from the carriage window between Peterborough and King's Cross. It was a source of much gratification to me to witness, as I have termed it, "anglers everywhere," and although I have frequently noticed these stretches of water, consisting of the Ouse and other streams, I never before witnessed them so thickly occupied by my brethren of the rod. It appears that the Great Northern Railway is not behind other lines in piscatorial attractions; and results from the Ouse by my good friends Mr. Bonvoisin and Mr. Thomas Hoole, have in their club-room given on many occasions substantial proof of the quantities of fish caught in that excellent river. I remember some few years ago Mr. G. Knowles had permission to get some barbel out of the Thames for intro-

duction into the Ouse, where that fish did not exist, and that gentleman informed me two or three years afterwards they had quite become naturalised to the water, and some small fry of the species had been found. Of the stations between King's Cross and Huntingdon which are on the concession list of the West Central Association, I shall shortly have something to report.

B.

AN ANGLING MATCH ON THE GREAT OUSE.

(BY AN EYE-WITNESS.)

WELL might the poet have said, "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," had he been an eye-witness to the angling match, that took place on the St. Leger day, by the shores of the great Ouse. To the criticising eye, what a contrast it would have appeared, could he have gazed on the turmoil and bustle of the surging crowd at Doncaster, and then in the same moment have viewed the group of Waltonians gathered on the green banks of the Cambridgeshire Ouse.

The match was under the auspices of the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society, who hire the river and its tributaries from the county town, down to the large, but by no means noisy, village of Littleport. Here, at the lower extremity of their property, is situated the anglers' favourite resort.

Nothing could be more enjoyable than to leave the worries and cares of business life, and spend a few quiet days in this locality, where, far away in the flat-surfaced fens, all is free from the wearying hubbub of town or city life. From this cause the lists of the members of this society embrace comers from the world's metropolis, from the busy manufacturing towns of the west, and brother anglers from both sides of Father Thames.

An hour's ride on the Great Eastern Railway brought us to the little station which, bearing the name of Littleport, notified to us that we were at our journey's end, and very near the haven of today's field. Walking along the line (though contrary, I believe, to company rules), we came to the brink of the Ouse, and ascending a little way up the river, finally arrived at the spot chosen for the day's tournament.

What would the witnesses of the tournaments of old have thought of their descendants, who could wile away a whole day in vieing with each other in the use of the fishing-rod. Doubtless they would have set them down as chicken-hearted or womanish, if such terms were then in vogue.

And now, what of the anglers who have assembled for the friendly piscatorial encounter? As in every other gathering of the human race, there are diversities. They embrace the grey-haired patriarch, and the youthful angler just commencing his teens. Here is the sage and the grave, side by side with the man who cares neither for mishap nor misfortune. There is the man who will grudge his entrance-fee if he does not win, and the man who cares not whether he catches a good basket or a solitary sprat. In form they are varied quite as much as in character. Here is the fellow-being whose head is carried at an elevation of full six feet, conversing with a fellow-sportsman who can just over-top a single joint of his fishing-rod. Again, we see the portly angler with a jolly fat face, standing by his companion, who seems to have been a prey to rheumatism and all the kindred grievances of mankind.

How easily may a man be judged and his character delineated on such an occasion as this. First of all—that gentleman who is puffing and blowing and twirling round and round, vainly and blindly attempting to extricate the fish-hook firmly fastened in the back of his coat, is a bit too hasty, a muddler—or, as some would say, a bungler. Next, that angler there, quietly gazing upon his float, perhaps contemplating the day's result, and landing his spoil without any sign of exhilaration or emotion of any kind—he is most likely a man, quietly plodding his way through the storms and vicissitudes of life. Then, he there, who has just seen his neighbour land a fish, and is enquiring what bait he is using, is a being with no staple method in his thoughts, a man ready to turn to any opinion or idea. Lastly—that person there with the brown leggings and helmet hat, surrounded with ground bait, cans, baskets, rods and tackle, enough to stock the whole community, and who has placed conspicuously in the foreground a fish of some few ounces, is what people term a "cad," or a "dandy," which, being interpreted, is a man of much consequence in his own eyes.

It is now almost twelve, the hour appointed for the commencement of the match, and the competitors are getting their baiting ingredients worked up into balls or paste, their tackle into battle array, and their baskets prepared to receive what prey may fall into their hands. The river has been portioned off into swims of ten yards in length, each divided by a little red flag, and the warriors are gathered round the committee stand, to "draw" their

number, and then march off to the swim, whose stake bears a corresponding figure.

"Gentlemen of the Committee" are going their beats, examining the bags and baskets of the anglers like custom-house officers, to prevent all smuggling and other imposition. Then comes a lull in the joking and laughter, and, as a merry old "Walton" warns all to hold on their heads, the report of a pistol jars upon the noon-day air, there is a simultaneous throwing and dipping of lines and hooks, and the match has begun.

For a time all is quiet. Every angler is very intent upon the action and behaviour of his float; somebody's bait is not worked up well enough, one is too near the bottom, and another just as near the top. Ground bait is thrown in the whole extent of the swim, the depth is plumbed, or, in nautical terms, sounded, and then all have settled quietly down into the routine of the day's sport. There are "long and strong" pulls at the pocket flasks, just to "wet the job" or to "feel a bit business-like," and all along the brink of the water stands a line of competing anglers.

Now comes the question: "Who will catch the first fish?" an omen of future success. This is soon solved. A float is beginning to bob, and the calm, still water around it begins to ripple, there is a sudden disappearance altogether, a tightening of the line, and the fish is landed. Aye, and what a fish too! A silver-sided dace, with plenty of life and strength, is gasping on the green bank, to him no friendly terra-firma. Still, whatever he may be, however deficient his merits, he must be denominated as the first fish, and his captor considered as a lucky man. All jokes and sallies are answered by the jovial announcement of the successful angler, that he is "going in for quantity, not quality."

And now the gleams from silver scales on the bank are becoming more in number, more than one heart is hoping for a bright future, and many anglers are anticipating the laurels which they hope to gain.

But the sport is not so very brisk, and one by one the less staunch among the anglers are beginning to sit down upon the grass; inventions are being devised to make the rod self-supporting and the visits to the refreshment tent are becoming more in number.

Those who have provided bait for man as well as fish, are beginning to fulfil the demands of appetite. Some one is declaring himself ready for a plate of stewed worm—what a piscatorial turn of mind, or perhaps stomach, he must have.

About two hours have gone by, and many of the more unfortunate have despaired of success and are packing up; others, with whom the sport is slow, are walking along the line, inquiring after the welfare of their companions.

And now a few of the gentler sex have found their way on to the field of action, and proved more formidable than all the attractions of the angling art, and rods are abandoned to stroll up and down the line with these besiegers, who, though not fishers, may be anglers for all that.

Thus time goes on, the afternoon wears away, and it is four o'clock, the time designed to end the competition for the various prizes. The pistol is fired, and for the last time the lines are drawn from the water, and all are busily engaged in packing up their accoutrements, and with their spoil over their shoulders trudge up to the committee tent, where are seated the judges, with their weighing apparatus before them. Jokes are cracked, laughter is universal, and exceptional applause and congratulations are given as each man's catch is made known. One jovial sportsman insists upon having his single sprat weighed—and the merriment of the crowd exceeds all description when the umpire announces in a loud tone: "Mr. ——— one fish, one quarter of an ounce."

All is over, and the anglers begin to wend their way back again to the bridge, where stands the anglers' general resort—The Black Horse.

Was there ever a merrier party "along the road"?

Here is a sportsman full of mirth, wheeling before him a borrowed barrow, upon which are two diminutive sprats, which form his day's spoil, while another is merrily trudging along with a drowned cat over his shoulder, fished from the water it is true—but with the wrong end of the rod.

Such was our angling match at Littleport, and I doubt whether our friends at Doncaster had a more enjoyable day.

SUSSEX RIVERS.

(Continued.)

ONE branch of the Sussex Ouse rises above Slaughan, near St. Leonards Forest. In the park there is a handsome piece of water well stocked with jack, perch, etc., particularly tench, for which Sussex is famous. Some of the many feeders of the Ouse come down from the forest of Worth, through Wakehurst Park,

West Hill, Balcombe (where there is a railway station), Ryland, Standgrove, passing under the railway at Riverwood, and in its course turning several mills, more or less picturesque, with pools occupied with fish. The Ouse then runs near Lindfield (to which it is navigable for barges; about three miles from Hayward's Heath Station), by East Mascalls and mill, and then takes in a tributary composed of three off-shoots of a very winding character, from Broadhurst. Wakehurst Park was the residence of the Culpeppers, of which family the celebrated herbalist was a member. Near the church is the so-called "Rocking Stone," locally termed "Big upon Little," 20 feet high and 63 feet round. From Broadhurst the Ouse passes Horsted Keynes, Trimmings, and Cockcase Mill, watering in its course a wild, richly-wooded and most sequestered part of Sussex. East Mascalls is an old, half-timbered house, the seat of the Newtons, from a branch of which family Sir Isaac Newton was descended. The vicinity abounds with studies of old farm-houses and picturesque cottage architecture. We now follow the Ouse to Washbourn Bridge, after which it laves the boundary of Washbourn Wood, and then, sending forth several thready entanglements of running water, reaches Sheffield Bridge. Here is a splendid park with expansive lakes, fed by a stream from Colin Godmins and Sheffield Mill, the latter with a good pool. Our river, after skirting Sheffield Park, and touching upon Fletching village and its bridges, runs on to Goldborough, where its volume is augmented by an affluent rising above Nutley in Ashdown Forest. Then we pass Newick and its parsonage, Sharp's bridge and lock, finding more and more water from tributaries, amongst which is one through Marshfield, then on to a paper-mill and lock near Isfield Church, where an important feeder comes in. This latter auxiliary is little less than 25 miles in length, and its branches spread in many directions, making it very difficult to follow with desired accuracy, although we had every assistance offered us by the gentry and landowners. Thus the Ouse touches Hastingford Buxted—a village of ancient character in a beautiful district, where iron cannon were first made in England. Ralph Hogge cast iron ordnance here in 1543 at a spot called Hoggetts' Furnace. We now reach Uckfield, where there is a station, amongst some of the best scenery of the county, and again return to Isfield, another station, where much attractive water will be found about the old mill. A little lower down the Ouse passes under the railway, dividing into two streams, until it gets to Barcomb Mills and railway station, absorbing likewise a tributary or two. We do not quit sight of the railway until it reaches the sea, but, dividing itself into many branches near Lower Stoneham and South Malling, skirts the fine town of Lewes and Southover, and thus on to Newhaven and the coast.

Plumpton Place (Earl of Chichester), near Lewes, under Ditching Beacon, formerly the seat of the Mascall family, is known as the place where carp were first brought into this country from the Danube by Leonard Mascall, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. The mansion is moated all round, and contains heavy carp and tench, and we believe bream and perch. The Ouse is now protected by an association for some miles above Lewes, and it having been placed under the Salmon Laws it has especial legal care extended to its fishery.

The angler will find good hotels not far from the railway stations and unassuming inns at most of the larger villages.

The Cuckmere River is not well supplied with railway facilities, it having only one station that approaches it for many miles, and that is Berwick, near Chilver Bridge. We must, however, record our ramble, where possible, along its banks. From Chilver Bridge downwards to the sea it passes under the railway and Sherman's Bridge by Berwick, Alfriston, Excebe Bridge, Lillington, West Dean, by the Foxhole and Barracks into the ocean at Cuckmere Haven, about three miles from Seaford.

We now, from the absence of more railway facilities, travel upwards from Chilver Bridge. We pass in our ramble Arlington, Sessingham Bridge, Week Street, Michelham Priory, where its waters form a moat, Hamsted, Horse Bridge and Mill and Hellingley and mills, and, further up, Warbleton and Nettlesworth. This is a good trot of several miles, but we must not turn after going thus far, and a short walk further takes us through Nettlesworth, Sapperton and into Heathfield Park, in which Jack Cade was killed by Alexander Iden, Sheriff of Kent, in 1450. Then we reach Theobalds, where a good deal of charming water lies around.

At the village of Hellingham the Cuckmere meets the Waldron branch, which, forming a boundary of that parish and East Hothly, passes by Streame, the site of the great ironworks in the parish of Chiddingfold, and swollen by several minor rills in its course. These rills abound in small trout of an excellent flavour, but would be better disposed of in stocking deeper and less accessible waters, than being eaten by the dozens, like sprats. They are caught principally by roving with the worm, one or more being taken out of each bend of the streamlet, their strength often de-

ceiving the angler into the notion that he has got hold of a pounder when two or three ounces only is the result.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &C.

THE ROD IN INDIA: BEING HINTS HOW TO OBTAIN SPORT; with Remarks on the Natural History of Fish, their culture, and Value; and Illustrations of Fish and Tackle, by Henry Sullivan Thomas, F.L.S., and F.Z.S.; Second Edition. London: Hamilton, Adams and Co., 32, Paternoster Row, 1881.

THIS is a thoroughly capital book in every respect, and its perusal will afford an agreeable surprise to any who, like ourselves, were in the dark as regards angling sport to be had in India, and who, perhaps, like us, had a sort of general impression that the only sport to be had was fishing with "thundering" heavy tackle for enormous freshwater sharks, called Mahseer, in gigantic, but sluggish and muddy rivers. It was, then, with a feeling of wonder almost that we received this portly volume, of over four hundred royal 8vo pages, with first-rate coloured and other illustrations all devoted to sport with the rod in India! Every pleasant page, and no page is unpleasant, is a revelation. Our supposed clumsy shark, the mahseer, turns out to be a formidable rival to the salmon in the British Indian angler's estimation; the muddy river is transformed into a dashing salmon stream, clear as crystal; and the heavy tackle dwindles into the lightest salmon or trout rod, and the finest salmon trace or drawn-gut line. We wish we had space to do justice to the book which we have read with the greatest pleasure, and, as evidence of its interest, at two sittings. Mr. Thomas has the rare gift of combining anecdote with practical instruction in such a way as to lead the reader on from page to page with unflagging interest; and although he writes for the guidance of anglers in India, or those who may be going there, the angler at home or in America will find his book full of matter valuable to him, let his fishing be where it may. Anglers for heavy pike will find many useful hints in Mr. Thomas's descriptions of his mode of capturing mahseer and the kind of tackle he employs; in fact, the book is full of suggestions which any angler may profit by; suggestions which are the fruit of experiences amongst fish as strong, shy and crafty as any to be found in the United Kingdom or America. The mahseer (*Barbus Tor*) is the chief of the many species of the carp family which exist in India, and it is doubtless this fact which has led English anglers who have casually heard of it to come to the conclusion that it is also carp-like in its nature. Nothing could be further from the truth. Merely to mention that it rises as freely at the fly as the salmon does, and shows even a better fight, will at once put it in its proper place, as one of the finest game fish in the world from an angler's point of view. Old salmon anglers, such as our author, describe the first rush of a mahseer as something grand, far more powerful than that of any salmon of equal size. It is no uncommon thing for one to carry out a hundred yards of line at one rush. Then the places which this fish prefers are the quieter waters close to the rush of the stream, or even the stream itself. It lies behind rocks, in eddies caused by bends in the stream—in fact, in just the places which the salmon prefers. It is extremely shy, and, as the best fishing is got when the water is perfectly bright, to be successful the angler must keep well out of sight, and use the finest tackle possible, keeping in view, of course, the great strength and size of the fish, which runs up to 150 lb. and more, though fish of from 10 lb. to 50 lb. are more common. The only way to take mahseer when the water is discoloured is with a stationary live-bait, the reason being, our author thinks, that they cannot see well in discoloured water. In this country we naturally expect best sport when the rivers are just clearing after a flood.

"These who know something about fishing in England are consequently more likely to be on the wrong tack in India, for they would naturally arrange to fish at the very time when, in India, they are least likely to have sport. I have tested this question pretty thoroughly, and am quite satisfied that it may be laid down as a safe rule that it is useless to fish for mahseer except in clear water; it must, at least, be so clear that you can see the small pebbles at the bottom with ease in 4 feet of water, and it may be as much clearer as ever you like. You need not be the least bit afraid if it is as clear as crystal, indeed, it ordinarily is so through all the best months in the year.

The mahseer feeds on pretty well anything it can get in the shape of food, but prefers a fish diet if it can get it.

"This mealy-mouthed gentleman, who looks as if his soft leathery lips could not hurt anything, has a peculiar way of killing his fish. He has no teeth in his mouth wherewith to hold any slippery little fish he may catch, and prevent its struggling out again before he can swallow it. In lieu of this he is therefore provided with great power of jaw, and he kills and holds his fish by compression, violent compression. . . . That the mahseer can exert great power of compression with its soft mouth, I once had clearly proved to

me. My spoon bait, which was nearly new, and for weight's sake unusually stout, and in thorough repair when I cast it in for a spin, was doubled right in two, and crumpled up like a piece of paper, when I landed my fish. . . . Had I tried to produce the same effect, it would have required a good down-right blow with a hammer and anvil to help me."

It was not until he found this spoon so smashed up, that he could understand how it was he lost so many treble hooks—they had been simply smashed up in the same manner; and Mr. Thomas strongly insists on the necessity of using specially made triangles for mahseer-fishing, stouter than anything ever used by anglers in this country. Indeed, from what he says, we should strongly recommend our friends Messrs. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, to manufacture extra strong treble hooks for this fishing; and if they could adopt an idea suggested by a gentleman who is quoted in this work they would get a good demand for them in India, and that is to make both single and treble hooks for mahseer-fishing in various sizes with barbs not cut out of the wire of the hook, but added; to partly sever the wire, is, as this gentleman points out, greatly to weaken its strength at this point, and it frequently happens both in fly-fishing and spinning for mahseer that heavy fish are lost by the hook breaking at the barb section. If, in addition to this, they could make triangles not soldered together, but so fastened that the hooks would, when pressed laterally, give and lie flat one on top of the other, the mahseer-angler would less frequently have to complain of smashed hook. Steel very soon rusts in India, and waxed silk fastenings soon decay, so that the hooks should be nickel plated and eyed.

The mahseer, as we have said before, feeds on almost anything he can eat, and consequently the baits used are various. He will take the fly, but spinning a small natural bait is the most deadly method in our author's opinion, and he is careful to reiterate the necessity of keeping well out of sight, and fishing fine and far off.

"It is necessary to be doubly particular about having as fine tackle with as few hooks as possible; and flights of numerous hooks, that are considered quite 'according to Cocker' at home, look, in our bright waters, so truly terrible that no Indian fish would be fool enough to come within a yard of them."

After reading such a paragraph as this it will occur to every pike angler that if the spinning bait is the best for mahseer, then the method of mounting it must be a very good one, and if it is successful with this wily fish it ought to prove so with our pike, and we therefore give a description of the plan adopted by Mr. Thomas. In general outline there is nothing new about it; we know anglers who spin for pike in the Stoke Newington reservoirs and elsewhere who use a similar method, but it is different in detail, and the difference between success and failure often depends on a careful attention to detail. The length of bait which Mr. Thomas prefers is four inches, and he makes use of two modes of baiting. He says, p. 47:—

"One is more troublesome than the other, but it is, in my opinion, the more killing, so I give it first.

"Having selected your bait out of the bait can, humanely kill it thoroughly with a flip or two on the back of the head, but temper your physical energies with a little discretion, so as not to knock it about. 'There is wisdom in sucking eggs,' and there is a right and a wrong way of killing a bait even. If you have a loach-like bait to deal with, which is to be recommended, you may flip away at his head for a long time without killing him, and though you may half-stun him, you will be horrified when putting the baiting needle through him to find he is still alive and kicking; whereas, if you give him one good squeeze in one band so as to crush his internal organs, he will die instantly. If he is too slippery for you a little river sand will soon get over that difficulty.

"You must not follow this plan with the dace-like fish, however, for if you do the silvery scales will all come off, and it will at once look dreadfully dishevelled. Moreover, it is not necessary, for the dace-like fish have as thin a cranium as a snipe, and a flip on the head soon does for them, and with them it is you must not be too rough.

"Your bait being dead, then insert the baiting-needle, point foremost, at the anus, and bring it out at the open mouth. Before pulling it through, hook the loop of the gut (with only one single triangle at end) on to the eye of the baiting-needle. Then pull the baiting-needle out at the mouth, drawing the gut after it through the fish till the hook comes home to the anus. In doing this, humour the baiting-needle by giving it a turn, as a doctor does an instrument, so as to tear the vent-hole as little as possible in getting the loop through it. When the hook is home to the vent, embed one of the three thoroughly in the fish, so that the two remaining hooks of the treble shall be lying close against the fish. In this position they are scarcely perceptible, whereas if one hook is carelessly only half embedded, the other two stick out and show unnecessarily. It is always worth while to bait very carefully and neatly, because all your subsequent efforts centre on the nicety of your baiting. Then you must have a sinker (a longish, pear-shaped lead with wire loop at top). Pass the baiting-needle through the loop or ring attached to the sinker, and run the sinker down the gut, and push it, this point foremost, down the fish's throat, so that it is entirely concealed within the mouth of the bait. Then remove your baiting-needle, and hold the line so as to come out of the bait's mouth exactly in the centre; and, so as to keep it in the centre, and make the bait spin true, as well as keep the lead from coming out, sew the bait's mouth up as follows with a common needle and thread. Close the mouth, pass the threaded needle through both lips so as to bring it out at one of the nostrils in the upper lip, insert it at the other nostril, and pass it through both lips again, keeping the line between these two stitches. The two ends of the thread will then be over at the chin of the bait; draw them together just gently enough to avoid tearing the bait, and yet tightly enough to

keep the mouth well closed. Tie a sailor's knot and cut off the ends. Use black thread double, or any strong knitting silk double—white thread shows too much. This may seem a long, troublesome and fidgetty process, but it should not occupy as long in the doing as it does in the describing."

The only objection Mr. Thomas has heard of (but which he does not experience) in adopting this method of baiting, is that the bait may bend too much by dragging down on to the hook, because there is nothing in the line to give it rigidity and keep it straight, but he does not find this happen if care is taken not to embed the hook further away from the head than the vent-hole, and "if it be a fault, it is one that is easily remedied by inserting the baiting needle not at the anus, but a trifle nearer to the head," but it should not be inserted in the stomach, which is liable to give way, but "In the firm flesh, half way up the side, and also take care to pass the baiting needle not simply under the skin, but through a good piece of flesh, so as to give a hold, and also embed one of the hooks thoroughly well into the side till the other two lie quite flat against it. This for objectors, but I prefer the use of the vent-hole, as it tears less, and is in my opinion not at all too far back; indeed, I sometimes insert the one embedded hook a little further aft than the vent, because the vent is differently placed in different fish, and some require a little more bend to make them spin. The opposition of the water makes the bait hang back on the hook, so as to draw the tail and create bend enough to make it spin."

Now we cannot help thinking that if some of our pike-anglers will carefully try this method they will find it pay. Jack are getting highly educated, and Thames and other flights showing an array of hooks to the fish, most certainly scare many, and generally the old 'cute fish.

We notice that Mr. Thomas speaks in the very highest terms of the reel lines sold by the Manchester Spinning Company, and having recently used some of their new silk and other lines, we can thoroughly endorse all he says in their favour. Their taper trout lines are perfection. Want of space forbids us saying more about the first-rate work before us, and we feel we have after all said very little about it; at any rate, we trust our readers will take an early opportunity of studying it for themselves. It contains an immense amount of most useful matter—hints on striking, playing, landing fish, etc., in addition to full descriptions of a great many of the splendid game fish of India, of which the mahseer, although chief, is only one. We hope to refer to it again.

"OUR TRAWL."

List of Ichthyological books published in May and June.

ANGLER'S NOTE BOOK and Naturalist's Record. London: Satchell, 1881. 4to. 6s.

DAY, DR. FRANCIS.—The Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland, being a Natural History of such as are known to inhabit the Seas and Fresh Waters of the British Isles, including Remarks on their Economic Uses and Various Modes of Capture; with an Introduction upon Fishes generally. London: Williams and Norgate, 1881. Part II. 8opp, 21 plates. 8vo. 12s.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.—Fisheries in North Sea. Outrages committed by foreign fishermen, 1s. 6d. Fisheries (Ireland) Report for 1880. 10d.

TAYLOR, J. E.—The Aquarium: Its Inhabitants, Structure and Management. London: D. Bogue, 1881. Second edition, pp. 320. 8vo. 6s.

BLANCK, A.—Die Fische der Seen und Flüsse Mecklenburgs. Schwerin: Schmiedekampff, 1881. 8vo. 1m. 50.

GUERNE, J. DE.—Les Yeux accessoires des poissons osseux. Paris: Doin, 1881. 12 pp. 1 ill. 8vo.

RIPPELMEIER'S ANGELBUCH.—Heiteres aus der Anglerwelt in 27 Bildern. Weimar: Weiszbach, 1881. 4to. 2m.

RUEHLICH, C. F. R.—Der praktische Angler in Deutschland. Weimar: Wieszbach, 1881. 8vo. 1m.

YHLEN, GERH. VON.—Die Seefischerei an der Westküste Schwedens. Gothenburg: N. P. Pehrsson, 1881. 62pp. and map. 8vo. 4m.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

Thames (Goring).

Water in very good order for jack and perch. Have not been doing much this week. Gudgeon have been biting well, took 10 dozen on Sunday with one rod; Wednesday, some very good perch and one jack.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for seasonable fishing. Different gentlemen, fishing with me four days since my last report, had takes as follows:—First day, Mr. Long and a friend, 4 barbel, 2 bream, 1 roach and some dace; second day, Messrs. Innes and Withers, 9 barbel, 2 perch and 2 roach, in all 24 lb.; third day, Messrs. Wright and Wilson, 15 barbel, 9 roach, 2 chub and some fine dace—one rod 24 lb. and the other 16 lb., in all 40 lb.; fourth day, Mr. Geo. Paimer, 3 barbel, 1 perch and 3 roach; all legering.—GEORGE ROSEVELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind north-east and quite summer weather, and water now again in first-class condition for all-round fishing. The river has been in a very bad state until this morning through last Saturday's rain, consequently our takes have been small until to-day, and I am pleased to say we have had some good baskets of fish taken away. To-day the tide will suit well for next week, whole day's fishing.

N.B.—By writing or wiring, a punt can always be ready pitched for any customer.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water has cleared off very much, but barbel are still taking kindly to the worm and greaves. James Gray has been making some capital bags of barbel. 25th inst., with a patron, 22 barbel; on 28th inst., with Mr. Way, of Windsor, and a friend, 24 barbel and 1 eel. All these fish were had with worm. The best barbel of the week that I know of was a 6½ lb. fish, taken within ten yards of Windsor Bridge by one of the officers of the Royal Horse Guards fishing with me. It was the perfection of a Thames barbel. Since my last I have had a good many barbel from the same swim at odd times, and all with greaves or scratchings, as our Trent brothers call it. Some thumping jack have been seen feeding in the neighbourhood, and expect every day to hear of one of three that I know will take some weights in the scale coming to grief. Roach are being had, but want fishing for with fine tackle. Gudgeon are still feeding, and run a good size.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

In connection with some friends, I paid a visit to this river on Saturday last, but owing to the drawing off of the water at Ferriby Sluice, and its discoloured state, we were unable to do much. We tried the whole round of natural baits—worms, gentles, paste, &c., but only secured a few small roach. Not a run rewarded us in our trolling for pike. The advent of finer weather has, however, worked a change on other parts of the stream, and some fair dishes, chiefly bream, have been obtained by various Brigg and other local anglers. Good coarse fishing may not be had in the South River, between Thoresby Bridge and Austin Fen. Last week a roach weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. was caught by Master George Hollingworth, of Grimsby, eleven years old, who battled with it as skilfully as a salmon fisher with his quarry. The tug lasted, so my report says, twenty minutes, when Master George landed it safely without the aid of a landing-net, and on a single hair hook. Here the fish are in first-class condition and bite well at any reasonable offer. The average takes are four or five score. Coarse fishing may also be had in Grimsby Haven. There a trout weighing upwards of 3 lb. was recently caught. This had probably dropped down from the higher reaches of the Beck, which runs into the haven.—THOS. FORD (Caistor).

Dove.

River in rattling order for coarse fishing, and not bad for the fly. The whirling blue duns have now begun to make their appearance, and while they are on sport ought to be good. The dishes this week have averaged well, perhaps five or six brace each. Both trout and grayling have risen best in the middle of the day. In the Henmore and Manifold several large trout have been killed with the Derby killer, which, it seems, impossible that the spotted ones can resist. Chub fishers are doing rarely with scratching, plenty of good samples having been secured since our last at Ashburne, Mayfield, Rochester, and Uttoxeter. I hear of some Nottingham piscators having been busy amongst the barbel and bream at the junction of the Trent with the Dove, some pretty large ones having come to hand by means of the lob worm. Roach have been taking creed wheat and malt best, but a well-soured cockspur will prove the most alluring as the weather gets colder.—THE SPLDGER.

Exe (Exeter).

Whether it is that the grouse and partridge shooting are in full swing, I know not, but salmon and trout fishing seem almost forgotten. Very few indeed are trying their luck with these silvery and speckled beauties, and yet they are very plentiful, and ere these lines are perused by your numerous subscribers, the salmon-fishing season of 1881, will, as far as this river is concerned, be closed. The run of salmon and peal on the whole has been extraordinary, and to close the season, some very fine fish have been taken in the Cowley Bridge Waters. Mr. J. A. Kelley landed a beautiful trout 2½ lb. weight, and a couple of small jack which has been quite against the ordinary rule; for although we are having most delightful weather for fishing, such as roach, dace, perch, &c., it has been wretched—the waters, so still and placid, like Mickie McQuaid's scholars, have been improving for the worse for

some time back, however, we may have excellent work for the rods shortly, as we have had some heavy showers, and the water is getting in working order although a little discoloured, and of all kinds of fish there are abundance. Bass and bream fishing in the estuary, slow, but some splendid prawns from Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton, also Sidmouth, have been brought in and fetched from three to four shillings per hundred.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Fareham.

The trout season is well over, and although, owing to the bright clear days in the spring and early summer, it made the fish very shy, still I have accounted for 122 brace, averaging a trifle under ½ lb. each. The most taking flies have been “Wickham's fancy,” “Coch-y-bondhu” and “red Palmer.”

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Since my last report there has been some splendid sea-fishing, Friday being a beautiful day all boats put to sea, and returned after fishing their tide with their boats strewed from stem to stern with fish of different kinds, codling, whiting, and pollard, others had bream, conger, and ling. Saturday stormy, wind blowing strong from S.W., with drizzly rain, but despite the weather a few boats put out for an hour or two and caught from 30 to 40 lb. each boat. Monday, weather fine, all boats out and some good catches of fish was brought in. Tuesday, some good sport was had, and some fine fish caught, one fisherman brought in a conger weighing 56 lb.; a quantity of big fish was caught, mostly conger and ling; a gentleman also brought in a fine cod, weighing 18 lb. Wednesday: weather still fine, several fishing parties ventured out, some trying for small fish, others for big; they all returned well satisfied with their luck, their catches varying from 80 to 140 lb. per boat. One fisherman brought in a fine skate weighing about 150 lb., it was a monster, he was obliged to put a hook in it and drag it to his house. There is also some fine sport from the pier and jetty with rod and line. Thursday, weather fine, with good prospects of fishing for the next few days.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ware).

Since last Saturday's heavy rain, the water here has daily improved, and is now in excellent condition for all kinds of fish. Royal weather all the week, keen frost every night, so far, and, should this continue, there undoubtedly will be some grand sport for some time to come, if only my brother anglers will try their luck here. The weeds are gradually decaying in some places. Fine roach and perch were taken last Sunday, near the Cat and Monkey, averaging 1 lb. Likewise roach, ¾ lb. In the Old Arm Chair “at the room” a hon. member has had weighable luck all the week. Gentle seems to be the favourite bait. Jack are fairly on feed, but want getting. I have noticed some rattlers since the change between the toll bridge and the slaughter house. Bait can always be had by applying to—VON LEEFE.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order now for roach and perch fishing. The weather is fine and warm, the wind north-west. There have been some very nice roach taken this week, and some nice perch. Mr. Steadman took some nice roach on Sunday, another gentleman took a nice jack, 8 lb., out of the lower water.—W. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The rains of Saturday and Sunday made the water as thick as pea-soup, and but very little angling has taken place, but a few bream have been caught. The river is going down nicely, and about Monday, if there is no more rain, it will be fishable.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Norfolk.

The unsettled weather during the past week has had a tendency to slightly discolour the water, but in spite of this some very decent catches have been reported, both from the Bure and the Yare. Some of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society showed some splendid bags of roach taken at Coldham Hall last week, and a couple of them, fishing at Homersfield, on the Waveney, returned with a magnificent take of fine perch, three of them scaling 6½ lb. Messrs. Palmer Bros., and E. H. Holley, Esq., also succeeded in making up a nice basket of mixed fish (roach, dace, perch, and bream), at South Walsham, notwithstanding, they experienced a steady downpour of rain throughout the day. Pike are now well on the feed, and large quantities are being taken both on the Yare and Bure. Over 60 were taken by one fisherman at Coldham within a fortnight, and any of our London friends who have a mind for a day or two's sport should make application to Mr. Browne, Coldham Hall Tavern, where comfortable apartments and an experienced man may be met with. The only bait now used is the ordinary spoon with the FISHING GAZETTE spinner attached. I had the pleasure also of seeing eleven fine fish, which were taken between Ranworth and South Walsham on Thursday last, and reports of other equal as good catches are coming in from the various stations, and this shows that I am somewhat near the mark in my predictions, some time since, that we should have a good pike season. The new fishery and pleasure grounds which will shortly be commenced near the Brundall Railway Station will, no doubt, be an immense success. Citizens and strangers alike will find the benefit of it. There will be for fishing purposes alone fifty good substantial boats with every appliance and comfort, suitable for an angler, about the same quantity of boats will be kept for rowing, sailing, and pleasure parties. A private hotel will be erected for the accommodation of gentlemen from a distance during the fishing and boating season. There will also be a large structure for the purpose of entertaining members of fishing clubs, when holding their contests, and also political and other outings. Fishing tackle, bait, angling suits, in fact every requirement, will be able to be obtained, and at a nominal cost. Tea and coffee and light refreshments will always be kept, and parties will also be supplied with dinners, &c., if required. The plot of land purchased lies between two dykes, and these will afford good harbours for yachts, &c., quite clear of the main river. A meeting of the projectors of the scheme was held on Wednesday evening last at the club house of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society, where plans and sketches of the spot may be seen upon application to the hon. sec., Mr. Alfred Palmer. I will send a full report of the proceedings in my next report.—ANGLER.

Ormesby Broad.

Water in good order and weather very fine, but fishermen seem to come rather slowly now, those that have been have had fair baskets of fish, several baskets from 14 to 25 lb. of roach and bream have been brought in. Wednesday 29th, two gentlemen at Ormesby caught 44 lb. of bream, all large fish. I shall expect to see some good jack fishing next month.—S. RICHMOND.

Severn (Shrewsbury).

The water is now in good order for fishing, and the weather all that can be desired. Slight frosts at night, clothing the pastures with a silver garment, have put a stop to early morning fishing, and nothing can be done till Old Sol

sheds his genial rays on all around, and brings the water to something like fishing temperature. We have had a rise of water from the Vermew, which for a day or two made angling somewhat difficult; but this has now run out, and bottom fishers should embrace the golden opportunity afforded at the best season of the year of filling their baskets. Grand takes of perch, roach and dace have been secured above and below the town, with worms and gentles, and should the weather remain as at present, good baskets will be the rule, not the exception.—W. D.

Solent.

The whiting came in much earlier than usual this season, but they do not run very large, and they are accompanied by an immense quantity of dog-fish. These repulsive brutes suck in the bait very quietly, quite different from the sharp tug-tug of a whiting; and you either lose your bait, or have the annoyance of having to clear the hook from the dog, not a very nice job, as a prick from his sharp fin will poison the blood of some people. I heard of 14 dozen being caught by one boat in a day, and I also heard of 26 dozen whiting being caught in a day. But from 4 to 8 or 10 dozen per boat is about the general run. The upper end of Portsmouth Harbour is swarming with flat fish, about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each. They are netted by the Fareham fishermen, and sold at about 1d. per lb.

Swale.

The somewhat improved weather of the past few days has helped the anglers a little during the close of the trout-fishing season. The needle brown has been the best fly where the waters were fine enough to admit of fly-fishing. I caught the last trout which I shall attempt to capture this season on Wednesday last—eight fish, all males. Is not this a rather singular result?—THOMAS FORD.

Trent (Alrewas).

With the exception of some good grayling being taken at Alrewas weighing from 1lb. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each, I have very little news piscatorial to send from this locality. On Saturday we had a heavy rainfall in the Midlands, which brought on a rise, and discoloured the water so much as to render the river unfishable. Doubtless this will do the river a deal of good for the angling fraternity, as it will clear away a lot of the decayed weeds and animalculæ on which the fish were feeding, and as we are entering on to one of the best months of the year for roach fishing, I shall be surprised if I do not have to chronicle some good catches when the rivers get in good fishing order. With the rivers the colour of clay, a few good roach have been taken by Messrs. W. Reynolds and F. Jephcott with worms, the largest fish 1lb. 7oz. Pool-fishing has been about on a par with the rivers. At present no large catches of pike have been brought to my notice. I made my first start this season with Mr. John All-day on Friday. Jointly we only succeeded in taking a dozen fish, and only half of them worth keeping. The bait used was a gudgeon on Gregory's archimedean tackle, and Gregory's clipper. To-night the river is reported as getting in good order. The weather is delightful, and matters piscatorial decidedly of a cheerful character.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

When I sent my last week's note, the weather was very uncomfortable, and the prospects for sport looked very bad; but on Sunday the weather changed very nicely, and we have enjoyed some splendid weather since then. The rains of last week caused the river to begin to rise on Sunday, and during the last two days an extra foot or two came down, of rather a nasty colour; but to-night it has cleared down, and the river is in fairish order for all-round fishing. Sport, as a general rule, has only been very indifferent this week. I have not heard of any catches being had worth mentioning. The baits mentioned in my last will be about right for this week, only the angler might try creed malt and wheat, with a bit of paste as a change against worms and gentles for roach; chub will still take wasp grubs while this fine weather lasts and the water keeps clear; use a few coarse gentles for ground bait, whilst chubbing with wasp grub; barbel and bream might be tried with worm, but these fish seem to have been clean off the feed this last fortnight—but I say "try again," and perhaps you may have the catch of the season, who knows? Roach, I believe, will take the grain bait, or paste, if the present fine weather continues, if not, try them with cockspur worms and gentles. I should try the bream with a brandling worm, the biggest and handsomest you can find, and just tip the hook with a wriggling lively cockspur, and perhaps the jaded appetites of our friends the bream may be tickled. I can remember a case when the bream refused the maiden lob, and took kindly to brandlings and cockspurs (as I have mentioned) the next day in the same swim. We have had some very slight frosts this last morning or two, and perhaps our friends the jack may wake up, and get into the humour of devouring anything that comes in their way. Jack-fishers, who have not got one of Gregory's "clipper" baits, should get one or two at once, as I consider them the best artificial jack-bait going. A canny Scot, working down here at Newark, and entering in a fishing match, came to a friend of mine for a few gentles, a few days before the match, and says he, "I have got a few nice worms, and a bit of bread paste, and a bit or two of salmon roe paste, and some creed malt, wheat, rice, and pearl barley, a few wasp grubs, a bit of bran mash, a few grains, a bit of nice white suet, and a few pellets of red lead." And, added he, "if I could get a few gentles, I think I should have a 'glorious nibble.'" Now, I should not like to recommend a lot of baits like that; what I have mentioned will be found quite enough.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both rivers have risen several times, since my last report, from the heavy thunder rain, that has fallen in Derbyshire. Both the bottom fishers on the Derwent, and the fly fishers on both rivers, have done fairly the latter end of this week, and baskets from 6 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. brace for anglers have been made. Grayling are now rising well on both rivers, and I recommend grayling fly fishers to lose no time in trying their skill, for I am quite sure that, if they only have the proper flies to use, "Sport is certain" to those who know how to go about their work properly. I hear of some large baskets of fish being killed off of the private waters of the Wye during the week, chiefly with the honey dun bumble, furnace, and little blacks. Nine and a half brace were killed last Saturday afternoon on the Derwent with the bumble and furnace flies. Mr. H. Wild, of Matlock Bath, has killed a large grayling of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., by bottom fishing, with maggot, for bait. This is a very large grayling for the Derwent. There have been a very great deal of coarse fish killed with body worms and maggots on the Derwent between Cromford and Ambergate. There was a gentleman visitor killed nine good-sized trout on the Darley Dale water on Tuesday afternoon. Two of the fish being about a pound apiece. These fish were killed by trolling with the small artificial Derby trout-killer. Angling prospects are looking first-class. Barometer rising, with every appearance of a continuance of fine weather.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath. Sept. 29, 1881.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

At the usual fortnightly meeting of the society, the following members of the committee being present: Messrs. Murphy, Field, Oram, Stevens, Cundall, Manning, Jennings, Beckett, Welch, Aldridge, Marshall, Noble, Mr. Crumpton (Gresham Angling Society) also took his place on the committee, having been elected in the place of Mr. W. Hull, who retires, according to rule. Mr. R. Murphy voted to the chair. In addition to the general business of the evening, the secretary informed the committee that he had received from R. B. Marston, Esq., proprietor of the FISHING GAZETTE, 250 copies of the GAZETTE, containing the full report of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, from May 1st, 1880, to April 30th, 1881, which he had generously presented to the society. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to R. B. Marston, Esq., for his very handsome gift to the society, and for the great interest he has always taken in the welfare of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, having generously presented £5 5s. donation on its first starting. It was resolved that the committee form themselves into deputations to visit the various societies at their club-rooms on their meeting nights to explain the objects and benefits of the society, and enrol members. The secretary gave a very satisfactory account of the financial position of the society. The next meeting of the committee will take place on Friday, October 14, at nine o'clock.—R. GHURNEY, secretary.

N.B.—The following donations have been received by the secretary since the last meeting:—C. Busbridge, Hampstead Angling Society, 10s. 6d.; R. George, Hampstead Angling Society, 10s. 6d.; Good Intent Society, £1 1s.; W. Roberts, Good Intent Society, £1 1s.; Flood, sen., Cambridge Friendly Society, 5s.; P. Crumpton, Gresham Angling Society, 5s.; G. Austin, Gresham Angling Society, 2s. 6d.; J. Thompson, Gresham Angling Society, 2s. 6d.; C. Bentley, Gresham Angling Society, 2s. 6d.; Caxtonian Angling Society, £1 1s.

GRANTHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The eighth annual fishing competition took place on Monday last. The morning was clear and beautifully fine, much to the satisfaction of the fifty-four anglers, all of whom were anxious to secure the first prize, which gives the successful competitor the laurels of the season, as the prize is contributed by the Lord Lieutenant of the county (Earl Brownlow). The worthy piscators, so full of glorious hopes, embarked at the docks at ten o'clock to go to the scene of action, which is about five miles from Grantham. They found the water rather thick from the day's previous rain, and although the result was considered satisfactory, the anglers had all their work to do to get at the fish. It was a remarkable circumstance that one of the members in fishing hooked a beautifully marked snake of three feet six inches in length. Mr. G. Willoughby took the first money prize of £2; Mr. W. Scothern, the second of £1; Mr. J. Hall, the third of 10s.; Mr. J. Welborn, the fourth of 7s. 6d.; and Mr. F. Williamson, the fifth of 5s. There were a considerable number of articles given by the local tradesmen as prizes, which were won by the following members:—Messrs. T. Weaver, W. Wilkinson, Sutton, E. Rudd, Bowman, W. B. Bell, J. Wilkinson, B. Edwards, H. Filing, J. Robinson, T. Goodman, R. Chantry, J. Gandy, F. Simpson, J. Field, Fletcher, H. Smith, D. Harrison, G. Pearson, W. Healey, A. Short, W. Sudbury, H. Doncaster, N. Roberts, A. McLeod, J. Haddon, R. Penchbeck, Leake, A. Martins, A. Birch, &c., &c. The day was closed with the annual supper at the Blue Bell Inn, which was ably presided over by Mr. J. R. Ogden, the vice chair being taken by Mr. G. Willoughby. During the evening the prizes were distributed. The usual toasts were given; there was some excellent harmony, and altogether the evening was an enjoyable one. There are some interesting local incidents of a fishy character which are worth relating. As Mr. A. Malin and Mr. J. R. Teesdale were boating on the canal the previous Tuesday evening, a jack of about 2 lb. leaped out of the water into the boat, but it was an unlucky adventure on the part of the fish, as it was not allowed to return to its native element. Mr. W. Kinsella in fishing in the Denton Reservoir, near to Grantham, where permission can be obtained, caught a fine pike of 16 lb. On being successfully landed, it was found the bait had been taken by a smaller fish when the latter had been apparently seized by the larger one, which had got it so well pouched and unable to extricate itself that Mr. Kinsella brought them both to grass. On disgorging the smaller fish the monster was found not to have been hooked, but remained hold of the other one until he was safe out of the water.—B.

WALTHAMSTOW ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting for the President's (Mr. C. F. Haines) and other prizes given by the members was held at Littleport, Cambridgeshire, on Wednesday last, the 21st ult., and proved a most enjoyable outing. The major portion of the party left by the 5.15 express from Liverpool Street, reaching Littleport at 7.30 (other members having gone previously); a conveyance was in waiting to take the party to the Ship Inn, Brand Creek, on reaching which very comfortable hostelry a capital repast awaited, which was done ample justice to. After the cloth was drawn, a very sociable harmonious evening was spent, the members, on account of the early commencement of the competition on the morrow, all retiring before midnight. Up and astir with the groundbait soon after 5, all assembling in the dining-room at a quarter to 6, when after a little friendly chat, and perhaps a little drop of milk (with something in it), as the clock struck 6 the secretary gave the word to "start." The morning was somewhat threatening, and storms occurred at intervals during the day, which greatly marred the sport, instead of a large catch, which might reasonably have been expected, seeing that so many veteran anglers competed. At five minutes to 4 o'clock the secretary passed the word to "stop." Tackle was then done up and a return to the house made, where a profuse smoking repast was ready, to which the members very readily devoted themselves. A conveyance then took the party back to the station for the 7.8 express, reaching Tottenham at 8.10, where cabs were in waiting to convey them to the club house, in Markhouse Road, arriving there to find a goodly assemblage of gentlemen awaiting to see the result of the meeting, which was as follows:—Mr. W. Berry, 7 lb. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. roach; Mr. Jas. Latham, 7 lb. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. roach, one scaling 1 lb. 3 oz.; Mr. W. Tungay, 6 lb. 11 oz. roach; Mr. W. Howell, 4 lb. 12 oz. 10ach and rudd; Mr. J. Howell, jun., 2 lb. 11 oz. roach and gudgeon; Mr. G. Chillingworth, 2 lb. 1 oz. roach. The prizes consisted of £2 2s., given by the President; six silver spoons, by Mr. Geo. Lancaster; a handsome book of roach tackle, completely fitted, by Mr. D. G. Casey; a roach rod, by Mr. Cashford; a jack rod, by Mr. Levett; a winch, by Mr. E. Davis. The meeting was a complete success, and all expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements and the pleasure they had derived from so pleasant an outing. Mr. G. Lancaster took 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. barbel and roach up the Thames on Wednesday.—HENRY HOWSE, hon. sec.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" FLY AND BAIT CASTING TOURNAMENT.

CAN any of our readers suggest a place very near London where this tournament can be held? We want to hold it within ten or twelve miles of London if possible, so as to ensure a good attendance. What we should like would be some comfortable fishing inn, near water which might be utilised and which also could command a large enclosure so that the gate money could be collected. Anglers are getting back to town now, and so we hope to be able to fix a day soon. We had thought of Godfrey's Fishery, but some friends think it is too far away.

FLY-CASTING TOURNAMENT—AMERICAN ARRANGEMENTS—EELS TRAVELLING OVERLAND—TROUT FISHING—WINTER BOTTOM-FISHING.

SOME weeks ago I ventured the statement that in America the caster in a casting tournament retired from the water in order to allow of correct measurement, etc., when making the cast. Mr. Fred Mather, the able fishing editor of "Forest and Stream," New York, corrects this statement, however, in a cordial private letter just received. He says:—"In our casting tournaments the caster does not go back, unless the pond is small. He stands within 10 feet of the water. I had a platform for him near the water. A line—a 'buoy line' we call it, ran from the caster's feet, and was anchored a hundred feet away. This line had buoys or floats at every five feet, numbered, and the judges are either in a boat near where the line may drop, or on the bank parallel to the line. At our last one the pond was small, about 60 by 80 feet, cut out square, and was arranged so. [Here Mr. Mather gives me a rough drawing of the rectangular pond, with the line stretching right across it, buoyed up by floats at the intervals named. The seat for the judges was parallel, on the bank, to the line, and a referee is placed opposite the extreme end of the line.] The floats stood up by being loaded with lead [the line passes through the under side of the buoy]. The buoy was held in place by a screw through the line, which was wet before it was measured."

Now, in my humble judgment, the arrangement described by Mr. Mather is exactly the sort of thing required for the forthcoming FISHING GAZETTE tournament. I have sent on his letter to our respected Editor, that he may see the drawing I am unable to reproduce here.

To what distance can eels travel overland? I am anxious to hear from one of your readers who may have seen eels travelling on *terra firma*, the distances at which these vermicular fish have been observed from the nearest lake or stream. Whilst I know that the creature can traverse dewy grass with great facility, I do not feel sure that isolated ponds become stocked by such peregrinations where they are far distant from other waters. But how can we account for the stocking which often takes place in remote waters?

A correspondent of "Forest and Stream," New York, tells the following story about migrating eels. "About 3 p.m. on a very warm sunny day an eel was killed in a hay field on perfectly dry ground, about ten rods from a narrow ditch, through a bog meadow, and forty rods from the river. The eel was slowly making its way in a direct line for the river." In this case my readers will see that *anguilla* was about fifty-five yards from the nearest water.

During the past fortnight I have been fishing, with a gentleman friend, some splendid pieces of preserved stream above mills in a county not fifty miles from the modern Babylon, and more glorious sport amongst the trout I never before experienced. I am not going to indicate by the slightest clue where this is, though doubtless many of my personal piscatorial friends on reading these notes will make a good guess; suffice it that the stream ultimately finds its way into the Colne.

It rises from springs amid some of the most verdurous and bush-grown scenery, and it never overruns its bank. No rugged mountain steep nor solemn woods environ its birthplace nor its early course, but fruitful orchards and occasional woodlands of beech, oak and elm, with undergrowth of rich pasture lying on either side of this populous brook—it rarely exceeds a dozen yards in breadth—and the ordinary sedges and wild flowers clothe its immediate banks. The depth varies from a few inches to several feet, and the bowers and coverts beneath, near the rough waters of the frequent falls, and amid the plentiful growths of tapeweed, are numerous and gracious to the eye of the fly-fisher.

As for the trout, they are superb. We took some sixty fish during the first two days, and after returning forty of them, carried away five brace apiece, which went 34 lb. Plump, thick fish were they, and being very late spawners, their condition was perfect. The flesh is almost a ruddy pink, and the cream—or fat beneath the] flakes—is

almost salmon-like. The flies' most killing were the duns. I tried others, but found all inferior to these. The beggars come at you with a rush, clearly showing a certain unsophistication of nature truly refreshing, but when on the hook they fight like lions.

Though these remarks may be trite, and to the constant trout-fisher somewhat unnecessary, I cannot help adding an account of a characteristic accident which added rather to the zest of the day than otherwise. At a certain corner, where originally stood an ancient pollard, long since decayed to touchwood, leaving only its solid roots stretching out into the water, the stream has burrowed out a cavern-like recess, which has hollowed out the bank to a lateral extent of a yard square, I should think. Fishing up-stream, I threw my fly very cunningly, as I thought, so that it might float into the eddy caused by the roots aforesaid. Instead of this, the wind took it, and it fell just on a stiff twig of rush growing on the extreme verge of the bank. Try as I would, I couldn't free it, and being unwilling to waste time and a good gut cast, I determined to spoil my chance of a fish, and free it by approaching the edge of the water. Of course, with angler-like confidence and trust, I approached the edge, not dreaming of the chasm under my feet, when, just as I was within reach of the "cussed" fly, an earthquake opened beneath my feet, and 12 stone of profane humanity went head over heels into nearly six feet of turf and clay and water. Of course, he picked himself out, and after spitting out a mouthful of mud, as the Artful Dodger would say, "I suppose he didn't cuss at all—oh, no, of course not." However, I was soon rigged up afresh in a spare suit belonging to my companion—trousers a foot too short and half a foot too big round the waist, coat and vest to match—and sport went on as before.

It is not a little bit too early to remind the readers of the GAZETTE that soon the autumnal floods will be upon us, and those anglers frequenting the Thames, Colne, and other rivers will have to find their roach, perch, chub, &c., in somewhat different quarters to those occupied during the summer months. Lagoons have perhaps formed where never water naturally stood before, and eddies smile with dark-faced mirth where never eddy before appeared—in short, the river is possibly a couple of feet higher than its summer mean depth, and its characteristics are absolutely changed.

What is to be done? The experienced fisher needs no reply, but the tyro can profit by the very few words in which I am about to answer the question. Roach will be found in quiet, moderately-deep eddies, near the bank, and should be legered for or "floated" *a la* Nottingham style; bait, well-scoured tail of lob, or red worm. Perch will also begin to head, but it requires a frost or two to determine them to pack closely. A similar locality near decayed weeds or submerged branches or roots; bait, minnows, lob and red worms. Dace will be found on the submerged grass, and the tail of a well-scoured lob will secure them. Barbel also seek the sides, and chub will be picked up in the shallowest of water, providing such water be only well shaded by alders or willows. In winter-time I pin my faith chiefly to the earthworms for bait, and I have never known my case to be that of misplaced confidence. Will Mr. Bailey give us something on winter bottom-fishing after he has concluded his homilies on his beloved barbel?

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

[We agree with Mr. K. that we have had about enough barbel-fishing for this season.—ED.]

NOTES FROM ABERFFRAW BAY.

THE oldest inhabitant cannot remember so stormy a season here as the present one. From the end of March to the end of July the wind blew strongly from the south-west, and when people in England went about in fear of sunstroke, great coats and waterproofs were at a premium in "Mona." However, the last month has been perfectly calm, and sport very good. Mackerel are in abundance in the bay, the best day we have had hooking was 300, as well as 80 gurnards and 4 pollack. Conger, ling, and cod take very well, also bream; these latter are not, however, a very plentiful fish here at any time. We had 20 on Friday—the largest number we have ever caught.

Mr. R. Williams succeeded in gaffing a fine conger in rather a peculiar way the other morning. He was ashore, watching a shoal of brit in a rocky creek, when he spied a one-eyed conger after them. He ran to the boat for the gaff, and lying down on the rocks struck him through the back. His first plunge broke the hold, however, when the fish, instead of going out to sea, ran higher up the creek, and Dick, still keeping the blind side of him, struck him again through the head, and after a fearful tussle on the rocks bore him in triumph to the boat. We then went out to "Node Shenkin" (English, Jenkins's Marks) and brought up, where we had good sport with whiting bream, gurnards, &c., &c.

Presently we spied a very large bream repeatedly coming to the surface and chasing the mussel shells we were throwing overboard. After a bit he remained quietly on the top close to our quarter. One of the party got an oar out and gave the boat a bit of a sheer, when I succeeded in getting him. He was in first-rate condition, and did not appear to have anything the matter with him.

Captain Rogers, who was with us, and who has fished for bream in different parts of the world for the last twenty-five years, said he had never seen one behave in so peculiar a manner before.

We had a specimen of "Bloch's topknot" (*Phrynorhombus unimaculatus*) in the Trammell about a fortnight since, which I intended

sending to Mr. F. Gosden, but, unfortunately, I dropped it from the basket, and did not find it till it was too far gone for preservation.

This fish, as well as Muller's topknot (*Rhombus punctatus*) appears to be plentiful in Porth Gwyfan, where they are found on small patches of sand between rocks. From the description given to me I have no doubt that two examples of Ekstrom's topknot (*Rhombus cardina*) were taken in the same place shortly before my arrival here.

Mr. Mee, who is staying at the Prince Llewelyn, has been having very good sport sea-fishing with Harry Thomas, I hear, too, the trout are taking fly well in Llyn Coron, the March brown killing the best; this fly is always good in the Welsh lakes and rivers in the autumn, body dressed smooth with gold twist and very little hackle—most of the March browns the fly tiers turn out have too much by half.—E. GOSLING.

SPLENDID CARP AND TENCH FROM THE BRIDGEWATER AND TAUNTON CANAL.

"Of all the fish that swim the watery mead, not one in cunning can the carp exceed." These words are most truthfully spoken, at any rate, so far as the Exeter Canal carp are concerned, for daily are to be seen monstrous fellows rolling and jumping in the limpid stream, when the sun is fast sinking in the west; but to hear of one being taken fairly with hook and line is out of the question, and unless we should have the misfortune, such as happened to the Bridgewater and Taunton Canal, by one of the banks giving way, it is not likely we shall be able to report of any of these enormous fellows being taken. Three carp taken from the Bridgewater and Taunton Canal, weighed as follows:—17½ lb., 17½ lb., and 16½ lb., measuring in length, 29½ inches, 28½ inches, 27½ inches in girth, 17½ inches, 17 inches, 16 inches. Mr. J. A. Kelly informed me, who saw the above fish, that there were many others equally large, and that several tench turned the scale over 4 lb. weight each. It is a thousand pities these fine fellows were not preserved, instead of being dressed for table; as it is a well known fact, that you must use good stock and port wine to disguise its native taste and overcome its soft watery inanity.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

"E PLURIBUS UNUM."

America!

Of all the nations, we can feel thy grief most keenly,
And, from our Royal Lady to the lowliest peasant in our
land,
All grieve with thee.

If ever, in our march together through the time to come,
Discord arise between the leaders of our hosts,
Let us hark back!

Hark back, America!
From every church tower, every belfry in our land,
The echoes of our mourning come.

Remember Garfield then, whose loss with you we mourn.
Let his remembrance daunt the dogs of war on either side,
For, though the ocean sever us, a deeper flood proclaims us—
One!

Sept. 26, 1881.

CONVICTION OF A RIVER LEA POACHER.—At the Stratford Police Court, on Wednesday last, September 21st, Thomas Saunders, of Bethnal Green Road, was summoned by the East London Waterworks Company for having unlawfully been on their works, near Tottenham, at half-past twelve o'clock, midnight. Defendant and another man on the occasion in question were seen to place a net in the reservoir, and the sluices were found to have been tampered with. The other man escaped by jumping over a fence. Where the man was seen to jump over, a large net was found; another net, containing about 20 lb. of roach, was found in the river. Inspector Moore, of the Y Division, Metropolitan Police, stationed at Cheshunt, said that the defendant had been twice convicted at Cheshunt for poaching in the River Lea by night. Defendant was now fined £4 10s., including costs, or one month's imprisonment.

MR. WILLIAM C. HARRIS, who founded the *Afield and Afloat* some three years ago, and was its managing editor, we understand contemplates publishing shortly an American *Fishing Gazette*, after the style of the English *FISHING GAZETTE*. There is no paper in the States exclusively devoted to fishing, and his new enterprise will undoubtedly be a success. Mr. Harris is not only a thorough journalist, but universally recognised as a very high authority upon the subject among American anglers.—*Afield and Afloat*.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaits, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advrt.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Kedditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Advrt.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. YETTON.—We think you would be sure to get permission from some of the millers at Dorking; some of them make a small charge. The fishing is good, and of all kinds.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE FENCE MONTHS.

SIR,—I have troubled you lately, I am afraid, too much with my experience of fish and fishing; but I again feel it necessary to offer a slight explanation in relation to my own connection with fish generally, as your editorial note was, to a certain extent, written under a misapprehension. It was natural that such a misapprehension should arise, as in my contributions to your paper I have limited my attention almost wholly to salmonidae, and have kept any experience I might possess of coarse-fish angling in the background, seeing that your columns are so ably and abundantly represented in this branch of the art. I must, however, now point out that I am much more entitled to have a voice in the matter than the London angler, who only fishes for three or four hours once a month, as I learn from the tenour of your footnote. Although, like yourself, Mr. Editor, I think fly-fishing for trout superior and more pleasurable than all other modes of angling, and though I seldom employ the worm as a bait for that fish, still I can decidedly relish fly, minnow, or any bottom bait that is limited to the hook, as agents in the capture of those coarse fish for which they may individually be suitable, when I reside in localities where trout are either absent or rare. This being the case, I will now proceed to show that such is a fact in actual practice. From the direction which this controversy has taken, it happens that I have had to quote from my angling diary in relation to fishing which occurred in the years 1873, 1874, and 1875. These are consecutive years, and are therefore not picked individually from amongst others to strengthen an argument unduly. In June, July, and August, 1873, I fished thirty days wholly for coarse fish, as named in my letter of Sept. 10th, thus I angled every third day. In 1874 I again sallied forth against coarse fish on thirty different days, but this time through a more prolonged period. I began in March, but by far the greater bulk of the fish were taken between June and November, the numbers caught being at times by no means small for an afternoon's fishing, as a creel containing about fifty fish for two or three hours' sport was ample proof. The trout-fishing during the same periods was not so extensive as I could have wished, but as what did occur took place in a hard-fished river, the numbers found in my diary are fair, and represent good fish. 1873, seventeen days' fishing, total 315; average per day about 19. 1874, thirty-five days, 711 trout; average per day about 21. In 1875 the fishing was almost entirely for trout and with the fly; total fish thus caught, 2887; 113 days; average per day 26; about one half of these so-called days being the fishing of a couple of hours on a summer's evening—scarcely a day's work amongst the number. I am now residing on the banks of a river containing a fair abundance of coarse fish, chub, roach, dace, barbel, jack, gudgeon, &c.; bream are, however, rare; trout and grayling are also present. Though I naturally prefer these fish when found in their typical haunts, still, when I find them living, as it were, by sufferance, in waters more perfectly adapted for coarse fish, I as often fish for the latter as a bottom angler as I do for the former by fly-fishing. On these grounds, Mr. Editor, I claim some little interest in the matter of coarse fish, and hardly desire to be summarily dismissed from that department of angling as evidently having no taste for it; for it is contrary to my experience that such fishing cannot be successfully practised without groundbait; whilst it was only this groundbait which I assailed—a subject on which I must make a few further remarks. Now, Mr. Editor, I am quite prepared to concede, that if groundbait is anywhere necessary, it is in such broad, deep, and more or less uniform rivers as the Thames, in which it is not easy to tell at a cursory glance where the best fish resort. In rivers of smaller dimensions, wherein coarse fish are similarly abundant, I know such is not the case; and an angler of ordinary ability may readily detect resorts of fish sufficient to satisfy the wants of anything but an insatiable creel; yes, enough for the instincts of a sportsman. Reverting to the Thames, I cannot concede that fishing in deep waters is such an uncertain lottery that the mere fact of relinquishing the groundbait reduces the angler's pastime to a case of stalking solitary fish. It may on certain occasions do this by comparison; there may be greater alternations in the character of sport day by day; but there is this satisfaction left in the breast of a true sportsman: he knows he has not resorted to unseemly devices in order to catch fish which his own craftsmanship is unable to deceive or allure; for, Mr. Editor, though I do not grant that all the fish of large rivers are gathered in schools, yet I concede that schools of various fish do travel about through different areas of the water; but at the same time many individuals remain dispersed universally, by no means scantily. And now, sir, I must consider this action of the groundbait. Presumably I am asked to believe that the only effect of this bait is the anchoring, as it were, of a wandering school, which prevents the angler from losing an hour or two by peering into the depths for fish that some one else has attracted elsewhere by depositing vast masses of minced, or rather hashed, worms, or perhaps scratchings, in the depths of the river—not for one day only, but for several—and in this way attracting not a school merely, but school after school, as well as the scattered fish from the general expanse of the river, thereby causing the dearth to the rod of the "rover" fisherman of which you may occasionally justly complain. But the gathering together of a number of fish, far greater than is naturally found in the schools of the river, is not the worst fault of the groundbait, for after the prey have been enticed to the spot, or detained when passing by, we observe several actions at work. First, there is a lulling into a false feeling of security by a permission to feed a whole day without feeling a hook; for, granting that it is undoubted that fish can smell the bait, they will, of course, not be long before they avail themselves of the opportunity of adding to olfactory sensations any gustatory experiences of which they may sorely stand in need. At last, however, they arrive upon the spot, but a myriad of isolated segments of *lumbricus terrestris* in one limited part of the river is not a natural sight, and the fish, though with watering mouths, look on and dare not eat. At last the old ones, on observing how some of their youthful relatives have been able to devour a considerable number of segments without any evil result, send their kinsmen to the right about, and cautiously devour what has been supplied. But this is not enough, more fish must be called together, their ravening augmented to an uncontrollable pitch by the fear and presence of others that strive to take the food, and wariness must be

reduced to a minimum. A few more myriads of segments are daily consigned to the water; at the end of the third day, the fish, rendered intoxicated and drowsy with overeating, but yet not satiated, have a living, actual worm, not a fractional unliving segment, put directly before them, floating just sufficiently high to go straight down their throats. This worm, though having attached to it a minute thread of something—perchance, if dyed, a confervoid growth—is more natural than an infinity of severed joints; is an attracting vortex; all other things are neglected; there is one wild, giddy whirl, with then a sudden change, and that previous short dream of calm is for ever ended. Turning to my diaries of angling, I must simply state these have been kept with great care, with totals of fish taken, flies used, numbers taken by each fly, and average killing power deducted. Remarkable facts are also recorded.

Now, sir, I must draw my notes to a close. If I have written anything relating to myself which may appear self-laudatory, I hope it will be pardoned, as under the circumstances it had become needful for me to state on what grounds I had been advancing opinions; on this account I had to refer to facts. In relation to fly-fishing I need not speak; you have on one or two occasions been so good as to testify in a way more flattering than I perhaps deserve; but when discoursing on the subject of coarse fish, I may state my first fishing began with eels, whilst I was but a boy, and my first lesson from an expert, as to dealing with these creatures, was one which entailed a groundbaiting principle. Similarly, my first lesson from an adept in float angling and jack spinning was from a proficient Thames carp fisher, who was a great advocate of the Japanese telescope rods which have lately been spoken of highly in the FISHING GAZETTE. Yet once more, my first lesson on the Thames itself, from an expert in its peculiar systems, was given me by a gentleman residing at Ealing, in a section of the river not far from Maidenhead. There was, however, but one thing I cared to learn as emanating from the Thames, and this was the neat wrist-action cast of the bait. So much for the teachers; and and if the pupil be an unworthy follower, his ill-success at least cannot be attributed to his not being an indefatigable devotee, for he has his subject at heart.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

P.S. In the last paragraph but one of my letter of Sept 24th, I must point out that in the fifth line from the end, the word "finding" should have been written "find," whilst in the following line the words "for his" should likewise have been written "for their," the meaning of the passage being otherwise imperfect and obscure.—R. B.

THE FENCE MONTHS.—A PROTEST.

SIR,—I beg to be allowed to protest against the unfair manner in which Mr. Balderston, in last week's GAZETTE, has thought fit to grossly misquote portions of a letter of mine on the above subject, written as far back as April, 1880, and by an ingenious system of mangling—only giving portions of a sentence or paragraph—to entirely spoil or alter the meaning.

I would ask such readers of the F. G. as doubt the accuracy of my statement to kindly refer back and read the whole letter. I have said my last word in this controversy, at least as far as Mr. Balderston is concerned, but I could not allow that letter of his to pass unnoticed.—I am, &c.,

L. BONVOISIN.

THE LATE ATTEMPTED NETTING ON THE THAMES.

SIR,—S. J. W. has done good service in calling attention to the apparently anomalous proceedings of Captain Etheridge, the inspector of the Upper Thames, in, firstly, the matter of the substantive seizure and detention of the cast net, and secondly, the permitting the Beasleys, of Oxford, to remove the illegal flue nets for future use, instead of capturing them. Now, I say apparently anomalous, because the two cases, upon an explanation, will be seen to be absolutely distinct. Doubtless, S. J. W. is not aware of the precise facts in regard to the cast net. The "Deputation," or warrant of water bailiffship, one of which I have the honour to hold, states that "any officer appointed by the Conservators to carry into execution any bye-laws relating to the fisheries may enter into any fishing boat or other vessel employed, or about to be, or having been employed, in fishing or taking fish, or endeavouring to take fish, in the River Thames, and may therein search for fish unlawfully taken, and any unlawful or prohibited net or apparatus for taking or destroying fish, and may seize any such fish, net, or apparatus found therein, and may also seize on the shore of the River Thames any fish unlawfully taken, or any unlawful or prohibited net or apparatus for taking or destroying fish." As I, therefore, amongst others, am thus authorised, it is not remarkable that I should become intimately acquainted with all particulars in which initial action is taken, and those in the cast-net instance, were as follows:—the Captain saw the net hanging to dry on the barge, he "entered" the barge, found the net wet, as only been just used, measured it in the presence of the owner, and declared it grossly illegal. The man's excuse was that it had not been used in the Thames, but in the Cherwell. The natural rejoinder to this was? Why did he not dry it in the Cherwell, instead of waiting until he had got miles away from that river to do so. The fact is, as all reasonable law-abiding men will allow, illegal nets have no business on the river or near the river under any circumstances whatever. Yet there exist those who would stultify the law as it stands for, with singular sophistry, they urge that these illegal nets may be *en route* for sale, or use on other rivers, &c., not barred by their bye-laws. If this were granted, let such nets intended for commerce or otherwise be packed properly, and directed in parcels or boxes, not flaunted out upon deck to tempt the water bailiffs to do their duty, and then, instead of praise, get censured for their interference by men who differ over their own laws.

So much for the cast-net seizure, with the exception that the Captain could scarcely have told the owner to come for it to the Trinity House, as his duty was to comply with his deputation, viz., "with all practicable speed, after seizing any fish or net or apparatus, to bring the same before a justice of the peace, to be dealt with in pursuance of the bye-laws or otherwise, according to law." This was done, the net declared to be illegal, and ordered to be burnt, which was duly carried out.

While upon this subject, I would ask permission to show upon what ticklish ground the holder of a deputation stands, if he desires to follow out the spirit of the bye-laws irrespective of the letter. Under Clause 9 (b) it says:—"It shall not be lawful for any one to have in his possession while on the Upper Thames, or near thereto, a prohibited net, unless he shows to the satisfaction of the justice to whom he is charged, that he had not the same in his possession with the intent, &c."

It will be seen that I have italicised "near thereto" above, while I have likewise equally emphasized, in Section 66 of the Conservancy Act, 1864, as given early in these remarks, "on the shore." Here, then, we have a wide distinction enough to make any cautious water-bailiff hesitate before, as in the Phil-

lips case, he seizes nets, however illegal, "on the bank," the "shore" being ruled to be only that part of the river left uncovered by the normal flow. I maintain there was no fear or want of courage on the part of my gallant colleague. He has proved his pluck, and that against wealth and numbers, too often, where his duty was properly marked out, to expose him to any such imputation, and in this case he would be the first to admit, and doubtless to regret, that he did not wait until the nets were at work, and then his task would have been clear and defined. Indeed, his very words show that there was no hesitation in his resolution to seize the nets, according to law, as he did all he could to aggravate the gang, who were "afraid of him," as they did not comply with his earnest wishes.

Indeed, even now, as the Captain has got his eye upon these destructive engines, I feel assured he would seize them, if S. J. W. and others would come forward and hold him harmless against the costs of any action, which, if it went against him, his employers, the Conservancy Board, might repudiate. The anglers of Oxford should move in this.

As far as the cast-net affair is concerned, it ought to be borne in mind that, by the admission of its owner, he had, at all events, been scouring the Cherwell of its fish with an illegal engine.

I beg respectfully to draw the attention of the Thames Rights Association to the following Clauses, Nos. 6 and 7, in the River Medway Navigation Laws: "Provided always, that no person or persons whatever shall be sworn to serve on a jury or be examined as a witness, where he or they are in any way directly or indirectly interested or concerned in the matters in question.

"Provided always, and it is hereby declared and enacted that no person or persons whatsoever shall sit or act as a Commissioner or Commissioners for either of the said counties (through which the Medway flows) respectively, or in any case where he or they are in any wise directly or indirectly interested or concerned of or in any matter or matters in question."—I am, &c.,

CREELE.

TROUT TAKING PASTE.

SIR,—The only instance of a trout taking paste on a hook that has come under my notice was in the Kennet at Newbury. This fish was of a good size, but I forget its exact weight.

The Derbyshire trout would, I have no doubt, take it well, for some twelve years since I was staying at Buxton and my wife and I used to amuse ourselves by feeding them in the stream which runs through the gardens. They took bread crumbs and small pieces of biscuit equally well, and after a few days, if we stopped on the bridge for a minute or two, we could see a dozen or so come out from the stones and swim near the surface, anxiously awaiting the shower of crumbs. If any of your readers are at Buxton let them try the experiment. The pool we generally went to was at the upper end of the gardens, in rather a retired spot; but we often fed them from other bridges.—I am, &c.,

E. GOSLING.

Aberffraw, Anglesey, September 26.

FISHING AT STOCKPORT.

SIR,—“Stranger” will find no fishing in Stockport, being entirely a cotton-spinning town; but will find nice trout streams with fair trout between Stockport and Matlock, viz., Disley, New Mills, Buxton, Bakewell, Dove Dale and Matlock—trains almost hourly from Stockport.—I am, &c.,

COTTON.

[We believe there was an angling club at Stockport, but it is probably dead.—ED.]

A GRUMBLE.

SIR,—Some few numbers back in your interesting paper, the FISHING GAZETTE, you remarked it would greatly strengthen a cause if correspondents would allow name and address to be appended to their remarks. I have found one great inconvenience from this; once the address is given, even without name, you are continually being pestered with letters, begging letters, packets of new bait, circulars, and enquiries upon various subjects, such as:—"Can the writer (*nom de plume* so and so) give A, B, C, or Z any information where he can get good roach-fishing, &c.?" No doubt many anglers are thus deterred from ventilating a subject or expressing their opinion, as even absence of name is no safeguard. See enclosed letter and envelope.—I am, &c.,

NOT A PROFESSIONAL ROACHER.

P.S.—Your correspondent, L. B., thinks it *infra-dig.* to reply to *nom de plume*. Has he never written under one?

THE DERBY KILLER.

SIR,—Many thanks for your very kind notice of the Derby in your paper. I was out with my rod, or should have returned you my thanks sooner. I took a very good dish, thirteen brace. I trust you had good sport the remainder of your stay at the Dale. I am sure you will be pleased to hear that I have had several orders owing to the kind notice. I trust we may meet again, and hope for a better killing water.—I am, &c.,

Firs Cottage, Burton Road, Derby.

J. BULLOCK.

[If Mr. Bullock makes this bait with *metal* first, we shall be glad to know, as we have been asked.—ED.]

THE NEW FISHING STATION AT BRUNDALL, NEAR NORWICH.

SIR,—We were not aware that our intentions with regard to Brundall had become so widely known as to obtain the honour of a notice in your important GAZETTE; but we are glad that such is the fact, and beg to thank you. The head of our firm, himself an ardent lover of the rod, felt that much might be done for the comfort of the many like him who reside in this capital of East Anglia. Our firm is accordingly endeavouring to supply the want. We may mention also that the convenience of patrons will be further enhanced by the arrangements we have made with our mutual friend, Mr. Green, of London Street, whereby boats, &c., may be secured in advance. We will give the fishing public full notice of our opening (which we hope will take place early next year) through your advertising columns, and we can only hope that our efforts will be successful.—I am, &c.,

FLOWERS AND CO.

5, Lady's Lane, Norwich, Sept. 27.

HOW TO PRESERVE WASP GRUB.

SIR,—Will some of your numerous readers inform me how to preserve wasp grub for next years fishing.—I am &c.,

ANGLER.

Liverpool.

[We fear they are too delicate to preserve white so long.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE LAKE AT WIMBLEDON.

SIR,—In the train to Kingston on Sunday last a fisherman informed me that at Wimbledon Park there was some water on a private estate where any respectable person would be allowed to fish on payment of 2s., and any information I required I could get from the FISHING GAZETTE.

I shall be glad, sir, if you will kindly inform me, in your next issue, of the whereabouts of this said water, and to whom to make application.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS SLATER.

September 27.

[We do not know the water, but you can have no difficulty in finding it. Some particulars about the poaching this water is subjected to (night lines being used by the keeper) were given in the GAZETTE some year or two back, and the subscribers were complaining of the unfairness of this. We hope they have got the matter altered; as, for our own part, we would not pay twopence as subscription to a water which was poached by the keeper.—ED.]

AWNING FOR PUNTS.

SIR,—I noticed in your GAZETTE of Sept. 24th an enquiry from Mr. B. R. Bumbridge for a covering for punts.

Singularly enough, in conjunction with a friend, I have been perfecting such a covering, and was about to give you a description of my so-called umbrella.

Time will not permit me to do so now, but I hope shortly to send you a description of our covering.—I am, &c.,

A. C. TUCKER.

56, Richmond Road, Barnsbury, 28th Sept., 1881.

GOOD SPORT AT WALTON-ON-THAMES.

SIR,—For your information I beg to say that in two days' fishing here (Saturday, 24th, and Monday, 26th) Mr. Wingrove, with Geo. Rogerson, took 27 bream, the largest being $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and three barbel.—I am, &c.,

H. WOOD.

MINNESOTA AS A SPORTING RESORT.

SIR,—I promised to send you a letter on the above subject for your neat little journal; but am sorry that I have not been able to obtain all the information I wanted from the old hunter, as we call him here. He has been here in Martin County for twenty-three years, and has had good experience, fishing and shooting with the Indians, who lived round here up to fifteen years back. Some of your readers may ask: Where is Fairmont and how is one to get there? I think the route myself and friend took was, if not the nearest, certainly the cheapest. It was as follows:—from London by one of the National Line Steamers to New York, costing say, £12, this is supposing one takes the £10 berth; and I would advise no one to pay more, as the difference in berths is very little—meals at saloon are equal in every respect to a £15 berth. From New York to Chicago, by Niagara Falls and Detroit, £5; and from Chicago to La Crosse, here changing to the Southern Minnesota Line on to Fairmont (Martin County) for £4; making a total cost of £19. This does not provide for extras such as baggage, overweight, or meals on the way (by train), so that £25 is nearer the actual cost. Taking this amount, and the distance travelled from London (nearly 4700 miles) the expense is not so excessive after all. At Fairmont there is a good hotel, where one can board and lodge from 4s. to 8s. a day. The whole country, taking a line North and South, abounds in freshwater lakes, all connected with each other by small creeks. Fish abound in quantities from 1 lb. weight up to 25 lb. The Buffalo fish is the largest, usually weighing from 20 lb. to even 30 lb., and is caught with a spoon bait trolling from a boat. Shooting, or as it is called here, hunting, is a good as anywhere in America—the prairie chicken (equal, and very similar to, our partridges, is knocked down in same fashion as ours, with the exception that the sportsmen have a buggy or carriage, and drive awpy over prairie and stubble for miles, getting out at all the likely spots.

In my next letter I hope to send you full particulars and descriptions of the fish in the lakes. I must not forget to mention that the severe winters (such as last) killed hundreds of the finny tribe. It was only yesterday, walking along our lake shore, that I came upon a heap of fish-skeletons, all killed through the intense cold, ice in most places having been five feet thick. If any of your readers should wish for news in detail respecting Fairmont or Martin County I shall be happy to obtain and give all the information in my power.

Trusting your paper is increasing by thousands as heretore,

I remain, dear Mr. Editor,

Yours very truly,

A. MARSTON.

Fairmont, Sept. 10th, 1881.

LAKE-FISHING BOAT WANTED.

SIR,—Can you kindly inform me where I can buy a good lake-fishing boat, with newest improvements? Apologising for troubling you, I am, &c.,

E. GODDARD.

31, Longue rue de l'hôpital, Antwerp, Sept. 21, 1881.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Some more good fishing members have joined this week. Messrs. Dudley and Slater took some good roach on Saturday 24; Mr. A. Eydman, roach, dace and bleak on the 26th; Mr. Adams, roach, dace and bleak on the 27th; Mr. W. Eydman, jack, three fish weighing 12 lb. on the 27th; Mr. F. Cooper, one good perch and roach on the 27th; C. J. Dean, roach, bleak and poise on the 27th. The above fish were taken by these members who are all novices, under great difficulty. As the readers of this report will know the fish were not on at the above dates. All were taken from the Thames. Cooper did not break another fishing stool this time.—BLACK BAG.

ALEXANDRA ANGLING SOCIETY.

There was a fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. Mortor had a fine jack from the Lea, weight 6 lb.; Mr. Brockett a fine show of roach; Mr. Atkinson, roach; Mr. W. High, roach and perch; Mr. C. Hewett, roach; Mr. Tiffin, chub from the Lea.—E. DYMOND.

ANCHOR AND HOPE.

On Sunday, 25th, members had some good shows of fish. R. Smith bream, A. Shakel roach, H. Scott bream, T. Bowling roach, D. Davis roach, C. Daniels roach, J. Bowling bream.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

September 27.

THE BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers fished for their 3rd series of prizes on Sunday last at Laleham, Mr. Mitchell, jun. first, Herbert, second; Hulse, third; Frost, Owles, and Ayton next. W. ALLEN, Sec.

September 27.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 25th instant, Mr. Jennings weighed-in a handsome show of roach and bream; Mr. Harris a nice lot of roach and dace; Messrs. Wight, Cubitt, and Constable, roach.—W. TAYLOR.

September 27th.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Very small takes to record this week, the Ouse, Adur, and Cuckmere being thick, owing to the late heavy rains. Mr. G. Saunders took from the Adur roo roach, weighing about nine pounds. Mr. McNutt caught one tench weighing about 1 lb. 12 oz. The sixth competition takes place in the river Adur, when five prizes will be competed for. If the water fines down by that date, it is expected there will be a good many members on the banks.—GROUNDBAIT.

Sept. 28.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fine show of roach at this club on Sunday evening last, Messrs. Weeks, Hammond, and Hadkiss having the best specimens, Mr. T. Weeks taking the first prize for the heaviest weight caught at Ware.—T. G. WALKER sec.

Sept. 29.

THE CADOGAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in fish on Sunday last:—Mr. Seeley, a good show of roach, dace and gudgeon, also two fine chub, the largest going $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. Smale, roach and dace and two chub, the largest $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb., all from Great Marlow; also Mr. Ford, with roach and dace, from Penton Hook. Members are requested to attend on Thursday, October 6th, to arrange prizes and other important business.—W.R.

CANONBURY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members were out on the 25th, but takes were small. Mr. Key weighed-in bream; Mr. Barber, bream; Mr. Wellsted, roach; Mr. Bennett, bream; Mr. Leach succeeded in "getting them on," he having 18 lb. 8½ oz. of pretty roach. Our return visit on the Central list took place last Monday, when a most enjoyable evening was spent, sixteen clubs being represented. Mr. Smith requested, and Mr. Ghurney gave, an explanation with regard to members of clubs enrolled on the Central Association not being able to join the Anglers' Benevolent, but that objection is now removed, and all anglers should join. Mr. C. Watling kindly officiated as chairman, and was ably supported by Mr. C. Smith in the vice, and the harmonic ball was kept rolling. The next visit goes to the great Northern Brothers.—T. BENNETT.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 25th:—Messrs. J. Chambers, Pratt, Hobbs, and Mark had bream and roach from Amberley, the former winning Mr. Hale's prize, a handsome reading lamp; Mr. Castell, roach and gudgeon, from the Roding; and Messrs. Martin and Strong, bream from the Wey. On Sunday next we fish a pegged down match in the Stort, at Roydon, for six prizes. Our West Central Association visit on the 27th was a success. Mr. Langdon in the chair, faced by Mr. A. West. Pianist, Mr. Parkins. We had plenty of harmony by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Langdon, Smith, Thorling, Bignell, Butler, Richards, Marshall, Fowler, Barr, C. Watling, Parkins, Rymer, Benning, and Hobbs. Twenty-four clubs being represented, viz., Amicable Brothers, Amicable Waltonians, City of London Convivial, Good Intent, Metropolitan, Odds and Evens, Sir Hugh Myddleton, Star, St. John's, and Trafalgar; also, the following not in No. 1 district:—Anchor and Hope, Barbican, Bridgewater Brothers, Buckland, Cadogan, Duke of Norfolk, Bostonian, Clerkenwell, Piscatorial, Little Independent, North-Western, Original Clerkenwell Piscatorial, Peckham Brothers, and Perseverance. We thank the above clubs, and shall not forget them when their turn comes.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING CLUB.

On Sunday last Mr. E. Withers and Mr. J. Innes weighed-in some nice barbel from Shepperton, two weighing 8 lb. 5 oz., and 7 others weighing 15 lb. $4\frac{3}{4}$ oz.—total, 23 lb. 9¾ oz. Mr. Turner, roach and jack, 4 lb. 4¼ oz.; Mr. R. Wellman, 2 lb. 12¼ oz. Mr. W. Willoughby's prize, Mr. Maslin, roach and dace; Mr. T. Suttler, roach. The next match will be fished for on October 9 at Weybridge, all members to start from Clapham Junction Station by the 8.55 and return by the 8.20 home.—E. WILSON, sec.

September 28.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society met on Sunday the 25th, when a very fine show of roach was placed on the trays by Messrs. Nunn, Bunn, Anderson, Fortescue, Eagles, Venour, Midson, Fuller, W. Richardson, Slade and Long. Total weight of fish shown, 65½ lb.—S. MALLEY.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The concluding match of the season of this society took place at Horning Ferry on Monday last. The weather throughout the day was miserable in the extreme, and the sport was most indifferent. The following were the prize winners:—1st, Mr. Howard; 2nd, Mr. G. Cubitt; 3rd, Mr. Saul; 4th, Mr. Kerry; 5th, Mr. Hicks; 6th, Mr. R. Palmer; 7th, Mr. Rice; 8th, Mr. Tillott, jun.; 9th, Mr. Springfield; 10th, Mr. L. Lamb; 11th, Mr. Pepper; 12th, Mr. A. Woodcock; 13th, Mr. Smithdale; 14th, Mr. J. Pearce; 15th, Mr. W. Wright; 16th, Mr. A. Palmer, hon. sec.; 17th, Mr. Roberts. The highest single take was 13 lb. 6 oz., and the entire catch weighed only 6 st. 12 lb. Thirty members competed. The prizes, which were distributed next evening at the clubhouse, St. Stephen's Gates, were as follow:—Oak and silver mug (gilt lined), presented by W. H. Grenfell, Esq., M.P. for Salisbury; Bohemian glass biscuit caddy, eight-day timepiece, breakfast cruet, flask and pair buffalo drinking horns, smoking lounge, pike rod, box of cigars, fishing tackle, landing net, tin of biscuits, sauce and ketchup, two bottles spirits, a five-shilling piece, jar of preserve, &c., &c.—ALFRED PALMER, hon. sec.

EUSTONIANS.

The Eustonians were out on Sunday morning last and fished for a prize given by Mr. Shedman, which was taken by Mr. Hornesack. All had fish. Mr. Clements had some fine dace and jack from the Roding.—R. NEALE, sec.
September 21.

GOOD INTENT.

There was a fine display of fish at the club on Sunday last, the following members weighing-in:—Messrs. Everitt, roach; Gadbury, roach; Shuttle, roach; Haines, bream; C. Bates, roach; W. Wheeler, roach and dace; Dowse, roach; R. Murphy, roach; Guntip, rudd; Donovan, roach; Maybury, roach. The first competition since the end of our financial year takes place at Ponders End, roach fishers pegged down, jack and perch fishers the room, for twelve prizes, ranging from a silver-plated tea and coffee service, given by Mr. J. Courcha, as first prize, and 10s. 6d. the 12th prize. We expect at least 60 to compete. I will send you the result.—R. MURPHY.
Sept. 29th.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The Gresham anglers met as usual on Thursday. The secretary produced a revised copy of the rules, and gave notice of one or two verbal alterations, tending to make it clear that the society itself gave prizes only for specimen fish, in preference to gross weights. The meeting was held for the last time in the old quarters in Throgmorton Street, and it was understood that at the next meeting in their new rooms, at the City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, to be held on Thursday next, the society would extend a welcome to all true anglers, and pass a pleasant evening after the old Waltonian fashion. Several of the members volunteered to sing on the occasion, and no doubt there will be a large gathering. Some splendid fish have been weighed-in, especially perch from the Waveney, and two new books were presented to the library. Five new members were elected, and several others proposed. A letter was read from Lord George Hamilton expressing his gratification at the society's progress. By a curious error it was stated last week that Mr. Bennett was fishing with Ward. It arose entirely from a telegraphic error, Mr. Bennett's Christian name being Edward, and the first syllable was omitted. The members separated after passing a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Parker, who occupied the chair.

IZAIAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday the 25th ult. Mr. B. Crook had a tray of handsome roach; Mr. G. Wood had roach and dace, Mr. C. Green roach and dace, Mr. J. Barnes, roach. On Wednesday 28th ult. Mr. G. Wood showed roach from the Lea; several other members were out, but met with very indifferent success. The three special prizes given by Messrs. J. Barrett, Major Twohey and J. H. Roach will be fished for on Sunday, October 9th, 1881, at Boxmoor. Messrs. J. Hilliar, sen., G. Bliss and T. Dennison, sen., will give 10s. 6d. each to be fished for on a Wednesday, conditions to be named on next meeting night. Two other prizes have been presented, conditions for these to be named on the same evening. It is specially requested that members will muster as strongly as possible.

[In future send your report to 12, Fetter Lane, or it will be late like this one.—ED.]

KNIGHTS OF KNIGHTBRIDGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club held a roving fishing competition on the Thames, from Cookham Bridge to Bournend Bridge on Sunday last for four valuable prizes, kindly presented by Mr. Thomas Pratt, an active member of the club, and after a very close competition the result was: Mr. Sparrow, first; Mr. Young, second; Mr. Schlothanger, third; Mr. Ditton, fourth. The prizes were presented to the winners at the club head-quarters. Mr. Cox's, Grove Tavern, Grove Place, Brompton Road.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday we had a fair show of fish contributed by the following members:—Mr. Grey, roach, dace and chub, one roach 1 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Raine, roach, Mr. Petrie roach and perch, Mr. Heelas roach and dace, Mr. Moorhouse tench, Mr. Hurwood roach and gudgeon, Mr. Scott roach and gudgeon, Mr. Letch roach and gudgeon, Mr. Hopton roach and eels.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.
Sept. 28.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society met with good success again on Sunday last. Messrs. Lucy, jun., and G. Drew bream, roach, and dace from the Thames; Mr. Neagus, roach from the Stort; Mr. Obbard had also a nice show of roach and bream, one scaling nearly 3 lb.—THOS. W. LUCY, sec.
Sept. 28th.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

An open match was fished for on the 26th for three prizes, Messrs. Garrard, Stidolph, and Matthews proving the winners. The next match will take place on October 9th for three prizes, Mr. C. Fell giving a handsome time-piece, Mr. Nelson, jun., a valuable lamp, and Mr. Matthews a money prize, all fish to weigh, go where you like.—W. R. M., sen.

PETERBOROUGH ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The annual competition for prizes amounting to £16 came off on Saturday last at Bennett's Plantation, near Milton Ferry Bridge. The water was all that could be desired as to condition, and excellently managed by the stanch keeper. The competitors assembled at two o'clock, at which time the draw took place. Each competitor took his station, and commenced fishing at the firing of a gun.

At five o'clock the gun was again fired, when they ceased fishing, each man remaining at his post until his fish were weighed. Great praise is due to Mr. W. Preston (Vice-President), Mr. J. Trigger and Mr. W. Grice (Secretary) for the excellent arrangements which they made and carried out, giving general satisfaction to the competitors. Some very fine fish were caught, reaching over 2 lb. in weight, and the whole catch amounted to nearly three stones. A meeting took place on Monday evening at the Saracen's Head, Mr. W. Preston ably presiding on the occasion, and who delivered the prizes to the successful competitors, the first prize of £2 15s. being won by Mr. Bullamore, and the second prize of £2 by Mr. J. Steele. There were altogether thirty-three prizes, and the weight of fish that gained the first prize was 3 lb. 12 oz. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.—B.

PHENIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last Sunday we had about 50 lb. of fish weighed-in. Mr. R. Panther, six bream, 15 lb.; Mr. Joe Panther, 14 lb. of roach and perch; Mr. G. Bentley, 5 lb. of roach, the rest being caught by Messrs. Reed, Gurner, Maynard, Milton, H. Upton, R. Upton and J. Twist.—W. ELBOWEN, sec.
Sept. 27.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last, Mr. George Robinson made a splendid show of perch from the Hampshire Avon—he weighed in 45 lb. 6 oz.—twenty-six of the largest turning the scales at 30 lb. 9 oz. Mr. Thomas Huggett had a nice pike of 7 lb. 3 oz., and three chub weighing 6 lb. 4 oz., all from Sonning, and Mr. Marsden from public waters had a fine specimen roach of 1 lb. 13 oz. The pike competition will take place on Monday the 17th of October, and no fish under 3 lb. can be registered.
Sept. 22.

PRINCETS OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY.

Owing to the very wet morning of the 25th inst., there were very few of our members at Egham to compete for the prizes that were not won on the 11th inst., but those that went, were successful in getting sufficient fish to entitle them to the prizes. The most noteworthy shows were those of Messrs. C. Severn and A. Meers, each having a very decent show of roach, and taking the first and second prizes in the order named. All communications to be addressed to the secretary, Mr. F. Robson, Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone.—MEDIOCRE.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There was a large and influential meeting of the members in the club room at the Station Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday evening last. Mr. F. C. Clench in the chair, and Mr. H. Dickenson in the vice-chair. The secretary, Mr. J. H. Gaunt, reported that on the previous day Mr. A. J. Little had weighed-in from the old river at Windsor one jack of 4 lb. 15 oz., another of 5 lb. 8 oz., and one specimen perch of 1½ lb. Mr. W. H. Brougham addressed the meeting on Thames Preservation, and forcibly urged those members who are residents on the banks to assist the river-keepers during the present holidays; at the same time remarking that already such vigilance had been used the London tackle shops were unable to supply dace for their customers. This was confirmed by Mr. G. Little of Fetter Lane, who as a member of this society was present at the meeting.—Mr. H. Dickenson and three others volunteered their services for night watching. The Richmond Piscatorial Society is every week increasing in strength and importance. At this meeting three new members were elected, and five other gentlemen were proposed for ballot on the following Wednesday evening. Mr. F. C. Clench has succeeded in gathering a large family of influential anglers around him, and with so large an attendance each night, the hostelry, which is kept by Mr. John Munro, one of the members, must be greatly benefited.—B.

Sept. 22.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members of the above society are requested to attend on Wednesday night, October 5th, it being quarterly night. Chair will be taken at nine o'clock precisely.—R. G.

Sept. 28.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The usual monthly meeting will be held on Monday next, at nine o'clock, when business of importance will be brought before the committee for their consideration. The new instruction cards are now ready, and may be had on application to the secretary.—R. GHURNEY.

WALTONIANS.

Messrs. Grace, Roland, Rushbrook, R. Dodge, J. Dodge, Malcom, Good, jun., Greenfield, Starr, and Brady weighed-in fish. The takes were poor, with the exception of Mr. Grace's, which went 11 lb. 1½ oz. The next best take was Mr. J. Dodge's, with 3 lb. 12½ oz. On the Wednesday previous I weighed-in a tench from Elstree 2 lb. 7½ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.
Sept. 25.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our members have been working hard, with only average success, but the following members succeeded in making a very fair show on Sunday:—Mr. Mathie, a splendid bag of dace from Richmond; Mr. Stanton, bream from Weybridge, one scaling 3 lb. 7½ oz., another, 2 lb.; Mr. Wright, dace from Ordnance Factory; Mr. Wilcockson, roach and dace from Chertsey; Mr. D. Smith, bream from Amberley.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1881.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING IN THE DOVE.

By R. B. MARSTON.

(Continued from p. 178.)

AFTER lunch I decided to walk down the stream from the bridge at Hartington to see Charles Cotton's Fishing-house which is situated on a peninsula—if so small a piece of

ground may be so designated—about twelve or fifteen minutes' walk from the bridge. I mentioned in my last that there is a mill just above the bridge, and this mill spoilt my afternoon's fishing—the miller is a pleasant man, and reminded me of the miller described in that most charming book "The Angler's Souvenir," by P. Fisher, Esq., I did not thank him, however, for shutting off all the water below his mill while his mill head was filling, for the stream was entirely stopped for nearly an hour, in fact, until the water had risen high enough to flow over the weir. The river, after passing under the bridge, flows in a very gentle fashion until the fishing-house is reached, it winds between high banks in a woundrously serpentine course through a rich and almost level valley. There are but few streams of any consequence in this length, even when the full body of water is coming down, and the water is shallow until you get near the fishing-house, when it flows sluggishly, and appears to be very deep; some fine sport could be had in a breeze or on a rainy, dull day. I saw many fine fish as I walked down. I cannot do better than let Cotton describe his little fishing-house in his own words. The accompanying illustration gives a view of it as it appeared in Cotton's time, and it is substantially the same now, as far as the building itself is concerned.

For the information of such of the readers of the GAZETTE as may be unacquainted with Cotton's book, I may mention that the following discourse is taken from his "Instructions how to angle for a trout or grayling in a clear stream," which I hope shortly to re-print in the GAZETTE, as I did Walton's "Complete Angler" some time ago. Cotton's Instructions are so good that any angler may profit by them, and to him belongs the credit of first describing the method of up-stream fishing with a worm in clear water which has been so skilfully elaborated by Stewart. Cotton resided at Beresford Hall, he occupied the position of a country gentleman, and was the friend and devoted admirer of Walton, he built the fishing-house expressly to perpetuate their friendship. His work is a discourse in the same style as Walton's, in connection with which it was first published, as a supplement. Cotton is Piscator, and Viator is a traveller from London who has business in the North, whom Piscator overtakes on his way to Ashbourne. They get into conversation, and when Piscator happens to mention Walton's name, Viator tells him that he also knows the venerable "Father" and turns out to be the very Venator of the "Compleat Angler." This is quite sufficient to kindle a mutual regard on the spot, and Piscator persuades his only too-willing companion to break his journey by staying for a few days' fishing with him at Beresford. I will commence my quotation where the friends have just arrived at Piscator's (Cotton's) house.

"PISCATOR: Will it please you to alight, sir?—And now permit me, after all your pains and dangers, to take you in my arms, and to assure you that you are infinitely welcome.

"VIATOR: I thank you, sir, and am glad with all my heart I am here, for, in downright truth, I am exceedingly weary.

"PISCATOR: You will sleep so much the better. You shall presently have a light supper, and to bed. Come, sir, lay the cloth, and bring what you have presently, and let the gentleman's bed be made ready in the meantime, in my Father Walton's Chamber. And now, sir, here is my service to you; and once more welcome.

"VIATOR: I, marry sir, this glass of good sack has refreshed me. And I'll make as bold with your meat, for the trot has got me a good stomach.

"PISCATOR: Come, sir, fall to, then. You see my little supper is always ready when I come home, and I'll make no stranger of you.

"VIATOR: That your meal is so soon ready is a sign your servants know your certain hours. Sir, I confess I did not expect it so soon, but now 'tis here you shall see I will make myself no stranger.

"PISCATOR: Much good do your heart! and I thank you for that friendly word. And now, sir, my service to you in a cup of Morelands ale; for you are now in the Morelands, but within a spit and a stride of the peak. Fill my friend his glass.

"VIATOR: Believe me, you have good ales in the Morelands, far better than at Ashbourne.

"PISCATOR: That it may soon (easily) be, for Ashbourne has, which is a kind of riddle, always in it the best malt, and the worst ale in England. Come, take away, and bring us some pipes and a bottle of ale, and go to your own suppers. Are you for this diet, sir?

"VIATOR: Yes, sir. I am for one pipe of tobacco; and I perceive yours is very good by the smell.

"PISCATOR: The best I can get in London, I assure you. But, sir, now you have thus far complied with my designs, as to take a troublesome journey into an ill country, only to satisfy me. How long may I enjoy you?

"VIATOR: Why, truly, sir, as long as I conveniently can; and longer I think you would not have me.

"PISCATOR: Not to your inconvenience by any means, sir, but I see you are weary, and therefore I will presently wait on you to your chamber, where take counsel of your pillow, and to-morrow resolve me. Here! take the lights, and pray follow them, sir. Here you are like to lie, and now I have showed you your lodgings, I beseech you command anything you want, and so I wish you good rest.

"VIATOR: Good night, sir.

THE SECOND DAY.

"PISCATOR: Good morning, sir! What, up and dressed so early?

"VIATOR: Yes, sir, I have been dressed this hour, for I rested so well, and have so great a mind either to take, or see a trout taken in your fine river, that I could no longer lie a-bed.

"PISCATOR: I am glad to see you so brisk this morning, and so eager of

sport; though, I must tell you, this day proves so calm, and the sun rises so bright, as promises no great success to the angler. But, however, we'll try, and, one way or other, we shall, sure, do something. What will you have to your breakfast? or what will you drink this morning?

"VIATOR: For breakfast, I never eat any; and for drink I am very indifferent, but if you please to call for a glass of ale I'm for you, and let it be quickly, please, for I long to see the little fishing-house you spoke of, and to be at my lesson."

"PISCATOR: Well, sir, you see the ale is come without calling; for though I know not yours, my people know my diet: which is always one glass so soon as I am dressed and no more till dinner; and so my servants have served you."

"VIATOR: My thanks. And now, if you please, let us look out this fine morning."

"PISCATOR: With all my heart. Boy, take the key of my fishing-house, and carry down these two angle-rods in the hall window, thither, with my fish-pannier, pouch and landing-net, and stay you there till we come. Come, sir, we'll walk after, when, by the way, I expect you should raise all the exceptions against our country you can."

"VIATOR: Nay, sir, do not think me so ill-natured nor so uncivil; I only made a little bold with it last night to divert you, and was only in jest."

"PISCATOR: You were then in as good earnest as I am now with you; for to say the truth, it is not very taking at first sight. But look you, sir, now you are abroad, does not the sun shine as bright here as in Essex, Middlesex, or Kent, or any of your southern counties."

"VIATOR: 'Tis a delicate morning, indeed! And I now think this is a marvellous pretty place."

"PISCATOR: Whether you think so or no, you cannot oblige me more than to say so; and those of my friends who know my humour, are so kind as to comply with it, and usually flatter me that way. But look you, sir, now you are at the brink of the hill, how do you like my river, the vale it winds through like a snake, and the situation of my little fishing house?"

"VIATOR: Trust me, 'tis all very fine; and the house seems at this distance a neat building."

"PISCATOR: Good enough for that purpose. And here is a bowling-green too, close by it; so, though I am myself no very good bowler, I am not totally devoted to my own pleasure, but that I have also some regard to other men's. And now, sir, you are come to the door; pray walk in, and there we will sit and talk, as long as you please."

"VIATOR: Stay, what's here over the door? *Piscatoribus sacrum!** Why then I perceive I have some title here; for I am one of them, though one of the worst; and here below it is the cypher too you spoke of, and 'tis prettily contrived. Has my master, Walton, ever been here to see it; for it seems new built?"

"PISCATOR: Yes, he saw it cut in the stone before it was set up; but never in the posture it now stands: for the house was but building when he was last here, and not raised so high as the arch of the door. And I am afraid he will not see it yet; for he has lately writ me word, he doubts his coming down this summer, which, I do assure you, was the worst news he could possibly have sent me."

"VIATOR: Men must sometimes mind their affairs to make more room for their pleasures, and 'tis odds he is as much displeased with the business that keeps him from you, as you are that he comes not. But I am the most pleased with this little house of anything I ever saw. It stands in a kind of peninsula too, with a delicate clear river about it. I dare hardly go in, lest I should not like it so well within as without; but by your leave I'll try. Why this is better and better, fine lights, finely wainscoted, and all exceeding neat, with a marble table and all in the middle."

"PISCATOR: Enough, sir, enough! I have laid open to you the part where I can worst defend myself; and now you attack me there! Come, boy, set two chairs, and whilst I am taking a pipe of tobacco, which is always my breakfast, we will, if you please, talk of some other subject."

"VIATOR: I beseech you, sir, do: and, if you will lend me your steel, I will light a pipe the while; for that is commonly my breakfast in a morning too."

Cotton's book has always had a special charm for me, chiefly because it was my first guide into the pleasant art of trout and grayling fishing, and many a time at school when I ought to have been studying Butter's spelling or some other youthful instructor, I was deep in the mysteries of "Angling for Trout and Grayling in a Clear Stream." I need hardly say then that it was with feelings of deep reverence and pleasure that I viewed the little fishing-house for the first time. It stands almost at the entrance of Beresford Dale, and is certainly most charmingly situated. I was glad to find it was kept in good repair—by Mr. Beresford Hope, I presume. The door was locked, but I got a peep at the interior through a window, and saw a landing net in the corner, just as Piscator's "Boy" might have left it. For many years, and especially at the beginning of this century, the place was allowed to

go to ruin inside, and some barbarians even removed the fittings; but these have been restored to some extent. I caught a good grayling within twenty yards of the house and decided to fish up stream again to the mill and try the big fellows I had seen in the morning. And it was now that the mill stopped my sport, for as soon as I got to the little rustic bridge I found the water rapidly falling, and as I went on it ceased to run at all. The fish had retired to cover, wherever there was a pool, and I found it was hopeless to try them below the mill. I walked up to the weir again, knowing there would, at any rate, be plenty of water there, and hoping to find the fish moving, but the rise was over or nearly so, and I found another angler fishing the few open places between the trees, so I gave it up and got back to the Charles Cotton Inn in time for some tea; I found that a gentleman who had been fishing below the fishing-house for an hour or two, had got four brace—one fish, a fine grayling of nearly two pounds; he described the water below as being much better and full of streams. I shall hope to fish it some other time. As I do not know the river from the fishing-house until one gets down to the village of Mill Dale, I will not attempt to describe it—I hear it is first-class—but will in my next finish my notes by giving an account of the river from Mill Dale to its junction with the Manifold, of some experiences on the latter river, and also of a day on the Wye, between Fillieford Bridge and Bakewell.

(To be continued.)

FISHING IN SWITZERLAND.

THE rivers of Switzerland vary much in their character. Some are largely composed of melted snow, others are pure water, transparent as those of countries where there are no mountains covered with snow and glaciers.

In all the rivers save those which are too cold for trout to live, this fish, trout, is found. Usually they are not large, but at times fish of great size are taken. There is a fishmonger in Basle who occasionally obtains possession of large trout, and when they are of uncommon size he sends them—or, if only one, it—to Berlin, packed in ice, for the use of the Emperor of Germany, who ascertained that a large trout he once saw came from the fishmonger, and the consequence has been that royal trout find their way to Berlin.

There is a small lake in the beautiful Klönthal $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles long and one-third of a mile wide. This lake is said to have a trout similar to some that are

taken in Norway, and of a kind unknown elsewhere in Switzerland.

The supply of trout is far less than the demand. In the Val de Tignes there is a lake, and the trout taken find their market in part on the other side of the Alps at Courmayeur.

Perch are sometimes found in the rivers near lakes, and so are carp and pike as well as eels, but they usually keep in the neighbourhood of the lakes, especially near and in the Lake of Constance, where they are plentiful.

There is a very good fish taken in the Lake of Geneva, called "fêra."* The same fish is taken in the Lake of Constance, but is known by another (German) name there that I could not learn.†

There is also a fish taken in the Lake of Constance, and sometimes in the rivers near the lake called barbe. It has two tentacles I am told on the upper and lower jaw. This fish is not much esteemed, save by the Jews, who are fond of it.

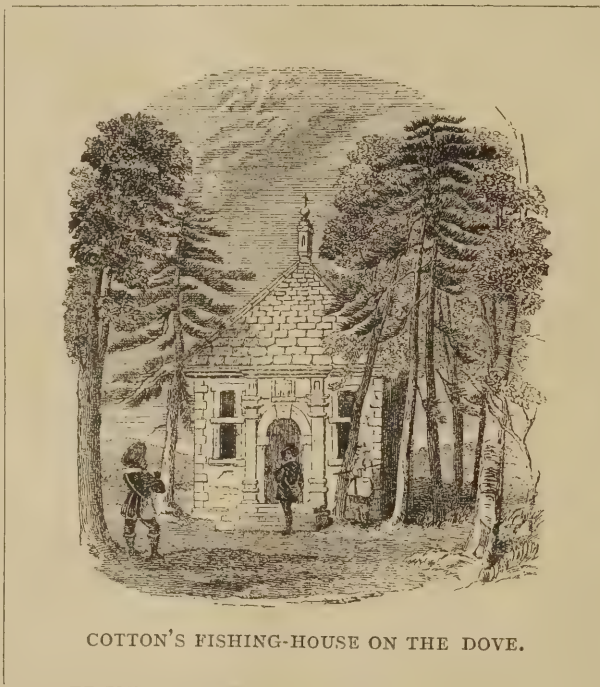
There is an excellent fish taken in the Lakes of Geneva and Constance, called "ombre."‡ It sometimes attains 2 lb. in weight, but not often. This fish is also found in the Doire, I am told, at Aosta.

There is a fish about the size of a finger found in the lakes

* The French name of *Coregonus fêra*.

† The German equivalent is *Bodenranke* or *Blaufelchen*.

‡ Grayling: though *ombre chevalier* is most likely intended; in that case the English name is Charr.



COTTON'S FISHING-HOUSE ON THE DOVE.

* "There is, under this motto, the cypher (I. W. and C. C.) mentioned in the title-page—and some part of the fishing-house has been described; but the pleasantness of the river, mountains, and meadows about; it cannot, unless Sir Philip Sidney, or Mr. Cotton's father, were again alive to do it."—Note by IZAAK WALTON.

called "whitefish." It also frequents the rivers. It seems to be the young of a larger fish, and is found in great abundance at certain seasons.

There is also a little fish which is found in rivers under stones. The stone is lifted, and then the fish is speared. It is called in the German-speaking countries "grundeli."§ It is a poor fish in quality.

In the spring there is a fish that comes up the Rhine in vast numbers, and it is found also in the Aar and other rivers connected with the Rhine. It is called "nase."|| It is a wretched bony fish, and is only capable of being eaten when the bones are dissolved by baking.

Salmon (price 2½ to 3 francs per lb.) are served at nearly all the tables of the best hotels. The Rhine can supply but a small proportion of these. They are sent from Norway to England packed in ice, and sent to the Basle fishmonger (a man said to be of great intelligence), and by him they are distributed all over Switzerland, some hotels taking one hundred pounds weight daily.

Klönthal ice is used in all parts of Switzerland, and the boxes that bring the fish are said to be returned packed with ice.

There is a gentleman, whose name and residence I could not obtain, who has devoted himself to pisciculture, and he is said to rear about 80,000 trout annually—for Switzerland only.

Most of the fishing is done by rod and line—exclusively by that mode (I believe) in rivers.

In the Hotel De Ville at Zurich there was, and probably is, a large drawing of all the fish found in Switzerland, with their special names. This at least was the case many years since, and may be now.

There is a fish taken in the Lake of Annecy, called "lavaret,"¶ exceedingly good; but whether the fish is the same as the "ombre" (it is like it in taste) I cannot say.

There is a close time, which varies according to the rivers. Right of fishing in some rivers is reserved, and fines are imposed.

7th September, 1881.

I went to Zurich, hoping to find the drawings of the fish, but my visit was in vain. The "Townhall" is still there, but no one of whom I enquired knew the place where what I sought was to be seen. I called on a bookseller, but he could not give me any information, though he desired to do so. He told me that there is no book on the fish of Switzerland that he is aware of.**

8th September, 1881.

Fishermen at the Falls of the Rhine gave the following list of fish which they take by rod and line at the foot of the falls:—hasel, forelle, barbe, alet, naze, asche.†† No others.

At Stuttgart we had a small fish called "goujons"‡‡ in the menu, but I could not learn where it was obtained.

The above information was gathered from many persons. For its accuracy your correspondent does not vouch, but if it lead to further communications from those who are better acquainted with the subject, the object of the writer will be answered.

FISHING IN INDIA.

A YOUNG friend of mine being about to proceed to Cashmere, a north-western province of India, being passionately attached to the rod, requested me to make some inquiries of the angling capabilities of that portion of the globe; the following extract of a letter from H. S., 27th Regiment, dated Serinager, was the result, and which I give verbatim as it may be of interest to others:—

"The City of Cashmere is situate on the river Jelum, but owing to the strict preservation, little or no fishing is to be had in its waters, on account of the late Rajah of Cashmere's soul being supposed by the natives to be metamorphosed into a fish. There are myriads of small fish, which on account of their being fed on rice, &c., by the priests, and their confidence rarely abused, will take almost any bait. I have myself repeatedly when rowing a small boat under the bridges out of sight, towed a line astern, with a common trout fly, and have hooked them quite as fast as I could wish for my pleasure. I believe the fish inhabiting the Jelum River, near the town are far from wholesome, owing to the drains, &c., all running into the stream. They certainly are far from

being esteemed, though eaten with great avidity by the poor natives and even by our servants; they are devoid of all scales, and vary in weight from ½ lb. to 6 lb.

"The mahasur, or as it is called by Europeans; the Indian salmon, is scarcely or ever seen so high up the river on account of the intense cold of the water, but proceeding down the river some sixteen or eighteen miles, there are to be had excellent mahasur fishing at a place called Sopore, in the months of August, September and October, and after the snow has nearly all melted the fish abound, are extremely ravenous and will take almost any bait. Spinning with a minnow, or perhaps what is better, with a silver spoon armed with hooks, generally insures success. The natives make use of a common hook to which they attach a small piece of white cotton or tape, half an inch or so in length, and, strange to say, their mode of making a fly will often take sooner than our best London or Limerick makes.

"The water is too clear for coarse tackle, which is a great drawback, as the mahasur varies in weight up to 60 lb., and as they fight with desperation and give plenty of sport, good and strong tackle is required. They take the live minnow, but often they refuse to look at any bait, however, apparently tempting, upon which occasions many of my brother officers amuse themselves by spearing all within reach. Poonah, some sixty miles from Serinager, is *par excellence*, the best place for fishing, situated in Motie Singo territory. Its river is somewhat narrow, but very deep, and runs at the rate of some five or six miles per hour. Its bed is covered with huge boulder stones, in consequence of which great care and nicety in holding your rod is required; as if once your tackle fouls there is little hope of saving it.

"Another drawback is that by nature the mahasur, after having been hooked and played for some time, turns sulky, and goes direct for one of these boulders under which he will jam himself, and there remain quite long enough to tax one's patience. But he is not idle while there, for he often succeeds, either by design or in his panting state, in chafing your line against some sharp angle and gets away. I missed a very fine fish in this manner, having played him for an hour and thirty-five minutes.

"I enjoyed some two or three days fishing in company with three officers at a place called Noushera; the third march from the plains into Cashmere. But owing to the constant whipping of the waters in this locality—as every one who comes to fish mostly remains for days—the fish are extremely cunning, but at the same time, very voracious when in the humour to feed. Two officers of my regiment caught or killed 200 fish (mahasur) in four days, with the fly and bait. I have taken twenty-eight in a few hours, the largest weighing 8 lb., but one was killed by a man named Armstrong, weighing 30 lb.

"In Noushera the water is very clear, with a fine sandy bottom, and as smooth as a mill-pond. The finest tackle is required. I never succeeded unless I fished with single gut. The water is literally in motion with the fish. They will not take a fly—indeed they are so knowing we have to resort to baits. Bread moistened with water, and an equal quantity of white cotton wool, beaten into toughness between two stones, is an excellent bait, as the fish can only get it off the hook with difficulty, the wool or cotton binding the head so that it cannot well be rubbed off. After fishing some time the fish become very wary; you then have to coax them by throwing in a handful of crumbs of bread at the same time as your hook drops in the water. The chances then are nearly certain that your bait will take one of the hundreds of the finny tribe which have been gathered to that one spot, all eagerly contending for the biggest bit, and such is their greediness, that every morsel is devoured before it reaches half-way to the bottom, and before you can land your fish.

"Parched Indian corn is likewise an excellent bait, but owing to the water, it soon drops off your hook. It is no exaggeration when I say that the fish seem to know it directly as containing the barbed wire, and will rub their noses against the corn until they remove it, when it at once disappears. The only resource is, as with the bread, to feed them with a handful every time you cast in your bait. The Indian corn can be purchased at any small village as the poorer classes live upon it, and it is by no means disagreeable.

"The lake, Cashmere, abounds with small fish, and many an afternoon's sport have I had in killing them. The best bait is the "toute" or mulberry, which grow all over Cashmere. These trees overhang the river, and it is an interesting sight to see the fruit drop off the tree, and immediately seized by one of the hundreds of the finny tribe.

"You have only to bait your hook with a mulberry, and you are certain of a fish. There is no lack of this bait here, as the trees grow wild and in great profusion almost anywhere. These fish seldom exceed four pounds in weight, and are far from palatable; but the boatmen are happy to get them. I have tried myself a piece of crimson chenelle, fashioned like a mulberry,

§ Loach.

|| *Chondrostoma Nasus*; a fish somewhat resembling the loach.

¶ *Coregonus Wartmanni*; one of the twenty-one species and varieties of Swiss *Coregoni*.

** A collection of the literature of Swiss fishes by Swiss authors only, and wholly printed in Switzerland, amounting to eighty works in about 160 volumes, was displayed at the Berlin Fisheries Exhibition.

†† Dace, trout, barbel, chub, nase, grayling; this list can scarcely be complete, seeing that thirty-five different species of fishes are caught in the Rhine between Basle and the Falls.

‡‡ The French for gudgeon.

and fastened to a hook, and which, when floating upon the surface of the water, would deceive the most lynx-eyed native, but, strange to say, I never succeeded in getting a bite, although they would freely take hundreds of mulberries falling from the trees which overhang the water.

"Our fauna in this province is remarkably full, although the wild carnivora are becoming more scarce. Tigers ten feet in length from the head to the tail, lions, panthers, leopards, hyenas, lynxes, wolves, bears, jackals, foxes, otters, martins, stoats, wild hogs, porcupines, bats, vampires (held sacred by the natives), peafowl, parrots, jungle-fowl, pheasants, partridges, quails, waterfowl, herons, cranes, pelicans, eagles, vultures, hawks (the exportation of which produce annually £10,000), magpies, hoopoes, doves, bulbul, the Kashmir nightingale, whose note is truly enchanting—alligators of a small species in all the rivers, porpoises, which swim up the Indus, and a small snake whose bite is deadly, etc., etc. Its rivers abound with *killa*, a kind of carp, which is delicious eating, and several other species of fish."

Permit me to suggest to intelligent Europeans in India, that as facts, like unto the above, have a peculiar interest in England, and cannot be other than of use to those who purpose visiting the presidencies, the pen of our officers might praiseworthy be employed in giving a few lines of a like nature to the FISHING GAZETTE—a suggestion, I trust, not the less pertinent when it is known that the principal rivers of India are upwards of thirteen thousand miles in extent, and their tributaries are reckoned by as many hundreds, and that nearly all their waters are occupied by fish.

CREEL.

BARBEL-FISHING.

If by chance you hook a barbel,
And your rod bends like a bow,
Be careful how the reel you handle,
Or, perhaps, you'll let him go.
Give him line, but not too freely,
Keep your finger on the reel;
That's the way in which to angle
If you wish to fill your creel.

—S. S., Nottingham.

NOW I can remember the time, something like thirty-five years ago, when barbel-fishers employed exceedingly strong tackle. The rod was most suitable for jack-fishing, and the line was very stout, and prepared, and had attached to it a plumb of two ounces in weight, and the hook length was double-twisted wire. With this apparatus a barbel, when hooked, had a poor chance of escaping; and, as giving them line when the fish wanted to run was altogether out of the question, not an inch was allowed to go off the reel. A landing-net was seldom used to fish of from 2 lb. to 3 lb. but as soon as brought to the side, he was at once lifted to the bank. Float fishing for barbel at the time mentioned was never thought of.

Time passed on, however. Some of the anglers began to discover that such heavy, strong tackle was not necessary to kill a barbel, and consequently lighter material was used with greater success, and some of the old school began to see they were making a mistake, and quickly improved their tackle for something lighter and finer. But the greatest surprise to the old barbel-fishers was to observe a young rodster attempting to catch barbel with a large cork float and a travelling bait. At this some of the knowing ones laughed heartily, but they little thought what was going to follow the first attempt at barbel-fishing with a float. The young piscator, who happened to be myself, soon found that, although the line was much finer than had been used for plumbing, still, when it got wet, it stuck in the rings on the rod, and of course the float did not travel freely. A finer line was at once procured, which worked much better; and, finding this answered well, a finer one still was placed on the reel. With a smaller cork float and less weight, the whole thing after a while acted fairly. The first barbel was hooked with this tackle at Wilford "boat." And as the writer of the above verses says, "Keep your finger on the reel"; just so. But there was no one at that time to give the hint. However, the barbel, which was a four-pounder, forced the line off the reel. This, of course, just saved a break, and taught the angler a lesson, which was, that there is no fear of a fish breaking you on the run, and not much chance of his getting off the hook so long as you do not hold on too tight. After this fish was landed, and several more besides, many of the old hands tried the same method, but I believe up to this day only a few succeeded. Now I will go a step further and show the danger of losing a barbel in a baited swim, and the consequence. First, I will mention a circumstance that happened at Shardlow. I had baited a noted swim for a gentleman with a thousand worms, and on the following morning he took six good barbel under the hour. On hooking the seventh fish it went away down stream at a great rate for about forty yards, and then turned off. I

remarked "That's a bad job," and so it was, for he never got a bite after. "The fish," I said, "was no doubt hooked where there were perhaps several more close to at the time, and these would all follow wherever the hooked fish went, and stop when he stopped, and the chances are they will not return any more to-day," which was true. My friend, however, had some doubts about what I had stated, but I told him that some day I might be able to show him this curious freak among the barbel more clearly. It was not long after that time that I paid a visit to the Thames with the same gentleman. We selected the water in the neighbourhood of Monkey Island. I went off with a thousand worms to find a place and then bait it. I was, of course, a perfect stranger to the water, but, after walking down about a quarter of a mile below the island, I found a rapid stream, which had not the least appearance of a barbel swim, excepting that I knew it must be an attraction to the fish, for it must be understood that barbel are not in deep water during the month of June, and that was the time I went to find a barbel swim. I put a rod together, and, after finding the depth, which was about five feet, began to catch barbel at once. I then baited the place and left it. On my return, my friend said, "What have you found?" The answer was made by producing the fish I had caught. He said, "That looks promising. Shall we make a catch?" That I did not know. But on the following morning when we got to the spot, my friend said, "Surely you have not baited such a stupid place as this?" I next placed a worm on his hook, and, of course, gave him the right depth. He said, "What shall I do?" I answered, "Throw it into the water." The bait had no sooner reached the bottom than a barbel took it, and for many swims the same thing occurred, to his great surprise. 100 lb. being the result of the day's catch. We then threw a few hundred worms in, and left the spot. Next day the fish bit equally well, and just before lunch he hooked a barbel about 2 lb. in weight, and the first time it showed itself under the spring of the rod (and I was there with the landing net), I saw at least six other barbel come up with it. I said: "Sir, do you see a lot of barbel all round the one you have hooked?" "Yes," he replied; and until the fish was landed the others would not leave, but went with their companion while he had strength to make a run. I here said: "And now perhaps you remember when you lost that fish on the run at Shardlow, and what I told you at the time." "Quite," he said: "I am now perfectly satisfied that what you remarked was correct." Now, from what I stated, the barbel-fishers must see at a glance that it is a great mistake should a barbel be hooked in the top part of the swim, and then make a run of, say forty yards, down stream, to wind up the line and follow him down to the spot where he stops and kill him there. The fish that have gone down with him will not return to your swim above perhaps any more that day. I always say the right thing to do is to stand your ground, and do not move unless the fish has run you foul at the end of the run. If this should happen, of course there is nothing for it but to follow him, with the chance of saving your tackle, and perhaps bring the fish to bank. In my next I shall have something to say on reels for barbel-fishing, and the proper method of using them.

W. BAILEY.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR THE YEAR 1879. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1880.

THE close union existing between the Secretary and Director of the Smithsonian Institution and the Chief Commissioner of the U.S. Fish Commission, in the person of Professor Spencer F. Baird, naturally accounts for the intrinsic excellence of the ichthyological information contained in the volume forming the subject of this notice. Some of this information, it is true, is not absolutely novel, it having already appeared in the latest Fish Commission Report. But notwithstanding this, no one is likely to challenge its right to a place in the valuable Annual Reports issued by the Smithsonian Institution. For without the last-named, the Fish Commission could never have attained so rapidly to its present exalted position in the eyes of all civilised nations, or executed a tithe of the work it has fortunately been able to perform.

Hence for this, if for no other reason, it will always be doubly gratifying to Englishmen to be reminded that it was their countryman, James Smithson, who, dying at Genoa in 1829, bequeathed the whole of his property (about £115,000), "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men;" for it is in these brief but significant words that his last wishes were expressed in his will. Less

gratifying must it be to Americans to reflect upon the behaviour of a number of their own chosen legislators, who, shortly after Smithson's death, suddenly discovered it to be "beneath their dignity to accept presents of this kind from any one;" or thought it "too cheap a way of conferring immortality;" or, who actually went to the length of moving a vote of censure on the government of the day, for "consenting to be the recipient of what was called a munificent donation of half a million from an Englishman to enlightened American republicans." "How did it happen," inquired one of these self-same enlightened American legislators, who was doubtless convinced that in his person enlightenment had long before reached its apotheosis, "how did it happen that this government accepted such a boon from a foreigner—an Englishman too?" Fortunately, however, for the credit of human nature and American republicans in particular, the undignified counsels tendered by these inflated malcontents were not adopted. Instead of Smithson's generous bequest being spurned outright as a gift involving the degradation of its recipient, it was accepted, though not without open signs of a grudging spirit, redolent of condescension and contemptuous indifference. In fact, so strong and enduring was this outburst of ill-humoured antagonism, that sixteen valuable years were wasted before the Institution was finally placed on a legal footing and organised in accordance with the wishes of its founder.

At the present day when a close-knit bond of sympathy, wrought on the basis of a wider knowledge and better understanding of one another, connects the two great English-speaking nations in the world, it seems incredible that the malignant disposition we have referred to above could by any chance have existed in reality. But a perusal of the careful paper in the volume now before us, called "James Smithson and his Bequest" from the pen of Mr. William J. Rhees, Chief Clerk of the Smithsonian, will prove that we have rather underestimated than exaggerated our account of American feeling at that time.

It is but fair to say, however, that since 1846, when the Institution started fairly on its prosperous career, the Regents of the Smithsonian have done much to redeem the valuable time frittered away in utterly indefensible tactics of obstruction and delay. They have carried out Smithson's public-spirited intention by every means within their power, and with such marked success that the Smithsonian now ranks high among similar institutions all the world over, and in some respects, in the gratuitous distribution of its publications in particular, outdoes many that far exceed it in age, reputation, and wealth.

It would be foreign to our purpose to give here a retrospective account of the work accomplished by the Smithsonian and the closely-affiliated Fish Commission, in increasing and diffusing scientific and practical knowledge of fishes and all relating thereunto. We can only sum it up by stating that, both as regards quantity and quality, it has no parallel in any other quarter of the globe. Of the amazing activity and literary fertility exhibited by Professor Baird and his zealous staff it is impossible to speak except in terms of admiration and high praise. All agree in pronouncing their productions to be thorough and exact. In their hands theory and practice are made to march within reasonable distance of each other, and abstruse subjects are mostly dealt with in a manner adapted to minds but little above the common order of intelligence. When, therefore, so much is done, and so much admirable information is provided for our use, it behoves us to be doubly on our guard against the semblance of preferring an ungracious and unfounded complaint. Hence we do no more than drop a passing hint that the convenience of students would be better served if their contributions to ichthyology were distributed over a smaller number of contemporaneous publications, issued for and at the expense of the Smithsonian and the Government. It can surely be no part of their object to multiply the obstacles that already hedge the study of fishes round about. Yet in effect, that is what is being done. If we take the case of a student interested in the ichthyological literature of first importance belonging to the United States alone, he will certainly not find his materials cut and dried and ready to his hand. What with having to wade through the long row of folios known as the Smithsonian "Contributions to Knowledge," the handier octavos which make up the Smithsonian "Miscellaneous Collections," and "Annual Reports"; the "Bulletins" of the National Museum as well as its "Proceedings," and the Reports of the U. S. Fish Commissions and the other Commissions appointed by individual State Legislatures, he must needs be not only extravagant in his use of midnight oil, but, as Izaak Walton and his contemporaries have it, he must besides prevent the rising of the sun. Let us hope, then, that the student of the future may, as regards the fresh contributions to American ichthyology that are being produced in our day, find them snugly side by side in volumes specially devoted to the subject.

One material result of last summer's work has been the discovery of an entirely new food-fish, both genus and species being

previously unknown to science. This is the tile-fish (*Sopholatilus chaemleonticeps*.) We are told it can be taken in any desired quantity on a bank newly discovered near Noman's Land, and that some specimens have been found to weigh as much as ninety pounds. This fish has very much the same general food characteristics as the cod, and it is expected that in time it will become an important article of trade. The pole-flounder (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*), a flat-fish, discovered off the coast near Gloucester, the well-known great fishing-station, in June, 1877, is now found to be very extensively distributed along the American shores of the North Atlantic, and is possibly the most abundant species of its family on the coast. "In the smallness of its mouth," writes Professor Baird, "which prevents its being captured by the hook, and the lack of use of the beam trawl as a fisherman's engine, are to be found the explanation of the ignorance of the fisherman in regard to the species."

This report also announces the forthcoming appearance of several annual and other reports authorised by law, or ordered by resolutions of Congress, which cannot fail to be of special value and interest to the public in general. And here it may be of use to point out, for the benefit of such persons as may be desirous of procuring the valuable works on fishes and fishing, issued by the U.S. Government, of the existence of a law on the American statute-books which permits any person to subscribe for the Government publication issued under the authority of the law.

As this law is so very little known, we give it in full, as follows:

"If any person desiring extra copies of any document printed at the Government Printing Office by authority of law shall, previous to its being put to print, notify the Congressional Printer of the number of copies wanted, and shall pay to him in advance the estimated cost thereof, and 10 per centum thereon, the Congressional Printer may, under the direction of the Joint Committee on Public Printing furnish the same."

Of the publications referred to above, we pick out, from among others, for which we have no space to spare; "Synopsis of the Fishes of North America," by Professor D. S. Jordan; "Bibliography of the Ichthyology of the Pacific Coast of North America," by Theodore Gill; "Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission," Vol. I.; "Report of the U. S. Fish Commission," Part 7; "Report on the International Fishery at Berlin, 1880, and on the present state of the Fisheries of Europe," by G. Brown Goode, Deputy Commissioner, and in connection with the Tenth Census. "A Report on the Present Condition and Past History of the Fishing Industries of the United States." This last-mentioned report promises to be a most elaborate affair, and we can only hope that its contents will be put to honest uses. But of this we have our doubts. There is an ominous ring in the concluding paragraph of Professor Baird's report which bodes little good to England in the future.

Speaking of the census fishery returns, he says:

"A very important corollary of this work is the information, it will furnish for use in any future arbitration between the United States and the British Provinces in regard to the value of its coast fisheries. It is well known that the cause of the United States, at the meeting in Halifax, in 1877, went almost by default in consequence of the absence of this information. While the Canadians possessed the fullest data on the subject of the fisheries, as the result of many years inquiry, the United States had nothing whatever, but what was gathered with special reference to the emergency. The results gathered in connection with the census of 1880 will, it is hoped, be tabulated and published by the time this is needed for diplomatic use, and it will be of inestimable advantage in strengthening any position that the American Government may take in reference to the nature of the American fisheries."

In fact, Professor Baird seems, as it were, to scent the coming fray;

"If it be not now, yet it will come;
The readiness is all." *Hamlet, Act V., Sc. 2.*

and no doubt the inspired incapables who at present hold the reins of Government in England will be found equally ready to settle all demands in the same disgraceful way as the Fortune Bay Fishery dispute was recently brought to an end.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS.—"The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"That what we have we prize not to the worth
While we enjoy it; but being lack'd and lost,
Why, then we rack the value; then we find
The virtue that possession would not show us."

—SHAKESPEARE.

On looking over a number of angling items received during the past week I find that most of the fish captured have been small in comparison to the "screamers" and "reamers" lost to sight, but to memory dear. This is perhaps well that it should be so, for it enables the angler to revisit the quiet nook in which he has lost a beauty, and live in hope, and not die in despair, of capturing the Triton that heretofore had escaped his wily snare. From Maple Durham I have it that Mr. J. Wilson on Monday caught some grand perch, but, of course, lost "the best fish of the day" whilst attempting to get my lord into the landing net. At Henley, Mr. Johnson, on one occasion during the past week, landed five jack; Mr. Day has also had some perch from Marsh Pool; Mr. Withome one jack 6 lb.; Monsieur Du Claret, with Parrott, a fine basket of roach and perch; Mr. Elcamb, also with Parrott, some excellent chub and perch, had legering. Mr. Barstow, with Rush, at the Hamble den weir pool, seven barbel, best going 7½ lb., and also four trout, going respectively 6 lb., 5½ lb., 3½ lb., and 3 lb., all of which were, of course, in a sportsmanlike manner, returned to their mother element, so anglers for April next make a big mem. of this. At Hurley, Mr. H. Thompson, nice takes of roach and gudgeon; Mr. Lee, 12 lb of roach; Mr. Harrison, a tench of 2½, and some roach; and another gentleman, an eel 3½ lb. Marlow, Cookham, and Maidenhead reports uninteresting. Thursday evening: River in slapping angling trim, the late rains having much improved it.—MARLOW BUZZ.

My last weeks report seems to have suffered from one of the ills that Mrs. Post is heir to, and had a miscarriage, but I trust that the offspring will not be still-born, but Siamese-like, will be alive and kicking in this week's issue of the GAZETTE. The Thames during the past week has been suffering from that *bête noir* of a windy initial, the E., and few piscators have ventured to do or to die—or, in other words, to catch fish or rheumatism. At Surley Hall, Bray, and Maidenhead, some decent takes of chub and roach have been had, but the fish have been very wary, and those to hand of small calibre. Cookham seems to be dormant after its gorge of jack a fortnight since, but Bourne-Endites have swallowed three jack, of 6 lb., 5½ lb., and 3 lb. respectively, besides some bushel of roach, since Sunday. At Hurley, Messrs. Lee and Harrison have again been nuts on the roach, and the advent of Mr. Barker and another piscatorial *confrère* is advised for Saturday, so chub look out, or woe betide ye! At Hambleton the name of the angler who took six trout (best fish 6lb.), two jack and thirteen barbel in one day, should have been Barmwell, and not Barstow, as I erroneously reported as above. I make this correction with the greater pleasure because the gentleman acted as a true sportsman, and carefully returned the trout, instead of acting the cormorant, as some would—in other parlance, the best fish would have been "too badly hooked" to return. Thursday evening—River bright, but the frosty nights are weakening and rotting the weeds. Grand sport will soon accrue amid the jack, perch, and chub if this weather continues. Wind N.W.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack and perch, roach dead off. Have been taking some good perch and jack, largest jack 6 lb., one perch, 2 lb., and four perch going 5 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now very low, and rain is wanted badly. Different gentlemen fishing with me three days; their takes have been but very little, owing to the cold north-east winds. First day: Mr. Innes took five barbel and a few roach; second day: Mr. Cooper, two dozen roach and two barbel; third day: Mr. George Palmer, one barbel, three chub and two roach. All taken legering.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Kingston).

The water is low and bright, fit only for perch, gudgeon, or chub; not much good if the wind stops in the North-East. I have seen two nice lots of chub, four in one lot, five in the other, all good fish, 3 lb. 14 oz., the best, I have got a few nice jack up to 7 lb. and some few others taken by private boats. This last few days the roach has not fed well, some of the gudgeon are very fine. Very little has been done from the banks. The water so low and clear. A few stray barble have been caught here and there. I should say perch or chub would be the best chance.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in splendid order for fishing now, and the fish is feeding much better than they have been for some time, the average take being from three to six dozen roach each day. The roach is a fair size now, but the dace have been off feed for over a week now; in fact their is only four or five caught each day, while roach fishing. There is no need to state the individual takes of each fisherman. We have to thank the Thames Angling Preservation Society for the way they have watched our waters during the holidays to save our fish from the men with nets.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water very low and clear. Not much prospect for the next few days. F. Purdue, two days, 9 dozen gudgeon and 1 dozen roach; T. Purdue, one day, 6 jack, the largest 6 lb.; H. Purdue, four days, 9 dozen roach and dace; a gentleman, spinning from his lawn, near Weybridge, took a jack 7 lb. 5 oz.; myself, two days, 5 dozen roach and dace and 5 barbel.—W. ROGERSON.

Ancholme.

The running-off of the water continues to be against the fishing, but the fine weather of the past week has been all that can be desired for coarse-fishing. My sons had a day on Friday last on one of the numerous feeders of the main stream. They had a large catch of roach and dace, many of the former coming well up to 1 lb. each. These were all taken with King's Natural Bait. They praised the new article very highly, saying it was no sooner in the water than the fish were at it. I hope to try it myself shortly amongst some large carp. Many of the trout fry from Scawby, placed in a small stream by Capt. Sutton, in addition to others put into small becks by myself, are finding their way into the main river. I am trying to move the authorities to purchase a supply of carp to improve this fishery. Pike do not seem to feed well as yet. I have tried both private and public fisheries of late, and have thus far caught nothing respectable. Is this a general complaint?—THOMAS FORD (Caistor.)

Dinsdale-on-Tees.

The last ten days have been most favourable for anglers. The fish have been passing upwards in large numbers, and the Dinsdale water has been in first rate order. The fish have been rising freely, and day by day Mr. Surtees and his friends have landed many fish. On Monday fourteen fish were laid out on the bank, which fell to the lot of two, Mr. Surtees and Mr. Straubenree. Several of these fish were of large size and in good condition, but one was covered with a large red scab. The pleasant and well-written article on the Tees, in your number of Sept. 17th, has interested us much in this locality.

Dove.

The present may be chronicled as almost a blank week. Little has been done amongst any kind of fish. The trout season is now at an end, and the fish are going up the brooks, where the poaching fraternity have already been busy amongst them. At the time of writing a cold east wind prevails, and grayling and jack, which should now be biting freely, are right off the feed. There has been no catch worth mentioning since I wrote last week. Several baitings have been put in for chub, bream and roach, but they have proved quite inoperative in bringing the fish together.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

The weather during the past week has been very fine. On Friday and Saturday there were a great many big fish caught, viz., cod, conger and ling. Some small boats had good catches of whiting, pout and pollack. Monday—all hands busy getting their boats ready for herring fishing, having heard there were five maize of herrings being caught in a boat at Clovelly, which is about 18 miles from Ilfracombe. Several boats started on Monday evening to try their luck, and others on Tuesday. They all returned again yesterday, having caught but very few herrings, mackerel and whiting. They say the water is too clear; it wants a breeze of wind to stir it up. Herrings are caught in this bay before we get them off here, and boats are able to have a good drift without fear of having their nets cut away with passing vessels fishing off Ilfracombe. They are obliged to keep a good look out as the vessels and steamers pass up and down within a mile or two of the land. There has been some fine fish caught with hook and line from the rocks off the Capstone Parade by the men after they leave work of an evening. They take their lines and bait, and amuse themselves fishing from the rocks for an hour or so. When they get a large fish it well repays them for their time and trouble. Weather fine, with good prospects for the next few days.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ponder's End).

Water, bright. Prospects, not very favourable. Not heard of any sport this week.—EDWARD DURBAN.

Norfolk.

Rodsters are still busy, owing in a great measure to the recent fine weather. Every waterside station has been besieged by all manner of anglers, and many are the good catches which have been had. To enumerate them all would be a tedious job, so numerous are they. Roach and bream fishers have been doing the trick this last week, and searchers for pike have been equally successful. Altogether piscators have had a most enjoyable season; there has been no lack of sport, and fish have been shown in large quantities. I should imagine there has been more roach killed this season than has been known for many years, for hardly a sportsman has gone out without returning with a full creel. Bream do not seem to be so prolific. The best catches have come from Reedham; very few having been taken at either Brundall, Buckenham or Cantley. With respect to the new fishing station shortly to be erected at Brundall, everything is progressing most favourably, and I think I may venture to say, 'ere I address you again, will have been commenced. Brundall—so near to Norwich—is as yet comparatively unknown to most people, for there is no place on the river where such charming scenery may be had, and as to the fishing, where is there another place with such facilities? Many are not aware that the proposed "new station" lies between two "broads," viz., Rockland and Surlingham, and what nurseries for the breeding of fish are these!—disturbed by no large craft and opening, as they do, upon the main river, fish cannot but thrive and multiply. Ample proofs of this have been seen during the past season, as the largest takes have come from this spot.—ANGLER.

Trent (Newark).

The water is in capital condition for all-round fishing; the weather has been very fine up to to-day. This morning there was a cold drizzling rain, to-night it looks very dull; but I think the prospects for sport are pretty favourable if the angler will only operate in a suitable swim. Roach have been taking gentles pretty fairly this week; Messrs. T. Sunman and W. Bulman having very good bags of those fish with the before-mentioned bait in a few hours last Saturday. The former had 42 fish and the latter 36, biggest fish 1½ lb., a very good lot, average weight about 10 oz. Gentles and cockspur worms will be found killing baits just now for roach and dace, and worms for bream. I saw an angler last Saturday kill half-a-dozen nice bream in a few minutes with brandlings. Chub are still taking the wasp grub.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye (Ross.)

The water is now in capital order for fly or gentle. Several nice dishes o

grayling have recently been taken. The salmon are very plentiful, but few fish have so far been taken. On Saturday, Mr. Hill, of Ross, rose five fish, but could not succeed in landing one.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Trout fishing closed with us on the 2nd inst., according to the Freshwater Fisheries Act, for this year, and taking the season all through we have had a very fair one, as both the fly, bottom, and trollers have all done fairly well on both rivers, and some very fine trout have been killed; also some very heavy baskets have been made both by visitors, natives and professional fishermen. Sport during the past week has been very fair, and baskets of from three to eight brace per angler have been made off both rivers with the artificial fly—the honey dun bumble, furnace dun, and little blacks all killing fish. Last Friday, the 30th inst., I had a day's fly fishing on the Wye, between Tilleford Bridge and Bakewell. I succeeded in killing seven brace of good-sized fish, in fact, I had four grayling that weighed over 4 lb., besides two trout of about 1 lb. each. The fish rose the best from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and I killed them in the tails of the streams—every fish was killed with the bumbles and furnace flies. I saw Mr. Francis Francis, of the Fields Fishery, who has been staying in Derbyshire for some time angling, and from what I saw myself, and from what I can learn his catches have been very small indeed, through him not having the proper flies to kill fish with, although large baskets were being daily killed off of both rivers during the time Mr. Francis Francis was fishing so unsuccessfully. Several anglers who have seen him fishing, myself included, think very little of his style of fly-fishing, especially him having such a name as he has. No doubt he is a good trout fisherman, but he has a very great deal to learn before he becomes an A 1 in grayling fly-fishing. I hope these remarks will not put him about, for if he had only done as I wished him to do, that is, wrote and told me when he was coming down into Derbyshire for a little fly-fishing, I would have gladly made him a present of a few flies, and if he could not have killed fish with them I would have gone and shown him myself how to have killed both trout and grayling with the same flies. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have killed some very large grayling and coarse fish during the week with cockspur worms and maggots. There have been a few pike killed on the Derwent, between Cromford and Ambergate, with small dace for bait, trolling, the fish running small.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

GOING INTO SPAWN.

JUST another week or two and the trout season of 1881 will be numbered with the buried dead. They are closing the chapter on some waters already, and for four or five months to come Master and Mistress Speckle will be honey-mooning. May their cup of happiness run right over. They have afforded enjoyment to thousands during the spring and summer, and surely they now deserve a turn themselves.

I have an idea that trout, like the high and mighty ones of earth, take their pleasures soberly, coolly. It seems to me that they rarely get into a frothy state of excitement. See the sedate style in which yon foot-long four-pounder comes up to the live minnow or gudgeon. He doesn't make a sudden rush like a bull at a gate, but calmly adapts his mind to the situation, swims in quite a dignified way up to his prey, and leisurely seizes it. His kinsman, the salmon, does precisely the same. Who ever saw a salmon take a fish in other than a right royal manner? He fully understands his power in the water, and never hurries himself. There his prey is—he saunters gracefully up to it, sucks, not grabs, it into his mouth, and quietly digests it, as if nothing whatever had happened.

I can't, in fact, help thinking that both trout and salmon are not only a cool but a philosophical race. Who knows that troutdom does not contain its Tupper's of proverbial celebrity—who can tell that there are not sages amongst the salmonidæ? Sir John Lubbock has shown that there is a wide world of wisdom in the common ant-hill, why not among the scaly denizens of the waters? From time immemorial, long before either Walton or Cotton wrote, the trout has been credited with prudence and subtlety. Who is there to tell how or to what extent those qualities may have been developed? This you may take for a certainty—troutdom has not stood still. That he has improved in prudence seems clear from the fact that, with all our cleverness in fly-tying, with all our ability in contriving spinning baits that beat the naturals into fits, yet friend Redback takes more catching now than ever he did in days of old. I am afraid our forefathers fishermen would have but a bad time were they to revisit "the pale glimpses of the moon," and commence the piscatorial attack with the weapons they wielded say a hundred years ago.

How the trout would laugh and turn up their noses! "Call that a fly?" some loquacious youngster would say, winking his left eye at his pals; "more like a flat catcher," and away the whole tribe would go to feed like mad a yard or two further on. All honour to our trout treasures that they have kept the march of progress, that they have so immensely advanced in wit and wisdom, and, with the instincts of maternity now becoming strong within them, may they beget a race as cunning as the very serpent! The more wary your takeable trout is, the better the genuine angler likes him—that is, so long as he is not quite wary enough to prevent the said genuine angler from taking an endect basket-full home.

G. T. GROVES.

FISHING IN NORFOLK.—Messrs. G. Yarde and H. Wilson continue to get fair sport in the neighbourhood of Martham. In addition to the 3½ lb. perch Mr. Yarde has secured, a fine pike of 16 lb., also taken spinning, and both anglers have had many other smaller fish—perch and jack. They find the King's Head Inn at Martham a comfortable place to stay at; board, lodging and attendance, good; charges, moderate.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

FISHING ON THE RIBBLE AND HODDER.

MR. W. RAMSBOTTOM, of 24, South John Street, Liverpool, the well-known pisciculturist, sends us the following account of his last week's sport on the Ribble and the Hodder:—Many of your readers will be pleased to learn that there is now good fishing to be had on the Ribble and Hodder. On Saturday week I went out on the Hodder at 4 p.m., and fished up to 10.30 p.m., and killed fourteen sea trout and eight brown trout. On the Monday I again went to work, and killed seventeen sea trout and sixteen brown trout. On Tuesday, at 11 a.m., I turned out on the Ribble for salmon fishing, but luck appeared to be against me. The first pool I fished I raised one salmon but could not hook it. In the next pool I raised other two salmon, but neither of them got hold, and after trying them over several times with change of flies, I left them to the next fisher, who might be more fortunate. At the next pool I was still more unfortunate. After fishing the pool over with the fly, I thought I would try the spoon bait. I had not thrown more than six times before I had hold of one, and out flew a new-run fish not less than 20 lb., but, sad to relate, the next run of the fish up flew my line, and away it went with three yards of single gut and one yard of twisted. There is no doubt when changing my fly for the spoon I trod on the line with the irons which are on my fishing clogs. After this I began to feel—well, many of my fishing friends will know how, having felt the same.

The next pool I pricked another, but only just felt it, but sufficient to prevent it from coming a second time. I then fished the pools back again, and in the last pool I hooked one, and for about twenty minutes I thought I had got hold of a monster. At the first run it took out 90 yards of line, and kept boring away on the far side of the river. For a long time I began to think I should never get it, but at last it gave way, and I was not much surprised to find I had hooked him by the back fin. When I saw the size of the fish, I brought him to the side, when a brother piscator who was with me attempted to gaff it. I say attempted, for he made a stroke at it, and only succeeded in frightening it, and off he went again. After some time I again brought it to the side, and cautioning my friend not to touch my line, he made a second attempt, struck the gaff into the tail of the fish, but with such force that the hook broke in the fish, and when my friend found that he had nothing but the handle of the gaff in his hand, his cry was 'It's gone!' and with that he rushed to try and get hold of it with his hands. But luckily for himself and me the fish was too quick for him, and in an instant it was fifty yards away. Had he broken my line with his bungling, I should have put down my rod and thrown him in, for I had got in that frame of mind with my bad luck that I should not have counted myself answerable for my actions. A third time I got it to the side, and this time it was safely landed, after a splendid run. It drew the scale at 16 lb. I now felt quite satisfied with my day's sport.

On Wednesday I killed one more, and hooked another and got it to the gaff, when the hook in the fish broke. I made a rush at the fish and struck at it with the butt of my rod, and then with my foot, but only succeeded in breaking the handle of my reel off, which put a stop to any more fishing that day.

I may just say before closing, that this fishing can be had within two hours' ride of Liverpool. You can take the 9 express from Exchange Station to Blackburn, which will run you down in an hour; then drive six miles to the De Tabley Arms Hotel, Rochester, where you are on your fishing ground. There is a salmon pool within 30 yards off the house, where I have killed many a good salmon. The house is well kept and very reasonable, and where you can get a ticket for fishing which costs you nothing. Any gentleman going over from now to the 1st of November may expect to meet with good sport if the weather be favourable.—*Liverpool Courier*.

THE FISH SUPPLY FROM THE THAMES.

IN 1828 a Mr. Goldham was the clerk or yeoman of Billingsgate Market. He stated before a Parliamentary Committee that in 1798 four hundred fishermen, each of whom was the owner of a boat, and employed a boy, obtained a good livelihood by the exercise of their craft between Deptford and London, above and below Bridge, taking roach, plaice, smelts, flounders, salmon, shad, eels, gudgeon, dace, soles, &c. So late as 1810 he had known instances of as many as ten salmon and 3000 smelts being taken at one haul up the river towards Wandsworth; and 50,000 smelts were brought daily to Billingsgate, and not fewer than 3000 Thames salmon in the season. Some of the boats earned £6 a week, and salmon was sold at from 3s. to 4s. a pound. Before the time this evidence was given this considerable Thames fishery has been all but entirely destroyed. Before the same tribunal masters of certain Dutch eel-ships stated that a few years before they could bring their eels alive in wells as far up the river as Galleon's Reach, a little way below Woolwich; but now (1828) they were obliged to stop at Erith, and thus had sustained serious losses from the noxious character of the water, which destroyed the fish. The increase of gas-works and of manufactories of various sorts, as well as of the matters discharged from the sewers, were the causes producing this result.—*City Press*.

THE NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1881.—At a meeting of the General Committee recently held at Mr. Howard Taylor's office, Norwich, it was resolved that the surplus receipts should be devoted to objects connected with fishing and fishermen, and the following grants were made:—Norfolk and Suffolk Fish Acclimatisation Society (in whose aid the exhibition was inaugurated), £400; International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, £200; £50 each to the societies for the preservation of the Yare, the Bure, and the Waveney; £20 each to the societies for the preservation of the Thet and the Ant; the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £25; the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, £25. The balance, £160, was reserved for the present.

EELS!

Concluded from page 469.

OF course eel culture is not to be pursued as one pursues the culture of trout. It is quite impossible to take the spawn-laden fish—even if it were easily recognized and readily captured—and artificially to express the ova and milt, and so complete the process of fertilization, as in the case of most other fishes. A pig with a greased tail is easier to hold by its caudal appendage, than is a healthy eel, and the reproduction of these fishes must therefore be left to nature, so far as the actual generative act is concerned. Nature can, however, be guided, and rendered subservient to a preconceived plan, and I am not quite sure that, in so far as our Isles are concerned, such governance will not be found the most expedient course in regard to even the *Salmonidæ*. But this admits of argument, though Mr. Buckland strongly favoured the idea in his late years.

The precise method to be adopted in individual cases cannot be determined here. Certain general rules for the guidance of intending eel-culturists can, nevertheless, be recalled with advantage. First and foremost, let the fact that the eel is a remarkably clean feeder be borne in mind. The suggestion that eels will devour human remains, which has been from time to time made and credited, probably originated with the undoubted fact that congers will do so. But there is absolutely no instance on record of such voracity in respect of the well-known fresh-water fish. I do not, of course, positively declare that such a thing has never occurred, because fresh human flesh is probably as palatable as fresh meat of any kind, but its rapid decomposition, together with its enwrapped condition—in a drowned person—renders such a repulsive conclusion extremely unlikely. Of fresh-cut offal of the purer sort, they must, however, be said to be extremely fond, and farinaceous food, such as oatmeal mixed with blood, is an extremely relished food for the eel, of a very fattening character. Mud, laden with sulphurated hydrogen, arising from decayed vegetation, render the fish of a very insipid, and even injurious quality.

A model eel-pond should be either paved with concrete, or puddled very hard with brick-maker's clay, over which a layer of gravel, free from sand, has been strewn, to the depth of say, six or eight inches.

In order to impress the importance of a clean receptacle for eels intended to be fostered for the table, let me mention one very certain fact, which applies also in a lesser degree to all fishes. The eel has the power of absorption very strongly developed, and I have by direct experiment convinced myself that the colour of the flesh and its flavour are as much influenced by colouring matters and pronounced by flavoured essences as is the colour of the silkworm's silk, which is fed on cochineal and mulberry leaves. It is said that the tumeric in the curries so inveterately eaten by Europeans in India, causes in great part the peculiar yellow hue of the skin of an Anglo-Indian, and I know that certain essential oils have the positive power of adding a strong tint to the eel, both to taste and smell.

To the aqua-culturist who is desirous of practically experimenting in the growing of eels, I would offer the advice that he select his stock from the captures of live eel fare so abundantly made on some of our tidal rivers—the Severn, for example, near Worcester. He would thus obtain them very young, and all about of a size, and he might very easily, in limited quarters, watch the gradual progress of their growth and general development, to the probable discovery of some very interesting facts of their natural history.

Of course, it need scarcely be said that no other fish, save minnows or very young fry should be introduced into any stream containing eels, and these ought not to be put in till the fish are of sufficient size to comfortably feed on them. The fresh-water shrimp and the larvæ of many insects, are to be sedulously encouraged, and a meal of fresh-shredded horse-flesh mixed with meal, or of worms turned in whole, ought to form the pabulum of the food necessary for rapid growth.

Personally, I am at present quite unable to practice what I preach, but from experience in the feeding and cleaning of eels in the past, I am sure what I have hinted at can be done. At any rate, I don't see why such a delicious and nourishing fish should not be nurtured and preserved with some of the intelligence we are devoting to the culture of the *Salmonidæ*.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a grand show of roach in the club-room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. Mr. T. R. Sachs and Mr. James Pattison—two of our best roach-fishers,

weighed in from the Hampshire Avon as their joint take 60 lb. weight of splendid roach, the three largest weighing 4 lb., and 4 lb. of dace. The anglers were warmly applauded by those present, and their healths drank in good style. It has been arranged for the second roach competition to take place on the 7th of November, the first prize being four guineas, the second prize three guineas, and one guinea for the best fish. As the members on this occasion will be permitted to fish in any public water, it is expected, if the weather and water is right, there will be a large exhibition of fish on the return of the competitors. The pike competition takes place on Monday week, and it is limited to the Thames. The Annual Supper, which always follows the pike contest, will come off on the following Monday, October 24th, in the club-room. There can be no doubt the new proprietor will do his best on the occasion, as he has already gained the good opinions of the members, who will be quite ready to appreciate his well-known talents as a caterer, on this, the first opportunity afforded him of giving satisfactory proof. B.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

(In Aid of the Funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society.)

AFTER seeing our note in last week's paper asking if any of our friends could suggest a good place for holding the fly and bait-casting tournament, Mr. Wheldon called on us and suggested that Mr. Warner's Fishery at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, would be as good a place as could be found. Other friends have since suggested the same place, and we think that, on the whole, it offers greater facilities than any other. It is close to town, accessible by rail from all parts. We have written to Mr. Warner, and feel sure he will give us every assistance in his power. If nothing prevents, we propose to fix Saturday, the 22nd of this month, that is next Saturday week, as the day for holding the affair. A notice will be sent to all angling clubs, and as the tournament promises to be a very interesting one, and is solely for the benefit of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, we sincerely hope it will be well supported by anglers. Club secretaries will aid us greatly if they will call special attention to it at their meetings. Messrs. Geen, Hoole, Keen, Ghurney, Bonvoisin, Morgan, &c., have kindly promised every assistance, and so has Mr. J. Spreckley, president of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, that Mr. W. H. Brougham will do so goes without saying—he always comes to the front in affairs of this kind. Many prizes have already been promised, and we doubt not others will be forthcoming. Some professional fishermen will, we expect be present, both from Thames and Trent, and we think that an opportunity of seeing what splendid casts can be made both in the Thames and Trent styles will be eagerly seized by all anglers who can possibly attend. The expenses and time of professional fishermen will be paid, and we shall be glad to have the names of any who will attend. Further particulars will appear next week, and any one wanting information should write to the Editor of this paper, 12, Fetter Lane, London.

Any anglers, angling clubs, or fishing tackle makers, who will be liberal enough to give prizes of any kind, are also invited to write to the Editor as soon as possible. Due acknowledgment of such liberality will be made in the GAZETTE.

UNFORTUNATE ANGLERS.

I HAVE been an angler on the river Thames for nearly thirty years, and officially connected with it for over two-thirds of that period of time. Death has made great inroads amongst many of my friends whom I knew thirty years ago, and whose memory will always live in my recollection. I may mention Messrs. W. H. Whitehead, Henry Farnell, H. D. Dean, John Johnson, G. T. Parson, Robert Hardwicke, R. M. Smyth, W. Withall, T. Sheaton, Stephen Ponder, Frank Buckland, H. L. Rolfe, &c. They have all wetted their last line and gone, it is hoped, to the better home above. These thoughts occurred to me on my way from Chertsey last Saturday, when the idea of an article on "Unfortunate Anglers" entered into my mind, and the reason I can give for this is that one of them to whom I shall presently refer was a true type of the class. There are to my notion two characters of anglers, which may be described as "Fortunate Anglers" and "Unfortunate Anglers," as well as two other classes "Good Anglers" and "Bad Anglers." Now, it is the "Unfortunate Anglers" I want to speak about this week, and I am frequently brought in contact with them, especially amongst a type of "Grumbling Anglers," although the one I am going to allude to was not by any means a grumbler, he felt it was not his fate to be lucky in angling. In this world we have men possessed

of a great variety of temperaments—some are easily discouraged, others are disheartened, and plenty cannot surmount a difficulty. I have heard men exclaim, after two or three unfavourable days on the river: "There is no fish in the Thames now—the water is literally fished out!" and yet there are those who are frequently recording exploits that would prove the reverse. The late Mr. R. M. Smyth was an ardent angler, and one of the most genial of men—a thorough English gentleman—and up to the time of his death a member of the Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. His remark in connection with fish was this, "It will never be my good fortune to have a day's good fishing." He used to try hard for it with his favourite fisherman, Fulker, of Sunbury. He has been with the famous Nottingham George, amongst the barbel swims. I am not going to speak about barbel, as I believe with my friend Mr. Keene, that fish has been literally fished out in the swims of the FISHING GAZETTE this season; but all I want to say is that even with those he could never make a good day. I did think he had a chance once. I invited him to have a day's perch fishing with me at Hampton when those fish were known to be on the feed, and he eagerly accepted the invitation. I made arrangements with William Milbourne, one of the best fishermen on the Thames, to let me know when there was a good chance, and the time did come. It was arranged that we should go to Hampton by a train reaching there at nine o'clock in the morning, but the day before my good friend, from a business engagement, found he would be unable to get to the swim before half-past ten, and begged that I would commence at the time originally fixed upon. I did not care about doing this, but he would have no nay in the matter, and I accordingly went to Hampton, where I found William Milbourne with his punt, waiting for us at the ferry opposite the Bell Hotel, the birthplace of the Thames Angling Preservation Society; and the house being noted for "good malt," I had very little difficulty in persuading Milbourne to have a taste. We were not long in getting to the swim in front of "Platt's ait," and as quickly got amongst the perch, catching them with the paternoster two at a time, and really good fish. We were just in the midst of the capital sport, when Mr. Smyth appeared in sight, coming towards us in a small rowing-boat, and myself ready to greet him on the coming prospects. On getting into the punt I informed him of our success in having in the hour landed four dozen fish. He was delighted, and it was not long before Milbourne rigged out his fishing tackle, whilst I was still getting the perch on my paternoster. It was a most remarkable circumstance, the moment he commenced fishing, the fish discontinued to bite, although we persistently tried for some time. "My old bad luck still continues," he exclaimed with a smile. There was no anger, no grumbling in the expression. The anxious fisherman then determined to change the swim, and in spite of this, and other changes in various places up to the "white pile," the fates were against him. The addition to the four dozen at the end of the day was only eighteen fish, making a total of thirty-three brace. I told him I did not want to take back with me a single fish, and he willingly accepted the entire take, as it would be a surprise to his amiable wife and daughters when he arrived home. When I saw him again, a few days afterwards, he related to me what he did, and I will give it in nearly his own words: "On my arrival home one of the servants came to the door—I gave her the fish, and told her to place them all nicely in a tray, and bring them into the drawing-room when I rang the bell. I then joined my wife and daughter, the former saying, 'Well, Robin, I suppose the same old luck.' 'Yes, my dear,' I replied, and I was then asked to let them see what I had really done. I rang the bell, and when the servant came in with the large tray of fish, the scene is better imagined than described—they were delighted enough, and soon sent some of the fish round to our neighbours, who gladly accepted them." The late Mr. R. M. Smyth was not only a true example of an "Unfortunate Angler," but he bore his bad fortune with exemplary patience, and that is not the case with all of that class. I remember an angler some years ago who was an "Unfortunate Angler," and he gave up fishing altogether—withdrew his support to the protection of the Thames, and I do not think he has fished in it since. Now, there are two important qualifications, as a rule, to make good and successful anglers, and those are patience and perseverance, but as there is "no rule without an exception," it was not so with the late Mr. Smyth—he possessed both patience and perseverance, and therefore he must have been a naturally "Unfortunate Angler." Still, my maxim is, persevere. I would encourage all "Unfortunate Anglers" to perseverance. There is an old saying, "It is a long lane that has never a turning," and I thoroughly believe in it. I also believe, with most men, there is a time in their life "Which, taken at the tide, leads on to fortune." Let these maxims be perseveringly studied by "Unfortunate Anglers," and patiently wait the happy issue.

B.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the West Central Association was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, on Friday evening, September 16th, Messrs. Bonvoisin and Beckett occupying the chair and vice-chair respectively. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, two new Angling Societies, viz., the Acton and Ealing and the Peckham Perseverance, each numbering already upwards of a score of members, were enrolled on the books of the Association.

Mr. Hoole then read the minutes of the last meeting of the Association Working Committee. By these it appeared that he had been empowered to write to Captain Etheridge, warmly thanking him on behalf of the thousands of anglers—whom the Association represents—for the prompt action taken by him to frustrate the intended netting of the Thames by a person named Phillips, residing near Abingdon, who had hired a well-known gang of Oxford netters to do the job. In consequence of complaints of members of angling societies lending their tickets to their friends, the Committee have authorised the printing and circulating of the following notice:—

"West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies. Important Notice.—It has been reported that certain anglers are in the habit of lending their privilege cards to their friends for the purpose of obtaining the anglers' cheap tickets. Complaint is also made that cheap tickets are obtained for certain stations, the anglers travelling to some other station to which the concession is not granted, and there tendering the difference in fare. The Committee beg to remind their members that gaining these grand concessions has cost a very great deal of time, trouble and expense; and that infractions of our agreement with the different railway companies, if not stopped at once, will lead to the withdrawal of the concessions altogether, therefore the Committee have determined to prosecute any member detected infringing the rules of the Association.

"It must be distinctly understood that under no pretence whatever is a member allowed to lend his card to another person, not even to a fellow member, and further be it understood, the tickets are only available at the stations named upon them, if presented at any other they will be cancelled, and the full ordinary fare charged from the starting point.

"The booking clerks have strict instructions to detain any privilege card presented by two persons, and they are not permitted to issue two tickets to one person unless two privilege cards be presented; if any abuse of the privilege be detected, the case will be reported at once.

"A reward will be paid to any person or persons giving such information as shall lead to the conviction of any member or members infringing these rules. The Committee are determined to put a stop to practices that jeopardise the great boon enjoyed by nearly 10,000 anglers.

"Secretaries are particularly requested to read the rules (printed upon the back of the privilege card) to each member before handing it over.

"All communications to be addressed T. HOOLE, hon sec., Mortlake, S.W."

In several cases reported to them by the London and South-Western Railway Company, where tickets had been lent to friends, or to brother members, the Committee deemed it expedient in the interests of the many, and in strict accordance with the terms printed upon the back of the card, to cancel the tickets, and expel the offenders from the Association. The action taken by the Committee met, it is almost needless to say, with the unanimous approval of the general meeting. An auditor was then elected for the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. Crumplen, Hon. Sec., Gresham Angling Society, was elected to serve on the Committee of the Anglers' Benevolent. Some routine business was then gone through, and a vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair closed the meeting.

Since the above I regret to add that two other cases of lending privilege tickets have been reported by the South-Western Railway Company—one has been considered by the Committee the offence admitted, and the offender been treated as in previous cases—the other remains to be investigated by the Committee on Friday evening next. The whole thing is getting serious, and it is to be hoped the publicity given to it in the GAZETTE and other papers together, with the notices which have been sent to every club, tackle shop, &c., will open the anglers' eyes to the serious nature of the offence some of them are committing, often from sheer want of thought.

From the Thames, at Chertsey, Haslett, has lately been having good sport, as may be judged from some of the following items: Fishing at the Weir, with Mr. Allen, 27 bream, weighing 75 lb.; with Mr. Godwin, 7 bream, 22 lb.; next day with same gentleman, 5 bream, 18 lb. and one perch; four hours with Mr. Allen, 3 bream, 9 lb.; 2 barbel, 7 lb.; and perch. Since the cold wind has set in, Haslett writes "my report is not very good, but I suppose with this cold north wind blowing, that will be a general cry. Three days fishing, 13 bream, and 1 barbel 3 lb.; best bream, 5 lb.

On Friday the wind veered round to its present wintry quarter; on Saturday, Mr. P. Geen, who lives at Addlestone, near Chertsey, had the double pleasure of entertaining Mr. Thomas Spreckley as guest, and afterwards of piloting him to a good take of barbel, &c., estimated at over 30 lb. While Mr. Spreckley was playing the first good fish, Mr. Geen who was waiting with the landing-net ready, noticed the spare rod all but overboard owing to the violent tugging of another leather-nosed gentleman, of course, he dropped the net and seized the rod, but unfortunately the net fell outside the punt and went swirling down stream. Of course, to unmoor, drop down, and fish for it would

in all probability have meant spoiling the swim for the rest of the day, so all the fish were landed by Mr. Geen, who never fishes himself when he has a friend down (with his hands). Some good bream and jack have, I hear, been taken lower down the river, about Walton. The bank-fishing in the Upper Thames is about as bad this year as possible, owing, of course, to the extreme lowness and brightness of the water. Twelve members of the North Western fished at Pangbourne on the 2nd, for a series of prizes. Several of the competitors never had a bite all day, and the prizes were in nearly all cases taken with one or two fish. Mr. Secretary Hill would surely have secured one of these trophies had he not left his spectacles at home.

The painting kindly promised by Mr. Greville Fennell is finished, and will be handed over to the committee of the Angler's Benevolent shortly.

For giving all possible particulars as to baits and tackle, &c., used to secure the good takes of fish that come under my notice, I have been severely talked to by several gentlemen who honour me with their friendship, and who have hinted that unless I mend my ways in this respect, the usual weekly notes will not be forthcoming. Now, the very fact of a few selfish individuals objecting to their being published has proved to me clearly that these particulars are of some use to the many. So by way of answer and just to show I am past reforming in this respect, I this week send our editor a short article about Elstree reservoir which I have striven to make as practically useful as possible.

The monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee took place on Monday evening, 3rd, at the Baldhead Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, Mr. R. Ghurney, the secretary, said that now the excursion season was nearly over, he thought the time had arrived when the Great Eastern Railway Company might be asked to receive a deputation concerning the granting of further privileges on their line. A list of stations being then read, the meeting approved of this course, and Mr. Hoole and Mr. Ghurney are to arrange further, so that the application may come jointly from both associations. Mr. Ghurney made a few remarks on the complaints from the South-Western Railway, and a notice similar to the above (excepting, of course, heading and signature) was distributed by him to the delegates present. Mr. Ghurney then announced the retirement of Mr. Herbert Poole from the post of trustee to the association, owing to the state of his health, which was such as to interfere with his discharging the duties of the office, simple as they were. Mr. Poole has filled the office for many years, and it was with regret the delegates heard of his retirement, the secretary being unanimously empowered to write and forward him a hearty vote of thanks and sympathy. Mr. Manning was then duly elected to replace Mr. Poole as trustee. In the place of Mr. Bick, resigned, Mr. Phillips, of the Great Northern Brothers, was elected to be one of the river Lea bailiffs (subject, of course, to the Conservancy's approval). The distribution of several prizes won at the recent delegates' competition at the Rye House, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

From the Lea the reports are very meagre indeed. From the Fish and Eels, Broxbourne, a few jack, taken by the members of the "United Anglers," who rent the water—or rather, I should say, the land. One or two takes of roach from "Ye Olde Rye House," and at St. Margaret's, anglers nearly as thick as the oft-quoted "leaves in Vallambrosa," or anywhere where there are trees, for the matter of that just now. At Ware, some good creels of dace have been made and—"tell it not in Gath"—a trout of 4 lb. Was it returned? Well, I don't know. My correspondent asks the same question, then adds, significantly, "Perhaps it bled too much." From Broxbourne, a few good fish; but they wanted a lot of coaxing.

Another legal fight on at Waltham. The Government ask for time (? is this a sign of weakness). Hearing adjourned for a fortnight.

From the Stort, plenty of fish (roach), but alas! for the quality.

The Society of Caxtonian Anglers, the Falcon, Gough Square, have their house warming on Friday evening next, of which I hope to say a few words in my notes next week.

Mr. Lancaster showed me, the other evening, the 4 lb. perch taken in Northampton reservoir. It has been capitally set up, and will be exhibited for some time at Mr. Gee's the fishing tackle maker, of St. Andrew Street, Bloomsbury.

Bitter complaints from the present proprietor of that portion of the Colne at Wraysbury lately known as "Heath's water."

The filth from the paper mill is said to be poisoning all the fish. Many years ago, the same complaint was made, and not without reason, as in one day two large cart loads of dead fish were taken away. And after the pellet of white paste on the hook had been immersed a little while, it would, if withdrawn, be found covered with a thin coating of this stuff.

I have the above on the authority of Mr. P. Geen, than whom no man knows the water better.

I suppose things mended after a row had been made. Now they are apparently as bad again. All this goes into the Thames, be it remembered, and above the intakes of the several water companies. What do the Conservators intend doing?

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. WARD.—Try the Welsh Harp, or Elstree Reservoir, or Dagenham Reach.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE TURN OF THE TIDE.

SIR,—While waiting for the turn of the tide, I am always seeking for a reason to account for the fish not biting during the flood and rise of tide. Directly it is flood, not only does a loss of appetite appear among the fish, but also a change of position, for they are seen in hundreds jumping about on the top of the water, while before the flood they were biting well close to the bottom. That they will not bite again till the fall of the tide I am quite satisfied, as I have tried with all kinds of bait at different depths, but always with the same unsatisfactory result. While fishing with one of Mr. Perrin's obliging men at Twickenham last Friday, in answer to my question as to whether he had yet solved the difficulty; he replied as follows:—

"Well, sir, I have been thinking it over ever since you were last here, and I come to the conclusion that the fish at flood time are just like a lot of children let out from school. They have been hard at work for twelve hours, swimming against the stream, picking up their living, and when there is no stream to fight against, they take it out in a holiday, jumping for joy."

Well, I think there may be a good deal in this; but still, the quiet stream during flood does not last more than twenty minutes at most, while it is not until the fall of the tide—quite two hours after—that the fish will again feed.

I am referring, of course to the tidal waters of the Thames; but whether other rivers have the same peculiarities, I am unable to say.

If, Mr. Editor, you can furnish me with the information I seek, I shall indeed be grateful. Should you, however, at the moment, not have the necessary news at your fingers' ends, if you will kindly allow this letter to appear in your paper to solicit an answer from some of your numerous readers, I shall feel quite obliged.—I am, &c.,
A CONSTANT READER.

London, Oct. 1.

[We have noticed on the Yare that the fish do not bite quite so well when the tide is turning. We fancy it is because they are, so to speak, all "at sea" until they feel the stream on them again. At slack water they must be swimming about in every direction, like pond fish, and the uncertainty may create slight fear, which would account for their not biting. Perhaps the bottom of the Thames gets stirred up and sickens them a little—but we give it up, and wait to hear what Mr. Keene has to say.—ED.]

MINNOW TRAP.

SIR,—I have "Burgess'" shilling book on angling, and at page 29, chapter 12, is shown a figure of a bottle cut diagonally from the bottom, which is sunk in a stream as a minnow trap. Can any of your readers say where these bottles may be obtained?—I am, &c.,
J. A. KELLY.
2, St. Anne's Terrace, Exeter.
Oct. 4th, 1881.

A TEN POUND PERCH!

DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in forwarding a description of what seems to me a curiosity, as an extraordinary sized perch, which I saw in the comfortable smoke-room at Host Gregory's, The Cross Guns, King's Heath, Birmingham (one of your numerous correspondents). It is well preserved, looking like life. Length, 27 inches; girth, 18 inches; weight 10½ lb., caught in Burton Broads about ten years since.

To any of your readers who may happen to be in the neighbourhood of King's Heath, it would be worth a visit to see the monster.—I am, &c.,
Eliza Cottage, Chandos Road, Stratford, E.
P. F. DAVIS.
October 4th, 1881.

[What a whacker!—ED.]

HOW TO PRESERVE AND WHERE TO GET WASP GRUBS.

SIR,—If "Angler" will take the grubs that are covered out of the cake alive, and place them in a bottle containing pure Scotch whiskey, he will find that he can preserve them for a long period if he keeps the bottle air-tight. I saw some a few days ago that were perfectly white and fresh, although they had been five years in a bottle.—I am, &c.,
J. W. M.

[We hope "Pixie" will let Mr. J. Haydon, of Coleman Street, Camberwell, know this. Mr. Haydon supplies wasp grubs we believe.—ED.]

THE BRUNDALL FISHERY STATION ON THE YARE.

SIR,—Having noticed with much pleasure the accounts of the formation of the above in your issues of the last two weeks, I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the promoters of the scheme upon their undertaking. Well knowing the spot, I am certain that it must repay them for their outlay.

It is a want that has been felt for some time past, and one that ought to meet with the approbation of all.

Many can testify to the inconveniences they now experience at the various houses on the river, where boats &c. are kept, and also to the bad arrangements usually met with.

I trust the idea will go on and prosper, and hope before long to be allowed to become a shareholder.

I therefore wish Messrs. Flowers and Co. may have the support of all, as I am certain they deserve it.—I am &c.,
WALTER HAMMOND.
Victory Angling Club, Norwich.

THE RIVER WEY.

SIR,—Having for some time past an inclination to try the above river, which was further strengthened on reading the letter of your correspondent in last week's issue, I took train from Charing Cross to Shalford, which lies between Guildford and Godalming.

On reaching the village I found the water (owing in some measure to a recent rainfall) the colour of coffee, and clouded here and there with a sort of milky soap.

I noticed, moreover, numerous particles of mysterious brown matter being brought down by the stream, the nature of which I was more intimately acquainted with further on. The prospect was not good, and in ordinary circumstances I should have turned back, but when one has travelled forty miles to fish a water it is hard to go back without wetting a line; so, hoping, as it were, against hope, I got into a boat at the wharf, and pulled up stream towards the Flour Mill's. The bloated body of a dead dog detained in the stream by an overhanging willow did not inspire, nor was I subsequently cheered by passing a deceased kitten on an aquatic expedition.

On arriving at the junction of the mill stream with the navigation cut, I tied up the boat and cast out a leger in the hope of tempting some of the large bream the river was said to contain. Finding a peculiar motion on the line I drew it up, when, to my horror, the gut trace was a perfect necklace of filth; at every joint of the gut was a slimy substance from the size of a pea to that of a walnut, even the maiden lob at the end was soiled with this sewage compound. Having with difficulty cleared the line, for the nasty stuff adhered most tenaciously to it, I threw in again and again, but always with the same result, until, in disgust, I gave it up altogether, and took to float-fishing. But that turned out no better, for my nice white bunch of gentles came up covered with mud, and each shot was the nucleus of a mass of filth. The water now beginning to drop disclosed shoals of black mud and roots of trees covered with slime, which, becoming offensive to the nose, fairly drove me away, and I fled home by an earlier train than I originally intended, a wiser and a sadder man.—I am, &c.,
A THAMES ANGLER.

Sept. 27.
[Advice to anglers who do not know the Wey: keep a-wey!—ED.]

THAMES PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—Being an ardent angler, and holding office in two societies, numbering over one hundred members, I trust you will spare a small corner in your valuable paper for these few lines. I have heard on several occasions that Richmond is fished out; my late takes at that beautiful spot proves the contrary. I am afraid, however, unless the members of angling societies raise their voices, it will soon be "netted" out. At my frequent visits of this season it has been proved to me that men (not anglers) with boats and nets are in the habit of getting large quantities of fish at night, and I think this unlawful practice should be put a stop to. How is it to be done? The solitary river-keeper has no power to prevent it; single-handed, he cannot do it. Why is he not provided with assistants, as I believe he used to be? Surely, the practice being an illegal one, there should be better protection for the river than a solitary man, and some means taken to prosecute the poachers.

Trusting some more able pen than mine will take the matter up,—I am, &c.,
J. BOALCH, sec., Walworth Waltonians.
203, Old Kent Road.

CANTLEY FOR ROACH.

SIR,—My object in writing is to let your readers know where really good roach fishing may be obtained, if they happen to be staying either at Yarmouth or Lowestoft. I went out one day this week with J. Burroughs, of Lowestoft, and in three hours we had the pleasure of taking forty-two roach in splendid condition. The average weight was 10 ozs., the heaviest being 12 ozs.

Cantley station is within five minutes of the river, and on the river's bank is an hostelry, where the angler is treated well, I can strongly recommend Burroughs, whose address is 25, Chapel-street, Lowestoft. His charge is moderate. He is very attentive and a genuine lover of the rod.—I am &c.,
J. BATTERBURY.

LIVE BAIT FOR JACK.

SIR,—Owing to the report under the heading of "the Richmond Piscatorial Society" that there is no live bait to be had anywhere, we beg to say that, having had a stock in, we have been able to supply jack fishers with live bait for the past fortnight. Any of the London anglers requiring bait should send to
GAYNOR AND SON,
Fishing Tackle Makers,
10, Royal Terrace, Richmond, Surrey.

A ROD FOUND.

On Sunday night I found a rod, &c., on the platform of Peckham Rye Station, London, Chatham and Dover Railway. I handed it to one of the officials to take to the cloak room.—Yours, &c.,
E. FRENCH.
October 4.

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

STOLEN

From the club-room of the above society on Tuesday, September 27, a fine specimen of a preserved bleak, in a square case, formerly the property of the late William Batho (whose name is in the case), and was caught in the river Mole. A reward of ros. will be paid on the recovery of the fish, and the conviction of the thief or thieves.—T. WORLEDGE.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sept. 28th, quarterly night. Distribution of prizes: R. Smith, a cup presented by Mr. A. Shakel; C. Daniels, a cup, presented by Mr. A. West; A. Glass, two prizes, a lamp, presented by Mr. Hall, and teapot, presented by the worthy host; A. Shakel, two prizes, a silver mustard pot, and dinner service, presented by Mr. W. Streeton; W. Streeton, two prizes, a pair of pictures, presented by Mr. B. C. Booth, and carving knife and fork, presented by Mr. Glass; A. Bowling, two prizes, a shade of fruit, presented by Mr. Timkins, and set of tea trays; Mr. Pierneccini, a cup, presented by Mr. W. Streeton; H. Scott, a walking-stick, presented by Mr. Marks; Mr. Hall, a set of hot-water jugs; B. C. Booth, a lamp, presented by Mr. D. Lestan. On Sunday, October 2nd, several members weighed-in. R. Smith, bream; H. Scott, bream; W. Streeton, roach; A. Shakel, roach and dace.—A. SHAKEL.
Oct. 5, 1881.

ANGLERS PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club went to Boxmoor on Sunday last to fish for three valuable prizes, with the following result:—T. Fiddes first, W. Dawe

second, H. Mallett third; T. Wall, W. Hayes, J. Jones, J. Soah, J. Deeley jun., J. Deeley, sen., H. Hines, and E. Austin also weighed in fish.—T. MAR SHALL, sec.

Oct. 4th.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION.

The competition of the 2nd of October came off very satisfactory, all prizes were taken. Mr. Olive first, with roach; Mr. Anscombe, second with roach; Mr. Heathorn, third with roach; Mr. Coop, fourth with roach; and Mr. Cardy, fifth with roach and dace. Mr. Croskey went to the Adur and banked a carp, 4 lb. 13 oz., also breaking away with two more larger fish. The prizes taken on the 18th of September were distributed among the winners, and a good sprinkle of donations came to hand for ensuing competitions. The waters in the Ouse and Adur are getting in a good condition; cold wind from the west.—GROUND BAIT.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, our members fished a pegged-down match for seven prizes in the Stort, near Roydon station. The takes were small, owing to the water having been drawn down a few days before. Mr. Mortimer, first; Mr. J. Chambers, second; Mr. Perry, third; Mr. Payne, fourth; Mr. Hales, fifth; Mr. Hobbs, sixth; and Mr. Mark, seventh. A quarter of an ounce only between first and second. Messrs. Hatfield, Fowler, Castell, P. Parkin, and Blackwell also had fish.—CAS.

CLUB MATCH.

A match was arranged on Wednesday at the Swan, Old Kent Road, to be fished in the River Lee on the 16th inst., between Mr. George Taylor, of the Friendly Citizens, and Mr. R. Smith of the Anchor and Hope, for the greatest weight of fish taken on that day, with one rod and line, to be pegged down, and change swims every two hours, for a stake of £3.—GEORGE G. TAYLOR.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, October 2, when a very nice show of roach, perch and dace was placed on the trays by Messrs. Bunn, Nunn, Venour, Eagles, Slade and Fortescue.—S. MALBY, sec.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a poor show of fish on Sunday last, Mr. Theobald having the heaviest weight, 5 lb. 5 oz. of roach from the Wey. Mr. Parkin, 3 lb. 15 oz.; Messrs. J. A. and J. K. Fitch also had roach and dace from the Wey. Messrs. Reynolds, Young, Baker, and Stanmer, roach from the Colne. W. Watling and J. Warren roach from the Thames. The next Central Association return visit will be paid to the above society on Tuesday, Oct. 10th.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.
Oct. 4.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first meeting of this society, in their new rooms at the City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopgate Street Within, on Thursday evening, was highly successful, and their large meeting room was crowded. Mr. C. S. Bentley in the chair. Mr. Brougham, representing the Thames Angling Preservation Society, was present, and after some remarks by the chairman and others, made an effective speech on behalf of that association, his remarks being heartily endorsed by the meeting. This was perhaps the most important meeting ever held by an angling society, both from the number and influence of the gentlemen present. The evening was thoroughly piscatorial, and one in which we can imagine our dear old Isaac would have rejoiced. Messrs. Francis and George Austin Aveling, E. Bennett, Boden, Cartwright, Crumplen, Harding, Jardine, Pellant, and others sang, all of whom were highly appreciated for their artistic rendering of their several songs. Messrs. Winterbottom, Woods, and another gentleman accompanied on the piano, and their masterly performances (notably Mr. Winterbottom, who is known as a successful composer), contributed largely to the evening's success. Mr. Jardine's songs were also enjoyed, and that gentleman's collection of fish, lent with others for the Museum, added considerably to the attractions of the evening. The chairman proposed that, considering the circumstances, a collection should be made on behalf of the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, and the sum of £2 was promptly subscribed, which was further supplemented, on the motion of Mr. Parker, by £3, unanimously voted from the society's funds. Mr. Field having returned many thanks for this, the largest contribution yet made by a society to the Anglers' Benevolent Fund, several songs followed. The proceedings closed with more than hearty thanks to the chairman, and a grand rendering of the National Anthem, the whole audience upstanding.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Thursday, September 29, a visit took place to the above club, when seventeen societies were represented, and considering the short notice the attendance was more than was anticipated—the large room being crowded. The chair was taken by Mr. Hoole, faced by Mr. Packman, who carried out their duties in a most able manner. Among the vocalists may be mentioned Messrs. Gatward, Packman, Sutton (Clapham Junction), Dixie (Golden Barbel), Chambers, Burgess, Lumby, Robson, Penney, and a member from Hampstead. The show of fish was very meagre, Mr. Hoole being the only member having a fish of any size. On Sunday only two weighed-in, viz., Messrs. Peachey and Hitchcock—takes nothing worth reporting.—VORTEX.

The No. 1 District visit of the London and Provincial Angling Society, was held at their club house on Thursday, 29th ult., Mr. T. Hoole in the chair, faced by Mr. W. Packman. The meeting was a decided success, there being nearly 150 piscatorials present. The following societies were represented: Cambridge, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Norfolk, Golden Barbel, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, Marylebone, Prince of Wales, Waltonians, Westbourne Park, Clapham Junction, Princess of Wales, Portsmouth, and Acton and Ealing. The following gentlemen contributed largely towards the enjoyment of the evening: Messrs. Reynolds, Robson, Star, Gatward, Penny, Dixie, Reeves, Burgess (twice), Toms, Chambers, Chebelier, Peirce, Bushbridge, Lumby, &c. This society possesses a splendid room, which adds materially to the success of a harmonic meeting, and the host, Mr. W. Green, bought a new piano for the occasion. Altogether the meeting was a treat to everybody. Mr. Hoole read the notice issued by the West Central Association, London and Provincial, in reference to the abuse of the railway privileges, and impressed upon every member to do all in his power to assist the Committee in putting a stop to it.—TENCH.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. Hilliar, sen., had some nice perch on Wednesday 5th inst.; Mr. J. Hilliar, jun., had roach and perch; Mr. G. Bliss showed dace. Three special prizes will be fished for on Sunday 9th inst. at Boxmoor. Three special prizes given by Messrs. J. Hilliar, sen., G. Bliss, and T. Dennison, sen., will be fished for on Wednesday 19th inst., all fish weigh; members to choose their own fishing water. Mr. E. W. Turner will give a prize value 10s. 6d. for the heaviest weight of chub, taken on the first two Sundays in November. Mr. T. Dennison, jun. will give 10s. 6d. for the heaviest weight of any kind (bar chub) taken on the same days.

THE LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed in on Sunday evening—Mr. G. Letch, jack; Mr. Mead, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Petrie, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Grey, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Heelas, perch and gudgeon; Messrs. Scott, Humphreys, and Doyle, perch and roach.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting was held on Thursday evening, the 29th ult., and a goodly number of members attended. The treasurer's account of receipts and payments, showing a balance of £31 odd to the credit of the association, was read by the hon. secretary, and, on the motion of Mr. Sergenson, was cordially and unanimously adopted. The prize list to date, amounting in value to £15 10s., was also read, and a number of prizes presented to the winners. In this list appear the following names as donors.—T. Pavis, Esq., (president), £1 1s.; T. W. Haigh, Esq., £1 1s.; Messrs. Ellinger and Boulding, fishing jacket, £1 15s., and fishing boots, £1 4s.; Mr. W. Jones (treasurer), aquarium, value £2 2s.; Mr. E. Chandler, fern case, value £2 2s.; Mrs. W. Jones, pair of opera glasses; Mr. F. Schmidt, spirit flask; and Mr. T. J. Avann, cigar holder. The prizes for the next competition in the Vyrnwy, at Llanymynech, on October 13, were also decided upon, and amount in value to £5 5s.; and the date of the annual dinner was fixed for Tuesday, November 8. Three guineas was also unanimously voted to the hon. secretary as some recognition of his efforts for the success of the association, which object the members considered as now assured. Anglers should join without delay, as, when the association has secured suitable water, the entrance fee, now fixed at 5s., will, without doubt, be considerably raised.—RD. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

Oct. 4.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The members of the above fished for the second time this season at Pangbourne for a series of prizes, Mr. Smith taking first prize, Mr. W. Roxbee second, Mr. Billings third, Mr. Lancaster, jun., fourth, and Mr. Wynn fifth. Mr. Underwood also had four nice jack from Elstree weighing 16lb. in the aggregate.—F. HILL, sec.

October 5.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

There were several good takes of fish on Sunday last, Mr. Neagus with roach from the Stort; Messrs. Long, L. Gorsuch, perch from the Thames; Messrs. Laundry, Lucy, jun., and Richardson, roach and bream from Pulborough; Mr. Obbard had also chub and roach. Mr. T. Longman was the winner of the monthly (Mr. Wright's) prize. Mr. Morris, late of the Pegasus, Green Lanes, is the proprietor of the White Hart, Aylesbury Street.—T. W. LUCY, sec.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. Blackledge, roach and perch; Mr. Newton, one jack, 4½ lb.; Mr. Fligh, roach; Mr. E. Dymond, dace and roach; Mr. C. Hewett, roach; Mr. E. Brockett, roach.—E. DYMOND.

October 4.

SALFORD FRIENDLY ANGLERS' SOCIETY.

The members of the above society held their annual contest on Saturday, September 17, in the canal at Barton, for twenty-one prizes, kindly contributed by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Baxter, Blackburn, Whitnall, Robinson, Clare, Hopkinson, Sturmeay, Bassett, Thornton, Greenlees, Watson, Whitehead, Kelsall, Woodhouse, Howarth, and Thomas, sen., with the following result:—1st, Mr. Vipond, eight day clock; 2nd, Mr. Walker, tea service; 3rd,

Mr. Scinor, a ham; 4th, Mr. Wainwright, sen., bed-room service; 5th, Mr. Gribble, timepiece; 6th, Mr. Kelsall, copper kettle; 7th, Mr. Hare, timepiece; 8th, Mr. Lamb, copper kettle; 9th, Mr. Wainwright, jun., copper kettle; 10th, Mr. Lawton, knives and forks; 11th, Mr. Fletcher, copper kettle; 12th, Mr. Driver, silver teapot; 13th, Mr. Platford, box of cigars; 14th, Mr. Court, a book; 15th, Mr. Overton, spoon; 16th, Mr. Ogden, set of jugs; 17th, Mr. Eccersley, angler's outfit; 18th, Mr. Tate, bait can; 19th, Mr. Abrams, set of jugs; 20th, Mr. Aspin, tobacco box; 21st, Mr. Ashworth, purse. On the following Wednesday evening the members met at the club house, the Ring o' Bells, Bury Street, Salford, where the prizes were distributed, and a substantial supper provided by the host, Mr. Mark Baxter.—JOHN ROYLE, sec.

ST. JOHN'S.

Some of our members fished for prizes on Sunday, the 2nd, but as the water was so bright and with a strong east wind the takes were small. Mr. C. Fudge, first, with roach and dace; Mr. Leach, roach; Mr. Rushton, roach; Mr. Winch, roach; Mr. Reynolds, chub; Mr. Mathews, roach; Thorling, roach; all from Cookham. On Monday the 3rd, the half-yearly dinner took place at the Club-house, thirty members sat down to the excellent catering of our worthy host, Mr. H. Gill. After dinner, Mr. Pledge occupied the chair; Mr. Thorling, the Vice-chair, with Mr. Cox at the piano. Some first-rate songs were sung by members and visiting clubs in the course of the evening. Five more prizes were given for this month, that making in all for this month, ten prizes.—F. THORLING.

October 5, 1881.

UNITED BROTHERS

Fished a peg-down match at West Drayton on the 25th ult., for five valuable prizes, each prize being taken. J. Warren, first; J. Eller, second; W. Tyler, third; H. Tyler, fourth; G. Belton, fifth.—W. J. M.

Oct. 3.

WALTONIANS.

On September 28th we had a show of grayling 5 lb. 12½ oz. The largest fish 2 lb. 4 oz., and the second 1 lb. 13¾ oz., were presented to the club by Mr. Brady, the gentleman that took them. They are to be preserved by Cooper, and will be an interesting addition to the capital selection of specimens possessed by the Waltonians. Mr. Burton had a show of nice roach from the canal at Boxmoor, 3 lb. 9½ oz. Messrs. Dodge, sen., and Read also weighed-in fish on Oct. 2nd. Messrs. Good, jun., Roland, Jos. Moore, Crabb, J. Dodge, Bradley, and Malcom also weighed-in. The takes, with the exception of Mr. J. Dodge, 4 lb. 10½ oz., were rather poor. I weighed in a perch from Sharnbrook, 1 lb. 3¼ oz.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

Oct 5th.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the evening of the 30th, the members of the above society were honoured with a visit from Messrs. Ghurney, Murphy, Beckett, &c., committeemen of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. S. J. Weatherhead introduced them with a very interesting address on the advisability of all anglers supporting the A.B.S. The mode of working the society was then explained by Messrs. Murphy, Beckett, and Ghurney, and it gave so much satisfaction that I am happy to state all members present gave in their names as subscribers to the society, this being done a vote of thanks was given to the visitors for their kindness in coming forward that evening on behalf of the A.B.S. I have been asked how it is that all angling societies do not support the funds of this society "a farthing a week, or a couple of half pints of mild and bitter and a half-screw less a quarter," and added to each member's club subscription would enable this society to mend many a broken "brother Bob," and not one of us be the worse for our retrenchment. What do you think "Pixie!" Not being able to answer this question, I put it to the angling societies themselves. Fish this end of the town is like big diamonds, very scarce, and worth their weight in gold at the present time.—PIXIE.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Our host and treasurer, Mr. R. I. Beard, sen., and Mr. G. Randall, had a capital show of roach and dace from Richmond on Thursday, Sept. 29. On Sunday the following members made an average display:—Mr. F. Beard, roach and bream from Pulborough; Mr. W. Wilcockson, roach from Weybridge; Mr. D. Smith, jack from Amberley. The monthly prize for October is for the largest jack; a great contest is expected from all the members.—R. I. BEARD, JUN., sec.

October 3.



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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1881.

THE FISHING GAZETTE FLY AND BAIT CASTING TOURNAMENT.

(IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.)

It is now definitely settled that, weather permitting, the tournament will take place next Saturday, October 22, at Mr. Warner's Welsh Harp Fishery, Hendon, on the Midland Rail-

way. It will commence at two o'clock. The charge for admission will be only sixpence. The judges will be J. P. Wheeldon, Esq., of *Bell's Life*, and Alfred Jardine, Esq. Mr. Warner has most kindly offered us every assistance in his power. The following are a few of the gentlemen who have promised to be present:—Messrs. Greville Fennell, Brougham, Sachs, Geen, Hoole, Gurney, Bonvoisin, Keene, Addington, Brunton, Morgan, Alfred, Malcom, Gregory, the "Trent Otter," W. Bailey, jun., Yarde, Wilson, &c.

The final arrangement of the competitions is not yet definitely settled, but the following may be considered a general outline of the programme:—

A prize for the longest cast with a double-handed fly rod.

A prize for the longest cast with a single-handed fly rod.

A prize for the longest cast from the reel in the Nottingham style.

A prize for the longest cast with line coiled at feet in the Thames style.

A prize for the longest cast with the forked stick, as practised by the Welsh Harp, Elstree, and other bank anglers.

A prize for the longest cast with unweighted line, baited with paste or cheese (prize given by Mr. Malcom).

Other competitions will doubtless be arranged.

The judges will consider style of delivery of the flies or bait, and accuracy, as well as distance, and for this purpose the following scale of 100 points will be adopted:—

	Points.
Distance across the wind	20
Distance with the wind	20
Style of delivery of flies and bait	30
Accuracy	30

Competitors will be allowed to use their own rods and reel lines; some allowance will have to be made for length of rod used. We shall probably adopt the American scale per foot.

The entrance-fee for competitors will be fixed according to the value of the prize to be won, but will not exceed half-a-crown. Competitors will stand on a tarpauling, a fixed time being allowed in which to make the casts.

We have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Gregory, of Birmingham writes us he is coming to try his hand at throwing the reel (pike-fishing style), and also the Nottingham long-line roach-fishing style. He will give a prize value 20s., consisting of his artificial baits. Also that our friend, the "Trent Otter," and probably Mr. Slater, of Newark are coming. The "Trent Otter" has promised to give an exhibition of all the different styles of fishing in vogue on the Trent.

Also that Mr. Wm. Bailey, jun., of Nottingham, will be present, and offers a Nottingham rod, reel and line for the longest "cast" with a quill float in the Nottingham style.

Also that Mr. John Foster, of Caythorpe, Notts, water bailiff to the Trent Fishery Board, is coming, and will exhibit his skill. In his letter to us he says, "I have fished with gentlemen from all ends of the earth, and am known to every noted angler and tackle maker in Nottingham and county." He recommends six throws in each style; and we think it is a good idea if there is time for so many, as in three throws an angler can hardly feel at home and do himself justice.

Also that we have just received from T. R. Sachs, Esq., of the Piscatorial Society, a handsome prize, in the shape of a magnum silver-mounted Black Forest spirit bottle. (N.B.—We will fill this fine bottle with the best Glencoe whiskey, in order that the fortunate winner and his friends may drink Mr. Sachs's health.)

The following is, we think, a complete

LIST OF THE PRIZES AND DONORS.

at present offered:—

1. Mr. R. B. Marston (Ed. F. G.), A double-brazed best-finished hickory pike rod, made by Mr. S. Bigg, of 33, Russell Street, Covent Garden; a four-joint best finish greenheart fly-rod, made by Little and Co., of Fetter Lane, and other minor prizes.

2. Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., of Redditch, a fly-rod with winch and line.

3. Mr. Wilcock, of the Manchester Cotton Spinning Company, a selection of his best lines.

4. Mr. Malcom, of Messrs. Woolgar and Co., Ludgate Hill, a "Freak" fishing bag, newest pattern.

5. Mr. G. Yarde, a first-class double-brazed pike rod.

6. Some books from a gentleman whose name we forget for the moment (perhaps he will kindly send us a post-card if he wishes it published.)

7. Mr. J. Gregory, of Vyse Street, Birmingham, artificial baits, &c., to the value of 20s.

8. Mr. William Bailey, Junr., of Nottingham, a Nottingham rod, reel and line.

9. Mr. T. R. Sachs, of 12, Hyde Park Place, a magnum silver-mounted Black Forest spirit bottle (which, as before mentioned, we will fill with the best Scotch whiskey).

10. Messrs. Barron and Wilson, 436, West Strand, a pair of "FISHING GAZETTE" pliers.

11. Messrs. W. Thornhill and Co., 144, New Bond Street, two of their new "Marston" fishing knives.

We are having a large poster printed, and shall send it to the secretaries of the London clubs, to tackle-makers and others, and we shall be much obliged if they will kindly put them up in some conspicuous place where anglers may see them.

For the convenience of anglers who do not know the Welsh Harp, we may state that it is on the Midland Railway, and is only a few minutes' walk from Hendon. We mention this because some trains which stop at Hendon do not stop at the Welsh Harp station. Anglers can book to the Welsh Harp from any of the following stations: Victoria, Clapham, Brixton, Elephant and Castle, Ludgate Hill, Snow Hill, Moorgate Street, Aldersgate Street, Farringdon Road, King's Cross, St. Pancras, Camden Road and Kentish Town. Trains are not frequent, so we advise our readers not to trust to catching one at the last moment, but to consult Bradshaw.

In conclusion, we can only hope that our readers will help us to make this, the first affair of the kind, a great success; and that not only will they come themselves but also bring their mothers and their wives, their "sisters, their cousins, and their aunts;" and, that they may have no excuse, the ladies and children shall come in at half-price.

N.B.—If next Saturday proves to be a *thoroughly soaking wet* one, with no appearance whatever of clearing up at noon, the tournament will be put off to the Saturday following. Anglers, of course, do not mind any wet, but this is a question of getting all the money we can for the Anglers' Benevolent Society.

[There is a whisper in the air of a quiet little dinner at Mr. Warner's after the tournament. Names of those who would like to assist at this should be sent to the editor of this paper, 12, Fetter Lane; or to F. C. Clench, Esq., of the Richmond Piscatorials; or to W. H. Brougham, Esq., Swayfield Villa, Hounslow. Mr. Clench has promised to take the vice-chair, and we hope to see Mr. Brougham in the chair. Tickets will be about 3s. 6d. or 4s. each. Wines, &c., of course, not included. All names must be sent in to the editor before the 18th, in order that Mr. Warner may know how many to provide for.]

SUSSEX RIVERS.

(Continued.)

THE Adur has three if not four sources; one is about two miles from Slinford, another about the same distance from Nut-hurst in Sussex, these join near West Grinstead, and are augmented by a brook which has its rise near West Chiltington. It is remarkable that all the Sussex rivers have their source in that county. The stream we are now upon has its rise near Slaugham. This is but a short walk from the Balcomb Station on the Brighton Railway. We quit the station on our left, and crossing a field come at once into the lane that leads to Slaugham, and a most delightful lane it is! James Thorn revels in one of his rambles over this spot. He says:—"If we wanted to give any one a favourable notion of a thoroughly countryfied English lane, we could not select a better. The proximity of the railway has done nothing to destroy its rural character. It is as unpolished and unimproved as Sir Uvedale Price or Mr. Gilpin could desire; but then, how it abounds with wild flowers which they would not have stooped to look at! We never saw a lane so full of flowers, or of choicer or more lovelier kinds than this lane produces. From it and the neighbouring wood few young botanists but would be able to find a new specimen or two for their herbarium. Then there are a cottage or two and a farm house, just enough to break the continuity of hedgerow pleasantly, and not sufficient to destroy the quiet. There are some fine trees in the hedges too, and peeps between them across the Weald, which stretches away on our left, with a huge barrier of lofty downs beyond. On a clear bright day, with just clouds enough in the sky to chequer with their flitting shade the level stretch of the scenery, and to relieve the uniformity of the distant downs, the angler tourist will hardly wish for a more lovely prospect."

It is curious that the sources of the Adur, Arun, and Ouse, which beautify Sussex, as well as a feeder of the Surrey Mole, rise within a radius of less than four miles in or about St. Leonard's Forest. Slaugham is scarcely worth resting at, but a good-sized pond may be found at the mill which contains tench, carp, perch, and large trout; and having, up to very recently, been seldom fished, ought not to be passed by if leave can be had—no difficult task—to angle therein. From this we make our way to Bolney over the downs. This neighbourhood is very pretty, to

which the old dilapidated church greatly assists to give an air of picturesqueness as it stands on a rising ground with the irregular cluster of village houses under it. The Adur is here a noteworthy stream, and its history is rendered important from the fact that salmon are occasionally found in it, seeking appropriate spawning grounds, and we have taken trout from it up to 2½ lb. which almost exceeds belief when the infant character of the stream is considered. Indeed it is upon record that in one of its pools a trout was caught by the parish clerk of Bolney which weighed 22 lb. This was sent to Brighton as a present to George IV; but it was a bad catch for the humble official, who, in his simplicity, which was encouraged by the yokel population, expected nothing short of knighthood for his loyalty and liberality, and the disappointment actually touched his brain. Do not let us laugh at this unsophisticated clown, as something close to it has occurred but recently when *that* Thames trout of extraordinary size was conveyed to Her Majesty.

The Arun now courses by Twineham and Shermanbury, around which villages there are many delightful spots where trout and dace abound. Shortly after passing Shermanbury we find the affluents we have before noticed joining the main river, which, flowing by West Grinstead, is made navigable for barges of shallow draught up to Mock Bridge. If the rambler is an angler we should advise him to be faithful to the stream, keeping her close to his heart; on the left side, and in the tortuous coquettish career of the water, very many skittish bends and turns will woo him to his rod's dalliance, while a goodly family of fish frisking in his pannier amongst the fresh green iris flags will be his exceeding reward. But should he not be one of us, why, then, let him proceed by the road, or the bridle lane from Shermanbury to Henfield, and there select his inn, which is the White Hart, in our time a most comfortable hostelry. The churchyards are not the place for merriment or to raise a depressed mind, but in that of Henfield, if my readers have aught requiring medicament of that nature, there are "efforts in poetry on the stones" that would get a laugh out of the skeletons that lie beneath if they were permitted to rise above the daisies.

Those who are fond of thatched cottages and timbered houses with their projecting stories, and shudder at the red-tiled, brick flimsy, and wretched erections of modern days, will find the former scattered around in plenty. We are not unmindful of the fact that the dwellers in the less æsthetic habitations have more comfort than formerly, when domiciled in those hovels almost universally built up of mud with clay floors, still to be seen in the New Forest and elsewhere; but being prejudicially imbued with an artistic craze, we do lament, and that seriously, the rapid removal of those picturesque landmarks which are so refreshing to a rambler's eye. Let an old and pleasant writer help to explain the sort of cottage we mean, and which he can do while we jog *en route*. "These glorious cottages, so endeared to the sketcher, are very numerous in the middle parts of Sussex, and there are few places better than the vicinity of Henfield to seek them in. Backed by high lands, or a clump of fine old trees, in order to shelter them from the northern and easterly winds, their situation is almost always eminently picturesque, and they are, strange to say, always adapted to their situation; while their bold projecting gables, &c., allow a fine play of light and shade, and thus heighten the general effect. . . . The old houses and cottages scattered over these southern counties have a considerable similarity of character, and yet there is a distinct individuality, so to speak, in those of each county." Thus the chimney shafts of a Sussex cottage are larger and more massive, but not quite so ornamental as the Kent cottages, though more ornamental than those of Surrey and Hampshire; and they are different from each. With some, it may be said, why do we not stick to the water? But to the intelligent angler the surroundings of the river have as lively an interest as the inhabitants of the stream; and of a verity, it is these small matters and local details that give so much of variety and a proper and healthy tone to the bearer of the rod or the knapsack.

But leaving off talking with the tenants in their neatly-kept gardens in front of these cottages, so well adapted to the genius of the place, we will cross the meadows from Henfield and stroll down to the river. That last old cottage was an angler, he spied the fly attached to our hat-band, and told us that "bit o' stuff would be parlous deadly on the water yon." We took the hint, and after crossing the bridge not far from Bramber, sent a line across a pretty likely shallow ripple, and at the first throw got a fine dace, then another, then a white leathern-mouthed chub, then another dace; and then succeeded a desperate fight with what turned out to be a 3 lb. trout, which was not only excited to fury by the bridle we had put upon him, but by a pike of a respectable size that followed his every movement as he struggled to get free. So determined was the pike to dine off our trout, that when we had brought our enamelled victim within reach of the landing net, the "fell tyrant of the stream" had absolutely got his body

partly over the iron hoop of the net while the trout laid, "guiltless of a kick," at the bottom. As the pike was evidently anxious to pair with the trout, either for the latter to be an inside or an outside passenger, we determined to accommodate him. We therefore rigged up some spinning trout tackle, and putting a small slip of a dace thereon, after two or three throws first to the right and then to the left, and then, country-dance fashion, across, we found ourself well into our recently made acquaintance, who, after showing unmistakable evidences of objections to control, was grassed, and received the *coup de grace* from the iron-tipped toe of our shooting Faggs. Then, with a very pretty creel of fish—in which, by the bye, there were no perch—we walked proudly with our burthen, though Ashurst to Steyning, in which village at our inn we learned that our quondam acquaintance at Henfield was considered the best angler in the county, and a sworn enemy to, and dreaded by, all poachers or takers of fish by illegal means. "Could I get the trout and pike conveyed to him?" "Yes," was the response of my landlord; "my cart passes his door to-morrow." Enough—the host did his volunteered errand faithfully, and amongst my cherished documents is a letter acknowledging the receipt of the fish, and the offer of a shakedown whenever we might visit the Arun at Henfield again. The worthy old soul has since gone to his fathers, and if his dreams still continue to be of fishing, as mine in the flesh are, I wish him all the success that the happy hunting grounds can afford.

Steyning is a good example of an almost neglected, if not, altogether forgotten town; but here the river is not abandoned to nature, as the navigator requires the banks to be trimmed, and an air of cut and artificiality is the consequence. But now, as we follow the river, we would have those who accompany us raise their heads and they will see an elevation to the right, on which is a fragment of the grey old grim keep of Bramber Castle. These remains appear somewhat insignificant at a distance, but they will fully compensate the curious by a nearer approach, and when the site itself is gained, will reward him for his pains. But scramble up a little higher than the level on which the ruins stand, and a view unsurpassed in the county, is present. It reaches in one direction over the flat Weald to an immense distance, and along the downs the eye pierces as far as the Devil's Dyke, and a slight turn of the body carries the vision over the sea to the tremulous verge of the horizon.

CREEL.

(To be continued.)

PRIZES FOR SPECIMEN FISH AND THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

I DO not wish to arrogate to myself any praise which is not due to me, but I am more than gratified to find that my initiation of the movement against gross-weight competitions, which I made some years ago, is making the most satisfactory progress. At the time when first I took up the question, my remarks called forth a determined opposition, but each year when I take my stand upon the point the arguments against become weaker, and the supporters of my views largely on the increase. It was no small pleasure to me the other evening at the Gresham Angling Society, to find there is a unanimous feeling in the club in favour of prizes for specimen fish, and the doing away of gross weight competitions. Depend upon it, the move is one in the right direction, and will ultimately triumph in every club-room. The large increase in the body of anglers will claim its necessity against the wholesale slaughter of fish, for the sake of getting a prize. We must not forget that although anglers have immensely increased in numbers, the resources of fishing have not increased at all; and if we must keep up a head of fish, we must not recklessly destroy the stock—in a word, which has always been my argument against taking unsizeable fish, if we want to get large fish and a good supply of fish worth catching, let us put back the small ones. When I commenced the movement of preventing the slaughter of small fish, some sixteen years ago, the opposition was much greater than the one I have initiated against gross-weight competitions. The opposition to the retention of small fish has literally died out, and so will the present feeling in favour of gross weights. I may not live to see it, but others will. The Stanley Anglers has been the first club to adopt my views, and now the Gresham Angling Society, in its birth in the great city, has decided in favour of prizes for specimen fish. I have no desire to advance any fresh arguments against the practice of gross-weight competitions, but I can see a greater necessity for their discontinuance, and not only are several clubs adopting prizes for specimen fish, but anglers are retaining only their best fish. It is now twelve months since I referred last to this question in the FISHING GAZETTE, and which brought out several replies, not altogether upholding the practice, but suggesting certain expediences in reference to some particular species of fish. I do not mind opposition when it is done in a friendly spirit. In one of the letters last year, the writer not only treated my remarks with

becoming courtesy and gentlemanly observation, but sent me a present of game; and, as far as I can remember, he was not a decided opponent of my views. The Gresham Angling Society not only sets its face against gross weights, but it has increased the standard of sizes of fish for ordinary weighing-in purposes—as, for instance, it will not allow a jack to be weighed-in under 3 lb. There are a number of real good men connected with this society, and I shall do all I can to support them. Their principles are right, and they will prosper—they have inaugurated the early commencement of business, another idea I have frequently suggested where practicable. They begin at seven o'clock, and at nine o'clock those who have a distance to travel can leave, as all practical business by that time is finished. Their new club room is of a spacious character, and the proprietor of the City of London Tavern, Mr. Thompson, is one of the right sort, and will, I have no doubt, make the members very comfortable. In the coffee-room, which leads up to the club-room, "chops and steaks are always ready," and, speaking from experience, before I went up to the meeting last week, I had a splendid mutton-chop, a good piece of bread, a delicious cup of coffee, and a pat of butter for fifteenpence, which I thoroughly enjoyed, and I could not help feeling at the time, when I had the opportunity of referring to it, I would do so, as it is well worth knowing. I have a little deviated from my remarks of the club itself, but on a point the members can and will appreciate, and I hope Mr. Thompson, the popular treasurer of the society, will benefit by what I have said. The Gresham Angling Society possesses in Mr. Thomas Crumplen a most valuable and energetic honorary secretary, and the committee are all thorough business gentlemen of position and experience in the gentle art. Mr. C. S. Bentley, who took the chair last week, is most assiduous in his efforts to promote the interests of the society. I am indebted to him for several friendly visits, and I can only hope that he will not forget to repeat them whenever I can be of service to him, or he is desirous of having a little piscatorial chat. So far, the society is a success, and the enrolment of over 150 members in about six months is unparalleled in the establishment of any angling club. That it will continue to progress, no one can doubt, for every meeting night new members are elected, and others seeking election. The prize-list which has just been issued, though not complete, evidences a good start. Mr. Alfred Jardine comes to the front in private prizes, with a painting of "Barbel, Chub, and Roach," by the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe, and which he offers in memory of his late friend "the scaley painter." There are twenty-one other private prizes, with various conditions attached to them, and all of good value. The society's prizes are as follows:—For salmon, "The Society's Diploma of Honour;" for trout, two guineas for the first prize, and one guinea for the second; for pike, perch, chub, barbel, carp and tench, there are for each kind first prizes of one pound five shillings, and second prizes of ten shillings; for bream, roach or rudd, and dace, first prizes of one pound, and second prizes of ten shillings. I have previously remarked, the prize-list is incomplete, because there is this note attached to those I have named:—"There will probably be several additions to the list of private prizes, of which due notice will be given." There is this condition attached:—"The society's prizes are given exclusively for the LARGEST SPECIMEN FISH." A museum and library has already been commenced, and the Gresham Angling Society, in a general aspect, may truly be said to be safely and firmly afloat. Such an institution in "the great City" was needed—its promoters felt this when they made a start—and a very little time, with the energy which has been devoted to it, has fully proved the necessity.

B.

COLOUR PRINTING OF AUTUMN LEAVES.—A novelty of the new-book season will be the production—in a new volume by Mr. Francis George Heath, to be issued by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co.—of a series of coloured *fac-similes* of autumn leaves. No attempt to render the exquisite tinting of the leaves of our autumn woodlands has ever before been made in this country. Wood engravings of New Forest scenery are also being drawn for Mr. Heath's new book.

A GOOD PIKE.—On Saturday last Mr. John Foiman, dyer, Aylestone, accompanied by his son Joseph, visited Welford for the purpose of a day's piking. Father and son fished the reservoir for some considerable time with but little success. At last the father resolved to have a try in the "arm," whilst the son preferred to stop where he was, feeling convinced that his efforts would be rewarded, for the water was very low, consequently the bait could be thrown out a long way, which is not generally the case. His judgment proved to be correct, for he had not thrown out many times before his float disappeared with a rattle, and after "playing" the fish for a short time it could easily be seen that he had hooked a tartar, for it rolled about in fine style, trying to gain its liberty, but both tackle and angler were too good for him, and after some little difficulty it was brought to bank. Another small fish besides the one above referred to comprised the day's sport, but John and Joseph were well satisfied with their visit to Welford. On returning home both anglers, being members of "The Granby" club, proceeded to the Swan-with-Two-Necks for the purpose of "weighing-in." The fish was pronounced to be a magnificent specimen. It measured one yard and three inches in length, and weighed, when first caught, a little over 18 lb., but on being scaled at the club it weighed 17 lb. 9½ oz., having dried-in something like 6 oz. during the journey with horse and trap from Welford to Leicester.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

SHOOTING: ITS APPLIANCES, PRACTICE, AND PURPOSE. By James Dalziel Dougall. Second Edition.

THE author of this well-written and most readable work enjoys a high reputation as a scientific gunmaker, and also as, for a long period a contributor, to the sporting Press. Originally of strongly-developed literary tastes, he has wisely brought these to bear on his profession; although, at the same time, we believe we are not in error in stating that he has written much, although anonymously, on a wide diversity of subjects. We state this because—as we freely admit we ourselves did, when we first saw the previous edition of “Shooting,” &c.—many may assume that they are about to read a somewhat dry treatise on guns and their adjuncts. In this regard Mr. Dougall’s mechanical, may very probably have been injurious to his literary, renown. This prejudice, however, if it exists at all, which may or may not be the case, will vanish on a perusal of the book now before us; and, indeed, we are given to understand that it is the fourth edition (although little of the first two remains) of the work as originally published. The introduction of breech-loaders, and other reasons, have caused complete revision and considerable elimination of matter now obsolete, and the introduction of still more new, *au courant* with the advancement of the age.

“Shooting” is a work written for the instruction of sportsmen in all that really appertains to the field sports in which guns are used. It gives us neither too much nor too little information. Mr. Dougall, having been himself an ardent sportsman, and an almost unrivalled game shot, knows evidently where to draw the line between what would be merely irrelevant detail and what is really interesting and instructive. Hence the reader is led on as if he were perusing an interesting tale rather than what it is, in fact, an instructive treatise. The author tells him of the material and form of sporting firearms—of explosives—of how to aim—of dogs, moors, partridge ground and other useful things to know all about. The chapter on dogs shows thorough discrimination as to the choice of setters or pointers for the respective work they have got to do, as well as an appreciation of the remarkable gifts with which these animals are endowed, at once keen and kindly, and evidently the fruits of much experience.

Grouse shooting, the *ne plus ultra* of field sports in connection with the gun, receives a full share of attention. Mr. Dougall’s theory as to overstocking of moors being the cause of what is termed “grouse disease,” is becoming universally known, and he is certainly to be congratulated on the unflinching courage with which he has stuck to his colours, and the victory he is unquestionably achieving. But it is no light matter for a man to fight a battle against at first countless odds, and to run the risk of damaging his professional prospects by the advocacy of what he can have no special interest in beyond a love of truth. When we recollect that grouse moors are annually worth to Scotland at least one million sterling, Mr. Dougall certainly deserves well of his countrymen in general, and of Highland proprietors in particular. This great value also invests the subject with an importance not perceived at the first glance, and the proper management of grouse moors becomes, most certainly for a great part of the North, a matter of national economy. So long as mankind will seek reinvigoration after exhausting professional pursuits, so long will grouse shooting—perhaps the greatest restorative known—continue to be followed, and grouse moors to bring high rents. Nor is the pursuit an idle one, or the results to be called for one moment in question, when calculated in reference to the recuperation of hundreds of our greatest men in every branch of the most intellectual pursuits. Taking, for example, the legal profession, as that drawing the most heavily on the mental resources, it will be found that there are no keener grouse shooters than lawyers, from the youngest barristers to the most dignified judges on the bench, not to speak of the equally honourable, but more numerous, solicitors. We are led to write thus somewhat warmly through appreciation of our author’s treatment of this interesting subject.

The third part of the book, the “purpose” of shooting was written, Mr. Dougall tells us in an appendix, at the special request of those who condemned the then numerous and indiscriminate attacks on the morality of field sports. Although not a voluntary controversialist, therefore, he doubtless writes *con amore*, and shows much vigour and ability as a dialectician. The whole book, then (with the addition of the appendix, which contains most interesting information on the peculiarities of how guns throw small shot, with other matter, as on hammerless guns), will be seen to comprehend, 1st., instruction on the agents used in shooting; secondly, on the practice of shooting—how to do it; and, thirdly, in the purpose in doing so, viz., the restoration of nervous energy. To wish it success is superfluous. It has long passed the probationary period; and, as a proof of this, we may

conclude this notice by stating that it has received that which is generally considered a mark of the highest literary honour—translation into several foreign languages. We also observe by the public advertisements that the volume has been reduced in price, a sure token that the demand is found to be permanent.

ANGLING LITERATURE IN ENGLAND; and Descriptions of Fishing by the Ancients. With a notice of some books on other piscatorial subjects. By Osmund Lambert. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Scarle and Rivington, Crown Buildings, 188, Fleet Street. Price 3s. 6d.

MR. LAMBERT’S little volume is decidedly attractive and interesting, and gives a very clear general view of our most prominent angling literature. It does not pretend to exhaust the subject, the aim of its author appears rather to have been to induce an interest in it. Every angler ought at least to know something about the celebrated books which have been written on the subject, and which have done so much to diffuse a knowledge and love of it, and in Mr. Lambert they will find a most careful and painstaking guide, who has devoted years to his labour of love.

Here is a bit which all grayling anglers will endorse. This beautiful fish, the queen of our freshwater fish, is said to have been introduced into England by the monks, and the esteem in which they held it is fully attested by the description of it which Saint Ambrose, “the glorious bishop of Milan,” as Walton calls him, in his “Hexameron; or the Six Days’ Work of the Creation.”

“Nor shall I leave thee unhonoured in my discourse, O Thymallus (grayling) whose name is given thee by a flower; whether the waters of the Ticino produce thee or those of the pleasant Atesis, a flower thou art. In fine the common saying attests it; for it is pleasantly said of one who gives out an agreeable sweetness; he smells either of fish or flower; [thus the fragrance of the fish is asserted to be the same as that of the flower.] What is more pleasing than thy form?—more delightful than thy sweetness?—more fragrant than thy smell? The fragrance of honey exhales from thy body.”

Having again recently caught some grayling in the Dove and Wye, we can only say they deserve this praise, for they are extremely beautiful fish, and their odour when fresh caught is like that of wild thyme. We devoutly wish that many more streams contained them, and especially that they could be found within an hour or two’s journey from London.

We have frequently expressed a wish to see books on angling figure in the lists of club prizes. The Gresham Club is making a bold stand against competitions for gross weight; if it would take the lead in the direction we have indicated, and give noted works on angling as prizes, its example would soon be followed by other clubs, and this alone would do much to elevate the standard of anglers and angling. Any angler who secured a copy of Walton or Mr. Lambert’s little book, or Francis’s “Book on Angling,” or Mr. Manley’s pleasant “Notes on Fish and Fishing,” or any other of the hundreds of books on the subject, would in the end prize it far more than money, or a bottle of whisky or a sack of coals; if he did not he has no right to call himself an angler. He is, and will remain, a mere pot-hunter.

The book has been brought out in most elegant style by the publishers, and its appearance and contents will entitle it to high esteem from all who love angling literature.

A CHARMING BOOK FOR CHILDREN.

FROM Messrs. George Routledge and Sons, of London and New York, we have received a copy of “Mother Goose, or the Old Nursery Rhymes, illustrated by Kate Greenaway, engraved and printed in colours by Edward Evans. Christmas is fast coming on, and doubtless hundreds of our readers will give themselves the pleasure of pleasing little folk in the nursery by presents of coloured picture books. If, before this sweet little book goes out of print, as it probably will, they will secure it, not only may they be perfectly sure of getting plenty of kisses and thanks, but they will also be themselves delighted with the exquisite pictures. The old nursery rhymes have often been illustrated, but never in a more delightful manner than in Miss Greenaway’s edition. We wish we could reproduce the picture on page 22, which illustrates the rhyme—

Little Tommy Tittlemouse
Lived in a little house,
He caught fishes
In other men’s ditches.

Tommy’s sweetheart is evidently on the watch, looking out for the “other men.”

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

"THE TURN OF THE TIDE"—MINNOW TRAP—PRESERVING WASP GRUBS—PAPER MILL POLLUTION.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

A NICE little job it is at any time, Mr. Editor, to account for fish not biting, and especially difficult is it, when the "turn of the tide" is a factor in the defection! However, I will, as you ask me, give my opinion as to the cause of the undoubted fact stated by "Constant Reader;" premising however, that if anybody can supplant my ideas, I shall only be too glad to see it done.

The matter stands thus. As the tide is running out, fish bite; as it returns, and at the flood, they don't—this puts it roughly, for each statement will bear occasional qualification. Now the first question it is necessary to ask, is this: "What kinds of fish are referred to?" A "Constant Reader" speaks of the Thames, and the answer is dace and bleak, and small roach, for under no circumstances will perch, jack, barbel, large roach, or gudgeon at any time be "seen in hundreds jumping on the top of the water." These fish will feed at high water, and as the tide is running out, as I have repeatedly proved at Richmond and Teddington. Therefore our enquiry is narrowed to this: Why will not dace, etc., feed.

Now the dace and small roach are fishes rejoicing in shallow water—that is, not more than, say, 3 feet in depth. This water from its comparatively small volume, very rapidly acquires the temperature of the ground, which, from its accessibility to the sun, is always several degrees higher in the theometric scale than the bottom of the deeper water, especially during summer and autumn weather. This water also possesses a greater amount of oxygenised air, and the two conditions are absolutely necessary to the comfort and health of these fish. Besides, their natural food is found near the ground, and this food, consisting of countless living organisms, is not produced at great depths. Thus food, air, and warmth, exactly suited to the dace, are supplied during the outgo of the tide near the bottom, *ergo*, the fish feed.

Now the water having passed down to the sea, is met soon by a tidal influx, and though much mingles with the ocean at the point of meeting, very much more doubles back. Let this be borne in mind. It literally does double back—the incoming water folding over on the top because of its superior height when it starts to return, and remaining so until its turn, because of its lower density. Supposing this wave to have reached Richmond Bridge, the accumulated volume alters the conditions of the parts of the river beloved by dace—they are deeper and denser—hence uncomfortable, and the higher stratum, though more oxygenised is productive of little food, and that only of an ephemeral nature. It is also colder, and not until the stream proper by its mechanical and thermal forces has rendered the water homogeneous are the fish disposed to feed as before. This I believe to be the philosophy of the thing, and before condemning it I would ask the reader to carefully think out the matter on the principles I have laid down, bearing in mind, primarily, 1st, the nature of the fish which refuse to feed; 2nd, the nature of their habitat when they do feed, and 3rd, the nature of the tidal change. It is due to my view to say that I have been fairly successful in taking dace with the fly at flood.

Why doesn't J. A. Kelly make his own minnow trap? He can do so very easily from a pickle bottle. Take a diamond and cut off the bottom, and tie over this a piece of fine muslin to which a few tufts of red worsted have been tied. The mouth of the bottle is left open and a string attached. Sink the apparatus in a shallow stream, wherein you can see plenty of minnows, with its mouth down stream; the minnows will readily enter, and of course, you only have to haul up. A few crumbs of bread or cut worms will prove an additional attraction. Of course, if Mr. Kelly prefers buying, he can get a much more neat-looking trap from Mr. Little, 15, Fetter Lane, built on the same principle.

Wasp-grubs may certainly be preserved in spirits, but I have been grievously disappointed with the way roach spit them out even after taking them. Depend on it fish have a very clear perception of what is good, and a Scotch whiskey flavour is not reckoned in the category. The following is a much more attractive method of preparing and keeping them. Take the fullest grown and whitest from the comb, and putting them on a colander pour boiling water gently over them from a kettle. Then drop them into a basin of bran and toss them till quite dry. Now make a syrup of sugar, or treacle will do quite as well—the

"golden syrup" of our childhood—and drop them into it. They will keep almost as long as you like, and come out hard and literally as sweet as candy. I am sorry to have to differ from J. W. M.

The pollution of waters by paper-mill refuse is execrable, and I am truly grieved to hear L. B.'s report of Heath's fishery at Wraysbury. I quite recollect the trouble of poor Old Joe when the last cargo of filth was turned in his beloved water. The worst of it is the Colne tributaries are all equally sufferers from this infernal poison.

For it is of a character which justifies the adjective, more than does that of the dynamite charge. Let any one who has watched the process of paper-making remember the sort of chemicals in use. Now that esparto grass has superseded rags for certain kinds of paper, immense quantities of caustic potash are necessary to disintegrate the pabulum from which even the paper on which the FISHING GAZETTE is printed is manufactured. Then, in order to bleach the pulp before it passes through the rollers, the purest chloride of lime is employed. Both these chemicals are so much waste, for they cost too much to recover by washing and evaporation. They are consequently turned into the stream, and the result is fungoid growths of the gills and fins, when death is not instantaneous, from chloride of lime or "bleach," as it is termed, and sudden death from the potash which is generally rendered of a coffee colour from the dissolved tannin and colouring matter of the grass, straw, wood, rags, &c., used in paper making.

The little river Gade rising at Gaddesden, and passing into the Colne somewhere by Rickmansworth, possesses trout without end for a few miles below its source, and no fish at all to speak of lower down, owing to the seven paper mills with which it suffers. It is almost moribund with its foul incubus, and as a fishing river it may be said to suffer unto death from "paper mills of all the vital parts." Ugh!

SOCIETY OF CAXTONIAN ANGLERS.

FALCON HOTEL, GOUGH SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

PRESENTATION PRIZES FOR THE SEASON 1881-2.

Donors.	PRIZE LIST. For Specimen Fish.	Value.
Mr. G. Little.	Largest Pike (any water)	A Trolling Rod.
" C. Millbourn.	" " " " " " " " " "	A Winch and Line.
	Heaviest Trout " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	Largest Barbel " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" W. Cate.	" Roach " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Chub " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Dace " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" T. Matthews.	" Bream " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" A. Brooks.	" Perch " " " " " "	A Tackle book, fitted.
" G. Reeves, sen.	" Tench " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" S. J. Field.	" Carp " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" W. Pyne.	" Gudgeon " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Fish taken with the fly (any water)	£1 1 0
" A. Mayman.	" Roach (public water)	£1 1 0

Donors.	Gross Weights for the Season.	Value.
	Heaviest gross weight of	
	Jack (any water)	£1 1 0
Mr. J. Esson.	" Chub " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Perch " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Roach " " " " " "	£1 1 0
	" Barbel " " " " " "	£1 1 0
" B. O. Colnaghi.	" Gudgeon " " " " " "	£1 1 0

CLUB PRIZE.

A Silver Cup, value £5 5s.

For the Heaviest gross weight of Roach and Dace, caught between Twickenham Ait (East End) and Teddington Lock (punt or bank), on Friday, the 7th October, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. One rod and line only to be used. The Fish to be weighed-in at the Club House at or before 10 o'clock p.m.

The value of all the Prizes to be in kind.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

President and Treasurer: Mr. William Cate. Vice-President: Mr. John Esson. Committee: Mr. Carter Millbourn, Mr. John Knighton, Mr. Thomas Matthews, Mr. George Reeves, Mr. Alfred Mayman, Mr. Alfred Brooks, and Mr. George Little. Secretary: Mr. Stephen J. Field. Auditors: Mr. John Knighton and Mr. George Reeves, Junr.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river is in prime autumn order for any seasonable fishing, viz., barbel, roach, jack, perch, &c. The frosty nights are supplying the river with any amount of clerical garments—otherwise lawn's leaves—which seem to knock the fish off their ecclesiastical diet of worms. At Henley, some splendid chub have been had, and at Hurley, on Sunday, Messrs. Harrison and Gee, fishing from the Treats hostelry, caught in the final hour of angling some 18 lb. of good roach; and saying good bye to the fish, when the float could hardly be distinguished, was such sweet sorrow that they could have said good-bye until tomorrow.

Thursday evening.—Weather fine; wind S.W. Every chance of good sport for those who will try.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in very good order, but the fish not on much; rain is wanted very bad. Gudgeon biting very well; roach not biting much, water too clear for them. Saturday, 2 jack and some good perch; Monday, 5 dozen of gudgeon, and some good perch, largest jack taken here was 8 lb.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

River very low and bright, water much warmer, and prospects for fishing much better. Since my last report I have been out four times. First two days, Mr. Long, fishing with me, took five dozen roach, one perch and a bream. Third day, Mr. George Palmer, two bream, one barbel, two dozen roach and one jack. Fourth day, Mr. Taylor, three dozen roach and dace, which were nearly all returned to the river.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Richmond).

The water is a splendid colour for fishing now, and there is not too much stream to prevent us from fishing where we like; in fact, the river and water is to perfection now, and the fish feeding well, especially the roach. Brain, Howard and myself, have been out each day since my last report, and have been doing well, catching from fourteen to twenty lb. of roach each day, and going a fair size. This day, Thursday, Job Brain caught 16 lb. of roach and dace; myself, fishing with one gentleman, caught five dozen roach that turned the scale 21 lb. The bank anglers have been doing well, one of them getting a roach, 1½ lb. yesterday, with two dozen others. It is raining hard, while I write, but it will take a lot to upset the water now.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

October, 1881.

Thames (Teddington).

The water is a good colour for fishing. The wind south-west, but a little cloudy. Mr. King, on Tuesday, caught four dozen of nice roach; another gentleman caught three dozen of good dace and two dozen of flounders; two gentlemen and myself caught eight dozen of roach and dace in two days.—J. BALDWIN, fisherman.

Thames Windsor)

Seeing what a lovely morning it is I stepped into my punt, and first tried the barbel in front of Windsor Bridge. Before I had been there three minutes before I was into a nice fish, in splendid condition, of 4½ lb., so pulled up my weight and came in at once to let your readers know that at the time of writing at least barbel are feeding. I return to the swim whilst this is on the road, and hope to report something good next week to make up. Water in fair order, rather bright; 8 a.m.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The fishing continues very much as when last reported. Mr. Knowles, of Brigg, has since the opening of the season caught no less than 24 stone 12 lb. of bream alone. His biggest take was 5 stone 3 lb. When we consider that all other fish are left out of the scale this result is the more surprising. Mr. Knowles has not informed me where his best swims lie, with what he fishes, and if he ground baits. On reading B.'s notes on "Unfortunate Anglers" last week, I thought how different is my experience! I have been an angler from a child, and never recollect the time when I went home empty-handed, yet I have never caught a fish in an unsportsmanlike manner, or baited a single swim. Surely I am one of the fortunate anglers; but whilst I am glad at all times to report any matters piscatorial that come to hand, I have little sympathy with bottom-fishing. I am in fact movable angler with the trout for my forte. I enjoy more real pleasure in strolling from swim to swim, and poking up a fish here and there than in banking it for a bushel. But this is personal, so I subside.—THOMAS FORD.

Colne.

Water in first-rate order for fishing. Mr. Allen, two days, a fine show of roach and dace, some of the dace going 14 or 15 oz.; Mr. Hersent, perch and jack; Mr. Hawkins, dace; Mr. Stevens, roach; and several others have taken specimen fish, one dace going 1 lb. Mr. Hawkins landed a fine trout while fly-fishing for dace, weighing about 2½ lb.; the fish was brought to the house and shown and then returned to the water, none the worse for his trip on land. There is every prospect of good fishing in the coming week if the wind will only keep a little quieter.—E. GODFREY.

Dove.

The condition of the river has improved since I last wrote. The recent rains have brought on a pretty fair colour, and there is a nice volume of water.

Trout still continue to rise to the flies offered for grayling, but when caught they should be at once returned to the river. I am afraid some of the rodsters who fish on our stream, the locals in particular, are not over careful of attending to this rule, and I should be glad to see an example made of them. The grayling takes have averaged about six brace each. This species of fish is now in prime, gamey order, and they will take both top and bottom lines freely all through this and the following month. The bottom anglers have succeeded fairly amongst coarse fish, such as chub, roach and perch. The maggot has proved the most killing, the fish having been to a large extent off the worm. I cannot hear of many pike being captured.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Since my last report there has been very little doing in sea fishing, owing to the weather being so stormy. On Friday several boats put out, and each returned with some fine conger and ling. On Saturday a few boats were out, but owing to the weather they had to return within an hour with very poor catches. On Monday the weather was very stormy, the wind blowing from the N.W., with a heavy sea. On Tuesday it was still blowing, with drizzly rain, and on Wednesday a very squally wind blowing from N.W. to N.N.W., and on Thursday the weather is moderating a little. There has been several boats out some have just come in with some nice catches of whiting, pout, codlin and pollack; one fine conger was caught weighing about 50 lb. There has been some fine shell fish taken from the rocks under Lantern Hill. A lad on Friday took five crabs and one lobster, but the weather is getting too cold for them to stay along the shore. In cold weather they go out in deep water.—E. COTTER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is dead off at the Rye, and will be down for a day, and no one can fish it. The wind is west and showery. There were some nice roach taken on Monday and Tuesday.—WILLIAM COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

This water during the past week has been very little until last evening, when we had a heavy rain, and again to-night, which has nicely coloured and improved it. Nothing worth mentioning taken since last Sunday, when J. Bell, of the Good Intent, took some fine roach; likewise several of the Highbury Brothers had some nice fish, and the Brothers Well Met were here also doing well.—VON LEEFE.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The anglers are as a rule in arms against the clerk of the weather for sending the rains of last Saturday. With the weather just the thing for pike-fishing, it is most provoking to have the water as thick as pea-soup. It is now raining again, so it is very improbable when there will be any fishing again.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Severn and Teme (Worcestershire).

Grayling fishing is now at its best; the fish are in prime condition; the streams are all the fly fisher can desire, low, fine, and of that shade of colour given it by the dark blue clouds; in fact, it may be said that the clouds are of the same dun shade as the willow fly, or the iron blue with pale blue for the borders. These small flies are now the best to take grayling. If they do not come at either of them treat them to a bright red fly, a small palmer, or there is also a small red grub in the willow trees that comes out just before the fall of the leaf. I will give further particulars next week. Some good takes have been shown in Worcester. Mr. E. Davis, over fifteen brace; Mr. Hopkin, a few; Mr. Carey, a fine fish, this being his first try. There are many more, but I cannot give names. Mr. Deakin is out for two days. I expect to have good news from him.—JOHN A. GRIFFIN.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in capital condition for general angling, low and bright; but the weather has been rather rough, or rather the wind has, most of the week, and has operated against successful angling. On Thursday night it rained rather smartly, but I think there will be nothing much to spoil the present condition of the water, which is now in capital condition for roach, chub or pike fishing. If the wind continues in its present quarter, viz., S.W., I should advise anglers to try the roach with gentles. The places that have been most productive of sport this last week or two are very steady swims, by the side of a row of willows, &c., away from the rush of the main stream, with about 4 feet of water, and a nice sandy bottom, and not above two or three yards from the bank. The water, I think, is almost too clear for roach fishing with cockspur worms, so I advise gentles, and ground bait should be administered very sparingly. Chub-fishers will find those fish at home, and inclined to take a nice white bit of scratchings—only the tackle for the foregoing two fish must be of the finest and lightest description—and chub will be found in all sorts of likely and unlikely places, from the deep, quiet eddy by the side of a swift stream, under overhanging bank, or among the roots of the bushes that overhang the stream, to a brawling shallow, with scarcely 2 feet of water, as chub have been found this week in all those places. Sport during the week has not been of an extraordinary character; one angler's basket containing two dozen roach taken with gentles, another had half a dozen chub taken with scratchings, while a stranger last Sunday had a brace of jack taken with a bleak spun on Gregory's archimedean spinning tackle. I have seen nothing else this week worthy of mention.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Anglers this week have been a little puzzled to know the cause why the fish would not feed at the worm, roach, dace, bream and barbel refusing to take that bait. A great number of anglers have visited some of the noted places up the river, and on one day seventeen rods were at work on the Willington length, but not a single fish was caught, and one or two of the old hands naturally asked the question as to the cause, but no satisfactory answer could be found. Now I will try to explain. The funny tribe, it should be known, are very sensitive to sudden changes in the weather; if it be for warmer weather they will sometimes seem to wake up unexpectedly and bite freely; if the contrary is the case, and the temperature has gone down very low, all the four fish mentioned not only change their quarters, but apparently refuse to take anything in the way of bait that is offered them. At such times the anglers get deceived, because they have no knowledge of the places where the fish resort, and many return at night with empty baskets, feeling satisfied that the fish would not bite. In some cases I admit this is true. For instance, the water this week has been low and clear, and the weather cold, which was quite sufficient to prevent most of the bottom fish from biting; but some of the anglers seem to forget that at

this season when worm fishing for the time seems to be over, that chub will then come on well at scratching. This, some of our rodsters know without being told; for, although the failed one day with worms, the next they were successful among the chub, bagging 20 lb. and 30 lb. in a few hours. The pike fishers also have done well with the spinning bait, and under the present state of things the anglers cannot do better than go after pike and chub.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Alrewas).

No news from this river worthy of notice. The cold-bitter east winds that have prevailed the last fortnight have taken the fish completely off the feed, and I cannot learn of even a respectable catch being made bottom fishing. Grayling, however, have been rising well, and some fair fish have been taken with the fly, one angler taking as many as 17 brace, but the majority were too small to keep, and were returned to their native element. A reverend gentleman in the neighbourhood of Alrewas, took a capital brace on Saturday, the largest fish $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and also hooked a trout the same weight, which was, of course, returned. Very little has been done to date pike-fishing in the Trent, as far as our locality is concerned. A nice fish, 8 lb., was taken by Mr. Jephcott last week with live bait, and a few smaller ones have been taken by the same method. Last Saturday I had a rattling red-letter day with the President of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association in a pool a few miles from town; we were only at it for a few hours, and landed 25 fish, 13 of which and were under 3 lb. were returned for another day. All the fish were taken spinning and trolling, the majority with a gudgeon on Gregory's celebrated archimedean pike-tackle. I learn Mr. Cope has been having some capital sport at the Harborne reservoir, and Mr. W. Reynolds has been killing some fine tench, three of which scaled 9 lb., and a perch over 1 lb., which is about the sum total of news piscatorial to hand. The river to-night is reported being in capital order, and the weather, although unsettled, is a little more genial. Most probably the fish will waken up after the rain and take a cock-spur worm, which will, I have no doubt, prove the most killing bait. Your readers will regret to hear that Captain Willoughby-Wood, one of the Trent conservators, in a fit of insanity, has made two attempts to destroy himself. To-day, I am given to understand, he is going on as well as can be expected, considering the nature of his injuries. That he will recover is a feeling, I feel sure, will be echoed by all my piscatorial brethren who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.—JAMES GREGORY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a nice little flush of porter-coloured water come down the Derwent on Monday. Then again to-day (Thursday) we have had another rise from the heavy rain that has fell up in the woodlands, which caused the bottom fishers on Monday to do well on most parts of the Derwent, as there were some handsome catches of both grayling and coarse fish, killed with maggots and worms for baits. The weather since Monday has been very rough and boisterous, with showers of rain falling daily, which has caused angling to be anything but an enjoyable occupation, for it has caused the fly-fishers (the gentlemen visitors) to leave these rivers, owing to the unsettled weather we are now having. We have had a very great quantity of anglers down here from all parts of the country fly-fishing during the past fortnight. In fact, both the Wye and the Derwent have been sadly too much over-fished, for you could scarcely go to a stream to fish without either finding an angler on the stream or one just going away from it. The leaves are now very troublesome on both rivers, especially on the Derwent. Sport during the week has been anything but good. The best basket that has been made was made on the Whatstandwell length of the Derwent last Tuesday, which was $8\frac{1}{2}$ brace of good-sized grayling. Every fish was killed with bumble and furnace flies. The bottom fishers on the Derwent will no doubt do well during the next week. The grayling fly-fishers ought to do well the beginning of next week, especially on the high lengths of both rivers. The flies I have so often mentioned are still killers, as I can hear of nothing beating them up to the present.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yare (Brundall).

Good roach and pike fishing continue to be had here, and so long as the weather continues to remain dry and fine, the sport will be pretty brisk. Two members of the E.A.P.S. had a very nice take of pike at this spot on Saturday last, the heaviest one scaling just 10 lb. The weight of the entire catch being 30 lb. some few ounces. Roach were also well on the feed on that day, and I think the catch submitted to me for inspection were about the best class I have seen during the season. The fish were all clean and in splendid condition, and must have afforded good sport. The new fishery station here has virtually been commenced, the company is formed and the shares are eagerly taken up, and next week your numerous readers will have an opportunity of perusing the prospectus which will appear in your advertising columns. I am pleased to hear that Mr. Alfred Palmer has been appointed general manager of the entire concern.—ANGLER.

Yore (Yorkshire).

This river has been low and clear for some time, up to the last few days, when high winds accompanied by rain resulted in a "fresh," which has temporarily stopped grayling fishing; before then some very nice dishes were killed with fly, the fish rising most freely to the dark olive bloa, woodcock and orange, and willow fly; the bumble fly has also killed a fair share of grayling. To-day (Wednesday) the weather has been wet and stormy, and seems likely to continue so.—F. M. WALBRAN.

FISHING AT GODALMING.—A member of the anglers' club meeting at the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, got some fine jack this week in the Wey, at Melford, above Godalming.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkhous Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION OF 1883.

IT is with very great pleasure that we direct the attention of our readers to the splendid announcement in connection with the above great enterprise which will be found in our advertising pages this week. The FISHING GAZETTE, as we think our readers will admit, has always taken a prominent part in advocating fisheries exhibitions, and it was the first paper to announce the proposed 1883 Exhibition, and to suggest that it should be under the auspices of the Fishmongers' Company. Mr. G. Birkbeck, M.P., is to be congratulated on the distinguished and powerful help which he has succeeded in securing. We shall not fail to keep our readers well posted in all that occurs of interest in connection with the Exhibition. We hope our friends in Germany, France, America, &c., will not fail to refer to the announcement which we give this week.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE FISHING GAZETTE Casting Tournament, in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, to be fought out in a spirit of friendly rivalry at Warner's Welch Harp, Hendon (see particulars in other part of present number), has much to commend it to the support of the angling and benevolent public. The beneficial influence of the charity for whose advantage it is got up is undoubted and generally admitted; while the very earnest manner in which the society's secretary and committee of picked men successfully canvass on every possible opportunity for donations and members, augurs well for its future career of usefulness. It is needless here to dwell upon the many cases of dire distress it has relieved, particularly during the long and cruel winter, nor to more than state my conviction that not a few deep, heartfelt prayers from humble brothers have gone up most earnestly asking blessings for those generous givers who have placed it in the power of the executive to afford relief when sickness or loss of employment have overtaken the bread-winner of the family, and that promptly, efficiently, and without that publicity which only too often makes the receipt of assistance so bitter. But quite apart from the deservedness of its ultimate object, the Tournament has no end of good reasons to recommend it to the practical angling public. It is quite a novelty in this country, though much in vogue among brothers of the rod on the other side of the herring-pond.

Interesting must also prove the bringing together—as it is anticipated it will do—of picked Thames anglers and some keen representatives from Trent side, all exponents of the different methods of casting. A went casting, long has the wordy battle waged—prepared lines, unprepared lines, casting from reel, casting with line loosely coiled at feet; and, don't smile, casting without a rod, but merely a forked stick. These last will, if they compete, rather surprise some of the knowing ones. Not only will we, it is hoped, see all these styles—as one against the other—but we will get at the publicly-authenticated longest cast on record—ability to cast 40, 50, 60, 70 yards, and even more, as have from time to time been claimed. Here we shall see whether these long-distance casters have deceived themselves or whether they have rightly estimated the distance of their cast. (I say rightly estimated, because I don't believe one in 500 of these claimants to long casting ever measured their cast. Again, as professionals have been invited, and I believe expressed their readiness to compete (I presume in a class by themselves), we shall have a capital opportunity of judging whether the gap between them and amateurs is as wide as that noticed in several other branches of sport, and as some of the wise men would have us believe it is; for my part, I think not.

I sincerely trust that the club anglers in particular will muster in force on this occasion; they owe it not only to themselves, who will be the principal gainers, but the public-spirited promoter, our editor, Mr. R. B. Marston. I have not received a line from the Thames, Ouse, or Lea this week—the silence is significant of the sort of sport that is being met with. A friend told me he went to several clubs where good shows are the rule, on the evening of the 9th, result not a fin. There is never a total blank among the North-Westerns, and on the 9th Messrs. Underwood, Alois, and Rosebee came to the rescue with some well-conditioned jack from Elstree. They tell me there was a little over a score of sizeable fish killed on this water during the day. Mr. J. H. Stead, the "Cure," also having a few good roach, and a nice little chub from Shiplake. I regret to have to announce that Mr. W. J. Wetenhall, the respected treasurer of the North-Western Anglers is seriously ill. The members of this society do not look upon Mr. W. merely as a host and a tavern keeper, but as a personal friend, and many and frequent are the anxious inquiries as to how he is progressing; for my part I hope I shall be able to write next week favourably.

The last item with which I shall close my meagre budget, is to the effect that, in response to a letter written by Mr. T. Hoole, the secretary of the West Central, and signed by himself and Mr. Ghurney, the authorities of the Great Eastern Railway have appointed tomorrow, the 13th, to receive a joint deputation from the West and Eastern Central Association, who are empowered to ask for some important railway concession on the Colchester, and Cambridge, and Stour Valley lines, which, if obtained, would place within the reach of thousands, some of the best coarse-fish angling in Essex and Cambridge—a consummation devoutly to be wished for.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT AND THE WELSH HARP.

SIR,—I have had the pleasure of visiting the Welsh Harp upon two or three occasions, and have always remarked the reasonable charges in comparison to similar places, but I have not been there upon any "great" day. We all know how the prices for everything run up directly there is any great demand for them at pleasure resorts.

This tournament will be a grand advertisement for Mr. Warner, more especially among the angling public; and now is his time to go fishing himself, and see if he cannot hook on some good customers, by showing them that they can get accommodation at his house as good and as reasonable as they can get in their own club-rooms.

To stick on the prices on the 22nd would be a very great mistake, and I am sure Mr. Warner, who knows the angling fraternity are not all millionaires, does not require any reminder from me.

I am quite sure every one who attends will be delighted with the place, and will be highly amused with the entertainment provided. It is for a good purpose and should be supported.—I am, &c., H.

[We feel sure anglers will have no cause to grumble at Mr. Warner's charges.—ED.]

FISHING IN THE WEY.

SIR,—Perhaps the value of your journal cannot be better shown than in the connection of errors which may appear in contemporary journals, of a tendency to lead to much vexation and disappointment attendant with expenses, which, both in time and money, can be ill spared by a man anxious to enjoy a holiday with his rod by the side of the water. The sickening description given by your correspondent, in your last issue, of the state of the water he found at a part of the Wey, between Godalming and Guildford, is a case in point; this water having been elsewhere described as under the protection of a society with a minute description of the bends and cuts to be met with in its course, and the different fish to be found therein. What makes that description likely to be annoying is the remarkably small annual fee (3s.) necessary to entitle a member to all the advantages of the fishing, and, therefore, the more attractive to the poor man. But if these advantages be such as set forth by your correspondent, I should think that, poor as he might be, he would rather stay at home than encounter them.

A well known genial writer in the *Field* has always maintained that anglers were not only the most deterrent agents against poaching, but were fully entitled to be ranked as sanitary reformers. A thousand persons may approach a polluted and much-abused stream, and a population may live on its banks contented to let things take their course, from bad to worse, without more than a grumble or ineffectual protest; but let an angler visit the water, and his disgust and anger finds vent in a more active and useful direction, namely, he writes to the *FISHING GAZETTE*—read now by its thousands. Then the complaint becomes too loud for parochial ignoring or legislative apathy; the more immediate sufferers wake up to the extent of what they had been so long and patiently enduring, and the pressure becomes too great for even municipal indolence.

It is somewhat of a coincidence that the same issue of your journal should contain a similar complaint from L. B., which likewise has a paper maker for its delinquent (for the presence of the coffee-colour of the Wey is proof of the washings of esparto grass); but here, I suspect, the Board of Conservancy will take action, as Joe Heath's water, on the Colne, is within a very short distance of the Thames, into which it empties itself opposite Egham, a little below Bell's Weir.

In the far back numbers of the *Field* I find recorded the origin of the Wraybury fishery. From this I glean that Joe Heath formerly held a lease of a portion of a branch of the Colne at Longford, the London side of Colnbrook, and, losing this, Mr. Fennell, who patronised Joe a good deal, both for the rod and the gun, looked out for some other eligible quarters. While thus engaged, the late Mr. Crombie, the solicitor of the South-Western Railway, in conversation respecting the waters crossed or approached in the formation of the Windsor line, happened to mention the difficulty the company encountered in coming to terms with the copyholders and millers of Wraybury concerning the appropriation of certain parts of the land for a station, &c., contiguous to this part of the river. However, this was amicably arranged, and, as far as I can glean from Mr. Fennell's published correspondence on the subject, it was agreed that the water between the two mills (that above the rail and that near the Thames) should be leased by the same tenant for a nominal rent. Here, then, was Mr. Fennell's opportunity to benefit his protégé. He soon convinced the proprietor that it was to his advantage to place the water under proper surveillance, and, this done, Joe was duly installed as keeper, and not long after the fishery became worth notice as one of the very best near London. It, however, had its vicissitudes, and, amongst others, esparto grass was introduced for the making of paper to supply the dearth of rags; the caustic alkali was let freely into the water, with the usual consequence, and the fish turned up in hundreds. Catch-pits were, however, soon formed to intercept the flow of this deleterious liquid, and the fishery gradually revived, but not without extraneous aid. The water above Heath's was rented by Mr. Walker, the well known shot manufacturer, who pretty strictly preserved it, or endeavoured to do so; and at certain times, when the Colne was lively, Joe would open the sluice gates at the mill, and down would come a relay of stock, the members of which perhaps were as glad to quit their old comparatively quiet waters for the gravelly scours as was Joe to welcome them. But Walker's water has been netted out, and this once liberal resource for Joe is no longer available.

Now this, perhaps too long, letter would scarcely be complete if I omitted to state that during the praiseworthy attempts of the mill owner to remedy the injurious flow of both the alkali and the esparto steepings, Mr. Fennell and a well known analytical chemist, were trying experiments with these substances upon fish, with the result, that it required a very strong solution of esparto grass to be inimical, but a small portion of the alkali introduced into the tank visibly proved injurious to fish life. With regard to this esparto coffee-like decoction, we have an analogous example in the peat water which comes down from the grouse and other moors in Highland countries, in which the trout appear as healthy as in a crystal stream. With regard to the alkali, catch-pits were formed, and the deposit carted away, first as waste; but it being discovered that 85 per cent. of alkali was recoverable from it before the residue

became utterly useless, except as manure or compost, what was once thrown away and became a nuisance actually recouped annually the manufacturer for his first outlay in forming the catch-pits and evaporating houses; for a full corroboration of which I would refer to P. L. Simmond's "Waste Products," pp. 280, 388-9. The question, therefore, naturally arises: Do these appliances still exist at Wraybury and elsewhere, and if not, why not? But in justice to the paper-maker we may not include the bloated bodies of dogs and kittens amongst his refuse. This is clearly traceable to the culpable negligence of Godalming.—I am, &c., AQUARIUS.

SIR,—Will you please allow me to state that that which I have said representing the fishing in the Wey is perfectly true? Unfortunately the river hereabout is much polluted, but there are times when the water is fishable, and those coming from a distance must of course take their chance. I am sorry I did not mention the fact of the pollution in my reply to "Mercator," but have (since seeing the letter of "A Thames Angler") written him (Mercator) privately apologising for the omission.

I am also sorry "A Thames Angler" did not find things more pleasant—he surely is one of B.'s unfortunate anglers.—I am, &c., GEO. W. KITSON.

SIR,—I have interviewed the honorary secretary of the Godalming Angling Association upon the subject of "Thames Angler's" letter in your issue of the 8th instant. He states that the gentleman in question appears to have been peculiarly unfortunate, though he was bound to admit from his own knowledge that there was a good deal of truth in those remarks as to the filthy condition of the river. But that, notwithstanding the impurities which are thrown into the river, there are plenty of local anglers who know the water, and who could tell a very different story. The river above the town is quite free from pollution, and there, consequently, the best fishing is obtained. It must also, he suggests, be considered that the Thames angler was exceptionally unfortunate, both in his time and selection of his fishing, for where he appears to have taken up his position the current is peculiarly slow, and consequently all the refuse becomes deposited in this particular part of the river.

I also learned that had the "Thames Angler," sought out, as he should have done, any of the authorities of the society—who are doing their best to render the water, and the sport that may be derivable from it, as good as possible—he would, upon a trifling payment towards such a consummation have been directed to the best parts of the river, if not to some private water over which the society has obtained permission to fish.

A note to me upon the same subject, says "I hardly likely to follow the example of the editor in his foot-note to 'Thames Angler's' letter, but I might say that the Godalmingites know the proper 'way' to fish in the Wey, and that some of our members have a very happy knack of weighing in heavy takes of fish taken in the river so much abused by the *FISHING GAZETTE*. I hope we are not going to have an incursion of the same genus of anglers, of which the Yare and other East Anglian Societies, so justly complain, as watching all waters that are preserved at great cost, and then swooping down upon them to share the results of such expensive co-operation without paying a single farthing towards the expenses. If we were threatened with such a visitation, perhaps the letter of the "Thames Angler" may prove a deterrent antidote."—CREEL.

CAPTURE OF A SEAL IN THE THAMES.

SIR,—Chas. Grant, waterman, 3, Pier Place, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, gives the following account:—On September 27, while in a boat opposite the Brentford Ferry, saw what he supposed to be a seal making towards him. Being prepared with a gun (having previously seen it), he fired, and the shots took effect on the head, as it sank immediately, and was not seen again until Thursday, October 6, when it was landed, and turned out to be a seal 4 feet 2 inches in length.

Any information can be had at the above address. It has been sent to Mr. Cooper's to set up.—I am, &c., H. U. A. S.

[This poor fellow must have escaped from some public or private menagerie.—ED.]

THE LARGE PERCH.

SIR,—The anglers in Norfolk are very much surprised at a paragraph in last week's paper, respecting a large perch said to weigh 10 lb. I am a sixty years' angler, and never saw but three that exceeded 5 lb.; two of these I caught myself in 1832, one was in June, and weighed 5 lb. 3 oz., the other in March of the same year, weighed 5 lb. 4 oz. For many years I have offered a good reward, but only once have seen a 4 lb. fish, which I now have in my dining-room. Last week a fish nearly 3½ lb. was said to be caught on Hickling Broad. I saw it this day, and its actual weight was 3 lb. 2 oz.; yet this specimen has since been got up to 4 lb., but I had the truth from Mr. Lowne, who has preserved it very nicely. He lives at Fuller's Hill in Yarmouth, and has a large number of most beautiful birds in cases. I got two silver medals at Norwich and Yarmouth Exhibition this year, and also another at the last Paris Exhibition, for my fish which were preserved by John Cooper, of Radnor Street, near St. Luke's Hospital.

Perhaps Mr. Harrington Keene and other correspondents can give us some information respecting large perch. I have thought this might be a Zanora, or pike-perch, from abroad.

My dear old friend, the late Mr. Frank Buckland, never saw perch so large as I sent him, and they only weighed 6 lb. 1 oz. the brace. I saw many years since at Mr. Holroyd's, tackle maker, Gracechurch Street, a perch, just over 5 lb., caught in the West India Docks. This was a very handsome fish. I should like very much to hear about this perch; only fancy, a 10 lb. fish.—I am, &c., ESQX LUCIUS.

MINNOW TRAP.

SIR,—In answer to Mr. Kelly's Exeter letter in your *GAZETTE* of the 8th inst.—The Minnow Trap—I beg to say I have the glass minnow traps, which never fail to catch minnows when placed in their haunts. I have let my friends have over two dozen of them since I first came across them; and, from my own experience with them I consider them far before minnow nets, which are apt to frighten them away. Mine are round, clear glass, with good-size mouth, the trap-end being shaped after the style of bottom of a claret bottle, with small mouth for minnows to enter.

I shall be pleased to reply to any applications for them.—I am, &c.,

W. J. MAYO.

13, Corn Market Street, Oxford.
Oct. 10.

THE BOTTLE MINNOW TRAP.

SIR,—I have pleasure in informing your correspondent, Mr. J. A. Kelly, that he can obtain the minnow trap he writes about at Messrs. Alfred and Sons, Moorgate Street, E.C.

I have one, but the minnows are not very ready to enter it, unless the red wool inside is steeped in oil of aniseed. This is more attractive. The price is 6s., or in japanned tin case 7s. Trusting this information will be of use,—I am, &c.,

CYRIL G. C. WRIGHT.

Marton, near Rugby, Warwickshire, Oct. 10.

SIR,—Knock a hole in the bottom of a brandy bottle, the clearer the glass the better; cork up, and with a string tied round the neck, sink in any part of the river where minnows and gudgeons are. The minnows are so inquisitive as to enter the bottle, and, like a flock of sheep, follow one another. Some put bran inside, others nothing. I have observed this system practised by many in the South of France, and once or twice, after two hour's immersion, have seen the bottles crammed with minnows, and also some small gudgeons; it will be seen that the hole, driven in with a nail, forms a trap similar to eel baskets.—I am, &c.,

T. R. SACHS.

WHO WAS "J. S." OF "THE TRUE ART OF ANGLING"?

SIR,—I am reluctant to pass "The True Art of Angling," by J. S., 1696, without an attempt to solve the mystery of its authorship. "This minute book, by an anonymous writer," observes Mr. Westwood in his "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," "forms one of the marked features of most angling-book collections, partly from its merit as a manual, but far more for its rarity, only a few copies of the earlier issues having escaped the wear and tear of time." The book is not a mere compilation, though the writer has no doubt drawn on the experience of his predecessors, but possesses a marked individuality, proving the author a man capable of forming his own opinion, and disposed to express that opinion in direct and unqualified terms. This premised, I may point out that a short treatise on angling appeared in 1684 in a work entitled "Profit and Pleasure United; or the Husbandman's Magazine, by J. S.," who, in a subsequent edition (1704) stands confessed as "J. Smith, Gent."

This "Art of Angling" opens in a similar strain to "The True Art," and contains sentences recording personal experiences in the preparation of the angler's equipment, which are nearly identical in both works. For instance, the J. S. of "Profit and Pleasure" says, "the line must be either of silk or hair, though the latter I prefer before the former; and in twisting or brading you must observe an exact evenness, lest one hair being shorter than the rest the whole stress lye upon it, and, it breaking, render the rest weak." The J. S. of "The True Art," says the same thing in almost the same words. I infer that both treatises came from the same hand; but should any correspondent be able to point out the passage quoted in any antecedent writer, my conjecture falls to the ground.—I am, &c.,

THOS. SATCHELL.

Devonshire Hill, N.W.

RICHMOND PISCATORIAL SOCIETY AND THE REPORTED NETTING.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Boalch, sec., Walworth Waltonians, "holding office in two societies numbering over one hundred members," is pleased to write you, in reference to the T.A.P.S. and their conduct at Richmond, which causes him great anxiety. It is very kind of him to take so much trouble, and we, who reside at Richmond, feel grateful to him for so ably calling attention to the matter. The T.A.P.S. and the Richmond Piscatorial Society evidently want waking up; they not only pity the solitary river keeper, but they actually require the service of your correspondent. They had been looking for a long time for the evidence—the convincing evidence—of a gentleman "holding office in two societies," who had had it proved to his satisfaction, "that men (not anglers) get quantities of fish at night." I shall avail myself of his services, and I now, in your columns, call upon Mr. Boalch to give me the names of his informants. Who are the men who net at night? Strange that we who live on the river cannot get information, in spite of large rewards. It must be left to a stranger to "raise his voice." But may I tell him, and your readers, that I defy him, or any one else, to bring forward one authentic case of netting during the past three months in the waters between Teddington Lock and Richmond Bridge.

Your correspondent does not know that there are few places where the net can be put down, and in those places there are sunk such engines of destruction as would make the poacher hesitate before trying. I can only say, sir, that, as chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, I have not heard of any case of poaching, and you must remember that our members live on the river banks right up to Kingston, and we should be the first to get the news. It now rests with Mr. Boalch to give us the information, but I am sadly afraid that he has got his news from the Thames-side men, who are naturally antagonistic to the T.A.P.S. They would be poachers, many of them, if they dared, and when they get hold of a stranger they enlist his sympathies, especially if sport is not particularly good. Why, it is a well-known fact, and your columns week by week prove it, that never has there been so many dace and roach taken as during the summer months, and not small ones. Plenty of barbel have been had; and if your correspondent will enquire of Mr. Perrin, at Twickenham, he will tell him that he has not had punts enough. With reference to the "solitary river-keeper," that also is not accurate. He has plenty of assistance, and he can have any number of men to assist him. Has the river-keeper himself complained to Mr. Boalch? When he replies, kindly let him give the name of his informant, and if he does not like to state it publicly, let him send it to his representative at the T.A.P.S., Mr. Geen, who will well look into the matter. The fact is, sir, we want this information badly, and now is our chance to get it, and I am sure that from the prominent position of Mr. Boalch he has not made an idle complaint. With his information, the worthy president, Mr. Thomas Spreckley, will be glad, for I know that it is complaints of this nature that cause him much anxiety and worry. It is not known to the general body of anglers the time and money he spends on their services; he gives it in no grudging spirit, and when, time after time, complaints are made about the netting, and after thorough investigation prove to be groundless, it grieves him, I know, to find men in authority coming forward to reiterate complaints, and send broadcast to the angling world so-called facts which he and his committee know have no foundation. Your correspondent calls upon anglers to "raise their voices." We don't want any more shouting. Let them put their hands in their pockets and help support the T. A. P. S., and not leave it to a few anglers. Men come down to our waters week after week and take away quantities of fish who never have and never will give one penny to a preservation society. If Mr. Boalch will get them to raise

their purses instead of their voices he will do good, and we shall get rid in a measure of the selfish policy of a great many anglers who think that it is the duty of the T. A. P. S. to not only preserve the river, but find them in sport. I thank you, sir, for allowing me so much of your space, and I look forward to the reply of Mr. Boalch with the information I and a great many more desire.—I am, &c.,

FRED. CLENCH.

THAMES PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND THE REPORTED NETTING.

SIR,—There can be no doubt as to your correspondent, Mr. J. Boalch, having been misinformed as to some netting at Richmond. There have been several verbal reports recently in reference to such a state of things, but upon a thorough examination they have not only been found entirely false, but circulated for a malicious and party purpose. As to there being only a solitary river-keeper in the district, it can be proved there are three water-bailiffs residing between Brentford and Twickenham, all working as one man to put down every illegal offence. Mr. Spreckley has himself been several nights on the river side, and spent a considerable time in personally investigating some of these fallacious reports. Mr. Alfred Nuthall and others have been out with the keepers at night, and there has been a number of silent watchers, thereby clearly proving the reports of netting to have no foundation. There is also another proof as to the wanton nature of these reports in the FISHING GAZETTE of Saturday last, from an independent quarter. Mr. John Bushnell, a most respectable and intelligent fisherman at Richmond, says, writing on behalf of his brother professionals:—"We have to thank the Thames Angling Preservation Society for the way they have watched our waters during the holidays to save our fish from the men with the nets." I can readily understand Mr. Boalch's desire to give publicity to what he has heard; but I am afraid he has been misled, as others have been, from the same unreliable source.

W. H. BROUGHAM, Secretary T.A.P.S.

7, Ironmonger Lane, October 11, 1881.

SIR,—I should have thought that your correspondent, J. Boalch, who signs as "sec." to an angling society, would have known that the proper way to stop poaching was to act quietly and inform the right authorities of what was going on; then, if the "solitary" keeper did not attend to his duties, he would very soon be removed from his position. As a matter of fact, the "solitary" keeper can have any amount of assistance he may require. I "know" that at least four active members of the Richmond Society have volunteered to assist him, if necessary, and I also "know" that some of the Thames Angling Preservation Society's Committee have lately been on night duty in the district for the special purpose of stopping netting. I should like your correspondent, now that he has publicly announced the "fact," to inform your readers, if he will kindly spare the necessary time, how it has been proved to him that large quantities of fish are netted out at night; because, if it has been proved to his satisfaction, he ought to know the names of the guilty parties.—I am, &c.,

A THAMES ANGLER.

CONGERS EATING HUMAN FLESH.—A LIBEL ON THE CONGER.

SIR,—In an article on eels in your impression of the 8th I notice the following:—

"The suggestion that eels will devour human remains, which has from time to time been made and credited, probably originated with the undoubted fact that congers will do so."

Will Mr. Keene kindly give his authority for this statement, and also say if the bodies eaten were those of recently drowned persons? From my experience of congers I do not believe they will take any bait but a perfectly fresh one, in fact, they are quite as clean feeders as the freshwater eels.—I am, &c.,

Aberffraw, October 10.

E. GOSLING.

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—In my letter of October 1, I find I have, through inadvertence, not given the correct figures relating to the fish I took in 1875, having failed to add 193 fish—all trout except one—to the list, although I added the number of occasions on which they were caught. The figures should have been as follows:—

Wales,	2887 fish,	caught on	101	portions of days.
England,	193	"	"	12 " "
Total	3080	"	"	113 " "

Giving an average of nearly 28 on each occasion, an amount I could have trebled had full days been at my disposal.—I am, &c.,

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

MR. MALCOLM'S PRIZE FOR OUR TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Herewith I am pleased to hand you my Improved "Freaker" Fishing Bag (removal back, registered) for a prize in your casting tournament, trusting the affair will be a success. In my letter mentioning conditions I advised cheese paste; I think a bread paste would answer the purpose. My idea was simply to show the limit of light casting, and to prove if the Trent men, throwing from the reel, can cast as straight or as far as the Lea or Thames men bait without weight of any kind.—I am, &c.,

F. MALCOLM.

40, Ludgate Hill, Oct. 11.

Re PERCH 10½ lb.—A CORRECTION.

SIR,—In last week's GAZETTE a correspondent, Mr. P. F. Davis writes respecting a gigantic perch to be seen at the Cross Guns, King's Heath, near Birmingham. I have great pleasure to endorse his statement with regard to weight. His remarks that I am proprietor of the hostelry is, however, incorrect. The house is not kept by "Host Gregory," by Mr. William Reynolds, an old and well-known Trent angler, and who is a particular friend of mine. The fish, or rather the skin, came into Mr. Reynolds' possession in a very dilapidated manner, who placed it in the hands of Mr. John Cooper, London, who renovated it, and set it up artistically in a glass case, where it now is the observed of all observers, and well worth a visit from my piscatorial brethren who chance to be in the locality. In the same room is exhibited a barbel, taken in the Isis at Oxford, by your humble servant, weight 13½ lb. Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, *Bell's Life*, when visiting the Midlands last year, pronounced this fish the best barbel in the country, and remarked, in his usual genial and happy style, "Here have I killed hundreds of barbel in my life, but am fairly

knocked into the proverbial cocked-hat by a Brummagem button in point of beauty and size."

Doubtless many of your correspondents and readers will come to the conclusion it is a "pike perch;" it is, however, nothing of the kind, nor like one in any respect. It has the appearance of existing from the time of the Flood, so ancient does it look.—I am, &c.,

JAMES GREGORY,
Hon. Sec., Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association.

A CANOPY FOR PUNT FISHING.

SIR,—In your GAZETTE of October 1, I inserted a letter, informing your readers that I would shortly bring to your notice, and give a description of the covering which I wish to introduce to the fishing fraternity, and I feel sure to the ardent piscator who faces rough weather in all its phases; and I have personally a vivid recollection of a rough day on the water, that the above apparatus, from its simplicity, adaptability, and perfect protection from wind and rain, will add considerably to his comfort, and may be the means of preventing cold, too often the forerunner of many an illness. It is very portable, and consists of a ribbed canopy with curtains attached; the whole folds up in a space of 14 inches in length by 3 inches in diameter, excepting a small steel stem 3 feet long, which can be carried with a rod, the whole weighing 4 lb., and it can be easily attached to any boat in one minute. Its price complete, in waterproof material, is from 15s., and it can be had of the patentee and manufacturer, Mr. Scowen, Alpha House, Stoke Newington. There is ample room for striking freely above and on either side; but it must be seen for its advantages to be fully appreciated.—I am, &c.,

A. C. TUCKER.

WASP GRUBS AND WHISKEY.

SIR,—Preserving wasp grubs in whiskey, great failure; gave Jack a bottle to try, next morning no grubs no whiskey. Jack on the floor fast asleep; on waking him up, asked him where the grubs were, "In the comb in the oven, best way to preserve grub, whiskey bottle, neck too small, fumes too strong, fell down and upset the lot, fumes overpowered me," Shan't try whiskey any more; best way to preserve wasp grubs—place them in a warm oven for about five minutes.—I am, &c.,

PIXIE.

Oct. 12.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since last report five men have joined. The following members have taken fish. F. Clifton, one roach, 1 lb. 3 oz.; S. Head, 6 lb. 12 oz., chub, roach, and dace; W. Howell, 2 lb. 14 oz., chub, roach, and dace; A. Slatter, 2 lb. 10 oz., roach; F. Cooper, chub; Hon. Sec. Williams working hard.—BLACK BAG.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society went out on Sunday last, the members weighing fish being:—H. Haines, roach and bream from the Thames, one bream weighing 2 lb. 8½ oz.; J. Deeley, jun., roach; W. Nash, roach.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

October 11.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we had a good show of roach in our trays, averaging half pound each. On the 5th inst. 7½ lb. roach. On Sunday next the Bostonians fish a pegged-down match at King's Langley, for six valuable prizes.—H. TAYLOR.

Oct. 11.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Again the weather has turned the wrong way for anglers in this district. The Ouse and Adur are very thick, and too much water running to be comfortable for the sport. A few of our members went to the Cuckmere on Sunday, and one of them landed a carp weighing 4½ lb., and returned at a late hour to weigh-in, when he discovered the fish still breathed. It was thought advisable through the direction of Mr. John Free, an extent judge of fish, to place it in a tank of water, which was accordingly done, and in the morning the carp was alive, as if nothing occurred; it was out of the water six hours. The members then resolved to present it to the Brighton Aquarium, and was welcomed by Mr. Lawler, the curator of that establishment. Mr. Anscombe went to private waters, and banked two nice jack, the competition dated for Sunday next, is postponed on account of the state of the rivers. All prizes won on the 2nd of October will be awarded next Monday evening, and the next competition announced.—GROUND BAIT.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS ANGLING CLUB.

Our show of fish on Sunday last, as far as numbers, was small, as but few of our members went out, but the quality was good. Mr. Herbert, a perch from the Thames, 1½ lb.; Mr. Allen, a roach, 2 lb., a carp, 4½ lb.—WM. ALLEN, sec.

October 11.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDLY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, the 5th inst., Mr. Warsop had a very nice tray of fish, consisting of jack, perch and grayling, weighing together 28 lb., all of which were in splendid condition, and much admired, the grayling being the first that has been shown in the society, the seven fish weighing 10 lb., and the three largest will be sent to Cooper, for preservation. Mr. Warsop is to be congratulated upon his excellent catches this season, as he is an ardent angler.—W. SUTTON, sec.

Oct. 8.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 9th:—Mr. Mortimer, some fine roach from the Rye-House water—the heaviest fish 1 lb. 3½ oz.; Mr. Castell, roach from Rickmansworth; and Messrs. J. Chambers and Payne, roach and bream from Amberley.—CAS.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on Sunday, the 9th, when Messrs. Bunn, Fortescue, Long, Baker, and Eagles had a very good show of roach.—S. MALLEY.

EXCELSIOR ANGLING SOCIETY.

The shows at the above society have not been so plentiful, nor yet up to the usual average, owing no doubt to the cold weather which we have had the principal show being by Messrs. Blackman and Smith. On Sunday week last the former gentleman had a splendid tray of barbel (about eleven fish), scaling 26 lb.; the latter, roach, dace, and perch; your humble servant, bream. Last Sunday, Mr. Smith, roach and dace.—A. THOMAS.

October 12.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society will fish a peg-down match for several valuable prizes at Weybridge on Sunday, October 30th. Members are earnestly invited to attend.—J. D. MANNING, sec.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

Mr. Blank is seldom a visitor to this society. If the shows have not been so good as they used to be, they have had the advantage of all being up to the society's standard in reference to size and weight. According to the fish book, the fish exhibited during the last few Sundays would have been received in some societies that I know, with great gratification, especially those exhibited on Sunday last from the Thames, the Lea, the Colne, and Father Adam's Eden, the Welsh Harp, by the following gentlemen:—Mr. T. Lee, roach, perch, and dace; Mr. Duck, roach; Mr. Goudge, roach and perch; E. Harrison, roach and chub; T. Lumby, roach; Mr. Chapman, jack and bream; E. Henries, carp; E. Hall, dace; gross weight, 24 lb. A competition will take place on the 23rd, for the following:—First gross weight of all fish, an eight-day clock, given by a friend of Mr. Dixie's; two framed pictures, given by Mr. Allen; ½ lb. of tobacco, for the largest roach, given by Mr. Henries; twelve jack hooks, for the largest jack, given by Mr. T. Bigsby. There are also several other prizes for the gross weight of roach, gross of perch, and gross of dace. Conditions—All fish according to club rules, to weigh any style or fish allowed, bar nets and silver hook. Speaking about hooks puts me in mind of those brass screws and rings that are used for suspending the cases that contain piscatorial trophies and the necessity of having them examined now and then. If this is done it will often save the owner the expense of having new glass, and sometimes save a valuable trophy from being spoiled. On Tuesday evening during my visit to this society, in an interval of silence called by the chairman, a sudden crash was heard, and looking round I observe that the highly-prized trophy, viz., the second bream preserved by this society, and captured by Mr. John Jones, at Penton Hook, some years ago, had fallen from the wall, and come to grief through the screw drawing from the case, and the ring was left hanging on the nail. Prevention in time very often saves pounds, and if it had been done in this case the expense of repairing would not have been incurred.—PIXIE.

October 12.

GOOD INTENT.

The members of this club fished at Ponder's End for twelve prizes last Sunday, but the fish being dead off, only nine prizes were taken; the winners being A. Sims, H. Winter, Guntrip, Holmes, Tibbatts, &c. Our worthy treasurer, Mrs. Roberts, has given the members a handsome set of vases, value £3 3s., and the club have given nine other valuable prizes, for the month of November, the heaviest weight of any fish from the Lea to win. Mr. W. Roberts brought up a splendid show of roach and rudd on Tuesday evening, some of the rudd being very fine specimens; they are sent to Cooper's to be preserved.—R. MURPHY.

Oct. 14.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a fair show of fish from the Wey on Sunday last. Mr. Theobald having 10 lb. 6 oz. roach, one fish 1 lb. 6½ oz.; Mr. J. Fitch, 4 lb. 14 oz.; Messrs. Parkin and J. K. Fitch also had roach and perch from same river; Mr. Armstrong, a brace of jack and three perch from the Thames, 5 lb. 3 oz.; Messrs. W. Watling, Young, and Baker, roach from the Colne.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

Oct. 11.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society had a magnificent show of fish at their meeting on Thursday evening, about 80 lb. or more of roach, all of large calibre, being weighed-in by Mr. Hunt within two days. Other members weighed-in roach and jack, the latter between 4 and 5 lb. each. The amendment of the rules was carried with enthusiasm, so that they should clearly read that the society gave prizes only for specimen fish. A number of new members were elected, and the Anglers' Benevolent box shaken up effectually. The tournament was also mentioned, and members invited to be present. The society, in carrying out the objects for which it was founded, has decided to have occasional essays and papers read at its meeting. The first of these, on Monday next, will be by Mr. Crumplen, the hon. sec., on "The Causes of the Apparent Diminution of Fish in the River Thames," with remedial suggestions, the chair being taken by Captain Alfred, at 7 p.m. punctually. Any gentlemen or anglers interested are invited to attend and take part in the discussion, which, it is anticipated, will be of unusual interest. The new rooms of the society are at the City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopsgate Street, Within.

HULL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of this society, held at the Seven Stars, Fish Street, Hull, on Wednesday, September 28th, Mr. T. Noble in the chair, a deputation of anglers from the Beverley and East Riding Angling Society was received, relative to forming themselves into a branch of the Hull Piscatorial Society for Beverley, Driffield, and the East Riding of Yorkshire, and after a long discussion between Messrs. H. J. Willett (treasurer), W. Hague (secretary), and Mr. Cheeseman, of the Hull Piscatorial Society. It was unanimously agreed that a branch should be formed, and that the officers of the branch should be those of the Beverley Society, viz., president, Mr. Hutty; treasurer, Mr. Garfield; and secretary, Mr. F. Greenwood; the branch being empowered to elect their own committee, the meeting house to be the Angel Hotel, Beverley. The fourth match of the season was then arranged to take place at Brigham, near Driffield, on the river Hull, on Thursday, the 20th October.—H. J. W.

Hull, Oct. 6.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three special prizes were fished for on Sunday last, 9th inst., at Boxmoor, only one of them was taken. The two special prizes (the cup and 10s. 6d.), which were not taken on the 9th inst., will be fished for on the last two Sundays in October, the first two heaviest weights of any kind to win; members to choose their own fishing water. No competitor to leave London before the mornings of the competition. Three special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday, the 19th inst., same conditions as above. Mr. B. Crook had a handsome show of roach and chub on the 9th inst.

KING'S CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have been out in full force for the last few Sundays, but have not up to the present been rewarded according to their deserts. The competition for the prize presented by Mr. Davis, and which took place on the 2nd and 9th inst., was well contested, the winner turning up in Mr. Burnett, who had a nice sample of roach and a pretty little jack from the Thames. Messrs. Woelfell, Davis, Morley, and Bell also out, but could not tempt any of the finny 'uns to change their residences.—G. TREADWELL.

October 11.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Very few members went out on Sunday, and the takes were indifferent. The following members weighed-in:—Mr. Watts, roach; Mr. Heelas, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Petrie, roach and gudgeon; Mr. Raine, roach and dace; Mr. H. Moore, roach and dace.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Oct. 12.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a nice show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. C. Hewett, roach; Mr. J. Blackledge, roach; Mr. E. Dymond, roach; Mr. E. Brockett, roach.—E. DYMOND.

Oct. 12.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The members had a variety of fish again on Sunday last. Mr. Laundry, roach and dace from Fulbore; Messrs. W. and L. Gorsuch and Long, perch from the Thames; Mr. Neagus, with 6 lb. of roach from the Stort; Mr. Obbard, dace from the Lea; Mr. J. Drew had also roach. A splendid bream was also shown, weighing 4½ lb.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

October 13.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match was fished for on the 9th for three prizes, Mr. Garrad took the first, Mr. Menard the second, and Mr. Stidolph the third. The other members had fish. The visit of angling societies to this club will take place on Tuesday the 25th inst., when members of clubs are invited to attend.—W. M., sec.

October 13.

The members of this Society competed for prizes on Sunday, but none of the members had arrived home, when I left there at 9.30., perhaps Mr. W. Matthews will forward the results of the competition.—PIXIE.

Oct. 9. 1881.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

Thursday evening, Oct. 13: Arrived to hand this evening, 20 lb. of roach, largest fish weighing about 1 lb. 12 oz., all of which are placed to the credit of Mr. G. Hockley: Mr. T. Hughes also forwards 50 lb. of jack, the largest turning the scale at 8 lb. 12 oz.; all these fish are in splendid condition.—PIXIE.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A number of our members were out on the 9th inst., trying Maidenhead and Pangbourne for roach and chub with very poor success. The fish appear to be dead off feed at the above-named stations, so we must wait patiently for a flood, when I am sure the anglers will do better in the Upper Thames. Messrs. Billings and Smith had a few chub; Mr. Dunblair had roach; Mr. Rogers, roach. Could you kindly answer the undermentioned:—What is the name of the river that runs nearest Harpenden, Herts?—G. CABORN, sec.

Oct. 10.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition this day is as follows:—First, Mr. Howard, with 10 lb.; this gentleman also won the first prize in the Walworth Waltonians a short time back. "Another Foxhall;" second, the worthy host, Mr. Bansback, with 9 lb.; third, Mr. Boach, secretary of the W.W., also M.S.P., with 8 lb.; fourth, Mr. Meadway, with 5 lb. from the Colne; fifth, Mr. Duck, 5 lb. from the Colne. Mr. Beckett also exhibited tench, perch, and chub, nice preservable fish. Several other members also had fish, which made the gross weight up to 41 lb. 6 oz.—PIXIE, London.

Oct. 12, 1881.

WALTONIANS.

On October 5th Mr. S. Keats weighed-in a jack 2 lb. 13 oz., taken on fine roach tackle at Elstree; Mr. Read weighed-in roach, 3 lb. 9 oz. Mr. Morris had a fine show on the 9th, of roach and dace, from the Kennet—10 lb. 3 oz. Mr. T. Watkins also had roach and dace from the Kennet, one dace weighing 11¾ oz. (beating one previously weighed-in by Mr. Waltham, from the Thames, by ¼ oz.), total, 3 lb. 7¾ oz. I regret to say there were no other takes worthy of record. Four or five prizes were competed for.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Secretaries of societies enrolled in the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies are respectfully requested to send delegates to, or attend themselves, the next meeting, to be held on Friday, the 21st inst. Important letters in connection with the railway concessions will be read. Tickets of admission can be obtained of Mr. T. Hoole.

THE FIRST LONDON BRIDGE.

SLIGHT mention was made in a previous number of the FISHING GAZETTE about the original London Bridge, or the first that was ever made over the Thames. This bridge was constructed of wood, and owed its origin indirectly to a rather singular circumstance.

John Overs was a ferryman, and rowed passengers in his boat to and from Southwark and the City. He was a most penurious, grubbing fellow, and though he kept a number of apprentices, he nearly starved them. His money he put to usury, and altogether he grew very rich. Black-puddings in those days sold at a penny a yard! And chiefly on these he half-fed his men or boys, and would allow them no light at night-time. The old man got so stingy at last that in order to save a day's food to himself and the household, he feigned death. He duly "laid out," and covered himself with a white sheet. His apprentices, "upon hearing of the glad tidings," began to skip and dance; they broke open the cupboard, demolished all the bread and cheese, washed down by a flagon of ale. In the midst of their revelry, who should come down into the lower room but old John Over, the sheet partly covering him, and with a lighted candle in each hand. A "jolly young waterman," seizing a broken oar, and thinking the spectre was "the devil in the dead man's likeness," knocked the old fellow's brains out and killed him on the spot!

But the old man had got an only daughter, and she had a secret lover. The latter, in the crisis, hastened with all speed to London on horseback; but, in proof of the old adage about "slips and lips," the animal fell, and broke the rider's neck! Other lovers came "in such rapid succession," that the young lady resolved to become a nun, built a famous church and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, and otherwise bestowed her wealth for religious purposes. In memory of the pious act, the people added her own name to that given by her to the church, and called it "St. Mary Overs," which title it bears to this day. To the priests of St. Mary Overs the first London Bridge owed its origin, with the money accruing from the wealth left by the old Southwark ferryman's daughter, and they for a long time kept it in repair. Bermondsey Abbey was in existence in those early days, and nobody would bury the old man, for, from his sordid usury and extortion, he was excommunicate. The abbot, however, in pity for the poor daughter, who was driven mad, had the body thrown over an ass, and the animal (the Abbot's own!) wandered away to St. Thomas-a-Watering, shot the carcass off under the public gallows, where it was buried.—LIBER.

THE UNITED LONDON ANGLERS' CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

BALD-FACED STAG, WORSHIP SQUARE, FINSBURY, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

It has been reported that certain anglers are suspected of lending their privilege card to their friends for the purpose of obtaining the anglers' cheap ticket.

Complaint is also made that the cheap ticket is obtained for certain stations, the angler travelling to some other station to which the concession is not granted, there tendering the difference in fare between the two stations.

The Committee beg to remind their members that gaining these grand concessions has cost a great deal of time, trouble, and expense; and infractions of our agreement with the different railway companies, if not stopped at once, will lead to the withdrawal of the concession altogether, therefore the committee have determined to prosecute any member infringing the rules of the committee.

It must be distinctly understood that the card is to be used for angling purposes only, and that under no pretence whatever is a member allowed to lend his card to another person, not even to a fellow member, and further the tickets are only available at the stations named on the instruction cards, if presented at any other it will be cancelled and the full ordinary fare charged from tarring point.

The booking clerks have strict instructions to detain any privilege card presented by two persons, and they are not permitted to issue two tickets to one person unless two privilege cards are presented: if any abuse of the privilege is detected, the case will be reported at once.

A REWARD

will be paid to any person or persons giving such information as shall lead to the conviction of any member or members infringing these rules.

The committee are determined to put a stop to practices that jeopardise the great boon enjoyed by nearly 10,000 anglers.

Secretaries are particularly requested to read the rules to each member printed upon the back of each privilege card before handing it over.

All communications to be addressed to:—

MR. R. GHURNEY, Secretary,
United London Anglers' Central Committee,
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BOOKS ON AQUARIA.

We clip this list from that capital paper, *Forest and Stream* :—

Books published and kept by H. H. Bailliere, 290, Broadway, New York. (This name is not now in the city directory.)

Life Beneath the Waters; or, the Aquarium in America. By Arthur M. Edwards. New York: H. Bailliere, 290, Broadway, and 219, Regent Street, London, 1858. 8vo., pp. 163. Finely illustrated.

Book of the Aquarium and Water Cabinet: or, Practical Instruction on the Formation, Stocking and Management, in all Seasons, of Collections of Freshwater and Marine Life. By J. Harper. London: 1856. Price \$1.

Ocean and River Gardens: A History of Marine and Freshwater Aquaria, with the Best Methods of their Establishment and Preservation. With Twenty Coloured Plates from life. By H. N. Humphreys. London: 1857. Price \$3.50.

The Aquavivarium, Freshwater and Marine: Being an account of the Principles and Objects Involved in the Domestic Culture of Water Plants and Animals. London: 1857. Price 75 cents.

Hand-Book of Plain Instructions for the Construction and Management of Freshwater Aquaria. By J. Bishop. London: 1858. Price 30 cents.

The Aquarium: An Unveiling of the Wonders of the Deep Sea. By P. H. Gosse. Second edition, enlarged. With Chromographs and Wood Engravings. Price \$5.

Hand-Book to the Marine Aquarium. By P. H. Gosse. Second Edition. Price 75 cents.

The following books are by various publishers :—

The Family Aquarium. By H. D. Butler. New York: Dick and Fitzgerald, 1855. 8vo., pp. 121. Price 50 cents.

The Aquarium; Its Inhabitants, Structure and Management. By J. E. Taylor. London: Hardwicke and Bogue, 192, Piccadilly, W., 1876. 8vo., pp. 316.

Hints for the Formation of a Freshwater Aquarium. (No author's name,) London: Printed for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; sold at the depositories; Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, &c. (No date.) 12mo., pp. 132.

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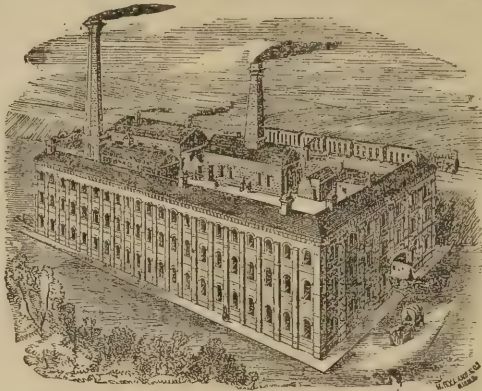
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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1881.

THE RIVER WEY.

(Continued from page 503.)

THERE is nothing very remarkable about Alton—it has a dull uninviting appearance, without any edifice that would arrest attention, nor has it any associations that render this flatness less sparkling, excepting the far-famed Alton ale, which is sparkling

and not flat. In this respect the Romford ale of late years, while it possesses many of the same characteristics recommendatory to the palate, is by most "judges of malt wine," on a par, if it does not surpass, the Hampshire product. The source of the Wey derives its remote waters from the wild heaths on the borders of the county and the south-west side of Surrey. The main source is about one mile south-west of Alton, through which the brook meanders, and it is a very small stream for a long distance after it quits the town. But the angler will find throughout its course thus far, that is to say to Farnham, a tolerable sprinkling of trout of from half-a-pound to 3 lb., and occasionally over that weight. At a mill-tail at the back of Alton, and more particularly in the waste water-hole, and some small reservoirs at the head of the mill, we have a few years ago, made some pretty baskets with the fly and worm, but our largest trout did not exceed 1½ lb. The valley and the stream is narrow all the way to Farnham, and does not freely admit the practice of the fly, while the hop-gardens here and there on both sides effectually prevent its use. We pass the pretty village of Bentley *en route*. Cobbett's account of this valley, which was his birth-place, may be quoted here, although we do not sympathise with his notions of prettiness, picturesqueness, or beauty. In his "Rural Rides" he says: "Arthur Young calls the vale between Farnham and Alton the *finest ten miles* in England. Here is a river with fine meadows on each side of it, and with rising grounds on each outside of the meadows, those grounds having some hop-gardens. But though I was born in this vale. I must confess that the ten miles between Maidstone and Tunbridge (which the Kentish folks call the *Garden of Eden*) is a great deal finer: for here, with a river ten times as big, and a vale three times as broad, not only hop-gardens and beautiful woods, but immense orchards of apples, pears, plums, cherries, and filberts, and these, in many cases, with gooseberries and currants, and raspberries beneath; and all taken together, the vale is really worthy the appellation it bears."

Bentley should not be passed by the angler who possesses aristic proclivities, as it well merits the encomiums of James Thorne, as "one of the very prettiest little places of its kind we know of." It would have made the fortune of a Dutch painter who should have been so lucky as to light upon it. The church is pure Norman, and approached by a long avenue of yew trees. Here, after passing Bourne, is the sand-hill which Cobbett speaks of as playing a rather important part in his "education." After telling his readers that he worked in one of these hop-gardens when from eight to ten years old, he adds: "but the most interesting thing was a *sand-hill*, which goes from a part of the heath down to the rivulet. As a due mixture of pleasure with toil, I, with two brothers, used occasionally to disport ourselves, as the lawyers call it, at this sand-hill. Our diversion was this: we used to go to the top of the hill, which was steeper than the roof of a house; one used to draw his arms out of the sleeves of his smock-frock, and lay himself down with his arms by his side; and then the others, one at head and the other at the feet, sent him rolling like a barrel of wood. By the time he got to the bottom, his hair, eyes, ears, nose and mouth were all full of this loose sand; then the others took their turn, and at every roll there was a monstrous spell of laughter. . . . this was the spot where I received my *education*, and this was the sort of education; and I am perfectly satisfied if I had not received such an education, or something very much like it—that if I had been brought up a milk-sop, with a nursery-maid everlastingly at my heels, I should have been at this day as great a fool, as inefficient a mortal as any of those frivolous idiots that are turned out from Winchester and Westminster Schools, or from one of those dens of dunces called colleges and universities." Such wild opinions as these may serve to show that Cobbett's addling his brains down a sand-hill, did not tend to enlighten his ideas. It is in the memory and experience of the writer of this paper, that Cobbett, under the conviction that he could oust either Peter Moore or Edward Ellis as members for Coventry, entered that ancient borough during an election, declaring himself a candidate for the suffrages of the burgesses, emphasising his claim upon them by the production of the mortal remains of Tom Paine. Unfortunately for the success of this grave political *coup de theatre*, a young medical man, who had not had the benefit of the education of a sand-hill, or the advantage of its dust in his eyes and other of his facial organs, at once declared, upon an examination of the bones that had been brought over from America, it is said, with such pains, that the extremities were composed of one tibia, three femurs, one shin bone, and three arm bones!

But to return to our river. After this its tortuous course renders it somewhat difficult to follow its windings, but as no temptation excepting night or a tributary stream can lure us from our attachment to the water of our casual adoption, we have followed its erratic course to Godalming, and were well rewarded for our time and affection. Wherever a river bends upon itself, you may rely upon deep holes and sandy scours, for the same action of the

water, by impinging upon an opposing bank, which burrows in time a deeper and deeper profundity, throws up the finer triturated and well-washed particles out of the more rapid current on to the opposite "shore," where they sink, and form a clean stratum. It was at Godalming that the gross imposition of the woman delivered of several wild rabbits took place, which had a great and prejudicial effect on the rabbit market. "Od rabbit it!" is said to have no older origin than this, being the natural exclamation of those guests who found this dish unadvisedly at the dinner-table. A wag of that day said that Mary Toft—for that was the name of the woman who practised this strange deception—had been conceived by Warren Hastings—the number and rapidity with which the bunnies were borne, fully justifying the dual nature of the pun.

We are now at Moor Park, and close to the ruins of Waverley Abbey.

In reference to these remains of the Mother of the Cistercians, quaint old Fuller says that "very valiant trencherman, Time, is wont to leave in the dish some fragments for manners' sake, although, in this instance, they are but slender." They stand on a broad green meadow, round which the Wey, overlooked by low, wooded hills, winds on three sides.

Moor Park was the seat of Sir William Temple, when Swift was residing with him. As Sir Walter Scott has rendered memorable the name of Waverley, so has Swift that of Moor Park. Macaulay's graphic words are here too enticing to let slip:

"To Moor Park a high interest belongs. An eccentric, uncouth, disagreeable young Irishman, who had narrowly escaped plucking at Dublin, attended Sir William Temple as amanuensis, for board and twelve pounds a year, dined at the second table, wrote bad verses in praise of his employer, and made love to a very pretty dark-eyed young girl, who waited upon Lady Giffard. Little did Sir William Temple imagine that the coarse exterior of the dependant concealed a genius equally suited to politics and to letters—a genius destined to shake great kingdoms, to stir the laughter and the rage of millions, and to leave to posterity memorials which can perish only with the English language. Little did he think that the flirtations in the servants' hall, which he perhaps scarcely deigned to make the subject of a jest, was the beginning of a long, unprosperous love, which was to be as widely famed as the passion of Petrarch or Abelard. Sir William's secretary was Jonathan Swift. Lady Giffard's waiting maid was poor Stella."

The angler used to have no difficulty in obtaining permission to enter through the Farm and angle in the old monkish moats, and fish stews which are otherwise concealed from observation.

The course of the Wey again assumes a writhing, wounded worm-like action, and is joined at Tilford by the other branch of the river, which, rising near Haslemere, forms a wide detour by Bramshot and Tresham to the junction at Tilford, taking with it the waters of a branch from Selborne, Gilbert White's village. The Tresham ponds were, until comparatively recent times, open to any well behaved angler, but I have heard that of late years they have been rendered more or less exclusive. The perch that we and our companions have taken there, fishing in a very primitive way would now astonish the most successful paternosterer of Thames, Trent or Avon. These red-letter days, however, are of the past, and preservation, if such is exercised, may have had something to do—as it has, strange to say, elsewhere—with lighter bags.

From Tilford the united streams of the Wey proceed in an eastward direction, by Pepperharrow Park to Godalming, then turning abruptly northward, through a very pleasant country, approach Guildford. Between Godalming and Guildford there is now a society, which, it is to be hoped and expected, will have its influence in removing certain annoyances from sewage works, tanners' yards, paper mills, &c., which are not only abhorrent to the angler but objectionable to the residents. After quitting Guildford we get a view of Sutton Place, on which Queen Elizabeth conferred one of her expensive, if not ruinous visits, "killing with kindness."

Shortly after reaching Send and Woking, the Wey is joined by a considerable stream from the south-west the junction taking place near the ruins of Newark Abbey, delightfully situated in a meadow on the left bank. A bit of monkish scandal—"The emanation of malice"—is still related of the monks of Newark. It is said that the "cowlers" liked good living better than fasting, and that the devotional exercises they most delighted in were those they pursued along with the nuns of the convent at Ockham, on the other side of the river. If we may believe the same scandalous tradition, the monks, in order to facilitate their intercourse with the convent, determined to form a tunnel under the Wey, and thus connect the two establishments. Long and zealously did they labour, and at length they had so nearly completed their work that all the brotherhood were summoned to be present at the opening at the farther end, when, just as they were in the centre of the river, the water burst in and they were all drowned. The same story has, however,

served its turn for so many other priories that we may well leave it amongst the mythical. The mansion of Ockham is the residence of Lord Lovelace, whose lady is Lord Byron's daughter Ada.

At Wisley the Mole and Wey run within a short distance of each other, though they part again almost directly, then we get to Byfleet and then Weybridge, where, for the present, we must leave the reader.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING IN THE DOVE.

(Continued.)

IN my last I mentioned that, not having fished the three-and-a-half miles of water between Beresford Hall and the little village of Mill Dale, I would not attempt to describe it, but would confine myself to describing some experiences of the fishing from Mill Dale to the Dove's junction with the Manifold, in the Manifold itself, and in the Wye.

I will now, with my reader's permission, take him with me, and point out the best casts, as well as my memory will serve me, from Ilam Hall, where the Manifold rises to the surface, after its long and mysterious underground course, down that stream to the Dove, and then up the Dove to Mill Dale. Mr. Prince gave me some interesting information about the Manifold and its sister stream, the Hamps, both of which rise in almost the extreme north of Staffordshire, but some miles apart, run overground for some seven or eight miles, then lose themselves in the ground, and re-appear close together in the grounds of Ilam Hall. The Manifold disappears at Wetton, and the Hamps at Waterhouses the distance, as the crow flies, from each place to Ilam being respectively about five miles and three miles—what exact distance they may travel underground is unknown. One of the most curious things in connection with this freak of nature is that though, as I have said, both streams bubble up like immense springs within twenty yards of each other at Ilam, their underground courses are quite distinct; this having been proved by putting chaff, or something of the kind, into the water of one stream where it disappears, and noticing its re-appearance at Ilam in one spring only, for of course if the rivers united underground the chaff would appear at both outlets. Another curious thing is, that both streams, when flooded, send part of their water over-ground, and then the flood-water of the Hamps joins the flood-water of the Manifold about a mile below Wetton, and they then, as the Manifold, go over-ground to Ilam. After a flood, quantities of fish get left by the subsidence of the water in the pools of these flood-beds, and the villagers quickly annex them. I believe there has been some talk of stopping this by preventing the water from going underground at all. Now there would be no difficulty about this if the water merely went down into one or two big holes, but this is by no means the case. In both rivers it merely loses itself in its bed—in fact, it is just as if it went through an immense sieve.

After this geological essay we will have a turn at the trout. I will suppose, friendly reader, that you and I have got into our fishing "togs," and, having permission to fish the Manifold, are just about to start for Ilam Hall. We look in to the smoking-room to wish Mr. Prince a good morning, and to see if any local angler may be "around." We fortunately find Mr. Waterfall, a farmer who lives at Ilam, and his farmer friend, Mr. Rowland, both good anglers, and most obliging and courteous in affording strangers any information they may want about the fishing, the flies that are "on," &c. Cotton, in his discourses with "Viator," complains of the Ashbourne beer, and if Mr. Prince gets his thence, as doubtless he does, we can only say that it has not greatly improved since Cotton's time; it is too thin for our liking. Mr. Prince's whiskey, however, fully atones for his beer, and, after getting our flasks filled, and learning that Mr. Waterfall recommends a small black fly and a grey palmer, we will walk over the fields to the charming little village of Ilam. After passing the Hall we come to an iron gate at the entrance to a path which runs along the left bank of the river towards its dry course. A dam has been thrown across, just below the gate, and under the path here the Hamps and Manifold bubble up into the light. There is a long stretch of dead water above the dam, and Mr. Waterfall informed me that from some cause or other no trout could live in it. But there are many fine fish in the water below the dam. I fished it in Mr. Waterfall's company one evening, and rose seven or eight good fish, just slightly hooking them, and only getting one fish. Mr. W. must have thought me a bungler, and I could not understand it at all until next morning, on scanning my cast, I found the hook of my tail fly had no barb! I then found that several hooks in the same batch of flies were equally barbless. I will not say where I got them, as I am sure it was a most unusual bit of carelessness on the part of a well-known fly-maker, and I was assured it should never occur again.

The best way to fish this bit of water—a hundred yards or so—is to cross at the bridge below, and fish up the opposite bank, as the one on the Hall side is high, and the water too deep to wade. Just above the bridge we come to another dam, and we will get into the water here and fish down. Stones slippery, eh? Yes, and you will find it will need all your care to keep on your legs when you wade the Manifold. I do not know another river in which there is such a treacherous foot-hold. All the stones seem smooth, and are covered with a thin slimy deposit of some kind. If you happen to step on one of the many long slightly shelving slabs of rock under water, you go sliding down it without a chance of stopping, and are lucky if you are pulled up by some big stone before you get in over your waders! In the Dove you can trust yourself on anything, but in the Manifold!

To be Concluded.

[I find the tournament takes up so much of my spare time at present that I must finish my Dove notes on another occasion. By the way, I have asked Mr. John Bullock, the maker of the *Derby Killer* to be present at the tournament, and sincerely hope he will show us his capital style of using his killer.—R. B. M.]

AUTUMN SEA-FISHING OFF CROMER.

BEFORE proceeding to the chief subject of this paper, I should like to say a few words about this, to me, charming seaside resort.

Many of your readers may possibly know Cromer and its vicinity well, but to those who do not, some few particulars may be acceptable. The little town is situated at the extreme N.E. point of the county of Norfolk, and can be reached by rail from town in about four hours from the Liverpool Street Station of the Great Eastern Railway.

To the traveller arriving by rail, the picture unfolded to him, from the little station on the hill three-quarters of a mile from Cromer town, is one of remarkable picturesqueness and exquisite loveliness. Immediately in front, apparently on a level with the sea, lies the town, its prominent feature being the grand old church of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the German Ocean forming a delightful background for miles along the coast. Away sloping up gradually to the right, are the Lighthouse Hills, clothed in heather and furze relieved by patches of brilliant green and golden brown—a favourite walk along the cliff by almost every visitor to Cromer. Here stands the lighthouse, some 200 yards from the cliff inland, its brilliant revolving light serving on dark and stormy nights to warn the watchful mariners of the whereabouts of a dangerous shoal, which runs about two miles out to sea from this point.

To the left of the town lie the Cromer Hall woods, amidst which, hidden from view, stands the hall, itself well worth a visit. The grounds are also charming and will reveal, to those who take pains to look for them, some lovely little peeps of sea and landscape.

To the extreme left lie the woods and heather-covered hills of the Felbrigg estate, localities offering rare opportunities for the fern collector, magnificent sea views and landscapes. I would strongly advise any brother angler visiting Cromer to take advantage of any compulsory days ashore for walks or drives inland, either to Gunton by way of Overstrand, returning by Roughton and Northrepps; or to Felbrigg Park, the Beacon and Lion's Mouth; or by the Holt road to Sherringham Park and grounds, returning by Beeston and Runton. He will have seen but little of the loveliest scenery to be found in Norfolk, who contents himself with the view from the station, the beach, and the town.

Cromer people are proud, and justly so, of their beach. At low water for miles in a southerly direction is a splendid stretch of smooth hard sand as level as a billiard table, and next the sea, skirting the sand at certain points, are to be seen numerous seaweed covered rocks and rock pools rich in living objects both for the naturalist and microscopist. But, it will be said all this has nothing to do with sea-fishing, so I must to business; and, first of all, as to hotel and lodging accommodation.

It will be hardly fair here to particularise; as places are to be found suited to all pockets. The Bath Hotel, Hotel de Paris, Tucker's, and the Red Lion, are among the most convenient hotels. Lodging houses of all grades and prices are to be found. I always go to the "Bath" as being the most convenient for the beach, with excellent accommodation and reasonable charges.

THE FISHERMEN AND THEIR BOATS.

The beachmen or fishermen are mostly kind-hearted honest fellows who are always ready, wind and weather permitting, to take "the gentlemen off." It is well, however, to make arrangements with them beforehand to prevent misunderstanding. They

have no regular scale of charges, but I have never found them hard to deal with, and should say from 5s. to 10s. per head, according to the time at sea, including men, bait, and option of taking the fish caught, would cover the average daily charge.

The boats such as I used are small but very handy safe little craft, fitted with a lug sail, and are very smart sailers. They carry generally two men, but are easily managed by one in fine weather, especially if "the gentlemen" will give them a turn at the oar now and again. There are larger boats, which mean, of course, increased charges. I was quite contented, however, with the smaller ones, and found they were safe and as roomy as was required.

BAIT.

Consist of fresh mussels, sand worms, and live shrimps. The fishermen always keep mussels by them, and will procure the other two baits if requested; the former, however, are found by far the most killing natural bait for every kind of fish taken here.

RODS AND REEL.

An ordinary three-joint trolling rod, with winch fittings and top joint not too stiff, answers the purpose best—a spare one, in case of a "smash," is no ill store.

Reels are so varied that it is best to give no opinion beyond that the writer prefers an easily running check-action reel capable of winding 60 to 100 yards of line comfortably.

LINES, BOTTOMS, HOOKS, &c.

A No. 10 all-silk prepared line I have found to answer best. This size is as fine as it is safe to use, considering the wear and tear to which it is subjected by being constantly hauled through the rings; it carries very little tide when new, and is strong enough with proper care to kill a 20 lb. cod if you chance to get hold of one.

Gut bottoms and gut-mounted hooks will answer well for a short time, but chiefly by contact with the rocks and other causes the gut becomes rough and unserviceable, and I was reluctantly compelled to discard the use of it altogether.

Instead I procured some medium gimp (gold colour), cut it into 12-inch lengths, formed loops at each end, by binding carefully with waxed thread. Half-an-inch above one loop I affix a little bullet, quarter inch in diameter, of either brass or copper; lead will not do, as it speedily "knocks up" or comes off. The remaining lengths may all be served in the same way. These are to carry the sinker, the little bullet preventing it from slipping down to the hook and the loops, the upper one for attaching the line, the lower one for the hook in the ordinary way.

Kirby bent blue hooks No. 000 to No. 3 mounted carefully on gimp snood not less than 10 inches long were found most serviceable.

The weights or sinkers should be egg-shaped with a hole lengthwise quite through sufficiently large to allow the loop passing through. I find a double set of two, three, four, six and eight ounces most suitable weights, with a supply of perforated round bullets weighing about an ounce.

Hand lines or chop-sticks are also used; these the fishermen always carry with them fitted ready for use, but they are nowhere for killing beside the rod and line.

It is well to carry with you one of Hearder's railing lines fitted with sinker, revolving boom, flight of flies, and spinner; No. 104 in Hearder's sea-fishing catalogue, and to prevent failure, duplicate spinners, flies, and sand eels will be found advantageous. This line is useful for trailing behind the boat as you proceed to your fishing ground or after the tide has acquired too much speed. By rowing or sailing about you may frequently take mackerel, whiting, pollack, gurnard, and codling, keeping a good look out, however, for the "tows" or buoys attached to the "crab-pots," which will most surely carry away your gear if you come in contact with them.

A gaff or landing-net will complete the outfit, of course not forgetting the flask with a wee drop of the dew, which the better half always advises, "just to keep out the cold."

FISHING GROUNDS, STATE OF TIDES, &c.

The fishermen know best where the fish are to be found, and most of them are able by certain marks ashore to moor a boat time after time in a "particular spot" within half a boat's length. If you don't get fish very shortly after mooring the best plan is to move, for you are wasting time if there really are fish on the ground.

Those days are best upon which the time of high water on the beach falls early; the fishermen like these best for they have not so far to carry their boats, and the angler will find it more advantageous for fishing—latter floods and fore ebbs being preferred to latter ebbs and fore floods.

The following is a curious fact—whether peculiar to certain parts

of the coast, only I am unable to say—but at Cromer the water falls on the beach some two or three hours before the flood ceases to run, and flows on the beach correspondingly long before the ebb ceases, hence if you leave the beach in a boat at high water you may make sure of three hours latter flood half a mile out. Neap tides do not run so strongly as spring tides, and are therefore preferable for fishing.

We will now suppose that the angler has started from the beach at high water and reached the selected "spot" with time enough to spare before the tide begins to "break" (slacken) to put together his rod and tackle. The fishermen will be preparing the bait by opening the mussels ready for hooking on.

The angler having "rigged" his rod, reel, and line will take one of the gimp ledgers, attach a hook to the bottom loop, select a sinker and pass the top loop through, slipping it down to the little bullet and attach his line.

The fishermen will hook on a mussel, rather difficult for an inexperienced hand, and you are now ready to commence.

Drop the sinker and bait gently over, see that all is clear and lower slowly until the lead touches the bottom. If it is found that the tide carries the sinker away from the bottom so that the angler cannot "tend" the ground he must substitute a heavier one. This being adjusted, the sinker is gently raised and lowered again to the ground. A few inches will suffice, but constantly making sure by feeling the bottom that he is near the ground. If there are any fish near, in a few seconds he will have the pleasure of feeling the peculiar "tug-tug," and striking quickly, but not too violently, may make almost certain of hooking his fish.

If the victim happens to be a good-sized codling of anything over 3 lb., or a flat fish of half that weight, he will very soon advise you, and must be dealt with accordingly, and a fish of 8 or 10 lb. will sorely try the angler's patience and skill, but the satisfaction when the "big one" lies gasping safely at the bottom of the boat will amply repay him.

DIARY OF STATE OF WIND, TIDE, CATCHES, &c.

September 12. Wind N.E., strong, rain, sea very rough, could not get to sea.

September 13. Wind backed to N.W. during day, becoming finer, sea much smoother; went off in the afternoon, tide half ebb, remained out till dusk. Fish caught, 17 plaice and sandlings, 50 codlings, gurnard and pollack, whiting, bait, mussels.

September 14. Wind light, N.W., fine, sea smooth; off at 10.30 a.m., tide latter, flood remained till ebb, too strong. Fish caught, 47 plaice and sandlings, some 3 to 4 lb., 61 codlings, gurnard, &c. Put Hearder's line over, with spinner and flies, hooked 1 mackerel and 1 gurnard, no wind for sailing. Bait, mussels.

September 15. Wind N., light, but freshening after, sea smooth at first; off at 5.30 a.m., railing; did not get a touch; about 7 a.m. caught a "pot tow" carrying away flight and spinner. Wind and sea making, prevented further fishing.

September 16. Wind N.E.E., veering to E.S.E., strong, squally, rain, heavy sea; went along beach to dig sandworms and sand-eels for bait.

September 17. Wind E.S.E., strong, heavy sea, no getting off.

September 18. Wind light and veering to S.W., rain, then finer, lightning at night.

September 19. Wind N.W., moderate, fine, sea "choppy;" off at 10 a.m. tide, flood ashore at 5 p.m. Fish caught, 37 plaice and sandlings, 72 codlings, &c. (small). Bait, mussels and sandworms.

September 20. Wind N.W., moderate to strong; off at 10.30 a.m., tide, flood, railing to fishing ground, hooked one pollack and one codling. Fish caught at moorings, 21 plaice and sandlings, 85 codlings, &c. Bait, mussels.

September 21 to 25. Strong N.W., N., N.E. and E. winds; weather very bad, sea very rough and stormy (steamer ashore at Hasbro'), moderating on 25 to a calm at noon.

September 26. Wind N.W., fresh, fine; off at 8.30 a.m., latter flood, fished all day. Fish caught, 30 plaice and sandlings, 65 codlings, &c. Railing after ebb too strong, hooked 1 mackerel, 2 codlings. Bait, mussels and sandworms.

September 27. Wind light, variable to calm; off at 9 a.m. tide, latter flood, fished till ebb, too strong, came ashore and off again, latter ebb, 3 p.m. Fish caught 72 plaice and sandlings (very large, 30 codlings. Mussels and sandworms for bait.

September 28. Wind S., light, fine; off at 10 a.m. tide, latter flood, fished only short time. Fish caught 42 plaice, &c., 21 codlings, some large. Bait, mussels.

September 29. Wind S.E., light; off at 10.30 a.m. tide, latter flood, fished till ebb, too strong, 47 plaice, &c., 73 codlings, &c., better sized fish. Bait, mussels and sandworms.

September 30. Wind S.S.E., light, very fine; off at 10.30 a.m., tried railing to ground, did not get a touch, not even a "pot-tow;" took up moorings off Overstrand, tide, latter flood, fished all day,

after ebb ran too strong, dropped and fished with it. Fish caught, 72 plaice, &c., 52 codling, &c., best day both for number and size, some very fine codlings, four and five to 8 lb. Bait, mussels only.

October 1. Wind strong from S.E., fine, heavy sea, could not get off.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the total take for the nine days amounts to 901 fish, or an average of five score per day.

There were a great many fish on the grounds off Cromer this year, and may be still; it is not, however, always the case, the fishermen informed me that sometimes they cannot get one. I have some notion, however, that their mode of fishing for them has something to do with it.

[In our opinion, the above article by "A Norwich Angler" is a specimen of what such an article should be—thoroughly practical and useful.—E.D.]

FISHING IN THE TRENT—WILL CONGERS EAT HUMAN FLESH?—CONGERS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS—THE 10½ LB. PERCH!

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

A LIVELY friend of mine (Mr. Charles Bramley) has been indulging in a little fishing on the Trent, and, notwithstanding several letters of introduction to various members of the angling brotherhood near Nottingham with which I furnished him, he chose to seek sport on his own hook. He sends me a rhyming epistle, describing his adventures, which I print here for the amusement of my readers, and to punish him for disregarding my advice. He entitles it the "Fishing Trip," and begins as follows:—

* * * * *

"We started in the afternoon, both full on pleasure bent; and, seated in a railway train, were making for the Trent. We speculated as we rode, on lots of fish for tea (the fisherman, observe, was I, the other was a *she*). We chose a pleasant shady spot; the day was clear and fine, and with my fishing-tackle trim, I dropped the fish a line. But all my kind attentions, the fish appeared to spurn—they never got their little line, nor answered by return. I angled on, *she* toddled off, forget-me-nots to cull, and when the little maid returned, my handkerchief was full—but not of little fish, oh no! for that she'd have to wait—'t was simply full of edibles, provided as a bait. But presently the rain came down, the fish then took their hook (their own, not mine, I grieve to say), so we had none to cook. Said she, 'Now, dear, do you not think, that fishing is a bore?' I sadly said 'my dearest one, I am no piscator.' We left the spot, and made for home, and thus, it must be told, that she and I, that livelong day, caught nothing, but a cold."

* * * * *

To return to more serious matter. I am glad to find that the conger eel's character has been vindicated as to cleanliness of feeding, and that it will not feed on human remains. I certainly was under the impression that the conger did not disdain such a meal. For the words "human remains," therefore, please read "human bodies," Mr. Gosling, for we have it on good authority that in the wicked old times of epicurean Rome, the murenidæ were fed on refractory slaves by certain torture-loving members of the "bloated aristocracy" of the period.

* * * * *

According to Pliny, Vedius Apollo, a prime favourite of Augustus, devised a number of cruel experiments with the congers of his piscina; casting offending slaves into these stews, that they might be torn up before his eyes and eaten. "Not," as his quaint translator, Dr. Holland says, "Not that there were not wilde beastes ynow upon lande for this feate, but because he took pleasure to beholde a man torn and pluckt in [pieces all at once, which pleasant sight he could not see upon any other beastes upon lande." On one occasion, it is said, a servant broke some decanters (*fregit crystallinum*), the punishment for which was death by fishes. The accident occurred whilst Augustus was banquetting with Vedius Apollo, and the slave, not waiting to hear his doom, rushed into the presence of the august gourmand, and begged hard for a different death. He "did not care to die, but thought it hard for a man, even though a slave, to be made *esca piscinæ*—the live-bait for fish." Augustus, with great severity, not only set the suppliant free, but ordered the ponds to be filled up, and all his entertainer's glass to be smashed before the assembled company. Dr. Badham in "Prose Hæleutics," says that Mopsus, the Lydian, gave queen Gadis and her son up to the scaly community of Lake Ascalon; and Cruca, Agamemnon's mother, was also for her misconduct given over to the sharks and muræna by her own father.

Talking about congers, it is noteworthy that the conger-fishing of the Channel Islands was considered of value even so far back as the time of King John. A duty on this fish and on mackerel was imposed by a tax termed "esperkeria" in 1331, and the words of the rent roll of Guernsey with respect to the smaller fish are as follows: "The fishermen may do what they like with congers that are so small that they may span them round with the fist, and they may receive from the large as well as the small as much as may be sufficient for their diet." This is translated from the original Latin "*Extent*" of Edward III.

Even previously to this, in the time of Edward I. and II., it is said that Otho de Grandison, governor of the islands "forced an impost upon congers salted for transportation, and that at 1d. only per conger above 10lb., so salted and transported, he raised yearly 400 livres Tournois."

There is a fisherman's tradition in the Channel Islands that the lobster and conger occupy the same quarters, though not in amity, for the lobster nibbles off snacks from his fellow, and the eel, presumably, when the crustacean is thereby fat enough, turns round and incontinently gobbles him up. A sort of compensating action this, reminding one of Hamlet's quaint reflection: "A man may fish with a worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm."

"*Esox Lucius*" cannot be blamed for expressing wonder at the enormous perch,* but as Mr. James Gregory vouches for the 10½lb. this stupendous fish cannot be denied. The "monstrum horrendum informe ingenus," is, however, a son of Anak amongst the lesser specimens of *perca fluviatilis*, and I for one should be exceedingly obliged if Mr. G. will send us the measurements of this gigantic fish. The largest perch I ever saw weighed 4½lb., but such a creature was justly considered a "*lusus naturæ*."

However, larger fish are on record. Blakey speaks of one taken from Whittlesea Mere of 6lb., and "Ephemera" (Edward Fitzgibbon) says one was caught in the Serpentine of 9lb. Isaac Walton refers to one of 2 feet in length caught by a friend, and Schäffer says that the head of a perch preserved in a church of Lulea, Lapland, was a foot long. Quære, the length of the entire fish?

FISH NETTING AND FISH PAINTING.

DRIVEN FROM HOME.

THERE can, in my opinion and experience, be little doubt that the protection of the Thames during the present series of holidays has been of a very satisfactory character, notwithstanding the reports that have been so unfairly and so unjustly calculated to the contrary. The early morning of Friday in last week was to my idea a test point as to where the freshwater fish came from, as that is the time, in Billingsgate Market, when the coarse fish are brought in for sale. A friend of mine happened to be there then, and he said he never saw such a sight of roach, dace, perch, carp, and tench. I remarked, "I do not believe they came from the Thames, as, from all I know, I think it would have been impossible." His reply to me was a satisfactory assurance that my conjecture was correct. "No," he observed, "the baskets had the label of Christchurch on them." They came, therefore, from the Hampshire Avon, and it is a great proof the poachers were "driven from home," our metropolitan river being made too hot for them, and this is by no means an exceptional instance of the same kind. Again, the fishing-tackle shops have been prepared for some time to give any value for Thames dace, but they could not possibly get them. I went all round London last week, after hearing a report that Twickenham had been netted right and left, for fish, for bait, but no fish were to be had anywhere. I felt convinced that if the Thames had been netted on Monday night in last week, as was reported, the supply of Thames dace at the tackle shops would be a solid confirmation, and if there was an absence of bait, it would be a direct negative; and so there was another good proof of the cowardly nature of these reports. If I were a professional fisherman, and got my living by attending on anglers, I should consider it my duty in their interests, and my own, to assist the keepers at this particular time, when there is a great demand for all sorts of coarse fish. I should feel that I belonged to the same category as the poachers, if I did nothing to protect the fish for my customers; and, instead, slept quietly at home, when my help would be so valuable. My very position as a fisherman should make me consider myself an ally of the Preservation Society, and, if I circulated a report of the river having been netted, I should feel the doing of it was as much to my

*[Mr. Jardine is firmly convinced that this is nothing but a sea-perch, and we agree with him.—ED.]

blame as any one else. This is unfortunately not the general feeling of Thames fishermen—I only wish it was. I have heard of some of these men actually witnessing the netting of the river, and taking no steps to prevent it. They have even boasted in my presence of being spectators on such an occasion, and said it was no business of theirs to interfere! What, to allow men to steal the fish from their customers, under their own observation. Why, they are as guilty, in my opinion, as those who actually do it, they are silently consenting to an unlawful offence, and are accessories to it. None of us want poaching. We do not want it in the Thames, but it appears, if it is prevented there, the old offenders are "driven from home" to do their naughty work elsewhere. The Hampshire Avon is a splendid river for roach, perch, and other fish. The angling is principally from the banks—the charge for a boat is five shillings per day—and I am told the hotel charges are very moderate. It is a pity if it is poached; that it has been done, is proved by what my friend saw at Billingsgate Market last week.

MINIATURE PAINTINGS OF FISH.

During my frequent visits to 20, Moorgate Street, I have been called upon to inspect some admirable paintings of various species of fish from the pencil of Mr. H. J. Alfred, which are most charmingly executed, and in which the artist exhibits a talent of no ordinary character. The fish are portrayed in a thorough life-like style exquisitely grouped in a great variety of positions. Mr. Alfred, not only succeeds in giving a correct and natural expression to the fish, but the picture is rendered eminently perfect by the charming scenery appropriate to each particular species. The talented artist is exceedingly happy in this respect, and it is seldom that a talent so complete in fish painting is united with one for choice examples of a scenic description. These valuable little treasures of model fish-painting, in an oval form of about eight or ten inches in width, will be regarded as great prizes to those who are fortunate to become possessors, and I have no doubt Mr. Alfred will not object to gratify the desire of those who may feel anxious to become purchasers. I do not think the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe cared to devote his time and talent to these miniatures—he preferred the larger work—whilst one is as great an example of genius as the other; indeed, in my opinion, the smaller ones require greater care, and a more delicate handling of the pencil. They are certainly great masterpieces of fish-painting, many of them being coloured from life specimens, and cannot fail to immortalise Mr. Alfred's name as a first-rate scaley artist, if he continues to devote his peculiar talent to the painting of these special works of art.

B.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERY EXHIBITION.

[The following notice has been sent to the Home Ministers of Foreign Governments. As many of our English readers will doubtless like to exhibit, we give them these particulars. We are glad to hear our Scotch friends are likely to have a good show, and are working amicably with the Committee of the English 1883 Exhibition.]

SIR,—We have the honour to inform you that an international fisheries exhibition will be held in Edinburgh in the month of April next.

The exhibition will be open to exhibitors from all countries, and is intended to include, as far as possible, objects illustrative of or connected with the fisheries of the world. Such, for example, as models, drawings, and photographs of boats used in fishing and of steam engines adapted for fishing boats; models of fishing-boat harbours and of fishermen's houses; nets, lines, and fishing tackle of all kinds, both for sea and inland waters; piscicultural apparatus; live fish in tanks; collection of stuffed fish and aquatic birds; life-saving apparatus, fog signals, and lights for fishing-boats; fresh fish, cured and tinned fish, and preparations for preserving fish; models of fish passes and ladders, and other similar objects.

We shall esteem it a favour if you bring under the notice of those engaged in, or connected with, the fisheries in your country the fact that such an exhibition will be held here in April next, and if you will also kindly inform us whether you are likely to send us many contributions.

An answer to the above may be sent to Archibald Young, Esq., Commissioner of Scotch salmon fisheries, 22, Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

We have the honour to be your obedient servants,

Sir I. R. S. MAITLAND, Bart.

W. SKINNER, City Clerk, Edinburgh.

F. N. MENZIES, Secretary to Highland Society.

ARCHIBALD YOUNG, Advocate, Commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries.

Hon. Secretaries to International Fisheries Exhibition.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

The river is in the best of condition for any seasonable fishing, but is alive with leaves, which, in the estimation of many adepts in the gentle art, is subversive to any successful angling. At Streatley, Pangbourne, and Henley, some fair hauls of perch and roach have been had, but nothing big enough to warrant special mention. At Hurley, Mr. Stevens, fishing from the "Treats" hostelry some few days since, took some 10 lb. of roach, and thereby secured a two-guinea prize in his club—the St. John. Mr. Harris, also fishing in the Hurley district, got 9 lb. of perch on one occasion. The frosty nights are getting the perch into droves—so now is the time for minnow work.

Thursday.—Water in prime order for roach, perch, chub and jack. Wind in the quarter unfavourable for man and beast.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very low and thick here; I think it is an east wind. Nothing much doing; I have taken some very good perch and chub, largest chub 2 lb., largest perch 1 lb. 1 oz.; one jack, 4 lb.; 1 tench, 2 lb.; and a barbel 4 lb.—J. RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

Water in very good order for fishing, and the fish are feeding very well; but owing to the heavy winds we have been at our wits' end to find a sheltered place to drop a line in; but notwithstanding all the bad weather we have found enough sport and good baskets of fish for our patrons. This week has not only been the red-letter week for gales, but last Sunday was the best day's roach fishing of my life—fishing with Mr. Brinkley, he caught 40 lb. of roach, having 93 fish. Since my last report, all our fishermen have been out most days, and averaging their takes each day as I saw them there will be about 12 lb.—there are eight of us fishermen to go out nearly every day when you can fish at all in season. What a quantity of fish there must be in the tidal waters, and if we only get the netting stopped to Kew Bridge what a preserve it will be.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

Water still very low and clear. Not much prospect while the wind continues in the east. F. Purdue, one day, 3 dozen roach and gudgeon, myself two days, first day, Monday, with Mr. King, took 3 jack and 1 perch, 1 jack weighing 10½ lb., and one 8 lb., the other returned to the river; second day, Tuesday, 3 dozen roach and dace, and 2 perch.—ROGERSON.

Thames (Twickenham).

The wind due north. The water has been somewhat troubled, but now I am glad to say I have never seen it in better condition for fishing. To-day (Thursday) we have had the finest show of the season with roach. Mr. G. Treacher and friend, with young George Coxen, took 20 lb. of fine roach; Mr. Howse, of Shacklewell, with Joe Dobbin, had a nice show in a few hours—all good fish; Mr. White, with Spiers, 18 lb., all roach; and Pert Hammerton, with Captain Smith, 6 dozen splendid fish. We may now consider we are fairly amongst the roach. N.B.—In reference to your correspondent on punt awnings, I might say I have tried it, and it does not suit in our open rivers; it will not stand the wind. I provide my customers with large umbrellas; and it is impossible to use them at certain times.—A. PERRIN.

[Arrived too late for insertion last week.]

Thames (Windsor).

Water average height, but rather bright, and very little doing. Since my last a few jack have been had, also roach and perch. I was at Cookham on 11th inst., with Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, fishing with that excellent fisherman, Godden. It was our lot, however, to select a bad day, being extremely rough, and with a low, bright water. As a consequence, roach would not feed, and, beyond about five dozen roach between us, could do nothing. When we get rain with a thickish water, with mild weather, those who have never tried Cookham, and are fond of roach-fishing, I would advise a visit there. They will find Godden an excellent fisherman, and his wife can cater for you after a cold day, which would do credit to many riverside houses, and, above all, at a very reasonable price. I have been several times, and speak from experience. In last week's GAZETTE I mentioned I had just tried the barbel, to see if they would feed, and had taken one after a few minutes in the Windsor Bridge swim, going 4½ lb., which, on weighing, went 4 lb. 13 oz. After I had written you, I went back and took eleven fish, eight barbel and three chub; weights of the barbel, were 5 lb. 5 oz., 4 lb. 13 oz., 4 lb. 8 oz., 3 lb. 13 oz., 3 lb. 3 oz., 2 lb. 3 oz., 2 lb. 2 oz., 1 lb. 14 oz., chub, 2 lb. 7 oz., 2 lb. 1 oz., and 15 oz.—total, 33 lb. 15 oz. This rather upsets Mr. Bailey's theory that, on the appearance of cold weather, barbel will not feed. On that same night we had the sharpest frost of this autumn, and last evening, in the same swim, just before dark, a customer of mine took a brace going about 7 lb., making in all 46 fish I have had out of this swim. If weather altered for wet and discoloured water came down, should still try the barbel, though many Thames, also Trent, anglers pooh-pooh the idea when it gets cold. Jack, perch, and chub ought to be had now by fishing fine, and if rain came some good roach ought to be got. Respecting the longevity of barbel, I timed them, and found

that, exposed in the open air outside my shop, they lived just over seven hours. I reckon that six hours would still find a four-pound fish strong enough to swim away.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The fair weather which has prevailed during the past week, as well as the colour of the water, has been very favourable for anglers, still no great takes have been had. Some juveniles caught a few roach on Monday last with King's natural bait. The fish are, owing to change in temperature, discarding worms, and gentles, and taking more freely to paste, scratchings, &c. The falling leaves are a great nuisance in some places, but the Ancholme is comparatively free from them. In my report of last week your compositor spoke of me "poking up a fish here and there. This is too good. He must have been joking, but as some readers may not see it, allow me to say the word should have been rendered "picking." The trout which I have placed in the various feeders of the Ancholme are now running up the becks, I saw several on Monday last.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

This river is now in rattling order for every kind of fishing—top or bottom. After I despatched my last week's report a tremendous storm of wind and rain came on, which caused the stream to rise rapidly, and the gale lashed it into a mimic sea. On Saturday the river was hardly fishable, but on Sunday it was going down, and by Monday was all right again. The good effect of the storm and rapid rise has been, that it has cleared the river of immense masses of weeds, leaves, and other débris, which proved very obstructive to the efforts of anglers. Now these have gone, piscatorial operations will be conducted under far more pleasant conditions. A gentleman, fishing with the mulberry bumble, caught 6½ brace of fine grayling on Monday, near Mayfield. These are good fish for the Dove, but others have this week been taken weighing over two pounds. The best killing flies, besides that mentioned, have been the grey palmer and the small October dun. Chub have been rising at the red caterpillar on the surface, while scratching and pith have lured them best on the bottom. Several nice baskets of barbel have fallen victims to the worm between Rochester and Uttrother. Weather now getting very cold, and the sharp frosty nights ought to bring the pike on the feed.—THE SPLODGER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order now, the wind south-east, and the mornings frosty. There have been a few nice chub taken—one on Sunday, two on Tuesday, and a few roach.—WM. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

While the anglers in the other parts of England are howling about the rivers being low and too bright, we have to complain of a river considerably too high and as thick as pea soup. The frosts have, however, fined it down, and by Sunday it will be fishable. Very few disciples of the gentle art have ventured out, and, besides colds, nothing worth recording has been caught. The water, if the rain keeps off, will be in first-rate trim for jack fishing. By Sunday, no doubt, those who do not mind cold toes could beguile a few roach.—YE MEDWAY WATER-RAT.

Norfolk.

Water very thick, owing to the late heavy gale. The salt tides, which have reached as far as Horning Ferry, on the Bure, have caused much destruction amongst fish. Dead fish of every description were to be seen turned up on the sides of the river. One resident in Horning securing as many as 12 large pike on the Sunday morning, all of which had fallen a prey to the saline intruder. There is no report of any good takes to hand, and anglers may settle themselves down again for a few weeks until the water clears. The annual dinner of the East Anglian Piscatorial Society is fixed for Thursday, the 27th inst., when it is expected that the members will muster in full force. Owing to the increase of members during the last year, the club-room will be inadequate to accommodate them, and they have, therefore, decided to hold their banquet at Cooper's Restaurant. The club now numbers 60 members.—ANGLER.

Suir and its Tributaries (Clonmel, Ireland.)

The following is a reply from the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries, in answer to a memorial from the rod-fishers of Clonmel and its precincts, a copy of which appeared in the FISHING GAZETTE some time since.

Office of Irish Fisheries,

Dublin Castle, Oct. 13th, 1881.

SIR,—Referring to your communication, addressed to Major Hayes, forwarding a memorial from the rod fishermen of Clonmel and its vicinity, praying for an alteration in the angling season in the river Suir and its tributaries, I am desired by the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries to request you will be good enough to inform memorialists that at the last close season enquiry, held in 1879, it was proved that in the upper waters of the river Suir, during the latter part of September, three out of the four fish caught were "full fish." This evidence led to the existing close season order being made. The law will not admit of any further enquiry, until application is forwarded to this office, to be dated after the expiration of three years from the date when the last close season order came into force, which was 21st November, 1879, being six weeks after publication. If an application be made for an enquiry, in conformity with foregoing, when the three years has expired, it will receive the careful consideration of the Inspectors.—I am, &c., ALAN HORNSBY.

Trent (Newark).

In my last note from the Trent, I said that I thought the rain we had had would make no difference to the water; but I soon found I was wrong, for by the time the GAZETTE was in the hands of its readers the river was in high flood, bank full, and very thick. Now I begun to turn over in my mind the reasons for this, and I could come to no other conclusion than there must have been a lot more rain in the higher districts of the Trent than we had down here. We had a terrible gale last Friday, and as it blew down the river, it no doubt brought down the water quicker than it otherwise would. I have not heard of any sport being had down here this week, the weather has been so dreadfully rough all the week, and the wind in the very worst of all quarters, viz., east. To-night, the water is getting in capital trim, and in the course of another day or two will be all right. Chub should soon begin to take pith and brains, and that bait and a bit of scratchings should make the chub give an account of themselves. With the wind in its present quarter, I don't think

the roach will feed much, but, if they are inclined to take a bait, gentles and cockspur worms will be the best. Under the present circumstances, chub and pike fishing will be the best game. I had nearly forgotten to mention that a very large roach was caught in the eel nets down here this week—weight, 2 lb.—a splendid roach for the Trent. It has gone to be preserved, and will keep the two 14 oz. dace company in Mr. Slater's snug hostelry.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The anglers this week have been favoured with the long-desired fresh of water, which came down on Sunday, bringing plenty of colour with it; and it was thought among most of the Trent rodsters that this change would considerably improve the fishing on all parts of the river, as it would doubtless sweep away the flannel weed, and take the insects with it, which have been so numerous, although the summer months preventing the fish from taking to a great extent the bait we have to offer them; but, unfortunately for the rodsters, the change came for the worse. Frosty nights and an extremely low state of the temperature, together with a cold east wind, sent the finny tribe into almost a torpid state; and the fishermen as well, for only a few of the latter would venture out, and those that did make an attempt found the fish so dead off the feed, that nothing could be done until the sun got out in the middle of the day; and even then, the fish took a deal of persuading, and careful fishing with a nice cockspur worm on the hook. Some nice roach, dace and bream were caught, the most successful spot being at Trent lock where the bottom is mostly sandy and the streams slow; in fact, the proper winter places for the fish named; but, if any of the anglers happened to throw a few chopped worms in at the wrong time, the fish at once ceased biting. To know the proper time to throw any sort of groundbait in is, in my opinion, one of the great secrets in rod fishing. Only give the fish one little lot of stuff at the wrong time, and your day's sport is all over (so far as that swim is concerned) for the day. The fresh of water has now all passed away, and the river, at the time of writing, is in fair condition for both chub and pike fishing. Pith and brains should be employed for chub, and livebait for pike; but should the weather change for warmer, scratching might do for chub, and a spinning bait for pike, which must be used in all the slack parts of the river, for the anglers may depend that neither fish will face the streams any more this winter.—W. BAILEY.

Yore (Yorkshire).

After I had sent my report last week, a tremendous storm of wind and rain caused the Yore to overflow its banks, and for some days even bottom-fishing was out of the question. It has, however, now run down to a fly-water, and should no more rain fall I expect to hear of some good dishes of grayling being killed. I should think that most of the salmon will have now reached the upper waters of the Yore, as the weirs were nearly level with the river during the recent flood.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

The latter end of last week we had large floods on both of the above rivers, through the great quantity of both rain and snow that have fallen, the wind being very boisterous for several days, doing great damage all over Derbyshire. The cleach-net party killed a good lot of fish on various parts of the Derwent during the time the river was in flood. The Derwent, below Rowsley, has had a nasty white froth water in it all the week, which seems to have taken the fish completely off the feed at either bottom or top. Above Rowsley, on the Chatsworth length on the Derwent, sport has been very fair, and some nice baskets of grayling have been killed, chiefly with Eaton's honey dun bumble, ash dun, furnace and dyed hackle flies, the bumbles killing the most fish. The bumble fly will now raise nineteen fish out of every twenty you throw out, providing the angler has only got the proper bumble fly to use. The bumble may now be relied upon as a point or stretcher fly. The bumble flies of different kinds have killed more fish in Derbyshire and elsewhere this season than all the others put together. We have very few fly fishers who know how to make a bumble fly properly—I mean to put the proper backing and body of the fly together properly. Sport on the Wye during the past two or three days has been but moderate. There have been some few grayling and a fair quantity of coarse fish killed on the Whatstandwell length with maggots and worms for baits; also some pike killed with the small natural dace, the fish running small. Trout are now most of them up the brooks for spawning purposes. They will be very forward this season. Weather fine—beautiful grayling weather, if the Derwent has only been low enough below Rowsley. It will take at the very least another week before it has run down to its proper height for successful grayling fly-fishing below Rowsley. Above Rowsley it is all right now. So is the Wye.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

THE LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.—Advices from Labrador, dated August 31, speak discouragingly of the fishery operations on the northern part of the coast. In some places the prospects are very gloomy; at Esquimaux Bay the worst apprehensions prevailed, and it was feared that there would be starvation there during the coming winter. The Government had already been appealed to for assistance. The weather had been so unfavourable on the southern and western shores of Newfoundland, that it was thought a large quantity of fish would be spoiled in curing. In Valencia Bay rain and fog prevailed for eighteen days, without sight of the sun, paralysing business and making navigation extremely dangerous. The Bank fisheries continued good. Unusually fine weather was reported in the far north.—*The Colonies*.

A HUSBAND having arrayed himself elaborately with gaiters, game bag and gun, accompanied by his faithful dog, went forth to hunt, but shot nothing. Impossible to return empty-handed to the house, he stopped at the market and bought a hare, which he presented to his wife. The hare was terribly high, not alone in price. "Ah!" said the wife, with a sniff, "so you killed it? You are right. It was high time."

It is said that the French have no respect for the oyster, because it never had a bony part.—*Sea World*.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

"FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

AS stated last week, the Tournament will come off at Mr. Warner's, Welsh Harp, Hendon, on the Midland Railway, at two o'clock to day (Saturday), October 22. The price of admission is sixpence. Tickets can be taken for the Welsh Harp or Hendon Stations from St. Pancras and from the Metropolitan underground railway stations—King's Cross, Snow Hill, Aldgate, &c. (see last week's paper). We advise anglers to make sure of the train times, and also to note that more trains stop at Hendon than at the Welsh Harp Station, and Hendon is only a few minutes' longer walk. A bus for the Welsh Harp leaves Regent Circus (Oxford Street), at 10.30 a.m.; corner of Praed Street, 10.45 a.m., and Kilburn, 11 a.m. As there is a long programme to get through, competitors are requested to pay the entrance-fees and give in their names and addresses before the times mentioned below.

N.B.—Competitors can use their own rods, reels and lines, but will have to use weights, flies, &c., provided by the management, in order that all may use a similar weight.

THE HANDICAP FOR FLY RODS.

The handicap for fly rods will be five feet per foot of rod—i.e., if one competitor uses a ten-foot rod and another an eleven-foot rod, the eleven-foot rod will have to give five feet to the ten-foot, and so on in proportion.

THE HANDICAP FOR BAIT RODS.

In the bait casting competition the handicap will be seven feet per foot of rod—i.e., an eleven-foot rod will have to allow seven feet in the distance thrown to a ten-foot rod. To make this quite clear, suppose A with a ten-foot rod throws his bait fifty yards, in order to make an equal throw B, with an eleven-foot rod, will have to throw fifty-seven yards.

All the competitions except the fly-casting, float-casting, and cheese bait casting, will take place over the grass, and the competitors will stand on a large tarpaulin, to keep the lines from obstructions.

ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS, AND PRIZES FOR SAME.

I.

AMATEUR COMPETITION IN CASTING IN THE THAMES STYLE.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee, before 2 o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

First prize (for longest throw).—A four-joint, double-brazed best hickory jack rod, made by Mr. S. Bigg, presented by R. B. Marston, Esq., and two guineas, presented by T. Spreckley, Esq.

Second prize.—A "Marston" Fishing Knife, presented by Messrs. Thornhill and Co., and one guinea, presented by P. Geen, Esq.

Third prize.—A pair of the "FISHING GAZETTE" Pliers, presented by Mr. Wilson, and half-a-guinea, presented by T. Spreckley, Esq.

II.

AMATEUR COMPETITION IN CASTING FROM REEL IN NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the fee before 2 o'clock, at the tent in the ground.)

First prize (for longest throw).—A magnum silver-mounted Black Forest spirit bottle, presented by T. R. Sachs, Esq. (and filled with whiskey by Ed. F. G.); and two guineas presented by T. Spreckley, Esq.

Second prize.—Mr. Gregory's prize of 20s. worth of his artificial baits, and one guinea, given by T. Spreckley, Esq.

Third prize.—Best four-joint double brazed pike rod, given by G. Yarde, Esq.

III.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION IN CASTING IN THE THAMES STYLE.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by 2.30 at the tent in the ground.)

First prize.—Two guineas.

Second prize.—One guinea.

IV.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION IN CASTING FROM REEL IN NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

(No entrance fee. Competitors must give in their names and addresses by 2.30 at the tent in the ground.)

First prize.—Two guineas.

Second prize.—One guinea.

V.

COMPETITION IN THROWING THE BAIT WITH FORKED STICK.

(Entrance fee, 2s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses and pay entrance fee at the tent in the ground before 2.30.)

First prize.—Seventy yards of patent American braided silk water-proof line, given by R. B. Marston, Esq., and a pair of "Arctic" braces, given by W. H. Brougham, Esq.

Second prize.—Copy of "Vanity Fair" and a copy of "Ten Thousand a Year," given by A. J. Marriott, Esq., and a framed copy of Rolfe's picture of salmon, trout and perch, given by R. B. Marston, Esq.

VI.

MR. WM. BAILEY JUNR.'S PRIZE FOR THE LONGEST CAST, AND WITH QUILL FLOAT IN NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

(Entrance fee, 2s. Competitors must give in their names and addresses and pay entrance fee at the tent in the ground by 2.30.)
Prize.—A Nottingham rod, reel and line.

VII.

MR. MALCOM'S PRIZE FOR THE LONGEST CAST WITH TRIANGLE BAITED WITH PASTE OR CHEESE.

Entrance Fee, 1s.

Prize.—A "Freake" fishing bag, newest pattern.

VIII.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION WITH SINGLE-HANDED FLY-ROD.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay entrance fee at the tent in the ground by 2.30.)

First prize.—A fly rod winch and line, given by Messrs. S. Allcock and Co.

Second prize.—A best brass check winch and D. T. fly line, given by Mr. S. Bigg, the maker.

Third prize.—A selection of the Manchester Cotton Spinning Company's new lines, given by R. Wilcock, Esq.

VIII.

AMATEUR FLY-CASTING COMPETITION WITH DOUBLE-HANDED FLY ROD.

(Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. Competitors must give in their names and addresses, and pay the entrance fee at the tent in the ground, by 2.30.)

First Prize.—A framed oil-painting, presented by G. Fennell, Esq.

Second prize.—A four-joint double brazed greenheart fly-rod, given by R. B. Marston, Esq., and a "Marston" fishing knife, given by Messrs. Thornhill and Co.

Third prize.—A selection of the Manchester Cotton Spinning Company's new lines, given by R. Wilcock, Esq., and a pair of F. G. pliers, given by R. B. Marston, Esq.

Other competitions may be arranged if there is time, but we fear there will hardly be sufficient time to get through the above properly. Before the affair commences we expect that Mr. John Bullock will show his style of casting his "Derby killer" (for trout, perch, jack, &c.), and method of recovering the line on his hand; also that the "Trent Otter," and Mr. John Foster will give us a display of their skill in various ways.

THE DINNER.

We have great pleasure in stating that the chair will be taken by Thomas Spreckley, Esq., President of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the vice-chair by Fred. Clench, Esq., President of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. Mr. Spreckley, with his usual generosity, has promised five guineas towards the prizes. Amongst the gentlemen who have already promised to stay to the dinner, we may mention. Messrs. T. Spreckley, Alfred Jardine, J. P. Wheeldon, P. Geen, T. Hoole, R. Ghurney, W. H. Brougham, R. B. Marston, G. Yarde, H. Wilson, W. B. Addlington, G. H. Field, J. W. Martin, and we hope to see many other well-known anglers.

Tickets for the dinner, price 3s. 6d. each, must be obtained of Mr. Warner before three o'clock, and any anglers who may wish to dine with us will greatly oblige by getting their tickets as early as possible, in order that Mr. Warner may know how many to provide for. In order to prevent mistakes, all extras (wine, grog, cigars, &c.), must be paid for at once by the gentlemen ordering them.

In conclusion, we will only hope for a fine day, and remind our readers that the tournament is to be held in aid of a most deserving society—the Anglers' Benevolent Society—the object of which is to give help to cases of real distress amongst its members and their families. The small payment of one shilling per year confers membership in this society on any club angler, and we confidently hope that a principal result of our FISHING GAZETTE tournament will be a large accession of new members. If the affair is a success, it will be due to the very great assistance we have received on all sides, and especially from our respected friends and judges, Messrs. Wheeldon and Jardine.

The Prize Winners will be announced in next week's GAZETTE.

IRONCLAD FISH *v.* DYNAMITE.—JUSTICE LIVES.—The Sacramento *Bea* reports that a Chinaman had both hands blown off, while trying to capture with a giant powder cartridge. From the reports that come to us from some portions of Indiana and Ohio, the citizens will have to breed some species of iron-clad fish to protect them from that kind of slaughter. It seems a pity that the fish cannot be armed with some weapon that would enable them to fire back at the cowards who undertake their capture by such foul means. We are glad to note the fact that on the 27th of August a conviction was secured in California for this offence, and the guilty party was fined \$50. We regret, for the honour of our race, to say that the convicted scoundrel was not a Chinaman, either.—*American Field*.

SPINNING FOR MACKEREL.

HAVING noticed several enquiries concerning sea-fishing in recent numbers of the FISHING GAZETTE, I have presumed to place a little of my experience in the hands of our esteemed editor, hoping that it may find favour in his sight, and amuse and instruct brother anglers.

Sea-fishing, although generally considered mere butchery of fish, and altogether lacking the more delicate qualities of sport which freshwater angling affords, certainly fills one's basket most effectually, and always yields palatable fish. I felt this most acutely a fortnight ago, as I hastily undid my tackle after a hard day's spinning in the Thames, my sport—two perch, one $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—barely covering the bottom of my creel.

Tynemouth is the finest watering-place I have ever visited. Its fine stretch of sand diversified by clusters of rocks, its cosy haven, its huge overhanging cliffs surmounted by the ruined grey priory, its pale lighthouse, and its massive fortifications, form at once a picturesque and a grand landscape. Then its piers! what watering-place can boast of two such piers as those huge breakwaters which embrace the mouth of the Tyne? It is quite a sea-voyage to walk along one of them in the evening. These are its natural attractions; for amusement there is a magnificent aquarium, but the finest charm to a Cockney, withal, is the quietness, the calmness of the place.

One beautiful morning last August I was just starting for a walk along the Tynemouth pier, when I was agreeably surprised by meeting an old friend, and as we leaned against the stonework talking over old times and looking over the salmon playing ground, the smooth surface of the water was suddenly broken in a hundred places by shoals of sprats leaping out of the water and leaving that peculiar ripple which only fishes make.

"By the shade of Walton! there's the mackerel, Jack," cried my friend, "in thousands too; that's the first I've seen of them this year."

"Let's get among them old boy, as quick as possible; but where's the tackle? My spinning-rod is about a mile off. I have a spoon bait——"

"You neither want a rod nor a spoon bait; you want a boat, and Ned Fry is the man. He will let us have a nice light boat, and can supply us with lines and bait, come on, come on man, we are wasting time."

So we ran down to the Haven, where Ned Fry seated us in a fine boat and we were soon pulling with a will round the pier-end. It is rather a long pull, but what oarsman does not enjoy a good row on the sea?

A quarter of an hour's row brought us close to the fish. There were several shoals of them chasing the sprats almost on the surface of the water, many of the heaviest fish leaping right out. We quickly prepared our tackle, the boat lying on some six fathoms of still, clear water. Tackle! No Nottingham style here. Just fancy a thick tanned cord of 50 yards; strong enough for a tow-line with a good pound of lead fastened about 10 yards from the triangle of tin and hooks forming the spinning-bait. The spin is effected by rowing the boat slowly, the lead keeping the bait near mid-water.

My friend rowed first, holding his line between his teeth, and I all excitement and expectation, sat in the stern-sheets spinning over the quarter. He had not taken half-a-dozen strokes when I felt the rush of a heavy fish.

"I've got him," I cried, and let him run, intending to play him.

"Here's another," cried my friend, as he shipped his oars and pulled in his line hand over hand with all his might.

"You'll certainly break if you pull like that," I said, "play him, man, play him!"

"Play him be blowed! Break! Ned Fry's tackle won't break, and the fish's head can't come off," he replied.

"No; but your hooks may come off."

"Pull your fish out and don't argue, you're only wasting time," he said, lifting out a fine mackerel, tearing the hooks from its mouth and throwing it into the bottom of the boat.

After letting my fish run for about a minute or two I brought him to the side of the boat and lifted him gently out. What a beautiful fish a mackerel is when just taken out of the water. I think no fish, not even the speckled trout, is so beautiful.

We rested for a few minutes to fill our pipes, wet the fish, and carefully observe the exact route of the nearest shoal—a most necessary precaution in mackerel fishing.

"Now, George, if we are to secure a good 'take' you must be careful. It is finer sport and indeed much more profitable to run a fish a quarter of an hour than to lose your hooks," I said.

"Bosh, Jack! You must really excuse me, you're not on the Thames. Why there's no comparison between the two styles of fishing. These fish are not afraid of a line, and one has only to follow them," he replied.

"Well, you fish your way. I'll angle. I confess I'll *kill* the fish without *murdering* them, and let the result judge between us. There, let's to work."

In went our baits again, and my friend rode after the fish. I soon had another run, and after a little careful handling, by which I managed to keep my fish from under the boat, I landed another fine one. As I was disgorging the hooks my friend stopped rowing, shipped his oars, and taking his line from between his teeth, had a tremendous rush. He held on, and the fish pulled, and the harder the fish pulled the harder he held on, and commenced to haul in hand over hand, and broke.

"There, I told you so," I exclaimed. "I'll say no more, but leave you to your conscience."

"Well they must have been rotten hooks, or something weak about the trace," he replied, pulling in his line.

We found the triangle gone close to the spinning bait, and if the maker of that triangle could have heard the blessings showered on his head by my friend, he would certainly have felt anything but complimented.

I proposed that he should take my line and put me ashore, so that I could get my own tackle.

"Very well, do as you like," he replied, and I rowed the boat alongside the pier, clambered up some twenty feet of iron ladder let into the stonework, and went in search of my jack-tackle.

In another half-hour I was seated once more in the boat with my friend. He had taken half-a-dozen good fish during my absence, but had lost two out of his three hooks, so I took off the spinning bait and put on a small spoon. Seeing that I had a good supply of perch hooks, he asked me to fasten two of them above the spoon. I did so, placing them about a yard apart, and taking one of the mackerel he cut two oblong pieces of the glistening skin from its breast, and placed it on the hooks. With this bait, while I was putting my tackle together, my friend, now more careful, landed two fish at once, and, during the remainder of the time we were out, this mackerel skin was most deadly, being greedily taken. He afterwards landed a gurnard and cut the skin from its tail. This bait was also very successful. Indeed, I believe mackerel will take any bait that moves and glistens in the water.

While he was landing a fish, I made my first throw, sitting in the stern of the boat just as if I were in a punt on the Thames; my bait, a large phantom minnow, was almost instantly seized, and I had fine sport with a heavy fish, my friend looking on with surprise and admiration. He was so pleased with the spinning throw, that he shipped his oars to let me have it all my own way for a while, and to watch me intently.

There were now several boats out, and knots of people on the pier watching us. I believe, in fact I afterwards heard, that many of the folks there thought me crazed, for they had never seen a rod *at sea*. A friend asked me in the evening if I had been "trying the salmon," with a sarcastic smile.

We had another hour's good sport, and then to show my friend what "playing" could do, I took a small Devon minnow on fine trout tackle, and when he had rowed sufficiently near a shoal, cast over them. At the third throw I had a run, and after five minutes' play the water was so bright we could see the largest mackerel we had struck darting about in the water, and soon after struggling in the bottom of the boat. It was very nearly two feet long.

We determined that this should wind up that day's sport, especially as we observed the clouds banking up to windward. We each took an oar, and had a rather stiff row against a squally breeze and a two-foot "lipper," which gave us a few showers of spray.

When we landed we were surrounded, for the fish were very fine ones, and we had a splendid catch.

I took seven of the finest, and they were as much as I could carry.

We paid 3s. for three hours' excellent sport, and as I have seen far inferior fish sold in town for 6d. each, I consider that, even as a mere commercial speculation, my first mackerel were a glorious success.

WAMBA.

AMERICAN FISH CULTURE.

THERE can be no doubt that our American cousins, in the matter of fish culture, are far ahead of us. It is true that the splendid aquatic resources of the country give them a decided advantage over all other nations, but not a little of this success is due to the thoroughness of the manner and the enthusiastic temper in which each branch of the science of aqua culture is prosecuted.

I have just received from the corresponding secretary (A. F. Mather, U.S. Fish Commission), of the Central Fish Cultural Society, a copy of the proceedings of that association for 1881,

and its contents reveal several new, and, in England, unsuspected discoveries in the natural history of fishes, and, as well, afford many items of great interest to fish culturists. A *precis* of the chief of these will doubtless be acceptable to the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE.

The food of young fishes is but imperfectly known, and the paper of Mr. S. A. Forbes, therefore, comes in appropriately when we find that not only trout but perch are being artificially bred in this country. It would appear that the use of minute insects has been attempted in France as food for young trout, but the practice does not seem to have been followed up. The writer ascertained that common perch, of from a quarter of an inch to an inch and a quarter long, feed, in a natural state, wholly on Entomstraca and the larvæ of Chironomous. The first of these names is applied to the minute crustaceans which are found most abundant in lakes and other stagnant water, but occur likewise to some extent in running streams. The name of water-fleas is sometimes given to a large section of this group. Chironomous is a gnat whose larvæ is familiar to all who have ever noticed the minute animals of stagnant water; it is red and moves through the water with a wriggling motion. I may add to this that other larvæ—of the *tipulæ* for example, also are devoured voraciously by young perch.

The pike seems to commence attacking small fish at a very early age, but it also feeds on Entomstraca, chiefly of the *Amphipoda*, *Daphniæ* and *Lynceidæ*—terms perfectly well known to students of the microscopic organisms of water. Minnows also go in for a similar dietary; one, three-eighths of an inch long, being found to have consumed Entomstraca (25 per cent) and Chironomous larvæ. Chub, ranging from five-eighths of an inch to one inch, was found to have eaten only 7 per cent Entomstraca and the rest filamentous algæ—thus indicating an exception to the general rule. The rest of the paper is taken up with estimations in respect of fish not known in England. I therefore omit further reference.

Some most extraordinary results of carp breeding and raising are recorded by Mr. Mather, who starts by saying that it is a well-known fact that when an animal undergoes a change of climate it seldom remains as it was before the change; a bulldog taken to India loses the courage which distinguished it in the British Islands, and becomes a coward. Other instances are recorded in the pages of natural history, where room will now have to be made to note the fact that carp, after transplanting to America, has grown to three times the size which it did in Germany, in the same space of time. In one case it seems that, from spring-time to October, fish originally three inches long grew so rapidly as to measure 12 and 14 inches; in another, carp three or four inches long in the winter of 1879 were 20 inches in October, 1880, and in Georgia it is certain that, from two or three inches, some carp grew to 25 inches in less than a year.

In order to positively show the extraordinary character of the growth, I quote the paper again. Three German fish-culturists gave Mr. Mather the following rates of growth for Germany for four years. Those of Mr. Herman Haack (of Huningue) will suffice:—One year to 8 inches; two years, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ lb.; three years, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 lb.; four years, 2 to 5 lb., according to temperature and food. Rather a difference in these rates and those referred to! A Mr. G. R. Miller, of the Michigan Fish Commission, it is also said, grew carp to 17 inches, and a weight of 3 lb., in less than a year from fish, not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Another fish-culturist deposes to having found them grow nine clear inches between June and September of the same year. These results seem to me very striking.

Perhaps the most interesting and curious discovery in the history of fish-culture is that of the breeding of California salmon in fresh water. Mr. N. K. Fairbank, the president of the society, read a paper on the subject which seems to set the matter at rest, and if such results could be attained in England, it is easy to see what a valuable discovery this is. A large lake being at his disposal, fed by a stream, and having no outlet to the ocean which would allow of migration, he introduced, roughly speaking, half a million young salmon in excellent condition—this to October, 1880, the first batch being placed in the lake in the spring of 1876. In July last a salmon was taken weighing $12\frac{3}{4}$ lb., which proved excellent eating, which fact proves the fish will grow well in an enclosed lake. "In September," to quote Mr. Fairbank's own words, "they began to show themselves at the head of the lake near the mouth of a small creek, having its source in a group of springs a mile back, which empties into the lake. Mr. W. Welcher, who has charge of the hatchery and ponds there, discovered eight fine specimens, one day, splashing about in this creek;" they were endeavouring to reach a suitable spot for spawning bed, for, on the capture of a female, the eggs were found quite ripe. Nests were found to have been made, and there, as the writer naively puts it, "Unlike Brigham Young, they find

they can be very good Mormons, and increase and multiply without going to a Salt Lake."

I, of course, have not attempted in this short *resumé* to give all the points of interest with which the report bristles. The items mentioned cannot, however, fail to interest such of the FISHING GAZETTE readers as are interested in the piscicultural doings of the Americans.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE joint deputation from the East and West Central Associations which waited upon the authorities of the Great Eastern Railway relative to the granting of further concessions upon that line, received a most courteous reception from Mr. Birt, the General Manager and Mr. Robertson, the Superintendent, who promised the subject should receive every attention, and that the secretaries of the respective associations would be informed of the ultimate decision arrived at by the directors.

In the face of the recent complaints from another company, it is quite pleasant to be able to record Mr. Robertson's opinion that the privilege tickets had worked very well, and that they, at all events, had no complaints whatever to make. "Praise from Sir Hubert Stanley is praise indeed."

The deputation consisted of Messrs. P. Geen, S. Morgan, T. Hoole R. Ghurney, R. Murphy, Field, J. Manning, Aldridge, Beckett, Munroe, Chambers, Noble, Starr, Cundall, Welsh, R. Marshall, &c. After the deputation, Mr. Marshall, still on fish, if not on fishing bent, found his way instinctively, I believe, into "Ye Market of Billingsgate," where he was sorely tempted to become the purchaser of a monster skate, perfectly fresh, and weighing 150 lb. (one hundred and fifty pounds!), for the very modest sum of 2s. (two shillings!) Had it been hake, for which he has a particular weakness, Mr. Marshall says he would not have hesitated a moment.

On Thursday last I spent the afternoon with Mr. G. Fennell. Great comparing of angling notes, and after we had a moderate consumption of "Scotch warm," he handed me at parting the painting kindly presented by him to the Anglers' Benevolent Society. It will no doubt prove all the more attractive to a Waltonian as it represents a fishing subject, a brother of the rod figuring in the foreground, thigh-booted and wielding a long fly-rod with right goodwill. Of course the picture will be suitably framed, and the committee will have to decide how so acceptable a gift can best be utilised and with most solid advantage to the funds.

I am glad to notice that my friend and late brother club member, Mr. Alfred Mayman, of the society of Caxtonian Anglers, managed in the recent dace competition in the tidal water to win the silver cup (value £5 ss.), and to hear him speak of J. Bushnell, of Richmond, whose services I advised him to secure, as "the smartest little fisherman he has ever been out with."

I read and re-read my friend, B's, article "Prizes for Specimen Fish, &c.," in last week's GAZETTE, very carefully. While there is much in which I heartily concur, there is also much which, in my opinion, is fair matter for discussion.

For laying night lines in the River Thames from a friend's lawn at Twickenham, Mr. J. H. Macgregor, of 17, Burlington Road, Bayswater, was at the Brentford sessions, on Saturday last, fined 10s.

Mr. W. J. Wettenhall, the popular treasurer of the North-Western Angling Society, who has been dangerously ill with quinsy, is, I am happy to say, very much better.

To-night (Friday) is the monthly meeting of the West Central Association, and as there is some important business to be brought forward, Mr. Hoole writes that he hopes all delegates will attend.

In a contemporary last week appeared the following:—

"CHERTSEY.—A correspondent informs us that the account given in a contemporary as to 75 lb. of bream being taken by a local professional is utterly devoid of foundation." The report of the take first appeared in my notes in the FISHING GAZETTE, of October 8th, as one of Haslett's, of Chertsey's, recent takes, and directly I saw this very hot paragraph, I wrote to Mr. Geen, who lives close by for independent corroborative particulars, and am just in receipt of a letter in which he says:—"There were 27 bream caught that day by Mr. Allen, St. George's View, Addlestone, fishing with Haslett, they were taken from the well of the punt, and placed upon the lawn in front of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel; after which they were weighed by Mr. Thurston, the proprietor, in the presence of a number of people, the weight being just over 75 lb."

About the middle of the day I was informed by Mr. Taylor, a professional fisherman, that Haslett was taking in the weir with Mr. Allen, a number of fine bream, and that it was anticipated a grand weight would be the result of to-day's fishing."

I refrain from comment, but expect some explanation and apology from your contemporary's correspondent for causing so much trouble, and no doubt some annoyance and pain, to Haslett, when he might so easily have ascertained the facts for himself.

Apropos of Haslett, who has, I am told, written Mr. Marston to say he intends to accept his generous invitation to the tournament, and (this he did not put in his letter), but was overheard to say that, even should he fail to win a prize, he will have the pleasure of seeing a number of his patrons whom he sincerely hopes will on this occasion remember his little weakness for Scotch, and therefore not press him too hard.

Fishing news proper, very meagre again this week. I always try and give a prominent place in my jottings to the capture of good fish, and

accordingly have selected the following among a multitude of small fry. From the Ferry Boat, Tottenham, Mr. Mead, is to be credited with the capture of a roach 1 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Diggins with a tench 3 lb. 1 oz. From the Arun, near Pulborough, a London angler succeeded in capturing in one day among others, three bream, one carp, and one perch, weighing respectively 6 lb. 8½ oz., 4 lb. 10 oz., 4 lb. 6 oz., 4 lb., and 1½ lb. The bream and carp were taken ledgering with gentles on a No. 10 hook; a friend of this fortunate piscator also securing a handsome bream 5 lb. 8 oz.

I am pleased to be able to congratulate Mr. W. Roberts, the treasurer of the Good Intent Anglers, upon securing a good take of roach and rudd (20 lb.) from Waterbeach. Also Mr. William Green, the host and treasurer of the Hammersmith United, upon the capture of a very nice chub.

Mr. Hoole tells me the accounts of the West Central Association have this week been audited, and show a balance to the credit of the association of £106 6s. 6d. The number of privilege cards issued this year up to 12th inst. being 2037.

Concerning the tournament on Saturday, Mr. Hoole only received the admission tickets on Monday last, but lost no time in getting them sent out to the secretaries of all angling societies enrolled with the association. He earnestly requests that secretaries will not send him stamps in payment for tickets sold.

Nothing like facts, dates and figures to prove a case. Have dace two spawning seasons, or, rather, are there dace which spawn in the spring and others which spawn in the autumn, as stated by the chairman at the recent meeting of anglers in the Society of Arts Room?

On Thursday last, October 13, Mr. Walters, while fishing in the River Colne, at Uxbridge, succeeded in taking 33 dace, weighing 11 lb. 15 oz., which, in my opinion, conclusively proved Mr. P. Geen's statement to be correct, as these fish were taken from a shallow, sandy-bottomed eddy in about a foot of water. The fourth of them had just completed the act of spawning, and were, on being opened, found empty; their scales were rough, their flesh flabby, and their vents distended. About one half had evidently been caught while in the act of shedding, as the slightest touch caused the fully developed spawn to come from them. The remainder were extraordinarily full, and on being opened clearly showed that they were on this particularly favourable spot for the purpose of there depositing their spawn.

The chairman, the secretary, indeed the whole of the members of the Club (Hammersmith United) present carefully inspected the fish, and saw them opened, and those who doubted it before are now fully convinced that dace have two spawning seasons.

F. C. Clench, Esq., might have been seen at Allroyd's, Gracechurch Street, on Monday last, critically inspecting their rods. It is said he has a commission to purchase a rod for "the Prince," who is the President of the Richmond Piscatorial Society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

ANGLING LITERATURE IN ENGLAND—GRESHAM SOCIETY PRIZES.

SIR,—Referring to the review (in your last issue) of "Angling Literature in England," the suggestion is happily made by the reviewer that the Gresham Angling Society should give as prizes the best works that have appeared on piscatorial subjects. This idea has been already considered and approved of by the committee of the above society, but it was thought best not to trammel too much the choice of a prize winner, who is now at liberty to select any suitable article of value, books, of course, included, but the winner is not in any case to have the cash value paid to him.

It may, in passing, be noted that books already appear amongst the private and special prizes in the "Gresham" list.

With regard to Mr. Lambert's beautiful little work, I was so pleased with it that at our last meeting I handed in a copy for our library on condition that another was obtained, as I thought the book would be in great demand amongst our (nearly 200) members. Of course, another copy was promptly forthcoming, and no doubt these two copies will be none too many for us, as it is a work that every educated angler should read; and club members especially will find in this little book much respecting angling literature that is very interesting.—I am, &c.,

GRESHAM MEMBER.

MINNOWS IN THE ROACH SWIM.

SIR,—Whilst roach-fishing in the Thames I am continually annoyed by minnows, who come by the thousands into the swim and follow the bait dows to the depth of from 10 to 12 feet and then seize it. Can any of your readers inform me if there is any way of either enticing or driving them to a distance?—I am, &c.,

H.

[A few dry crumbs of bread thrown on the stream will draw some of them away, but you seem to have hit on a hole where they are "packing" for the winter.—ED.]

MR. GREVILLE FENNELL AND THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Herewith I send you the first number of the old *Fishing Gazette*, of which I spoke over the whisky and water at the Shades, London Bridge.

I have a small oil sketch—"Magna Charta Island"—which I purpose giving towards the tournament, and hope to get Mr. Rayner, the hon. sec. of the Piscatorials, to put it into presentable shape—of course giving him credit for this essential part of the business.

It is a spirited offer of yours to fill Mr. Sach's bottle with whisky (enough to make a tumbler of it!), and I do not even grudge so good a purpose, though it may come off the expectant bulk destined (*a la Shades*) to cheer—Yours, &c.,

JOHN GREVILLE FENNELL.

A DAISY WITH A DORSAL FIN.

SIR,—In the issue of September 3, in Mr. J. Harrington Keene's comments on the American carp, quoted from "Forest and Stream," he says, "Fancy a daisy with a dorsal fin." Now, Mr. Editor, I don't know that it is necessary to make any apology for this quotation, yet to ears unused to American similes I presume this does seem strange. The writer in "Forest and Stream" was evidently indulging in what your English fishermen call "gush," or, as we term it, "hifalutin." A daisy is slang, quite slangy, yet a word that has crept into common use. It denotes that anything handsome, pretty, or gay—in fact, anything above ordinary, is a daisy—a fine horse, a well-bred dog, a handsome woman, or even an extra fine trout; all of them, under the circumstances, are daisies.

If a party of boys in our streets see a young girl passing by them dressed in good style, or if overdressed, you hear the expression instantly, "Phew! ain't she a daisy, tho'?" The expression is so common that children from four years up to mature men all catch it. Even the ladies are not exempt. All of us use it. It is not distinctive, like Boston's "Too utterly utterly," or "Too sweet for anything."

These slang phrases live and flourish for the time being, and spread over the entire Continent, and grow into our conversation until they become Americanisms. Hence this term, "They were pretty to look at; one of them was a daisy." The English daisy is a scarce flower in this big country, except where under cultivation, and certainly does not grow dorsal fins.

I trust Mr. Keene will accept this explanation of this seemingly ambiguous term in the kindest spirit, and not think me critical in bringing up the subject again.—I am, &c.,

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Chicago, U.S.A., Sept. 28.

[We are sure Mr. Keene will accept this as desired. For our own part we should not object to some new names for trout, being quite tired of the stale "speckled beauty," "spotted beauty," and similar expressions, as also the done-to-death words "finny tribe."—ED.]

REPORTED FISH-NETTING AT RICHMOND.

SIR,—I have very carefully read your correspondent's letter, signed Fred Clench, but why he writes so many words to such little effect I cannot understand. He states that he and his brother members of the club he represents, living on the banks of the river between Richmond and Teddington, would know of everything, particularly netting, taking place.

Now, we know very well, from past experience, that people may live so close to a danger that they are unconscious of such being near.

His members may live between Richmond and Teddington but still not fish the Richmond waters.

If I read his letter correctly, I fancy he must have been in a peculiar humour to write in such a strain and with so much animosity, otherwise he would have read Mr. Boalch's letter in a different spirit.

I can say that I have had upwards of twenty years' experience of Richmond, both boating and fishing, and can testify to the fact that those living close to the river know very little of what is going on in respect to the water, and I therefore consider it an idle boast of your correspondent, F. C., to assert that the members of his club should know of everything taking place either on or in the waters that he mentioned.

Your correspondent, Mr. Boalch, has brought this question of netting before the public, and should, out of courtesy to all anglers, name his authority for making such assertions.

The able letters from your other correspondents need no comment from me.—I am, &c.,

A RICHMOND SCULLER.

[It is all very well for "A Richmond Sculler" to complain of Mr. Clench's somewhat sharp letter, but it is most likely that he would himself write in the same strain under similar circumstances. Until Mr. Boalch gives chapter and verse for his statement, we consider he is not acting fairly either to the T.A.P.S. or to the Richmond anglers. He has thrown a slur on their vigilance which he has not, and, in our opinion, cannot, prove that they deserve.—ED.]

PRUSSIAN CARP.

SIR,—I see in your issue of the 24th September a correspondent, signing himself J. J. Harris, asks for information as to taking the Prussian carp. Perhaps the following hints may be of use:—

I have never heard of them being found in rivers, and have only known them as pond fish.

In habit, they resemble the common carp, and bite about as freely. I used to take them, when a youngster, in a small pond belonging to a friend. Our tackle was, to say the least, primitive, consisting of a piece of crotchet cotton, about a yard of bean stick, a roach hook, and for a float a piece of small stick tied on to the line by a half hitch, and for baits a brandling dug out of the cucumber frame. Plumbing was an unknown mystery in those days. We used to pitch in and wait for the fish. When we first tried there we took several dozens, including gold fish; but after a few days they became very shy. They are very long-lived fish; some I caught were alive ten years afterwards in an aquarium. In conclusion, I should say fish with the finest drawn gut, a medium hook, and a light quill float carrying three shots, either on the bottom or about an inch from it, and if possible on a dull day.—I am, &c.,

A CARP.

P.S.—I believe somewhere in Berkshire there is on the top of a hill a pond full of them where any one may fish. I get my information from an old countryman, professionally a rat catcher. If I can meet him again I will get all the information I can and forward it to Mr. Harris.

FISHING AT OXFORD.

SIR,—Last week whilst angling in the Thames, near Sandford, Mr. Charles Kersey succeeded in taking a large jack weighing 11½ lb., also two others of 3 and 4 lb.

The water for the last few weeks has been very low, but on Friday (I suppose from the high wind) it was some 5 or 6 inches over the side weir at Folly Bridge. The fish are going fairly at worm, but I have heard of no big catches, the general complaint being for the last two months that they went go at all.—I am, &c.,

RED PALMER.

October 16.

THE 10 LB. PERCH.

SIR,—When I read "Esos Lucius's" letter, I really thought I must have, in some unaccountable manner, been the victim of a delusion, and almost felt regret at having troubled yourself and readers with my account of the aged

monster; and felt, moreover, inclined to take at once another trip to King's Heath, for the purpose of reassuring myself, the more especially so, seeing your own (to my idea) ominous remark. "What a whacker!" thinks I. Does he intend this for the perch—the story—or myself? seeing that I am some 27 st. good weight. However, my mind was greatly relieved on coming to Mr. J. Gregory's letter. I regret very much having committed the error of making use of his name for that of Mr. Reynolds. It was purely an error, for which I offer him my apology, endorsing, as he has, my account.

I hope many a rodster will take the opportunity of having a look at the perch, when I doubt not that they will be as much astonished as I was.

The fine barbel Mr. G. names is indeed another whacker, and worth a visit. I feel, also, an apology is due to Mr. Reynolds, for my having so unceremoniously installed his friend Mr. G. as host of the Cross Guns.—I am, &c.,

P. S. DAVIS,

(Formerly colour-serjeant Grenadier Guards).

Eliza Cottages, Chandos Road, Stratford, E.

October 17.

WORMS.

SIR,—Can any of your numerous readers inform me whether worms that are cut in halves with the spade whilst digging ever regain their original forms? and if so, in what way does the tail portion form a new head; and how does it obtain nourishment to enable it to perform this extraordinary feat?—I am, &c.,

Oct. 18.

MARK ANTONY.

[We hope to review Darwin's new book on worms soon, and cull some facts of interest.—ED.]

A GOOD ROD-VARNISH WANTED.

SIR,—I should feel exceedingly obliged if any of the readers of your valuable paper can give me the receipt for producing that hard glassy appearance on new rods? Mine stands sadly in need of doing up, and being a great favourite I should like it to have the best treatment.—I am, &c.,

NOVICE.

WALTON, EDITED BY EPHEMERA.

SIR,—Can any correspondent help me to complete the list of editions of the "Complete Angler," edited by "Ephemera," of which Messrs. Routledge are now the publishers? I have Ingram's of 1832, Nathaniel Cook's of 1854, and Routledge's of 1859 and 1881. There have been several issues during the last twenty years, and I shall be glad to learn whether these are dated or not.—I am, &c.,

THOS. SATCHELL.

Downshire Hill House, N.W.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. Slatter, roach, 6 lb. 7½ oz., from the Thames; Mr. S. Head, one roach, 1 lb. 3 oz., from the Thames; ten roach, 4 lb., from Thorney Broad; one chub, 1 lb. 15 oz. from Thorney Broad; one perch, 7 oz.; total, 6 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Slatter, roach, 4 lb. 3 oz., from the Thames. Mr. Dudley weighed in 1 lb. 10 oz. of roach from the Thames. More members have joined. Windsor Joe has not taken that barbel. Mr. Geen I hope will shake hands on Saturday with BLACK BAG.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

On Friday evening, October 14th, the usual fortnightly meeting took place, being well attended by members of the committee, S. Morgan, vice-president, in the chair. On the application of R. B. Marston, Esq., a money-taker for the Angling Tournament was appointed, and the committee offered to assist in any way they could be useful on the day, in carrying out the arrangements. The following members gave in their names:—Messrs. Morgan, Field, Manning, Aldridge, Murphy, Clarke, and Ghurney. The gentlemen who formed the deputation to wait on the Clubs gave in their report, which was very satisfactory. During the fortnight they had visited the Walworth Waltonians, the Burdett, and the Brothers Well Met Angling Societies, and were received in the most respectful and courteous manner, and in each club were promised the whole of the members present to join the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and to use their influence with their brother members to do the same. Two other societies were selected to be visited during the next fortnight. The secretary stated that since the last meeting he had had the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions:—£5 from G. Tracey, Esq.; £5 from the Gresham Angling Society; and £1 1s. from the Great Northern Brothers' Angling Society. The Secretary was instructed to convey a grateful vote of thanks from the Committee to the above for their very handsome donations to the funds.—R. GHURNEY, Secretary.

ANGLER'S PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on Sunday last:—J. Deeley, jun., 4 lb. roach; T. Fiddes, 3 lb. roach from the Grand Junction canal; H. Haines, 3½ lb. roach from the Thames; Messrs. Nash, Soah, &c., also weighed fish.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

October 17.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The postponed competition of the 16th was reconsidered by the committee and came off on Sunday last. All prizes taken: Mr. Ollive first, Mr. Ingram second, Mr. Noble third, Mr. G. Saunders fourth, and Mr. A. Cardy fifth. The competition was open to three rivers, but most members went to the Adur. The day was fine, but the water was in a very muddy condition. Mr. Gates, of Steyning, informed me during last week he took some very fine roach from the upper part of the Adur, and Mr. A. Saunders 17 lb. of bream in two days from the Cuckmere. Mr. Tree a good draw of roach from the Adur. Mr. Anscombe and Mr. Ash went to the Ouse, but the fish were not on. The quarterly meeting takes place on Thursday evening when the balance-sheet will be read, and other business of the Association gone through.—GROUND BAIT.

Oct. 20th.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above club went out on Sunday, October 2nd, for a series of prizes, the following gentlemen being successful: Mr. Hadkiss the first for the best roach, Mr. B. Smith taking second prize with a splendid tray

of dace, Mr. Ratcliffe third, roach, Mr. Hadkiss fourth, roach, and Mr. Taylor fifth with dace and chub. We had also on Sunday, October 9th, a nice show of dace and roach by Mr. B. Smith and Mr. Hodkiss, respectively.—T. G. WALKER.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 16th:—Mr. Mor timer, roach, from the Rye House; and Messrs. Hobbs, J. Chambers, Castell, and Mark, roach, from the Stort.—CAS.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members were out on Sunday, and the following gentlemen were very successful:—Mr. Bunn, roach; Mr. Eagles, roach; Mr. Fortescue, roach; Mr. Richardson, roach; and Mr. Kidd got amongst the chub.—S. MALBY, sec.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

This society will fish at Weybridge on Sunday, October 30th, for several prizes. It is hoped there will be a good attendance of members to compete for the same. Members will go down by the first train from Vauxhall.—P. D. MANNING.

Oct. 20.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last Mr. Broach¹ showed a pretty lot of perch from the Thames, weighing 5 lb. 10 oz.; Mr. Barker a jack from the Wey, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Messrs. J. K. Fitch, Theobald Parkin, roach from the Wey; Messrs. Butler, J. Smith, Hutchings, Kirk, W. Watling and Baker, roach from the Colne.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

Oct. 18.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society held on Thursday evening was very largely attended, Captain Alfred in the chair. Mr. Crumplen's paper "On the Diminution of Fish in the River Thames, with Remedial Suggestions" was read, and warmly applauded. Captain Alfred, Mr. Jardine, Dr. Brunton, Mr. Wheeldon, Mr. Bentley, and others joined in the discussion, Mr. Spreckley also being present, and speaking in highly commendatory terms. In the result, Mr. Crumplen's views were in the main confirmed, and a very hearty vote of thanks was carried by acclamation. It was announced that future papers were promised by Mr. Wheeldon and Mr. Bentley, the former on "The Science of Angling," the latter on "Feeling in Fishes." Mr. Bentley's paper will be read on Thursday, Nov. 3, when Dr. Brunton will take the chair. The paper will be illustrated with diagrams and microscopic subjects, and Mr. Bentley, being a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, a very pleasant evening is anticipated. Five new members were ballotted for and elected, and after Mr. Crumplen's paper, the gentlemen present gave a little music and singing, under the auspices of Mr. Winterbottom, the composer, Mr. George Austin ably filling the chair. This is the most successful evening the society has yet had, and it was stated by gentlemen present that it now clearly headed the angling societies of London. The society voted three guineas to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. After the paper and Mr. Spreckley's able speech, Mr. Spreckley and Dr. Brunton also joined the society. Secretaries of clubs are invited to attend any of the society's meetings, or any gentlemen interested in the subjects under discussion from time to time.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Thursday, October 13th, Mr. Walters had a good show of dace from the Colne, some of them very fine fish, upon opening them several were found to be heavy in spawn. Is this usual at this period of the year, or does it verify Mr. Geen's assertion that there are two spawning times for dace? This is not only the case in the Colne, but I myself caught one in the Fleet at Wrybury three weeks ago, in precisely the same condition. Perhaps some of your readers can enlighten us on this subject. On Sunday, Mr. Hitchcock weighed-in roach, gudgeon and bleak. Mr. Lewis also a good show of the latter sort from the Thames. The seal shot at Kew is being preserved by Messrs. Gardner, of Oxford Street, and not by Mr. Cooper as stated last week; it was shown at the club-house, Builders' Arms, Hammersmith, for a day or two before being sent for preservation. I would like to draw the attention of the members to the valuable prizes now open for competition, as there is nothing like "making hay while the sun shines."—VORTEX.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three special prizes were fished for on Wednesday, the 19th inst. Mr. B. Crook first, Mr. W. H. Meham second, Mr. G. Bliss third. Messrs. T. Dennison, senr., and T. Dennison, junr., weighed-in roach; there were several other members out who met with very little success. There are two special prizes to be fished for on the last two Sundays in this month, the first two heaviest weight of any kind to take them; a special prize for the heaviest weight of chub taken on the first two Sundays in November, also a prize for the heaviest weight of any kind (bar chub) taken on the last-named days. Mr. G. P. Rolt will give a box of cigars, Mr. J. Hilliar will give 10s. 6d., and Mr. W. H. Meham 10s. 6d., to be fished for on a Wednesday. Conditions for these prizes will be named on Wednesday next, 26th inst. Mr. G. Manning will give a prize value 10s. 6d., for the heaviest perch taken on a Sunday from this date to the end of the season. Mr. T. Harris will give a prize for the heaviest weight of jack taken during the season.

20th October.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a nice little show on our table on Sunday evening, contributed by the following members: Mr. C. Watson, roach, 8½ lb., dace, 1½ oz.; Mr. Blenning, roach, 7½ lb.; Mr. Petrie, roach and gudgeon, 3¼ lb., one roach scaling 1 lb. 4½ oz.; Mr. Goods, one pretty little jack, 3 lb.; Mr. Heelas, roach and gudgeon. On Wednesday next, October 26, we have our half-yearly supper at the Russell Arms, Bedford Street. We shall heartily welcome brother anglers and friends to join in the harmony of the evening.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Oct. 21.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The final excursion of the season to the Vyrnwy at Llanymynech, took place on Thursday the 13th inst., when twenty members competed for the seven prizes offered on the occasion. The day was very unfavourable for fly-fishing, the wind being very boisterous, the water cold, on the rise, and much discoloured, and consequently those who used the fly were "not in it." On the other hand

the bottom-fishers had fairly good sport, and some good chub, perch, roach, dace and gudgeon were taken. At the appointed time and place (Cross Keys) the weighing-in was gone through with the following result:—H. Wood, heaviest basket, 6 lb. 3½ oz.; E. Chandler, second heaviest, 4 lb. 6½ oz.; R. Feilinger, heaviest (and only) grayling, 4¼ oz.; H. Davies, heaviest single fish (excluding the winning basket) 1 chub, 4½ oz.; W. Pearson, next winning basket, 1 chub, 6 oz.; H. Frances (heaviest basket of those who had not taken a prize during the year), 1 lb. 15 oz. The party then sat down to an excellent dinner set before them by Mr. Baugh, the host, and every one fully enjoyed the nicely-cooked good things provided for their anglers' appetites. Before leaving, the company thanked Mr. and Mrs. Baugh for their uniform kindness and attention, and for the reasonable charges made on all occasions, and on wishing them good-bye for this season expressed a hope that they would all be spared to meet again in the coming year; wishes to which Mr. Baugh aptly and courteously responded, and the anglers started for home, where all arrived safe and sound in due time.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

Oct. 18.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last, and great excitement prevailed at our club-house on the arrival of Mr. C. Hewett with a fine show of roach; Mr. J. Blackledge had roach, Mr. W. High, roach; and I am sorry to say that the majority of members that fished the River Lea came home with blanks.—E. DYMOND, sec. pro tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

We had fair shows of fish again on Sunday last, Mr. Neagus with roach from the Stort, Messrs. L. Gorsuch and Long, roach and perch from the Thames, Mr. Obbard, roach from the Lea. A special general meeting will take place, on Monday next, October 24th, to fix the date of prizes that have been presented to be fished for.—THOS. WM. LUCY.

Oct. 20.

PRINCESS OF WALES.

Several of our members were out on the 16th inst., but only two weighed-in. Mr. Lumsden had a fine show of perch from Pangbourne, and Mr. Glaister a nice show of dace from Windsor. Members are reminded that Mr. Allport's prize will be fished for on the 23rd inst., at Uxbridge; boundary from the first lock to the bridge. All to start on the morning of competition. A sweepstakes will also be fished for on the same conditions as the prize.—MEDIOCRE.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

On the 15th inst., Mr. T. Hughes weighed-in this society 40 lb. of jack, the heaviest of which weighed 13 lb. All fish were in splendid condition. Mr. G. Hockley has returned to his favourite "shop" on the "Royal River," and has managed to kill about 35 lb. of barbel. Messrs. Dale and Frith were out on the Lea, at Ware, and succeeded in getting some roach and dace.—PIXIE.

Oct. 20.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

In my report of the competition which took place last week among the members of this society I made a mistake in the weight of Mr. Meadway's fish. It should have been 7 lb., and not 5 lb., as it appeared. On the same occasion Mr. Howard, jun., succeeded in winning Mr. Banskack's prize, valued £3 3s.; Mr. C. Banskack took Mr. Pugh's, £2 2s.; and Mr. Boalch came in for Mr. Wymer's, £1 1s. The next society's competition will take place on November 9, for which occasion Mr. T. Clark will give £3 3s. Mr. Nash is down for £1 10s., and Mr. Tanner for £1 1s. Place and conditions will be arranged at the meeting held at the society's headquarters on the 26th of this month.—PIXIE.

October 19.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Several members of the above society were out on the 16th, but met with very little success owing to the prevailing cold wind, but we were just saved a blank by two members bringing-in fish—F. Watts, roach; and W. Tyler, roach and bream.—W. BETTON.

October 19.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

A joint deputation of the United London Anglers' Central Committee and the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies waited on the authorities of the Great Eastern Railway, by appointment, at eleven o'clock, on Thursday, October 13. The deputation was introduced by L. Morgan, Chairman of the Central Committee, and was most courteously received by W. Birt, Esq., General Manager, and J. Robertson, Esq., Superintendent. These gentlemen were addressed by Messrs. R. Ghurney, P. Geen, S. Morgan and W. H. Beckett, who explained that the object of their visit was to ask for an addition to the concessions already so generously granted, that the very great increase in the number of anglers required more fishing rivers to carry out their sport, and the Great Eastern Railway had those rivers running in the immediate vicinity of those stations that the deputation now asked them to grant the further concession to, and that their train arrangements were so admirable that in many places an angler might leave London and have six or seven hours' good fishing in some of the best rivers in England and return the same evening. The General Manager stated he should not be able to give any decided answer at that moment, but it should have his greatest attention, and he would report in a few days. The Superintendent informed the deputation that he would communicate with the Secretary as early as possible. The deputation kindly thanked both gentlemen for the kind and considerate attention they had given to the application.—R. GHURNEY.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The undermentioned gentlemen weighed-in fish on Thursday evening last, for the October Competition, viz., prizes given by the Messrs. J. Collins and Green, jun., to the value of £4 4s., for four weekday shows during October; competing members to present themselves at the society's headquarters the evening previous to competing. Mr. F. Grigg, chub and jack from Shepperton, Mr. Weatherhead, roach and dace, and Mr. Russell roach and dace. On the 16th, Mr. Bayley visited Pulborough; he managed to find a few roach. On the 18th Messrs. Boalch, Banskack, and Howard visited Richmond. The former succeeded in getting 13 lb. 2½ oz., Mr. Howard, 8 lb. 2½ oz., and Mr. Banskack 8 lb. of roach, all very decent going fish, some of them weighing over 12 oz. each.—PIXIE.

October 16.

WALTONIANS.

On October 12th Messrs. Burton, Little, Read and Dodge, sen., weighed-in. On the 16th, Mr. Phillips, who is perhaps entitled to be considered our

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the following, amongst other Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces:—

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1881.

SEWAGE AND OUR RIVERS.

THE NATIVE GUANO COMPANY AT AYLESBURY.

THE question of the purification of the waters of our rivers and streams is one of vital importance to the interests of fishing and fishermen. The rapidly-increasing growth of the urban and rural population throughout the length and breadth of the land has caused the question of what is to be done with the sewage of

our towns, villages, and cities, to become one of the most pressing and important, which have to be resolved. The fact that most towns and villages are situate on, or near to, some river or stream, has caused them to be looked upon as the natural receptacles of all the filth and sewage, and thus it has come to pass that most rivers are polluted to a degree which render their waters impure, in a sanitary sense unhealthy, and as regards the denizens of those waters, has in very many instances entirely destroyed all fish-life. We know of many rivers where some few years ago salmon and trout could be had in abundance, but where now not a single fish is to be found because of the polluted state of the waters. We who live in London need not look further for an example than to the state to which our own noble river has been reduced by pouring into it the accumulating sewage of the many towns and villages situated on its banks. And though recently some attempt has been made to remedy this crying evil by the formation of a joint board, representing most of the towns and villages in the Lower Thames Valley, up to the present nothing has been done by this board for the purification of the river, except to propound a scheme to take the sewage to Molesey, and to promote an enquiry before the Local Government Inspector at the cost of many many thousands of pounds to the unfortunate ratepayers of the contributory districts. The silvery waters of the Thames as of old we knew them, are now murky waters, laden with sewage and all impurities. We have been led to make these observations from a visit which we paid on Wednesday last to the Native Guano Company's Works at Aylesbury. The occasion was a show of Farm and Garden Produce, grown with Native Guano, which is made at their works from the sewage of Aylesbury. By invitation of the chairman and directors, we left Paddington by special train at a quarter to eleven o'clock, a large company having assembled, numbering several hundred gentlemen, representing many and varied interests. Everything had been done by the officials of the Great Western Railway to render our journey a comfortable one. Punctual to time we started on our journey, *via* Slough. We passed old Father Thames at Maidenhead Bridge, leaving on our right the historic mansion of Cliveden (bye-the-by, has it been purchased by Mr. Labouchere-Levi-Lawson?) with its glorious wooded heights glowing in the sunshine, with the radiance of expiring autumn's varied tints. From Maidenhead we proceeded, *via* Great Marlow and High Wycombe, and, close to Aylesbury were joined by several local visitors. A temporary platform had been erected at the company's works for the passengers to alight. Before reaching this platform we passed Prebendal Farm, the property of Mr. Fowler, by whose side we were sitting, and who informed us that he was one of the largest poultry farmers in England, a large user of the Native Guano, and, as we afterwards learned, the winner of the first prize for the best sack of corn in the show. On alighting from the train, the first sight which met our view was the sewage of the town of Aylesbury, disinfected and purified, flowing in a clear stream into the river Thame. This was the very thing we had come to see, for, as representing the fishing interests, here before us was demonstrated the fact that by the process of the Native Guano Company, sewage can be so treated as to render the effluent water fit to flow into any river, and innocuous to fish life. In the FISHING GAZETTE of the 20th of April this year, our special Commissioner at the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, called attention to this very company, and the process (the A B C) which they employ, and it is not too much to say that, as a means of disposing of the sewage of towns, and yet allowing the effluent therefrom to pass into the various rivers and streams on which those towns are situated, this A B C process of the Native Guano Company must be considered an undoubted success.

Having gone over the works where this process is carried out, we made a very careful inspection of the Farm and Garden Produce which was exhibited at the Show. The display was worthy of the occasion. A finer collection of roots and vegetables we do not remember to have often seen. The cabbages were simply magnificent, and the same may be said of the cauliflowers, turnips and potatoes, while the beet and mangrel roots were very fine. All descriptions of vegetables were represented grown with native guano, and, worthy of record, some splendid grapes were shown grown with the same manure. The exhibition of corn, too, though not so large as the vegetables, was extremely good, and the Show, apart from the special interest which claimed our attendance, from the hope that it may lead to good results in purifying the waters of our rivers, in itself would have well repaid a visit. At two o'clock we sat down to a magnificent luncheon, which the healthy odour of the sewage in no way rendered unacceptable, and which was done full justice to by all. The Hon. W. F. Massey-Mainwaring presided over the banquet, and was supported by several members of the House of Commons and most of the neighbouring gentry. Some excellent speeches were delivered, notably one from a reverend gentleman from Glasgow, and at half-past

four p.m. we again found ourselves in the train bound for London, in the company of several gentlemen who take great interest in sewage matters, amongst whom may be mentioned Captain Bedford Pim, late member for Greenwich; Mr. J. W. Denton, vice-chairman of the Richmond Union, member of the Thames Valley Sewerage Board, and the proposer of the resolution at the meeting of that board on the 8th inst., by which the suggestion of the Local Government Board, that the Thames Valley Sewerage Board should hold a conference with the West Kent Main Sewerage Board was, unfortunately, it seems to us, declined; and Mr. Alderman Gould, of Kingston-on-Thames. We had a very busy time of it on the return journey, as our fellow-travellers hold most decided opinions on the sewage question, in which we do not coincide. But we earnestly trust that all will aid us in unceasingly urging the necessity which exists, of providing means for preventing the pollution of our beautiful rivers and streams, so that at no distant date they may again contain millions of fish, to increase the food supply of the country and to afford healthy and enjoyable recreation to all lovers of the gentle art.

AUTUMNAL GRAYLING FISHING.

BY FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

I THINK that I am pretty near the mark in saying that every devotee of either rod or gun has some particular branch of his respective sport that he likes the best; at least I know that it is so with regard to myself, for although an enthusiast on any matter connected with angling, yet I know no phase of that sport to which I look forward with greater eagerness, or enjoy the fulfilment of so much, as a real good day's grayling fishing in the fall of the year.

A better comparison was never made between the relative merits of the trout and the grayling than the one made by Mr. Francis in his "Book on Angling" wherein he styles the former the gentleman of the streams and the latter the lady; in fact, as regards the amount of sport they yield respectively, I consider there is very little to choose between them, and the same remark applies to their edible qualities. Of course, a grayling hooked during the summer months makes only a very poor show of resistance, no more does a trout if caught in winter; but a half pound grayling at the end of a fine gut or hair cast in September or October is a different matter altogether, as many of my readers, no doubt, know well from actual experience.

Having resided for the best part of my life on the banks of the river Yore, which is a better stream for grayling than for trout fishing, I have had ample opportunities for observing and studying the habits of this beautiful fish, and it is with a view of making known to my brother anglers the result of those observations that I am engaged in writing the present article. The list of flies that I shall give is collected from many sources, some of the patterns having been given to me by the best grayling fishers on the Yore and Wharfe. To the experienced of my readers, I do not expect to impart much information, as no doubt most of the patterns will be familiar to them, although a few of them, perhaps, may not. I trust, however, that the tyro in this branch of the gentle art may be able to pick up a few hints that will be of service to him, and should this be the case, I shall feel amply satisfied.

Large grayling are not really in good condition or fit to be taken before the end of August, and in my opinion on a good grayling stream no fish over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight should be allowed to be caught before that time. Fish under that size, or shott grayling, as they are called, are in condition much earlier. I will start, therefore, with September, and consider the flies most suitable for that month.

No. 1.—THE LIGHT OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, inside of dotteril's wing or the smaller quill of a seagull; body, pale white French silk; legs and tail, pale blue hackle. Remarks: This fly is given by Jackson in his practical book on fly-fishing, and sometimes, towards evening, I have found it answer well. He also recommends the same wing with yellow legs and body, but the pattern given above is the one that I generally employ.

No. 2.—DARK OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, inside of water-hen's wing; body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark olive hackle; tail, three small rabbit's whiskers. Remarks: This is a grand fly, if dressed small; I am indebted to Mr. Jackson for this pattern also, and I rarely fish on cold days in September or October without giving it a trial.

No. 3.—THE WHIRLING BLUE DUN.—Body, squirrel's red brown fur, mixed with yellow mohair, tied with yellow silk thread well waxed; tail, one or two whisks of pale ginger hackle; wings, feather from a starling's wing, not very light; legs, pale ginger hackle. Remarks: This is a fly that is not held in very great estimation on the Yorkshire streams, excepting perhaps the Rye, but in the

Worcester district and also on the Dove it is a very noted fly. The pattern given above is Ronalds, who varies it somewhat from that given by Mr. Francis, "Ephemera," H. Wade, and others. The best imitations of this fly that I have ever seen were some that the late David Foster sent me last autumn and no doubt his sons can still supply the same pattern; for my own part I prefer No. 2, as being a better killer, at all events in Yorkshire.

No. 4.—THE APPLE GREEN DUN.—Wings, either dark starling, or taken from inside of water-hen's wing; body, apple green silk; legs, dark olive or black hackle. Remarks: I obtained the pattern for this fly from Hensburgh, the water-keeper at Bake-well, and have since then killed well with it on the Yore and Wharfe; it is best to be provided with both dark and light shades of wing. I received a letter from a gentleman quite recently stating that he had found it an excellent killer. I had given him one or two as a sample.

No. 5.—THE NEEDLE BROWN.—Body, a fine shred from the yellowish quill of a thrush's wing; legs, a grizzled blue dun cock's hackle; wings (under ones) starling's feather used sparingly, and above that two fine slips of hen blackbird's wing. Remarks: This fly is quite as great a pest to the fly-fisher as the black midge; the pattern given above is Mr. Francis's, and dressed very carefully and finely this makes the best imitation of the natural fly that I have seen. Mr. Francis remarks that Jackson alludes to it under the name of the little brown, I do not think so myself, as No. 57 in Jackson's book, which he styles the little willow fly, would give a better imitation. Mr. Ford, in his excellent manual on fly-fishing, evidently shares my opinion, as, under the heading of "Needle Brown," he gives, among other synonyms, "Willow fly," but the angler must not confound it with the next pattern that I give. Mr. Wade mentions it in "Halcyon" as the "Spanish Needle," but his pattern represents the insect known on the Wharfe as the "Musk Fly," and a rare killer it is.

No. 6.—THE LARGE WILLOW FLY.—Body, moles'-fur, spun sparingly on yellow silk; to be hackled with a grizzled hackle of copperish hue. Remarks: This is a standard grayling fly, in fact, I have fished on days when no other fly would do. It is easy to recognise it as it flutters across the stream in the sunshine of a warm September day, and the sight of them usually heralds good sport, if the angler has a good sample tied on fine gut on hair.

No. 7.—THE HONEYDUN BUMBLE.—Body, orange floss silk ribbed with bronze peacock's harl, hackled with a honeydun hackle. Remarks: Although a purely fancy pattern, I do not know any fly that can compete with this as a killer of grayling. I believe that I am correct in saying that Mr. Eaton of Matlock Bath was the inventor of it; and most decidedly no one can make them like him. I have killed some hundreds of fine grayling with this fly, and consider it as great a *sine qua non* on the cast of a grayling fisher as the traditional red hackle is in trouting; in fact, more so, as the latter is a fly that I seldom use.

No. 8.—THE RED TAG.—A bright red cock's hackle, wound upon a body of green peacock's harl, with a scrap of scarlet floss silk at the tail. Remarks: Another excellent fancy fly. I am indebted to a Worcester gentleman for this pattern and can strongly recommend it on dull autumn days, when there is no particular fly upon the stir. It should be fished at the tails of streams sunk a little below the surface of the water. I have found it taken almost invariably by good fish.

No. 9.—THE BLUE BOTTLE.—Wings, jay's quill feather; body, blue tin foil, ribbed with purple silk; legs, dark olive hackle. Remarks: As this fly gets weak as the cold weather advances, they fall upon the water, and are eagerly taken by both grayling and dace.

No. 10.—THE HOUSE FLY.—Body, light brown silk, ribbed with drab ostrich harl; wings, lark's quill feather; legs, grizzled hackle. Remarks: This is Jackson's pattern. I have tried it on several occasions, but am inclined to give the preference to the blue bottle.

To be Continued.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

IT has always been customary to celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of this important society by what is termed an annual supper in which tripe is considered the chief dish. This interesting event—for it is like the return of a birthday—took place on Monday evening last in the spacious club room at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden; and under the presidency of the esteemed father of the club, Mr. F. G. Pearce, who was supported in the vice-chair by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, and Mr. Thomas Huggett. Amongst those present were: Messrs.

F. H. Pearce, W. H. Brougham, T. R. Sachs, Thomas Gillatt, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Brunton, R. S. Fenning, B. Perelli-Rocco, James Pattisson, J. Hill, E. Foreman, W. B. Adlington, F. H. Lemann, Henry Gray, James Lander, J. A. Nicholay, M. H. Blamey, T. Norman Harrison, J. Ross Faulkner, G. Walker, John E. Walker, T. Simpson, H. H. Brown, H. B. Brown, E. Russell, Ernest Turner, T. G. Batt, C. W. Elsdon, &c. The supper—which consisted of thick ox-tail and Julienne soups, sweetbreads, fried tripe, boiled tripe and onions, roast beef, roast mutton, jellies and sweets—gave very great satisfaction, and was served up under the personal superintendence of Mr. Bass, the experienced manager, whose attention and catering elicited marks of the highest approval. The Chairman first of all gave “The Queen” in a loyal and affectionate speech, and then proposed “The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family,” congratulating them on the interest now taken by His Royal Highness on matters piscatorial—first, in relation to the Norwich exhibition, then in connection with the International Exhibition of 1883; and last, though not least, in becoming Patron of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Both these toasts were warmly responded to. The Chairman gave the toast of the evening, “Success to the Piscatorial Society,” and, in doing so, said according to date last Sunday would have been the forty-fifth anniversary. The last year had been an eventful one, as, in the first place they had without notice to leave their club room; and whilst the society and its museum was under the kind and liberal charge of Mr. F. C. Hatfield, of the Star and Garter, St. Martin’s Lane there was a demand for their fish for the Norwich Exhibition, where they obtained the principal prize. They had, however, got back to their old quarters under very comfortable arrangements. The society had sustained great losses in the deaths of Mr. Frank Buckland, Mr. H. L. Rolfe and Colonel Crauford, but they had in their possession trophies of the two former which would keep them in lasting remembrance. As regards the society, all he need say was that it was satisfactorily progressing and the funds were in a very flourishing condition. Over the loving cup, which was now passed round, the toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. When this was completed Mr. F. H. Lemann said he had a few words to say. The anniversary of their society was always associated with a competition for Jack—named after their late treasurer, Mr. Shenton—and he thought it a fitting opportunity to present the club with a painting of a Jack, which, he was convinced, they would all admire. It was executed by his friend, Captain Alfred, and one of his earliest pictures. In these miniature paintings he considered the artist would rise to great eminence, and become a distinguished scaly painter. The painting was handed round the room amidst expressions of approval, and several present remarked they should like to become possessors of some of Captain Alfred’s magnificent works of art. Mr. Lemann’s liberality in the presentation was suitably acknowledged, and his health most heartily drank at the request of the chairman. Mr. Sachs then rose to give “Success to the Thames Angling Preservation Society,” which was doing so much for the anglers. Referring to the impediments of the steam launches on the river, which drove the fish all about, he believed there was plenty of fish, and not the scarcity that some thought, and he gave that opinion from practical experience. After eulogising in very glowing terms the energetic work of its secretary and friend, Mr. W. H. Brougham, he would couple that gentleman’s name with the toast. Mr. Brougham, who received musical honours, first of all referred to his connection with the Piscatorial Society some fifteen years ago, on the occasion of one of these anniversary suppers, and was glad to find after that and over twenty-two years’ work with the Thames Angling Preservation Society they were so well satisfied with his services. He would not refer to the past, as there was so much of the present to speak about. They would be pleased to learn that the head keeper on Friday night last captured a net of 30 yards in length and 9 feet deep, with two of the old poachers at Brentford. He then noticed the memorial which had been laid before the Thames Conservancy, and strongly urged their assistance by one from the Piscatorials in favour of the abolition of netting between Richmond Bridge and Kew Bridge, as he was satisfied they could not strengthen that portion of the memorial too much. In conclusion, he heartily thanked them for their enthusiastic reception, and assured them that Mr. Spreckley and himself were doing all they possibly could to preserve the river, and they would continue to do so amidst “evil report and good report.” Mr. Huggett, in thanking Mr. Brougham for his thoroughly practical and interesting speech, proposed that the Piscatorial Society should present a memorial in reference to the extension of angling in the tideway, which was seconded and unanimously carried. A conversation then took place on different practical subjects connected with the river, in which Messrs. W. B. Adlington, F. H. Lemann, C. P. Wheatstone, J. E. Walker and others took part, to which replies were made by Mr.

Brougham. Mr. Thomas Gillatt, in proposing “The Press,” thought they would be overtaking Mr. Brougham’s oratorical powers in uniting his name with it, but as no man had done more for the society in the Press than he had, he was sure it would be safe in his hands. Mr. W. H. Brougham said he had now for about fifteen years regarded himself as their Press representative, and during that time had recorded the doings of the society in at least fifteen of the best newspapers. He hoped to continue to enjoy the position he did in that respect for some time longer, as he did the work more for the love of it than for any pecuniary gain. Dr. Br. Brunton, in very complimentary terms, gave “The Health of the Honorary Secretary,” to which Mr. Lander briefly replied. Mr. F. H. Lemann then referred to the idea of Mr. R. B. Marston on the propagation of all kinds of course fish, and those present heartily concurred with him in the view that it should receive their consideration and support. At this part of the hearing, Mr. T. Huggett weighed-in some fish which he had brought up from the Avon. They consisted of one pike weighing 8 lb. 15 oz., several others weighing 40 lb. 2 oz., and 5 lb. 15 oz. of peal. The Chairman then proposed “The Successful Angler” to which Mr. Huggett replied, and gave “The Chairman” which was acknowledged by Mr. F. G. Pearce. The last toast was “Mr. Bass, the Manager,” the Chairman expressing satisfaction at the excellent supper, which was heartily endorsed by an appreciative company.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE annual pike competition which took place on the 17th inst. is always regarded as the great event of the year, inasmuch as it is commemorative of the establishment of the society, and prizes are designated after the late much respected treasurer, Mr. Thomas Shenton, and called “Shentonian Prizes.” There was a large attendance at the club-room, Ashley’s Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Monday evening. Mr. Thomas Gillatt, who is a very old member, being selected to preside on the occasion. There must have been at least fifty members and visitors present. The first prize of four guineas and a prize of one guinea for the heaviest fish were won by Mr. Attwell, with two fish weighing 20 lb. 8 oz. The largest fish which weighed 15 lb. 13 oz. was caught with a small dace on a single hook at Great Marlow. The attendant fisherman being Henry Rockell, jun. The second prize of one guinea was won by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, with three fish weighing 13 lb. 2 oz., the largest 5 lb. 4 oz. caught at Maple Durham, fishing with E. Shepherd. Mr. Lecluse weighed-in a jack of 4 lb. 5 oz. from Great Marlow. Mr. Thomas Huggett, four chub, weighing 7 lb. 15 oz., the largest 3 lb. from Henley. Between fifteen and twenty members also competed, but were unsuccessful either catching nothing or else fish under the limit, which is 3 lb., really making the match a question of the greatest number of specimen fish. The society for many years has offered prizes for specimen fish only. The healths of the successful competitors were drunk with great enthusiasm, and Mr. Attwell as a new member was warmly congratulated on his piscatorial achievements. The members were reminded of the anniversary supper in the club-room on the 24th inst., at which Mr. F. G. Pearce, the father of the society would preside, and great expectations were raised that the present proprietors of Ashley’s Hotel would give substantial evidence of good catering. B.

VISIT OF THE RICHMOND PISCATORIALS TO KINGSTON.

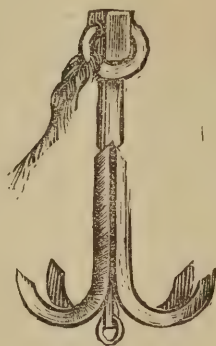
THERE was a competition amongst the members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society on Thursday in last week at Kingston, for three prizes, amounting in the aggregate to five guineas, liberally presented to the club by Mr. John Bond, the piscatorial proprietor of the Sun Hotel and a member of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. Unfortunately the day selected for the event proved to be an unfortunate one—the atmosphere was excessively cold and the reach at Kingston a perfect sea through the prevalence of a boisterous wind—but the members who had given in their names for the contest were all determined to do their best, the prizes being for the heaviest weights. The jack anglers were completely beaten by the elements and never got a run—two of the roach fishers were in better form—but the one who made choice of chub-fishing was rewarded with a nice dish of fish. As the evening approached and darkness set in, the members and competitors began to assemble not only to witness the result but to look forward to another event which was to close the proceedings of the day—the arrangements including a substantial dinner at the Sun Hotel, where they were all satisfied, Mr. Bond would cater for them in a most excellent style. The

weighing-in of the fish commenced at six o'clock, Mr. R. Knapp, in the absence of the secretary, kindly undertaking the duties of "Master of the Scales," and when all appeared done the following was the verdict: Mr. A. Davidson, 5 lb. 3½ oz. of chub; Mr. W. W. Abbott, 2½ lb. of fish, and Mr. T. Field, 1 lb. 10 oz. The members and visitors had now about mustered, as the time fixed for the feed was half-past seven, and "true as the clock" Mr. John Bond with his happy and jovial countenance came into the "weighing-in room" to announce all was ready. There was a general move upstairs—a drawing room was appropriated as a cloak room, with well qualified attendants, and this opened to a spacious dining-room, where tables were most tastefully laid out, and all around looked comfortable and pleasing. Mr. F. C. Clench, the able commander of the Richmond troop, took his seat at the head of the table, and his deputy, Mr. Dickinson, in the vice-chair. Amongst those present were Messrs. P. Geen, W. H. Brougham, H. Nattrass, J. H. Gaunt, R. Rowe, W. Abbott, R. Knapp, John Bond, Wilson, H. E. Gaynor, J. Plant, W. Giles, W. Eydmann, F. A. Crewe, W. Tirrell, T. Field, G. Eydmann, W. H. Spencer, H. Griffiths, A. E. Fricker, J. T. Matthews, A. Fricker, &c. The dinner was served up in an exquisite manner, fish, flesh and fowl being in great abundance, beautifully cooked and the wines and attendance were eminently good. The Chairman gave "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," which was followed by the National Anthem, Mr. W. Abbott presiding at the pianoforte and taking the solo parts, the company joining in a grand chorus. Mr. Clench then proposed "The Richmond Piscatorial Society," which, he said, was going on most prosperously, and had now at least 130 members; and taking those around him as examples, he felt certain for weight, size and ability, they could successfully compete against any other angling club. He called upon all present heartily to respond to the toast, and "long may the society continue to flourish!" The next toast proposed by the chairman was, "The Thames Angling Preservation Society," and he was sure all of them heartily appreciated its valuable services on the river, and in an especial manner the duties of its energetic secretary, Mr. W. H. Brougham, who he was proud to see amongst them on that occasion. His occasional visits to their club room on meeting nights were highly valued, and, in giving his name in connection with the toast, he was satisfied they would give him all the honour and respect he so richly deserved. Mr. Brougham said he was only afraid their excellent chairman had overrated his services, but he was glad to find that having been connected with his society for over twenty-two years his duties were still discharged to their satisfaction. The society had some enemies as well as plenty of friends, and the circulation of false reports by the former as to netting would neither discourage Mr. Spreckley or himself in vigorously carrying on the work of river protection. They had both on the previous day superintended the sinking of a punt at Twickenham, and what with the hindrance of stakes, the sinking of some hundreds weight of tin cuttings, together with a vigilant supervision, the netsmen would have a poor chance between Richmond and Teddington of getting at the fish. He heartily thanked them for their truly welcome reception. Mr. Clench then gave the West Central Association which had conferred such great benefits on the anglers. In obtaining the railway concessions in which his good friend Mr. Geen had so prominently assisted, he was certain that gentleman had sacrificed both time and money to bring their plans to a successful issue, and he felt he would not be saying more than Mr. Geen deserved that no man living had done more for the anglers. Mr. Geen acknowledged the toast in his usual able manner, only regretting there was not sufficient time to tell them all he would like to do about the association, but this he would be glad to do some evening at one of their ordinary meetings. The chairman then announced the result of the competition, the first prize was accorded to Mr. W. Abbott, and the second prize to Mr. T. Field.* Mr. Nattrass in very complimentary words invited those present to drink the health of their esteemed chairman who had made the society what it then was. The whole company rose to do honour to the toast; and the enthusiasm which prevailed must not only have been gratifying to Mr. Clench, but he received as a substantial evidence how highly and unmistakably they prized his eminent services. Mr. Clench in a very feeling manner responded to the toast, their overwhelming expressions of satisfaction would stimulate him to go forward with all his might to raise the position of the society to the highest eminence. "The Vice-chairman," "The Prize Givers," "The Prize Winners," and "The Worthy Host" were the other toasts, and in the latter Mr. Clench expressed to Mr. Bond the entire satisfaction of all present at the magnificent entertainment he had so bountifully provided for them. It may not be out of place here to remark that Mr. Bond has taken the largest pike this season out of the Thames—that he

is an old member of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and that he always gives a hearty welcome to his brother anglers.

THE BELGIAN DEVIL.

"IT was reported recently that the dandy *Eagle*, belonging to Willam Land, of Lowestoft, was drift-net fishing, when an Ostend trawler endeavoured to sever her nets with a 'devil,' but failed, and the master of the *Eagle* managed to secure the instrument. His nets were damaged, but he failed in the darkness to identify the Ostend boat. A telegram has been received from the British Consul at Ostend to the effect that the Ostend trawling vessel, *Isabel*, O, 31, arrived there on Tuesday night, October 11, with loss of gear. This may lead to the identification of the vessel which trawled into the nets of the *Eagle*, and should it be proved, the Belgian Government will punish the master and the crew."—*Norwich Argus*.



We are indebted to Mr. Soman, of the *Norwich Argus*, for the loan of the accompanying view of the "Devil."

This appropriately named infernal machine is of great weight and stands 3 feet in height, the inner sides of the hooks are as sharp as a knife. The mode of using this devil is to tow it in front of the Belgian vessel's trawl right through the English nets, which it cuts, and all the fish go into the foreigner's trawl. Our only wonder is that English sailors are not held in sufficient respect in the North Sea to prevent any Belgian boat daring to use such a villainous affair. But all they do, as far as we can make out, is to appeal to the English Government for protection. Why do not they combine together and catch a Belgian using a devil and play Old Harry with him? Horsemanship the crew, and then tar and feather them and tow them into an English port. Such a lesson would do more good than any punishment the Belgian Government will ever inflict—at the most, perhaps, a fine, to be remitted on the sly. If the English fishermen in the North Sea cannot stop such "devilry" as this themselves, they had better let the Belgians do all the fishing and turn to farming.

MINNOW-TRAPS.

THE following extract upon the subject is from "A Month in the Forests of France," by the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley.*

The kennel inspection concluded, and entreaties persisted in that, as we were to hunt roe deer on the following morning, in feeding on this, the previous day, might be over early.

"Now, Jules," I cried, "where is your minnow net, and how shall we catch the live bait?"

"You shall have some directly; come along."

We went then into the kitchen; and, on coming there, I exclaimed in raptures, on viewing as handsome a yellow English setter as ever I wish to see.

"Oh, Jules, what a beautiful setter!"

"Oh, no, it is not a setter."

"Not a setter! Why I never saw a more perfect one to look at. There, if you please, you have got the right thing, if he be as good as he looks to be."

"Oh, yes, he is good—but he is not a setter."

"Not a setter! I cried," rubbing my cap upon my head, as if I desired to be bald for life; then casting away all indignation, I repeated, "Not a setter! Now my dear Jules, you are a sensible fellow, and I must think you have good grounds for contradicting me about a dog whose breed I will swear is of English or Irish extraction. If it is not a setter, with that nice flowing silken yellow coat and beautifully feathered stern, what is he then?"

"Oh, no, he is not a setter, he is a pointer."

"A pointer! Why?"

"Oh, he always points his game, he never sets."

Had I not been close to the fire-place I should have fainted, so, instead of falling, I dived into a corner outside the door, where I had left my fishing-rod, and began to take off the cover. Having finished my preparations for fishing thus far, I looked in to see if Jules was after his minnow net, for the morning was getting on, and I was anxious to begin. My readers will then imagine my astonishment, as well as impatience, when I beheld him at the kitchen table, attended by some old ladies in wooden shoes, and

* Mr. Davidson, not being a member, was disqualified.

in the act of tying up two large bottles, as I supposed for leeches. It could not be for pickling or preserving, for he had tied up their necks with a tight piece of rag, into the strained surface of which he was industriously picking holes.

"Come on, Jules, and leave the bottles. I shall never have time to work the minnow-net, catch live bait, and try the holes for perch."

"I'm ready. You take up your rod and the casting-net, and I'll get you live bait; so come along."

"The casting-net!" I exclaimed; "that is too large in the mesh for anything under a quarter of a pound. If you've no other net than that I shall get no live bait."

"Oh, yes. We have plenty of live minnows. Come along, bring the net. He has nothing to do with minnows; I catch your minnows when we get to the river while you put your rod together. Come along."

Thus speaking, and with the air of a man who knew what he was about, Jules preceded me, bearing in either hand a large glass decanter, plain and very transparent, about the size of what we should denominate an English magnum, into which I perceived he had inserted half a handful of crumbs of bread. I gazed at him in astonishment, with dreamy notions of bottle imps and conjurations, but his bearing was so positive that I followed in speechless mystification. At length we reached the river, and the first good looking perch hole, where he halted, with these words:—

"Now, then, you put your rod together, get out your line and hook, and when you have done that I will have a hundred live minnows."

So saying, I saw him lie down by the side of the stream at a shallower place for a moment or two, and then return to get up his casting-net and see that it was fit for use. In five minutes I was ready, and in a sort of hopeless agony asked him:

"Where are my live minnows?"

"All ready," he exclaimed, scarcely taking his eyes from the lead-line with which he was busy. Then, dropping the net, he repaired to the shallow, and, lifting only one of his bottles, brought it to me filled—a jolly full bottle of fine lively minnows of the most approved sort.

These bottles are made on purpose for fishing. That part at the nether end which protrudes inwards to the centre (and which I believe must protrude a little in all cases but is often, for the purpose of short measure, made much larger than necessary) in these fishing bottles was a little more elongated, and at the end of it there was a hole about the size of a finger to admit the minnows to the bait. When in the formation of the bottle became much the same in shape and effect to the entrance of an eel wheel, or thief, or hoop net, and the minnows never thought of attempting to get out again at the right place. A handier contrivance I never saw, for when held upright the water sank almost as low as the entrance hole, and there was enough water still retained to keep the minnows alive in moving from place to place. When stationary, the bottle was again sunk, and set to fish moored to the side of the stream with a piece of string. Holes being pricked in the rag over the top, which, when not covered, is used to let the fish out, the air escaped, and the bottle lay at the bottom fairly on its side.

I am inclined to think the pickle bottle, treated as Mr. Keene directs, would not answer as desired, as the moment the bottle was moved the minnows would rush out of it. At least, this has been my experience with a somewhat similar contrivance. In the trap described above, it will be seen that the minnows cannot escape.

G. F.

SINKING A PUNT AT TWICKENHAM.

THE committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society has obtained permission from the Board of Thames Conservancy to sink a couple of punts in Cross Deep, at Twickenham, near to the residence of Lady Adelsa Manners. Only one punt has at present been obtained, and the ceremony of sinking it took place on Wednesday afternoon, 19th inst., at five o'clock, under the superintendence of Messrs. Thomas Spreckley and W. H. Brougham, the work of sinking the boat being under the management of Mr. G. J. Rough, the active and energetic keeper of the Thames Conservancy. The punt was successfully placed in good position, not only as a harbour for fish, but as an obstacle to netters. The Twickenham Deep is well protected with immense stakes covered with tenter hooks and some hundreds weight of tin cuttings have been sunk, the latter always giving strong evidence if the nets have been at work. The Thames Angling Preservation Society will be glad to receive contributions of old punts.

Mrs. F. Y. Brocas, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly-making given.—[Advrt.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

I REFRAIN from giving a detailed account of the FISHING GAZETTE Tournament, which took place last Saturday afternoon, at the Welch Harp, Hendon, in spite of a perfect storm of wind and rain, as also of the dinner, toasts, speeches, songs, &c., which followed it, because, no doubt, such will appear elsewhere in the present number of the FISHING GAZETTE, but there were certain incidents, observations, and deductions I made from what I saw and heard quite apart from the details of the actual proceedings on which I should like to express an opinion. 1st. There can be no doubt that these kinds of competitions are destined to become exceedingly popular. Though, owing to adverse circumstances the attendance on Saturday was exceedingly limited, the interest was unflaggingly sustained—the various competitions and displays of skill being kept up until the shades of evening closed around. Next, it was, if I may be allowed the term, a thoroughly cosmopolitan gathering.

Thames professionals, amateurs, residing by the side of that river, Trentside and other professionals and amateurs—men of ample means and good social position, clerks, humble artisans and mechanics—all well represented, all testifying by their presence, and the eagerness with which they watched each cast, and the interest they felt in this novel exhibition; while several daily, and almost every sporting paper, were represented by well-known correspondents.

Of the river itself I shall say nothing, but I sincerely hope Mr. Marston's remarks about the scientific breeding and rearing of coarse fish will be carefully gone into, and that a scheme will be drawn up giving practical effect to a project which will not only be of the greatest practical utility in replenishing the daily decreasing stock in our river, but possesses a particular fascination of its own.

Mr. Hoole asks me to mention that he will be particularly obliged if secretaries of angling societies and others will kindly let him have the amount for Anglers' Tournament tickets sold as early as possible and not in stamps.

Too much credit cannot be given to the judges. Messrs. Wheeldon and Jardine for the manner in which they discharged their duties, Nor to Mr. P. Geen, who officiated as timer, under circumstances which would have tried a Mark Tapley.

Apropos of Mr. Geen, how was that gentleman employed during the greater part of the interval between the close of the exhibition and the commencement of a substantial and welcome dinner in the Pavilion? I heard something, and on good authority of a gentleman who was wet—very wet—particularly about the lower extremities being piloted by Mr. R. Lealand, of the North-Western Anglers, who knows the Welsh Harp and its surroundings as well as a snail knows its shell, safely to Mr. Sawyer's (the keeper's) cottage, where Mrs. Sawyer's kind heart was moved, the result being an opportunity which he seized of drying his clothes, putting his feet into warm water and being sent into dinner dry and comfortable, and flashing a pair of Mrs. S's best stockings on his lower extremities. Didn't some of the poor wretches, the writer included, huddling round the fire envy P. G.! Just a few.

Mr. J. Lancaster, the fish-preserver, of 2, Jeffries Place, Kentish Town, tells me he last week received for preservation a nice jack, weighing 20 lb., from Sonning.

Before the recent rains, a few decent bags of fish—mostly roach—were being had from Hurley.

Among the numerous small takes I have recently seen, perch figure conspicuously. These bold-biting, game fish ought now to now to begin feeding in earnest.

Last Friday, Mr. Browning, of the Westbourne Park Piscatorials, had a nice jack, 9 lb., from West Drayton (Godfrey's), Mr. W. Hawkins also having some good dace from the same water.

A large net has been captured in the tidal portion of the T.A.P.S. water. I have no particulars, but the bare fact is enough to make one rejoice.

I was button-holed the other evening by a piscator who wanted to know "What of the Thames Rights Defence Association?" because, as he said, you know, don't you know, if they are still alive it's time, you know, they give some signs of life, don't you know. I have a dim recollection of my hazy answer, which included the words—abstracts, Norman French, City charters, funds, moral support of public, &c.—but he wasn't satisfied; didn't offer and wouldn't accept a liquor; and went away mumbling something about writing to Mr. Francis Francis. I don't know if he will. I should like to know.

I don't know whether congers will devour human remains—my impressions are they will—but I know freshwater eels will gobble most things—a favourite bait for them in Belgium, and one with which I have caught hundreds, are the smaller sea-mussels which they prefer "gamey." I have also taken several good tench with the same bait, but cannot remember whether the bait on these occasions was fresh or high, though I believe the former. I am informed by Mr. Hobden that should any controversy arise concerning the spawning of dace I wrote about last week, some of them have been carefully preserved in spirit for the conversion of unbelievers.

The next West Central Association, No. 1. District, visit will be paid to the Marylebone Angling Club, the "Prince Albert," Sherborne Street, Blandford Square, on Tuesday evening, November 1st, when Mr. Secretary Pearce writes he hopes to see a goodly muster of anglers and friends.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—[Advrt.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"I care not, I, to fish in seas—
Fresh rivers best my mind do please."

—WALTON.

Very little of note has been done in Mid-Thames, to my knowledge at any rate, since my last note, and really I should prefer to fish "in seas" rather than in the river lately to get a continuance of sport. The recent rains have much improved the condition of the river for roach and chub, and I hear from many sources of pretty takes of those fish—but the takes seem to have been enhanced by the surprised delight of the anglers. From above Oxford I glean that excellent takes of chub have been had, and that at Pangbourne, Streatley and Wargrave the roach, perch and chub are fairly on. I am not inclined as a rule to advertise stations, but, if an angler would like to have a chance in Mid-Thames just now, I would advise him to locate himself in Wargrave—educate himself to the water, or get a tutor to cram him, and day by day cram himself at Mr. Wyatt's, and the result I am assured from personal experience will be good sport and good grub. (N.B.—This advertisement is not paid for.) At Hurley, Messrs. Lee and Harrison have been doing grand things with the roach and chub; 30 lb. being the weight for one rod on Sunday, and some 6 lb. or 7 lb. for the other, beside a chub of 3½ lb.

FRIDAY EVENING.—River coloured and high, but, to my idea, in tip-top trim for all-round autumn fishing.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water very high and very thick; no jack or perch fishing for some time to come; three or four days before the water will be right for jack; do well for roach fishing by Sunday. Prospects look better; a few fine days will soon get the water in good order. On Sunday 2 jack were caught, largest 4 lb., and some perch. I have only had one day's fishing since my last report.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in good order for all seasonable fishing. Different gentleman fishing with me the last week, their takes have been as follows:—First day, Mr. Howard fishing with me, caught four and a half dozen roach. Second day, Mr. Tunis, 1 barbel and some nice roach. Third day, Mr. Palmer, 4 nice chub. Fourth day, Mr. Frith and a friend, 3 dozen fine roach, 1 bream, and 2 perch.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The rain has coloured the water for the first time this season. I am in hopes the fish will feed as there has not much been done for some time. Should it keep fine there will be good all-round fishing. I have got a few roach and dace, and a jack now and then, but not above 3 lb. The best day was Sunday. John got seven barbel, all from 3 lb. to 3½ lb. I have seen plenty of fish prime, but will not feed. Should it be fine I should say try for jack and perch. I found them the first time to-day.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Monkey Island).

Water getting into good condition after the rain for all-round fishing, and I have no doubt there will be some good takes of jack, roach, and perch during the next week. On Sunday last a gentleman fishing with my son (R. Plummer) took three nice jack, the largest weighing nearly 7 lb.; also a nice show of roach, which ran very large, and in splendid condition. Out myself on Sunday afternoon, in two hours got a nice jack 6½ lb., and a dozen roach, averaging ½ lb. to 1 lb. I began to think there were no jack in the Thames until last Sunday. Just before the thick water came down after the heavy rain jack were seen in all directions. I should think between Bray Lock and Monkey Island as many as thirty jack were seen feeding.—ROBERT PLUMMER.

Thames (Richmond).

Since my last report we have had a mixture of the worst weather we could possibly have for fishing; and to-day, for the first time, the fish have fed at all freely. Should we get no more rain by the time this is in print the river will be in fine fishing order. A shift in the wind will be a great improvement. Also, as the fish do not care for the north-east wind any more than we do, the fishing prospects look well for next week; and anglers who want to wet a line once more before "Jack Frost" comes will not have a better opportunity than now, as I fully expect to have to report some good takes next week. Two gentlemen, members of the Walworth Waltonians Angling Society, fishing here to-day, caught between 20 lb. and 25 lb. of roach to-day, and a lady and gentleman, fishing with Howard, 20 lb. of roach; myself, with one gentleman, 11 lb. of roach. I also have to report the taking of a net by Walters, the Thames Angling Preservation Society's keeper, at Brentford, on Friday night last, Oct. 21, between the hours of 12 and 1. It measures 30 yards in length, and is 9 feet in depth. Such an engine as this would not be long in clearing the river, as it has a mesh of only 1 inch, so as to pick up a 3-inch fish; and it is certain it is not the first time it has been used, as it has seen some wear. I have not seen it myself; I am informed that the two men will be tried on Saturday at the Brentford Police-court. It is to be hoped this is the only one there is or has been at work in the Thames.—JOHN BUSHNELL, Fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind N.E. Water in good condition, and tides suit next week for whole days' fishing. We have had some good sport this week, averaging about 8 to 10 dozen of good fish to each punt. I am pleased to say our head riverkeeper, Mr. Walters, of T. A. P. S., has made a splendid capture of an illegal net,

measuring 30 yards by 9 ft. 6 in. deep. The case is to be heard before our Brentford magistrates this day, Saturday, 29th.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water is now in capital condition for worm fishing, and the roach are taking the tail end of lob worms well, several good baskets having been had. One roach taken before breakfast on Monday last by Mr. Way, of Windsor, with worm, scaled 1 lb. 12½ oz., and is now in the hands of Cooper for preservation, being an extremely handsome fish. This gentleman has had several others of good size. Mr. King, of the Royal Oak, Windsor, out with that excellent fisherman Godden at Cookham, took 10 lb. of roach yesterday. Since my last the barbel have not taken to the dormant state, and, in spite of the cold, will bite. Richard Gray, with G. Hockley, Esq., of 84, Old Kent Road, took a nice basket of 24 fish, going between 35 and 40 lb.—largest about 4 lb. His brother, James Gray, out with a patron, took 23, all of which ran small, there being nothing over 3 lb. He has since, with patrons, been getting fair baskets of perch, roach, and chub, one of the latter going 4 lb., taken with tail of lob worm. Before the discoloured water came, Lumsden, with a patron, had a day's jack fishing down the "old river," and took seven jack, live baiting, largest about 5 lb. While this water lasts good roach, chub, and perch, will be had, especially where previous baiting with cut up lob in good big eddies and likely lay byes is resorted to; but this is out of the question with your London angler, who could not bait a swim as we do some three days before fishing. I have just now returned from putting the last punt into a very fishy looking crib, making the third punt they have had, and to-morrow, please the fishes, I shall try my first turn this season at ledgering for roach, and as I know some thumping chub are in the neighbourhood, may be able to send Cooper another this winter, but he must weigh over 4 lb. 9 oz.—a light weigh compared with some in the neighbourhood of Windsor Bridge.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

Owing to the very cold and unsettled weather but little has again been done on this river. Pike-fishing is still at a discount, whilst during the past week most fish seem to have been off the feed. I have not heard of one respectable catch. It is, however, a period of transition. When the fish get settled down in their winter quarters they may probably take to a more regular style of living. Worm-fishing is falling off, and the different kinds of paste prove more killing when the fish can be caught on the feed, which, for the present, seems only to be for an hour or two in the middle of the day.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

We have had changeable weather since my last—fine, varied by heavy wet. Not many rosters have appeared on the river, and their efforts have not been attended with a great amount of success, though some have done fairly. Only one really good dish of grayling has come to my knowledge, this comprising seven brace. The flies that have been killing best are the grey palmer and mulberry duns, the same as last week. The grasshopper has also done fair execution; indeed, the latter and the maggot on the bottom appear to be getting the largest grayling, as I hear of several two-pounders being captured with them. At the time of writing the weather seems to have improved. There is a good volume of water in the river, and also a tidy colour. Chub are now taking bullock's brains most freely of anything, and I should not advise anglers to come to our river without some. They may be obtained from any butcher, and for use either for ground baiting or on the hook should be as white as possible. As I close my letter, I learn that the whistler and golden dun have been killing pretty tidy dishes in the neighbourhood of Rochester and Uttoxeter.—THE SPLODGER.

Ilfracombe.

I see by looking over the FISHING GAZETTE of last week that my report was not in it; the mistake was caused, I presume, by me sending one of your old directed envelopes as I had no more of the others left. Sea fishing—Friday.—the weather began to moderate, and a few boats ventured out in the evening to try their luck. At about nine o'clock they returned, and the best boat had 2500 herrings, others 1000 and so on, also a few hake and conger. Saturday.—Weather squally, only two boats ventured out, one had 300 herrings the other 100. There were three conger caught from the jetty with hand-line, two weighed 25 lb. each, one 15 lb. each. Sunday evening.—The weather being finer, several boats went out, and their catches were the best for the season; one boat bringing in 8000 herrings, another 5000, and others 1000 and less; the total of all the boats 30 maize of herrings—a maize is 620 herrings—which sold readily at ½d. per herring. Monday.—About a dozen boats went out, but owing to the weather being so bad they were afraid to drift very far; however, they had a short drift and caught about 10 maize of herrings. One boat had four nets cut to pieces by a passing vessel, another had one very much damaged, which I repaired. On Tuesday the weather was very bad, blowing strong from N.E. Several boats went out, but owing to the heavy sea they had to put back. Wednesday.—Through the day the weather was favourable, but towards the evening the wind began to freshen. However, a few boats had fair catches, the best 2½ maize, others 1 maize, and some less, with several fine hake and a few mackerel. Thursday morning.—Weather still bad; only one boat out, which got 200 herrings. There are some fine fish caught from the pier with ground-lines, such as cod, conger, ling, skate, &c., and there are some fine pollack taken with rod and line. Around the piers there are lamps fixed, and any one requiring sport with rod and line must keep close to those lamps, as the pollack can be seen playing about in the glimmer of the light. Thursday afternoon.—Weather moderating, with every prospect of good fishing for the next few days.—E. COMER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There has been very little fish caught during the past week, owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Thursday night it blew a terrific gale from the west, and, as luck would have it to be, all our boats were in the harbour; but at Clovelly, a little fishing port about eighteen miles from here, one of their boats was caught in the gale. They ran her ashore, where she soon became a total wreck. The crew fortunately saved their lives by climbing the rocks—they were very much cut and bruised. Friday, the gale still continued—about ten o'clock there was a little craft seen coming towards the harbour; it proved to be the *Mischief*, a Cardiff pilot boat, belonging to Mr. Morgan, and as it drew nearer the harbour a heavy sea struck her, completely burying her, but she soon righted herself again, and with great difficulty she was brought safe to harbour amid the ringing cheers of the people assembled on the quay. Saturday, wind blowing strong from north-west; it was quite a sight to see the gentlemen down about the rocks, with their guns, sporting with the sea-gulls. One gentleman shot sixteen, and several others six or eight. Monday, weather moderating, a few boats went out to try for herrings, and returning in the

evening, best boat 150, which sold at 2d. each; a few conger were also caught and three skate, the largest weighing about 200lb. Tuesday, one boat only went out, and brought in 220 herrings, which they soon sold at 1½d. each. Wednesday, wind blowing strong from the east—boats unable to put to sea. Thursday, still blowing a gale—fishermen anxiously waiting for a change in the weather; they anticipate a good herring-fishing season, as the prospects of their first trial has turned out very good.—E. COMER.

Lea (Ponders' End).

The water cannot be in better condition for fishing, the weeds clearing away very fast. For the next few days there must be some good takes.—EDMOND DURBAN.

Lea (Ware).

The water has been very queer, through the heavy rains, but is gradually getting right. Everything will be right for Sunday and for weeks to come, if only the frosts continue. Several natives have taken some nice jack. Our worthy friend, Mr. Halford, brought me three good ones, weighing 12½ lb. The native butcher has been getting some roach and dace up the ditch. Mr. Wells, from the Phoenix, and friend Egan took home from here to-day some nice roach and dace.—WM. LEEFE.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river has been stirred up again by the recent rains till it is of the consistency of pea soup. A friend of mine the other day deploring the sad state of things declared that the water was so thick that one could walk on it. When it will be fishable again is a very difficult question to YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Norfolk.

The water is still in a very "measly" condition, thereby checking all sport. Great has been the destruction amongst the fish on both our rivers owing to the prevalence of the salt tide. Singular to say, scarcely anything but large fish succumbed to the invader on the Bure, whilst on the Yare nothing but the smallest specimens were to be seen, and it is the opinion of an authority on these matters, that nearly the whole of the fish bred this year are destroyed. Although this is a matter of much regret, yet it will not seriously affect our supply, as, since the old river has been taken in hand, by the Yare Preservation Society, the quantity of fish contained therein is inexhaustible. Some of the wherrymen were trying on their little game of netting again last week; but, thanks to the vigilance of Hewitt, the respected water bailiff of the Y. P. S. their intentions were nipped in the bud. I should like to see notices placed at all the stations along the river, cautioning wherrymen and others against these depredations, also informing them of the liabilities they are laying themselves open to. I trust the Yare Preservation Society will take the hint and see that this is done at once, so that in the event of these gentlemen being caught, they may not set up the plea of ignorance of the law. I may first add that Hewitt with his usual tact, suspecting what these parties were about, had, in the meantime communicated with the police at Yarmouth, and had they eluded him would, upon their arrival in that port, have been waited on by the authorities there. With respect to the New Fishery station at Brundall, the following extract from the *Norwich Argus* of this week, will endorse all the remarks which have hitherto been made by me respecting it. It says:—"Speaking of angling, we learn that a fishing station is likely to be erected by a company close by Brundall railway station. Certain preliminary matters are now waiting decision, and when determined we hope to be able to lay the whole scheme before the public." It has been taken up most energetically, and knowing the warm interest taken in all that relates to fishing in the city of Norwich, we believe we shall be able presently to record the success of a great angling movement.—ANGLER.

Trent (Newark).

I have nothing of importance to communicate this week. The river has been in a state of high flood all the week, and nothing at all, as far as I can glean, has been done in the way of sport. To-night the water is fast clearing down, and anglers can resume operations in a few days; wind north east, a nasty quarter. Anglers who have a few gentles cannot do better than try them for roach, or a few cockspurs will do as well. In a few days, if the present condition of things should continue, chub and pike fishers ought to try scratchings or pith for chub, and a neat spinning bait for pike; but the weather is so very changeable now that it is difficult to foretell what will be the best plan to adopt.—TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

On Monday the river was overflowing its banks, and at that time it was thought we were going to have a great flood; such, however, was not the case, for the water on Tuesday morning was found to have subsided considerably, and was almost fishable in slow swims; but the anglers thought it was hardly good enough, so waited until the following morning, when it was quickly made known that the water was in capital condition for bottom fishing with worms, and several anglers at once started to some of the noted winter spots, and succeeded in getting the roach fairly on the feed, with a cockspur worm on the hook, and a very small quantity of groundbait was used, and anglers finding the water was in good condition for bream, tried that noted length at Weston; but only caught a few which greatly surprised the roosters, for it is well known that bream abound in this water. Dace are also plentiful in both the Whittington and Burton waters; and, with the exception of 8 lb. to one rod, scarcely anything was done; and it is certainly surprising, when we take into consideration the splendid condition the water was in on both Wednesday and Thursday, that the fish bit so badly. I cannot account for such a failure, as under the favourable circumstances, 12 lb. and 14 lb. of mixed fish were considered very indifferent sport. The water going down so rapidly on Monday night was, perhaps, the principal cause of the fish not being found on feed. The anglers do not know where to find the fish when the water falls so quickly. The river is still in good condition for bottom fishing, but scarcely anything is being done.—W. BAILEY.

Trent and Tame.

No angling news from either of these rivers during the last fortnight, the incessant rains which have fallen have resulted in the inundation of miles of meadowland in the Trent Valley, consequently angling has been completely at a stand. On Thursday night the weather, on the whole, seems inclined to improve, but the river is still reported as being bankfull, thick and unfishable.—JAMES GREGORY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had large floods on both of the above rivers both the 1st week and the beginning of this, which quite knocked anglers off their feet, and of last some days, with both bottom and top. Both rivers are now running on the head for fishing, especially below Rowsley; in fact, it will be still very high for fly-fishing, before it is in proper condition for successful grayling fly-fishing. Both

on Thursday and Friday some few grayling were killed off both the Wye and the higher waters of the Derwent. The bottom-fishers on various parts of the Derwent have also killed some nice baskets of fish during the last two days—grayling and coarse fish—with both maggots and brandling worms, the maggot proving the best killing bait. The bottom-fishers have found the fish to feed the best in the long sandy bottom swims close to the streams. The weather seems to-day like us having some fine weather, which is much needed by anglers.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT.

IN spite of the miserably wet weather, our Tournament came off in a most satisfactory manner last Saturday afternoon; and from the expressions we have heard on all sides from those who were present, we feel quite justified in saying that, had the weather been fine, the event would have been one of the most interesting which has ever taken place in the annals of angling. Our only regret in connection with the affair is that the thousands of anglers who would have been present had the weather been fine, were represented by only a few scores, consequently the immediate pecuniary benefit to the Anglers' Benevolent Society cannot be much, but, on the other hand, that deserving society has obtained such an amount of publicity as cannot fail to materially aid it in the long run. We should be wanting in gratitude if we failed, both in behalf of the officers of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, and, in our own behalf, to most sincerely thank all those gentlemen who have so cordially assisted practically in the affair, and also those gentlemen on the press whose able pens have given it world-wide publicity in the "Daily News," "Bell's Life," "Field," "Land and Water," "Globe," "St. James's Gazette," "Sportsman," "Norwich Argus," "Sporting Life," "Referee," "Forest and Stream," and others too numerous to mention. Especially would we thank Messrs. J. P. Wheeldon, Wm. Senior, and S. Morgan for their reports.

As regards the Tournament itself, the first thing said by every angler we met after who had not been present was, "Well, how did the Tournament come off?" and on our replying, "Very well indeed," the exclamation was, "What! You surely did not carry it out?" The fact was, we could not very well do otherwise, in spite of our previous announcement, that a "thoroughly soaking" day was to stop it. Saturday last was, up to middle-day, one of those uncertain mornings which, at this time of the year, may turn into a fair afternoon, and consequently, when two o'clock came, to our surprise there was a considerable assemblage of anglers in Mr. Warner's large dining-saloon. There were found to be present amateur and professional fishermen, who had, at considerable inconvenience and expense, come from places hundreds of miles away. If they wished it to take place, it would have been manifestly unfair to have postponed the Tournament. The general feeling was that we should defy the weather and do our level best with the long odds against us. Soon after two o'clock the jolly body of anglers met together under such novel circumstances adjourned to the field prepared for the event. We should mention that during the time we were in the saloon, before starting, none of us were idle. Many pleasant introductions came off. Anglers who had known each other only by name now met for the first time; old acquaintanceships were renewed; the money-box of the Anglers' Benevolent went round; tickets for the dinner were disposed of, entrance fees taken, and also something wet, on the principle that *similia similibus curantur*.

To give a list of the names of all who were present would be impossible. Suffice it to mention that the meeting was a very fairly representative one. Amongst those present during the day we noticed Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, and Mr. Alfred Jardine, the judges; Mr. Whitefoot, the Editor of the "Sportsman," Mr. A. Allison, Mr. Ranscombe, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. S. Morgan, vice-president Anglers' Benevolent Society; Mr. T. Spreckley, president of Thames Angling Preservation Society and Anglers' Benevolent Society; Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, chairman of the West Central Angling Association; Mr. Tom Hoole, secretary; Mr. Philip Geen, president of the West Central Association; Mr. Lemann, Captain Alfred, Mr. Field, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Clench, Mr. Ghurney, Mr. Aldridge, W. Bailey, junr., of Nottingham, and others. Mr. W. H. Brougham, Mr. William Senior, of the "Daily News," Mr. Adlington, Mr. Ross Faulkner, Captain Mac Donnell, Mr. Carter, Mr. R. D. Frost, from Bristol, specially delegated by the Bristol Golden Carp Angling Association; Mr. Martin (the "Trent Otter"), Mr. John Bullock, of Derby; Mr. John Foster, of Caythorpe-on-Trent; Mr. H. Wilder, senr., Mr. H. Wilder, junr. Mr. Ned Andrews, Mr. Biggin, &c.

For the benefit of those who were not present, we will briefly describe the arrangement of the ground. A small tent was placed for the use of the judges at the top of the ground. A few yards in front of this was a large tarpaulin for the competitors to stand on, and stretching across the field for 80 yards from this point was

a rope with an ordinary parchment address label attached at every two and a half yards, these labels were marked in large figures with the number of yards they indicated. A row of hurdles ten yards long was placed behind the tent, and another row of hurdles was carried from each end of this top row out into the field to a distance of about forty yards—these were so arranged as to widen out, and the other ends were forty yards apart. In this manner plenty of room was allowed for erratic throws on the part of competitors; these hurdles were intended to keep the spectators off the ground set apart for the competitors.

As a signal for commencing, Mr. Lemann fired a pistol, Messrs. Wheeldon and Jardine took their stand near the flag out in the pouring rain—which as the “Daily News” remarks, they seemed rather to enjoy—and as the bait thrown by each competitor fell, they easily marked off the distance by aid of the line. The competitors were allowed three throws each, and five minutes in which to make them. Mr. P. Geen kindly undertook the office of time-keeper, and did it, as he does all he undertakes, in a prompt business-like and pleasant way, and the same applies to Mr. Fred Clench’s exertions in bringing the competitors up to the scratch. The following account of the competition is from the “Sportsman,” and is written by Mr. S. Morgan, who gave us most valuable assistance in carrying out the whole affair.

“A flag was placed as an object mark for the first competition, which was an ‘Amateur one for casting in the Thames style;’ four entered, and this proved very successful and exciting. With a magnificent cast of 45½ yards Mr. Powell proved the winner, Mr. T. Hoole, the secretary of the West Central Association, second with 40½ yards; and Mr. Da Costa, who seemed to cast somewhat nervously, third, with 40 yards. The second was an amateur competition in casting in Nottingham style, for which Messrs. Martin and Little competed. Mr. Little made a magnificent throw of 52½ yards. The Trent Otter was second with 47 yards, and the third prize was not taken. The third contest was one for professional casting in the Thames style, and Messrs. Ned Andrews, Harry Wilder, sen. and jun., had three throws for championship, Maidenhead in this instance only being represented. H. Wilder proved the winner with a finely executed cast of 50 yards, Ned Andrews getting second with 45 yards, and H. Wilder, jun., third, with 42½ yards. The fourth competition was in casting from reels in Nottingham style. There were only two combatants in this heat, namely, Messrs. W. Bailey, jun., of Nottingham, and J. Foster, of Derbyshire, the former winning with 45 yards, and his style reminded us very forcibly of his father when fishing the £100 match with J. Woodward, of London. The fifth competition, which excited great interest in throwing the bait with forked stick. Messrs. R. Lealand and W. Sawyer, the well-known keeper of this prolific water, were the only two to toe the scratch. This proved very interesting, and, as youth will be served, Mr. R. Lealand won with a magnificent throw of 46½ yards. Though defeated, Sawyer was not disgraced, and he took second honours with a well-delivered cast of 44 yards. The fly-fishing competition between Messrs. Marston and Murphy was watched keenly, and after a fine competition Mr. Murphy won, throwing 24 yards, Mr. Marston casting 23 yards. A variety of throwing was indulged in by Messrs. Wheeldon, Jardine, W. Bailey, jun., and others, and had the weather been more favourable there is little doubt but the exhibits of skill would have been prolonged until dusk. One guinea and a-half was given by Messrs. Brinckman and Beggan for professional throwing of a bait with the line coiled in the hand, and Harry Wilder won with some accurately-measured throws. This style of throwing was greatly admired.

“Nearly forty sat down to a capital dinner, and Mr. Warner deserves every credit for his excellent catering, as considering the bad weather there was little expectation of so many sitting down. Mr. T. Spreckley presided, and he was ably assisted by Mr. Clench, the president of the Richmond Piscatorial Society. The usual loyal toasts were given by the chairman and duly honoured. The Vice-chairman proposed ‘The Thames Angling Preservation Society,’ which was responded to by Mr. Spreckley, the president, and in the course of a very terse, but effective, speech, he pointed out the great good the T.A.P.S. were doing, and what they intended to do in the future. The Chairman then gave the health of Mr. Marston, and this toast, we need scarcely say, was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Mr. Marston’s suggestion that a society for the cultivation of coarse fish should be started, was warmly received. Mr. Geen, in a most eloquent speech, proposed ‘Success to the Anglers’ Benevolent Society,’ and it was responded to by Mr. R. Ghurney. Mr. Bonvoisin gave ‘The Chair and Vice-Chair.’ ‘The Press,’ though last, was not least, and it was responded to by Mr. Senior, who has written some charming works upon angling, both in England and Australia.”

Capital speeches were made by the judges, Messrs. Wheeldon and Jardine; also by Messrs. Clench, Ghurney, Bonvoisin, &c.

We hope next week to have a little more to say on the subject of our tournament, both as regards its practical utility as an exhibition of skill, and also with respect to some suggestions made by speakers at the dinner. In the meantime we shall be obliged if those who won prizes and have not yet received them will send us full address and directions where they are to be sent. We propose to keep the prizes which were not competed for last Saturday, and place them at the disposal of the Angler’s Benevolent Society to be competed for at another tournament to be held during the fence months.

GREGORY’S SPINNING BAITS. The Gregory, the “Flexible Cleopatra,” the “Oxford,” and the “Colorado,” pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory’s registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name “Gregory” is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[Adv.]

WELLINGTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE annual dinner of this excellent society took place at Wellington Hotel, Nottingham, on Thursday evening, October 20th. Mr. F. Warsop, president, and was ably supported in the vice-chair by Mr. S. Sills, over sixty guests sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by the host, Mr. S. F. Bestow, and the various items of a neatly-printed menu were admirably served up. After ample justice had been done to the good things placed on the tables, the chairman, in proposing the first toast, the “Queen and Royal Family,” said that the sentiment of loyalty was not exclusively the attribute of the Anglo-Saxon race, but—perhaps it was the vanity of race that was father to the thought—he had a strong impression that the sentiment was a plant of deeper root of stronger vitality, and of greater constancy in the hearts of Englishmen, than in most of the races of the earth. Not alone, loyalty to the Throne, but loyalty to love, to friendship, to truth, to justice. Loyalty in the people to their country and their rulers, and loyalty in their rulers to the people whom they govern. With this sentiment of loyalty so strong, he was sure they would give a hearty response to the toast of “Her Majesty the Queen and the whole of the Royal Family.”

Mr. Geo. Cass, in splendid style, gave the National Anthem, the whole of the company joining.

The Chairman then proposed the “Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces,” and said that the British soldier could always, in all times of the past, as in the present, and he would add in the future, he depended on to do honour to the country whom he served. The greatest nations, the most invincible armies have at times met with reverses, and it was no disgrace to our Army, to say that victory had not in every instance gone with them. In the equal terms, victory would lie with the Briton, and with a British Army. What may be said of the Army may be repeated with a stronger emphasis of our Navy. The British sailor may be always counted on to be a hero, whether doing battle with human foes, or with storm and tempest. With respect to the Reserve Forces, as he was a member of that body, he would say no more than this. He believed that the Volunteer movement had added greatly to the prestige of the nation as a military power in the estimation of other countries.

To which Sergeant Davis, of the Robin Hoods, replied in a humorous speech, concluding with the remarks that the Army and Navy and Volunteers would always be found ready when wanted.

Mr. Geo. Cass proposed the honorary president of the Society, Sir Henry Bromley. We have, in this gentleman, a good neighbour, a true friend to the angler, an ardent lover of British sports, always ready and willing to assist when called upon, and a good type of a thorough English gentleman.

Sir Henry Coxon proposed success to the Wellington Angling Association. It gave him very great pleasure in meeting his old friends on this occasion. The Wellington Association had done a great deal of good in promoting fair and legitimate angling, it was in a very satisfactory and flourishing condition, both financially and numerically, having its full complement of members (sixty), and was recognised as the A.I. Club in Nottingham. The display of valuable articles on the table for presentation spoke well for the interest the members and friends took in its welfare. He hoped those who had been unfortunate in not taking prizes this season Dame Fortune would fill both hands full for the next.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Coxon for the kind manner in which he had spoken of their association. They were, as he had said, in a prosperous condition—in what might be termed a good swim; and there were good reasons for hoping for a continuous prosperity. He was sure that the Wellington would do all in its power for the promotion of good and fair angling, and for the prevention of unfair and unsportsmanlike practices, such as the use of dynamite, illegal netting, unreasonable angling and so forth.

The Chairman, in a few appropriate remarks, presented the special prizes, each recipient being loudly cheered. (Prizes for specimen fish only being given). Gross weight not allowed. As to the special prizes, Mr. G. Bates took the first for barbel, Mr. T. Sylvester took the first for roach, Mr. G. Cass took the first for dace, Mr. G. Daykin took the first prize for bream, Mr. Sills took the first prize for perch, Mr. West took the first for chub, and Mr. J. Tomlinson took the first for bleak. Amongst the second prizes Mr. Fish took the first for barbel, Mr. Toone the first for roach, Mr. Charles Jackson the first for dace, Mr. W. Hartshorn the first for bream, Mr. Geary the first for perch, Mr. J. Cooper the first for chub, and the first for bleak Mr. H. Davis. Other special prizes were awarded to Mr. J. Turton, Mr. G. Kirk, Mr. Christopher Dickinson, Mr. T. Cooper, and Mr. T. Burgoyne.

The money prizes were taken by the following members:—Barbel: 1, Mr. G. Bates, 9 lb. 2½ oz.; 2, R. Fish, 8 lb. 8½ oz.; 3, J. Turton, 5 lb. 13½ oz.; 4, 5 lb. 1 oz. 6 shots. Roach: 1, T. Sylvester, 1 lb. 6 oz. 3 shot; 2, R. Toone, 1 lb. 5½ oz.; 3, G. Kirk, 1 lb. 2½ oz.; 4, T. Essex, 1 lb. 1½ oz. Dace: 1, G. Cass, 12 oz. 2 shot; 2, C. Jackson, 10½ oz. 4 shot; 3, C. Dickinson, 9½ oz. 2 shots; 4, T. Bates, 8½ oz. 2 shots. Bream: 1, G. Dakin, 5 lb. 1½ oz.; 2, W. Hartshorn, 4 lb. 7 oz.; 3, T. Cooper, 4 lb. 1 oz.; 4, W. Gaskill, 3 lb. 8½ oz. 7 shots. Perch: 1, S. Sills, 1 lb. 2½ oz.; 2 and 3, T. Burgoyne and W. Geary, same weights (9½ oz. 2 shots); 4, J. Topham, 9 oz. 6 shots. Chub: 1, G. West, 3 lb. 13 oz.; 2, J. Cooper, 3 lbs. 8½ oz.; 3, H. Cooper, 3 lb 6 oz. 5 shots; 4, L. Litchfield, 2 lb. 14½ oz. Bleak: 1, J. Tomlinson, 2 oz. 3 shots; 2, H. Davis, 2 oz. less 4 shots; 3, S. Hopkin, 1½ oz. 4 shots; 4, W. Wilson, 1½ oz. 3 shots.

Mr. S. Sills proposed the president, vice president, hon. secretary, and committee. I am sure you will all join me in expressing our gratification at seeing our esteemed president, Mr. H. Wyer once more amongst us. We hope that he will soon be restored to perfect health, and be able to occupy the post of president for years to come.

We have a president, vice-president, and hon. secretary. These gentlemen devote a great deal of time and energy to this society, they are thorough men of business, and I am sure in confiding our interests in their hands, the prestige of the Wellington Society will not suffer in their keeping. We have a good working committee. Gentlemen, who are not afraid of a little trouble, I may say they are the right men in the right place.

The Chairman, in answer, said I feel somewhat in the position of that Prometheus who has given a name to the beautiful overture we have just heard so well played by Mr. Essex, who, for his temerity in stealing fire from Heaven, was bound to a rock with an eagle continually tearing at his ever renewed vitals. Not so much as to the latter condition, but in the sense that I have scaled this Olympian height, and occupy a position I have no right to, but for the unfortunate circumstance of the illness of our esteemed president. Though, as you know, he is present amongst us, he has asked me to say for him that he does not feel equal to addressing you, but thanks you very much indeed for the very kind wishes expressed for him, but hopes to soon be able to come amongst us, in which hope, I am sure, we all cordially join. For myself as your vice-president, I simply thank you, and I leave our secretary and committee to speak for themselves.

Mr. Cass, hon. secretary, briefly replied, and Mr. Richardson made a few remarks on behalf of the committee.

The donors of special prizes, and visitors proposed by Mr. H. Davis. He cordially thanked the donors for the special prizes, remarking that they were a handsome and valuable lot. He also thanked the visitors, not only for their attendance that night, but for the interest they had taken in the society by attending its ordinary meetings, and greatly contributing to its conviviality, to which Mr. Davis and Mr. Adams responded.

Mr. Cox, of Halyeford Ferry (a noted fishing place on the Trent), expressed his pleasure at being present. He promised a prize for the next season, and free permission for the members of the club to fish in his waters.

In proposing the Press, the Chairman said:—In the Constitutional Government of our country there are three recognised Estates: the Sovereign, the Peers, and the Commons. Something like a century ago, the literature of the country acquired such a vital force, such an actual power, that it began to be called the "Fourth Estate." Whether that nominal rank of fourth is the true estimate of the power, it yields in this country, I will not say, but taking the whole world into consideration, I am quite sure that it has first and foremost place in the power it wielded over the mind and destiny of the human race. It is said that Archimedes, the ancient geometrician and engineer, wanted, but a lever and a fulcrum, and he would move the world. More than four centuries ago, John Guttenberg, set in motion a lever, which obtained a fulcrum in the mind of man. That lever has lifted a world of semi-chaotic thought from the gloam and uncertain twilight of an abyss of ignorance and superstition to a dawn, a sunrise and advancing morning of intelligence and enlightenment. The full noon and glory of "sweetness and light" is probably not yet realised, but we may be thankful that we live in an age of radiant brightness as compared to the ages before the invention of the fount and nucleus of all this glory the Press. I couple with the toast, the name of our friend and visitor, Mr. Coxon, of the *Express*, a thorough sportsman and good angler.

Mr. H. Coxon suitably replied on behalf of the Press.

Mr. G. F. Kirk, in a humorous speech, proposed the health of the host and hostess, which was drank with musical honours.

To which Mr. Boston replied.

The Secretary announced he had already got upwards of twenty promises of special prizes for the coming season.

Messrs. Cass, Warsop, Pillatt, Clarke, Pickerill, Essex, Crabbe, Whitehall, Adams, and Mark Meats, greatly contributed to the evening's amusement by their singing and recitations. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the National Anthem.

SALMON FISHING EXTRAORDINARY.—The high waters consequent upon the storm of last week seem to have had the effect of stocking the rivers Derwent and Greta with a more than usual run of fish at this season. Mr. John Musgrave, Fitchley, near Derby, accompanied by a friend, Mr. Glossop, of the same neighbourhood, has been paying his yearly visit to his native district during the past week. As a skilful and genial angler, Mr. Musgrave's advent on our pools and streams always finds a warm welcome from his brother sportsmen. As will be seen from the subjoined diary, kindly supplied to us, he and his party have so far enjoyed excellent sport:—Monday—J. Musgrave, two, 6 lbs. and 5 lbs.; C. Boustead, one, 3½ lbs.; W. Glossop, one, 3 lbs. Tuesday—J. Musgrave, two, 6½ lbs. and 4½ lbs.; W. Glossop, one, 6½ lbs. Wednesday—J. Musgrave, one, 17½ lbs. Thursday—J. Musgrave, four, 6½ lbs., 6 lbs., 5½ lbs., and 4 lbs.; R. Musgrave, two, 17 lbs. and 6½ lbs. Friday—J. Musgrave, two, 6½ lbs. and 5 lbs.; C. Boustead, two, 6½ lbs. and 5 lbs.; T. Musgrave, three, 7 lbs., 6 lbs., and 4½ lbs.; W. Glossop, two, 5½ lbs. and 5 lbs.; R. Musgrave, one, 14½ lbs. Mr. John Couperthwaite and Mr. W. Couperthwaite have also secured some good baskets.—*West Cumberland Times*.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

C. B.—You will get the "Angler's Diary" at the *Field* office, Wellington Street, Strand, price 1s. 6d.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE GREAT CURSE OF OUR CALLING.

BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—From the kindly way in which you always speak of us in your GAZETTE, I think you will read my letter and judge of its contents in a friendly spirit. If, sir, in your opinion I am serving not only myself but all professional fishermen on our Thames by writing this letter, please to publish it; if it will do us harm, burn it.

I have read your GAZETTE ever since you took to its management, and I now look forward to it week by week with increasing pleasure, partly because it is managed by a friend—excuse the liberty, sir—and partly because I can see what other puntmen are doing, and therefrom take a hint or two. Sometimes I read things in your paper which upset me for more than a day. Do not think that a fair statement of our faults will upset me—but it's a little hard when gentlemen state, as Mr. P. Geen did, that fishermen will say one thing before a drink, and another after. Mr. Geen has fished with me many a day—and he does not want telling how to do it—and if he will come to me for one of his old-fashioned days amongst the chub I won't say I am engaged, as I did when he came to me soon after that meeting. I want to say a word to Mr. Brougham, who says, in your last week's paper, speaking of us Thames fishermen, "I have heard of these men actually witnessing the netting of the river, thereby robbing their customers." Why does he not give us their names, instead of throwing a stain upon the character of all? I value my character as highly as he can. Further on, he says, "It is naughty to net the Thames." I say it is monstrous if netting is going on, as Mr. Brougham actually implies. Mr. Spreckley—who all my customers speak highly of—should put a stop to the shameful practice of putting all fish, large and small, into the well, leaving them to be sorted at night. I used to do this, and on more than one occasion my customers have got hold of the net and emptied my well of all fish, including even my gudgeon and minnows; if I have noticed it at the time, and remonstrated, I have been abused. There is only one remedy: take the undersized from the hook, and return them to the river; but in fairness all fishermen should be compelled to do it.

Now, sir, let me draw your attention to the great curse of our calling.

On the first day of last August my son was out with three, I suppose I must say, gentlemen, as possibly my name for them would shock weak nerves. That boy of mine is a good fellow, but he was not good enough to withstand first beer, then whiskey, which was followed by champagne. Had I been home when my lad came in, there would have been something besides words and strong drink—they should have tasted wholesome water one or two of them; but fortunately I was out with a regular customer of mine, who I have only one name for—a True Gentleman—of whom and his fishing I will write presently. When I came home that night I found it a very different place to that which I left in the morning. The wife stood in front of something in a heap upon the floor. "Good God! our boy is not dead," was my exclamation; the mother wrung her hands, and replied that it would be better to see him in his grave than to see him turn drunkard. Yes, that disgraceful heap of flesh is the drunken remains of the youth who went forth in the morning the pride of his parents.

Will some of your readers use their powerful pen to aid my weak one, to bring a blush of shame to the face of those who, if they desire to make beasts of themselves should remain in London with their boon companions. We don't want them or their spirits, which they boast are so much above proof. I am growing in years, and my notions of what to eat and drink, and what to avoid, are principles with me; therefore, when I overhear two chance customers whisper to each other, "let's make the old buffer drunk," I wonder in what respect these men are my superiors. Possibly their fathers could and did give them better (I mean more, not better) education; but who taught them to expect to purchase with three half-crowns the right to deliberately set about making me drunk, which may end in my tumbling overboard, or what to me and my family would be worse—I may go home drunk, quarrel, and beat my wife. Don't misunderstand me, sir, I like my glass of beer in the day, and now and then my wife—bless her heart—makes me a glass of grog, fills my pipe, and we sit down for a little family chat. Sometimes we speak of the goodness of this and that customer, the shortcomings of others, and the downright wickedness of not a few. These latter are fast enough to grumble because their catches of fish are not equal to those of others that fish with me. Let me inform them plainly, they never will have good takes unless they mend their ways and treat me as something superior to a butt for their follies and ridicule. Do such men as these ever think I can sympathise with their failure? Do they imagine that I shall prepare for their success? All I can give them is a day's time for their day's pay, but that's not fishing.

Now for the brighter side of our lives. Most of us have regular customers, indeed, without them we should fail to make both ends meet. One of my customers fishes with me regularly for two days, twice a month. Punctual to the minute last Friday morning, he stepped into the punt and away we started. Now, if I fail to give him sport, he will not grumble. He has faith in me, but fish he will have, for surely the swim I raked out under the boughs, and baited carefully with well-scoured lobes these two mornings past, will yield some return. His success to-day will be a greater pleasure for me than for him; his failure may disappoint him, it will vex me. Why am I so anxious to-day, yet so careless yesterday? Yesterday was a selfish brute, to-day is the True Gentleman of whom I promised to write. Nine years since this customer came to me by recommendation for a day's jack fishing. It was a fine but bitterly cold morning at starting, yet by the time we reached the Hook it was snowing fast, and a wind from the east began to blow, which increased to half a gale, and with it the snow became almost unbearable. I could see by his style and pluck that I had a man with me, and I inwardly determined that the first squeak must come from him. It came at last, and homeward through the blinding sleet and snow we travelled slowly and fishless. When we got to the cottage I asked him to come in; he did so, and the wife soon made us warm and comfortable. When he had started for London we had something to talk about. We wondered who and what he was, that he

could come amongst us under such circumstances and win our hearts—not with gold, but with the magic of a warm and sympathetic heart.

The next time he came, a fortnight afterwards, I was ready for him, but although I tried my hardest and he did his best, not a fish was the result. He said, "I want very much to take a brace back, I will stop to-night and try them again to-morrow."

I have not yet forgotten my feelings at starting the next day. I would readily have pawned the whole of the following week's success to have secured a brace of good fish; but it was not to be. Two runs, but no fish.

I carried his tackle to the station, expecting it would be the last time he would fish with me. On getting into the train he said, "I will be down Thursday week for the Friday and Saturday; we shall get them then." We did, and we have got them many scores of times since. But fish or no fish, I know he will not turn round upon me and say, as a sneak of a fellow did the other day, "You know d— well there's no fish in this swim, and yet you put me here." That educated gentleman fished from the bank the remainder of the day, and not with me.

Now, sir, it is late in October; the river is still low and bright, and it's difficult for the best of us to know what to do to get the chances in favour of a take. Under these circumstances we, the True Gentleman and I, approach the boughs before mentioned; gently does it, or the fish will fly to mid stream. With light eleven-foot cane rod, finest roach twist, drawn gut line, small cork float, not too fully shot, and a number eight round bend white wire hook, upon which I placed two of the smallest and brightest lobs in such a manner as to make them irresistible. Quietly the lure travels to the first bough; it rests against a little twig; surely it will not stop there a second. What's that? Slight shake. Is it the preliminary which invariably precedes the taking away of a chub, or only a small fish trying to do the impossible? Away it goes, and "swish" says the rod, with the true off-side chub strike. No need to give advice here; the point of the rod is well down and out as far as the right arm can reach; the fish makes a desperate fight for his home under that bough; but he has met his master at last, and all he can do is to die gallantly. Quietly—we want his mate—the net is put under him, and a five-pound chub is in the well. No hurry, no bustle in this punt to-day; no unkind words or thoughts; pure enjoyment is my lot as man, and if I may judge from the joyous expression of the face of my employer, he will not surrender his chair in my punt for a seat in Parliament. Two clean lobs are cut into halves and thrown into the water so that the stream will carry them to the spot where our hopes of the next fish are centred. The hook is carefully baited, the float is cast well out into the stream, and as it travels down it is quietly drawn under the bough. Almost before it settles into its former position you may have seen the same slight nervous shake of the float as if it knew full well the rush, and fight that was coming; away it goes some 12 to 18 inches under water, and then the same perfect chub-strike which so few can imitate—a strike that seems to come from the fish with a thud all up the line and down the rod; like a flash of electricity it travels; and it does not end with the rod, or its wielder, but goes right through the nervous system of your humble servant,

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

P.S.—The evenings are long, Mr. Editor; too much tobacco spoils my nerves. Shall I write you of our other grievances, and suggest a remedy for them?

[By all means; and we most heartily endorse this letter, and hope it may lead to good. If amongst the readers of our little paper there are any of these educated blackguards (and we trust there are not any), perhaps they will understand the low price at which they are valued by the men they think they are fooling. If all Thames fishermen were of the same calibre as the writer of the above letter, and many of them are, it would be a good thing for the river. Unfortunately this is not the case, and that it is not is, we think, in a great measure to be attributed to the demoralising influence of cads who, under the pretence of fishing, hire a punt and drink without moderation, and are not content unless they force others to do the same. What wonder is it that with such examples Thames fishermen may be found who are unworthy and unreliable? We are sometimes told that the reports from the rivers sent by the fishermen are a tissue of lies. To this we reply, in some cases this may be true, but that it is impossible for us to verify these reports before printing them, and in the end those who send them are invariably found out and shunned by all respectable anglers; and the lies recoil on the liars. This question of false reporting to the press is one we should like to see taken up by "A Thames Fisherman."—ED.]

THAMES PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—In my letter to you in your issue of the 8th inst. I find that the word "proved" is printed, whereas my copy has it "told," so suppose it is my mistake in copying, as it would be difficult to imagine how the word could be otherwise changed in your valuable journal.

The letter of your correspondent Mr. Clench is rather acrimonious; that of Mr. Brougham and of the "Thames Angler" are politely enough worded to show me the error in the use of the word "proved," but I think all your readers will admit that, whilst I mainly bear the brunt of the attack, the object I had in view in writing has been attained, and that is, in giving publicity to the reports so freely spread and so widely believed in at Richmond. My informants I have since seen, and have listened to an endorsement of the reports, receiving their sanction to give their names. Should this be desired, I will furnish them to any official of the Thames Angling Preservation Society that writes for it.

I may now state that, from information received on my last visit, my impression that netting is still carried on in that district is rather confirmed than shaken, in spite of the very able and gratuitous assistance rendered by the members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the River Preservation Society, for which services I am quite sure all anglers are very grateful.

I will relate a circumstance which took place a short time ago, much within the time specified by Mr. Clench, viz., three months. Returning from Richmond by a late train, I found I had for company two men who had a hamper filled with fish evidently not long out of the water; from their conversation, I gathered that the fish had been taken near the "drain," and were then being conveyed to the neighbourhood of Petticoat Lane. These men were not at all careful in their remarks, and seemed jubilant at the success they had met with and the anticipated pleasure they would derive from the proceeds of the ready sale, of which they did not seem to entertain any doubt at all; this may not be proof of netting, but looks very suspicious.

The sarcastic remarks of Mr. Clench I shall not trouble to answer, but truly hope that the cry he raises for more funds to carry out the preservation of the river may meet with the success he desires. Personally, I can state that I have

no doubt all anglers using the Thames will join with me in thanking the members of the Thames Angling Preservation Society for taking so much trouble and running so much personal risk to preserve the water and prevent the use of the net. It is the first time I have been acquainted with the fact that these gentlemen leave their comfortable homes for the cheerless vigil of the water, and I can only reiterate that it does them infinite credit and fully entitles them to the warmest gratitude of anglers.—I am, &c. J. BOALCH.

203, Old Kent Road.

P.S.—Will you kindly inform me how far below Richmond Bridge it is legal to net; and, also, would some of your correspondents living close to the river tell me if the rumour is correct that a net has lately been captured near Brentford?

[In the letter referred to, the word is "proved" and not "told," as Mr. Boalch may see if he likes to call at our office.—ED.]

CLUBS' QUARTERS AT YARMOUTH.

SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly oblige me with particulars of any good angling society for gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth.—I am, &c., E. BENNETT.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

SIR,—The Executive Committee for the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883, are desirous of obtaining a complete list of the angling and preservation societies of England. Alfred Jardine, Esq., one of the committee, has applied to me for the information. My lists have grown imperfect with the rapid increase of these societies, and as I am anxious to assist one who has undertaken such arduous duties on our behalf. I will feel greatly obliged if secretaries of societies—other than those of London and Sheffield, of which my lists are complete—will forward me at once the name of their societies, the name and address of their chairman, and also their own name and address.—I am, &c., PHILIP GEEN.

Hill View, Addlestone, Surrey.

THE REPORTED NETTING AT RICHMOND.

SIR,—I have read your editorial remarks to my letter, and with all respect to you, consider them more appertaining as a leader in your journal, than as comment to your correspondents.

I beg to call your attention to the article signed "John Bushnell," in last week's GAZETTE, page 518, especially the last line; this, I think, you will find is good answer to Mr. Clench's inquiry. It is in exact opposition to what Mr. Brougham mentions in your previous week's issue, see page 509, line 16.—I am, &c., A RICHMOND SCULLER.

FISHING EXTRAORDINARY.

SIR,—As a set-off against the uniform bad luck which has attended fishermen at Chertsey during the past fortnight, we may mention that Mr. C. Thurston, fishing with Poulter, whilst paternostering, hooked and landed a dace less than two inches long. It may be mentioned that the dace referred to was hooked foul, and it is proposed to add it to the specimens of piscatorial skill which now embellish the bar of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel. I bear silent testimony to the skill of the famous "Charley."

The condition of the river is improving rapidly, and there will be sport for all classes of fishermen in the district by the end of the week. The big take of 75 lb. of bream referred to in your last issue is amply confirmed, and the unwarrantable contradiction so recklessly given publicity to by a contemporary, owes its origin to the petty jealousy of a rival fisherman.—I am, &c., DACE.

THE CONGER.

SIR,—I am obliged to Mr. Keene for his reply to my query. He has, however, fallen into a common error with regard to the muræna. The fish Vedius Pollio fed with slaves was the *Muræna Helena*, of Cuvier, Linnaeus, and Bloch, and not the conger—*Muræna Conger* of Linnaeus—which latter does not arrive at any great size in the Mediterranean. If Mr. Keene will turn to plate 237, vol. iv., of Couch's "Fishes of the British Islands," he will see how admirably the teeth of *Muræna Helena* are adapted for rending a living prey. I do not, however, dispute the fact that congers would eat the bodies of those recently drowned, as I have known fresh beef used as bait with some amount of success.

It is a very common thing for conger to be found in lobster-pots when the bait is quite fresh. They also eat lobsters. This summer I took a fine one from the belly of a conger, and an old fisherman told me he once sold a conger for 1s. 6d., and the buyer found a lobster in it which he boiled and sold for 3s. 6d.

An instance of the voracity of the conger came under my notice here a few weeks ago. Mr. J. Rogers hauled up a conger about 7 lb., with another only 2 lb. heavier hanging on to its tail. He lifted them both into the boat, and the second fish did not relax its hold for some little time.—I am, &c., Aberffraw, Oct. 24, 1881. E. GOSLING.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to support Mr. Gosling in his opinion that congers will not take any bait but a perfectly fresh one. Mr. Keene is mistaken when he informs us that "according to Pliny, Vedius Apollo devised a number of cruel experiments with the congers of his piscina." The fish there referred to are the muræna, the inveterate enemy of the conger. The muræna is common enough in the Mediterranean, but I should be surprised to hear that Mr. Keene, or any of your readers had ever captured one off our own coast. Might I suggest that more articles on sea-fishing, similar to the excellent contribution in last week's number would be acceptable to many of your readers as well as to us MARINERS.

FISHING AT PONDER'S END.

SIR,—Can you kindly inform if the fishing is free at the Towing Path at Ponder's End, which leads from Wright's mill to Tottenham, and passes the Pike and Anchor? I think it is called the Barge Cut, as I do not consider that it belongs to the Pike and Anchor Fishery.—I am, &c., PISCATOR.

October 20.

[From the Swan and Pike, Enfield Lock, to the horse bridge, by the Pike and Anchor, is let by the East London Waterworks Company to Mr. Puddicombe, of the Pike and Anchor tavern, and is subscription water. From the horse bridge below the Pike and Anchor to Limehouse on the towing path is free.—R. G.]

THE WEIGHT OF PERCH.

SIR,—As several of your correspondents appear covertly to be giving me a side stroke, when ostensibly directing it at Mr. P. S. Davis and Mr. James Gregory, I find it necessary to write a few words on the subject of the perch. That I am the real mark for the innuendoes of your correspondents is perfectly plain; for, in the number of the FISHING GAZETTE previous to that in which the letter of Mr. Davis appeared, I mentioned the amount of ova found in a perch of 10 lb. weight. Now, it is palpable that there is a wish abroad amongst those who dare not essay the attack-direct, to undermine my recent argument by insinuating that I had misstated a fact in relation to the natural history of the perch. This being the case, I must now point out that a perch of 10 lb. weight is small when compared with another fish of the same variety recorded by a high authority. A perch of 14 lb. is a giant by the side of the fish which has caused so much consternation amongst several of your contributors. Hawkins, in his notes to the "Complete Angler," alludes to such a fish 29 inches in length. On referring to my tables of the weights of fishes, I find that a perch of 25 inches weighs about 9 lb. Here the table stops; but on resorting to the FISHING GAZETTE for October 8th, I observe that 10½ lb. is stated as having been the weight of a perch 27 inches in length. Now, this is almost exactly as it should be, but is, in fact, a trifle below the amount we might expect, judging from the scale of smaller weights. Reverting to Hawkins' fish and calculating in the usual way, we discover that this perch, if in good condition, should have weighed 14 lb.—considerably less than a carp of the same length. The fish mentioned by Izaak Walton as being nearly 2 feet long is equivalent to an eight-pounder. "Ephemera" gives the weight up to 9 lb.; Blakey up to 10 lb.; whilst adding that individuals of 6 lb. had sometimes been taken from Whittlesea Mere. Furthermore, after all this evidence, and much more which might be adduced, I see no reason for being incredulous as to the occasional existence of monster perch, 4 feet in length, such as must have been the dimensions of the Lapland fish mentioned by Schäffer.—R. BALDERSTON.

[We fear the sea-perch will carry off the prize for these big weights when the matter is sifted. How many spines are there in the 10½ lb. perch, Mr. Gregory?—ED.]

FISHING AT EYNHAM.

SIR,—I have seen several reports of fish being taken at Eynsham. Can any of your readers give me any information as to the following:—

1. Is the fishing perfectly free?
 2. If not, can day tickets be obtained and their cost?
 3. Can the assistance of a fisherman and punt be hired there, and about the expense?
 4. Is Eynsham on the Thames proper or on the Isis?—I am, &c., Grosvenor Club, Pimlico, S.W.
- PERCH.

THE SEA AND THE NORFOLK RIVERS.

SIR,—I, with other anglers here was sorry, to hear that after the recent gale, and consequent high tide, a large quantity of fish, including scores of pike, had been killed by the salt water.

I was at a loss to understand this, knowing that the fish ought to make their way up to the Broads, and thus escape the effects of the salt. On making inquiries I find they are prevented doing this by the numerous eel nets in the rivers. If my information is correct there are at least a dozen within a few miles of Heigham Bridge, one or more of which were broken last week by the weight of fish against them.

After all that has been and is being done by our Fish Preservation Societies, this wholesale destruction of fish is greatly to be deplored, more especially as pike were plentiful this year, and spinning prospects excellent.

I trust all anglers and preservation societies will consider if something cannot be done to prevent this sad loss of fish and sport, in which they should be encouraged and assisted by all on the rivers interested in the letting of boats, &c., as otherwise the river fishing will be again destroyed, and anglers driven to waters clear of the tides, such as Ormesby, Fritton, &c.

I hope this matter will be taken up by more able and experienced anglers than, yours, &c.,

A ONE-YEAR JACK.

P.S.—Now I am writing, I would ask proprietors of waters to place anglers under still greater obligations by reducing the number of swans, which are now our greatest enemies and do more havoc in clearing off the spawn than any number of nets.

TACKLE FOR SPINNING.

SIR,—In your review of the work on fishing in India, by my old friend and schoolfellow, Mr. Henry Thomas, you refer to the way of spinning with a single triangle as recommended by him. I believe he had the idea from me many years ago. I myself learnt it from one of the Mr. Walkers of Southgate of cricketing celebrity, whilst trailing with him in a boat at the Stoke Newington reservoirs some thirty years ago. I remember on that occasion we lost far more than we caught, and I have disbanded the plan for many years, finding that although you get more runs in that way than any other, you lose something like two out of three. In my opinion there is nothing like flight of hooks with at least three triangles, when one ought to catch at least two out of three instead of missing two out of three, as will probably happen when using one triangle.—I am, &c.,

C. E. HOLFORD.

Springfield, Ware.

"CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS."

SIR,—Under this heading I find it stated in your last week's edition that Mr. Walters caught in the Colne, at Uxbridge, 33 dace weighing 11 lb. 15 oz., that one-fourth had just completed the act of spawning, one half had evidently been caught in the act of shedding, and the remainder were extraordinarily full. Surely there must be some mistake in all this, as I cannot believe that any angler would fail to return to the water fish caught in such a condition. No wonder there are complaints of the scarcity of fish, and the depletion of rivers, &c., if this kind of thing is often done. I do hope that some satisfactory explanation can and will be made as; as it now stands, it bears on the face of it a grave reproach.—I am, &c.,

R. WOOLFALL.

RIVER OBSTRUCTION.

SIR,—With your permission I venture to relate my experience as to the rivulet Dover Beck, a tributary of the Trent. First, about 45 years ago the Trent Navigation Company built a bridge over the estuary of the brook, and what I call the floor of the bridge is about three feet above the water of the Trent at summer level. Ever since the bridge was built the bed of the river has been gradually

silting up—so much so that where there were ten holes there are now none, and where the hole was ten feet deep now it is not three. Notwithstanding all the cleaning, &c., the bed is still being raised. In the bridge there are what are called flood doors, and, of course, a threshold at the bottom. Now, about 25 years ago this threshold was washed away. Its thickness was about four inches. I used constantly to be passing the junction of the brook and river, as I do now, and walking down the bank of the Trent day after day, and finding the water very muddy, I traced it to the bridge, and found that since the threshold was gone the extra "draw" of water was tearing up the bed of the river for a perceptible distance. Now, again, there has been a stoppage of water through the flood doors getting broken and becoming jammed in the arch of the bridge, causing the water to back up a long way—it is hard to say how far. I know that a considerable quantity of land suffers by the obstruction which I have mentioned. Now, if this little obstruction to the free passage of the water of the Dover Beck does harm, how much do the Trent Navigation weirs at the back of Averham, Colwich, Beeston, Sawley, and Castle Donnington? The water is very deep and the current very slow. I think that if all the weirs were taken up the water would not be above two or three feet deep where now it is from ten to thirty feet for miles above each of these obstructions, and floods and poisonous matters would get down to the sea in less time; but I say, keep poisons out of rivers.—I am, &c.,

JOHN FOSTER.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club were well among the roach on Sunday last. T. Fiddes, 6½ lb.; T. Beeley, jun., 3 lb.; Nash, 2½ lb.; J. Beeley, sen., 1 lb.; H. Haines, 7½ lb. roach and bream from the Wey.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

Oct. 25.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Fish were very scarce with us on Sunday last. About 5 lb. of roach only being weighed-in by Messrs. Jennings and Goodge.—H. TAYLOR.

Oct. 26.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday last this association held their quarterly meeting, when the hon. secretary, Mr. Ancombe, read the balance sheet, and it figured much better than was expected. A large amount of money has been spent for preserving fine specimens of fish, viz., jack, 20 lb., by Mr. Hassell; jack, 11 lb., Mr. W. Saunders; roach, 1 lb. 10 oz., Mr. Ancombe; a roach, 1 lb. 7½ oz., by Mr. Hassell; and a carp, 8 lb. 5½ oz., also by the last named. The club having paid all demands made upon them, the balance sheet shows the association to be worth between £30 and £40, and numbering upwards of ninety members. A new feature has lately been introduced which bids fair to improve the society, that is an harmonic meeting every Saturday evening, local and instrumental by the members, and friends are admitted by tickets, which can be obtained from any member. As regards fishing this week I have but little to report. The rivers in this district are, I am informed, flooded in some parts. Mr. Ash took one bream, 13 lb., which is all. We are anxiously waiting the rivers to clear so that jack may feed.—GROUBAIT.

October 26.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last a contest took place at Lunply Stoke, when about 70 members took part in it. The weather being so unfavourable, the catch was very small, 10 oz. taking first prize. The judges were Messrs. Wheeler, Pulinger, and Pain, and the weighing of fish was conducted by Mr. Pain, jun. Everything was carried out very satisfactory, and the members met at the club-house (White Hart Hotel) on Monday to receive their prizes. Had the weather been fine no doubt a larger number would have competed, as the prizes were very tempting, there being 38 prizes, amounting to over £40. A full list of the prize takers will be issued next week. We could not possibly give list of fish and prizes this week—one of the judges being ill. Our annual dinner takes place on Friday next, so we are busy preparing.—LEWIS WRIDE, sec.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of our members were out on the 23rd, but only two were successful. Mr. Mark with roach and dace from Penton Hook, and Mr. Mortimer had roach from the thick waters at the Rye House.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several of the members of the above society having been out since my last report, Messrs. Turner and Wellman having weighed-in some very nice oach and dace. The result of the last prize competition was B. Wellman, 1st.; Mr. A. Turner, 2nd.; Mr. E. Wilson, 3rd.; T. Sutters, 4th.; E. Brewer, 5th.; other members weighing-in. Messrs. J. Innes, Maslin, Valentine, Hamlington. W. Maslin on Sunday last captured a fine perch with a worm, weighing 1 lb. 12 oz., being preserved now and will be added to our collection of fish at the club-house. The next competition for prizes will be fished for on Sunday next, at Weybridge, presented by Mr. T. Smith. Members are requested to attend on Friday next for very important business.—E. WILSON.

[Send report to 12, Fetter Lane in future, please.—ED.]

Oct. 25.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second pegged-down match this season came off in the River Brent on Sunday last, when the following gentlemen were successful:—Mr. Venour, 1st, with 10½ oz.; Mr. Barson, 2nd, 3½ oz.; Mr. Warman, 3rd, with 3½ oz., and Mr. Midson, 4th, with 2½ oz.—S. MALBY, sec.

THE FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the First Surrey Angling Society fish a peg-down match at Weybridge next Sunday, October 30th, for a handsome silver cup, tackle-case, timepiece, and other prizes. All fish to be weighed-in at the club-room, at 8.30, the same evening.—P. D. MANNING, sec.

Octobre 27.

GOOD INTENT.

We were just saved from a blank day on Sunday last by Mr. Maybury weighing-in one roach of 4 oz. There were a good many members out, but the Lea not being fishable, they all had blanks. We are going to fish for ten valuable prizes during the month of November, from the towing path of the Lea. Boundary from Tottenham to Hertford Lock. Our general visit takes place next

Monday, the 31st inst., when I should be glad to see as many as could possibly pay us a visit on that occasion, both east and west.—R. MURPHY.

October 20.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

✓ This society held its usual weekly meeting on Thursday evening, Mr. Ellis in the chair. Mr. Bryant was appointed librarian, and Captain Alfred curator of the society's museum, both departments having so far grown as to require personal supervision. Since our last notice there has been a goodly show of specimen fish—perch by Mr. A. Rumsey, dace by Mr. Young; Mr. Parker had also taken a jack $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Mr. Bentley's paper on "Feeling in Fishes," with illustrations and microscopic preparations, will be given on Thursday next at 7.30 p.m. punctually, when Dr. Brunton will preside. Papers are to follow by Captain Alfred, Mr. Wheeldon, and other well-known anglers, of which notices will soon be issued. With the aid of Mr. Harding, Mr. Winterbottom, and others, whose musical abilities are always freely placed at the service of the society and so much appreciated, it is shortly intended to reproduce some of the grand old songs (set to the original airs) as given by Isaak Walton in "The Complete Angler," in respect of which the necessary researches are now being made. Secretaries of angling societies, and gentlemen interested, are always welcome to these meetings. The society's jack competition takes place on Tuesday, and the fish will (if possible) be shown on Thursday, so that, coupled with Mr. Bentley's paper, the Gresham Anglers anticipate an evening of unusual interest.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

Not a great deal to report this week, Mr. Hobden only being "in the hunt." His take was, on Oct. 19th, two chub 4 lb. 3 oz., also some perch and roach. On the following day he succeeded in landing several perch, the heaviest scaling 1 lb. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. All these were taken at Eynsham, near Oxford. On Sunday Mr. Penney had a show of roach from the Thames.—VORTEX.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday our takes were very small. Amongst the members who went out the following weighed-in: Mr. Scott, one perch, 1 lb. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., Mr. Hulas, roach and dace; Mr. Petrie, roach—others unimportant. Last night we had our half-yearly supper; we had a full room to sit down to the splendid repast served up by our worthy host and hostess, who justly received musical honours on the occasion. Chairman, Mr. Pipe; Vice, Mr. E. Barr, Pianist, Mr. Li Gordon. After the usual preliminary toasts had gone round, we had a splendid donation towards the conviviality of the evening presented us by one of our invited guests on the occasion, viz., Mr. Revill (of the Upper Welsh Harp), who, in a neatly-turned speech, wished every prosperity to the Society, and success to the anglers in general. We return thanks for the attendance of the Bostonians, the Phoenix, and the St. Pancras Working Men's Club on the occasion, and we may mention that the Bostonians promised a handsome present to be fished for—heaviest weight to end of season. The harmony of the evening was really A 1, and as everybody said so we suppose it is all right. The following gentlemen contributed to the same:—Messrs. H. Ward, Koring, Jackson, H. Dodd, Letch, Bray, A. Barr, Hewson, Titmus, E. Barr, Jennings, Revill, and others. One pleasing item (if not the chief feature of the evening) was the presentation of a handsome watch and chain to our chairman, Mr. Pipe, for his efficiently-rendered services to the society, and he returned thanks in a few able and touching remarks. We especially thank Mr. H. Dodd with the rendering of his comic songs, Mr. Jackson, with his songs, accompaniments, and astonishing variations on his miniature concertina, and Messrs. Li Gordon and Koeng for their admirable execution on the piano, so passing as enjoyable an evening as the members and visitors said they ever indulged in.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Oct. 27.

MARYLEBONE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The next return visit, No. 1 District, will take place on Tuesday, November 1, at the Prince Albert, Sherborne Street, Blandford Square, N.W., when we should like to see as many of our brother anglers as could make it convenient to attend.—W. F. PEARCE.

Oct. 25.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Our show of fish on Sunday last was not so good as before, although a great number of our members were out, and the majority of them got completely washed out. Mr. Morton had a nice jack; Mr. Blackledge had roach. Several of our members had fish, but did not show up. The water rose rapidly on Sunday last, so that the whole of the meadows at Ponder's End were under water; this ought to make good for all-round fishing on Sunday next, if the weather should be fine.—E. DYMOND, sec. pro tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Although the weather was against angling on Sunday last, several members of the above society succeeded in capturing decent takes, including Mr. J. Drew, with bream from Pulboro'. Mr. Lucy, sen., jack from the Lea, and Mr. Neagus, roach from the Stort. Quarterly night, Monday next, October 31st.—THOMAS WILLIAM LUCY.

October 27.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match for a prize, given by Mr. Reed, jun., will be fished for on the 30th, all fish to weigh. The visit of angling societies to this club took place on Tuesday last the 25th October, on which occasion the chair was taken by Mr. Reed (the host), and the vice by Mr. C. Gendle. There was a good attendance of visitors, and a capital entertainment, both vocal and instrumental. Two gentlemen presided at the piano (Mr. Dudmarsh and Mr. Weeber), and both were highly appreciated. There was some capital singing afforded, but the most noticeable was rendered by Mr. Parkins, City of London Angling Society, Mr. Haynes, Anglers' Pride Angling Society; Mr. Watts, United Brothers Angling Society; and a duet by Messrs. Bargners and Minard, "The Upper Ten and Lower Five." Messrs. Reed, Duke, Page, Watts, Dealy, Bignell, Belton, C. Gendle, W. Minard, W. R. Matthews, Secretary of the Peckham Angling Society, Mr. Wilson, district officer; Mr. Reed, jun., Mr. Weeber, Mr. Pain, and Mr. Stidolph, contributed towards the evening's entertainment. The health of the visitors was drunk with musical honours, also the Chairman. The angling clubs were fairly represented, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close with the usual loyal accompaniment and "Auld Lang Syne."—W. R. M. Sec.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

This old established society held their annual supper on Monday evening. The catering was of the best description, and gave universal satisfaction. The usual toasts were given and honoured with enthusiasm. The meeting was a great success; 40 lb. 2 oz. of pike and 5 lb. 15 oz. of peal from the Avon were shown by Mr. Thomas Huggett.—H. GRAY.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

There were several good takes of fish last Sunday from the Thames and Wey, and no doubt we shall have better shows of fish from this river since the down-pour of Saturday night and Sunday morning. Some of our members who have followed up the Thames have had very poor shows of fish. The following members weighed-in:—W. Dunblain, roach, 8 lb. 4 oz.; E. Smith, two chub, 5 lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; G. Rogers, roach, 4 lb. 6 oz.; G. Caborn, roach, 1 lb. 15 oz.; Wey, Will. Fowler, roach, 1 lb. 14 oz. The silver lever watch presented by our late member, T. Allard, for gross weight of roach, October and November, is now being competed for. It is very likely we shall have some handsome trays of roach up to the end of November.—J. CABORN, sec.

October 24.

SOUTH LONDON.

On Sunday last being so very wet, we thought we should have a blank day, but thanks to Mr. Brown, who faced the rain. He weighed-in 6 lb. roach and some small chub, nearly 3 lb. from Chertsey, on Sunday. Members fish for a meerscham pipe, given by Mr. Mitchell, at Pulborough or Amberley. All fish to weigh, and the greatest weight to win to-day. Mr. Brown also weighed-in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach from Chertsey.—G. H. FIELD.

October 27, 1881.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 25th Mr. Hamlyn was duly elected as secretary to this society, to whom all further correspondence must be addressed, Mr. Whitby having resigned that office.—PIXIE.

October 27.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Acting upon the advice of the old adage, "None but the brave deserve the fair," some of our members had the hardihood to brave the miserable weather of Sunday morning, and, I am reluctant to say it, their takes amounted to nil, thus compelling us to record a blank. Should the wind take a favourable turn, the members of the above society will fish a pegged down match on the 30th. We shall decide on the water on Saturday night, the 29th.—W. BELTON.

October 26.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

For the October competition the following members have weighed-in fish:—On the 21st, Mr. Boalch, with C. Brown of Richmond, 12 lb. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. roach; the 24th, Mr. Weatherhead, 4 lb. roach; the 26th, Mr. Bansback and Mr. Howard, jun., with E. Brown at Richmond, the former had 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and the latter 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. roach; Mr. Boalch, with his favourite fisherman, C. Brown, on the same day succeeded in weighing-in 10 lb. of roach from the same place. Mr. Antony, of High Street, Bloomsbury, has returned the three piscatorial trophies of the late Mr. J. Burnham, viz., one roach weighing 3 lb. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the only one of that weight that can be seen in London and three roach weighing 4 lb. 15 oz. and three perch 7 lb. 4 oz. that he had to clean and remount, which he has done in his well-known style, and which give great satisfaction to all parties who beheld them. The next competition will take place on November 13, where and how is open for discussion next week. The prizes are a pair of boots (valued at £1 1s.), by Mr. Boalch; and 10s. 6d. by Mr. Delhaye.—PIXIE.

Oct. 27.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Buttery, of the above club, had a nice show of bream from the Ouse on Tuesday—total, 17 lb.; largest 4 lb. 4 oz. On the Tuesday previous Mr. Pink weighed-in five bream, weighing just 17 lb., from the same water. Mr. Young on Sunday had a fine chub 3 lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. I have received ten tickets for tournament at Welsh Harp, five only of which are sold.—HENRY ADEANE, sec.

ERRATUM.—In the report of the Liverpool Angling Association's contest on the 13th inst., which appeared in last week's GAZETTE, the weight of Mr. Davis' chub should read, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., not 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

HAVERLY'S MINSTRELS AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—A good laugh is said to be excellent medicine, and if any of our readers feel they want stirring up, we can heartily advise them to spend an evening in the company of Mr. Haverly's Genuine Black Minstrels, who are now giving their farewell entertainments at Her Majesty's Theatre. The fun is, of course, of a boisterous kind, but perfectly harmless, and, in addition to the fun, there is much excellent negro minstrelsy. The opening chorus, "Down in Georgia," given by sixty voices, has a really fine effect. Mr. G. Bohee is very effective in his song "Norrine Morrine;" and Mr. William Kersands evoked roars of laughter with his ultra-comical "Mary's Gone Wid a Coon." Mr. Kersands has a mouth and voice which would have done credit to Cerberus. We never before saw such a mouth on a man. Then, the Bohee Brothers are in themselves sufficient to make the fortune of a music hall. We should say these gentlemen are twins, and, as fine specimens of humanity, would do justice to any race. In fact, we were much struck with the splendid physique of many of Mr. Haverly's black troupe, and after seeing them, no longer wonder at the feats of strength and bravery performed by negroes during the American Civil War. The "International Clog Tournament," "The Hamptown Students," the realistic southern sketch on the Levée, and the laughable absurdity, "Sophie Simpson's Supper," are all extremely entertaining; but of all the big show we think the most amusing is Mr. Robert Mack's "Barnyard Frolics." Mr. Mack comes on the stage dressed as a cock, and gives the most absurdly natural imitations of that immortal bird's walk in life, his dignified deportment, comical chuckle, and triumphant crow. This of itself was very good, but when Mr. Mack introduced his real live little bantam the spectators were fairly taken by storm. Our readers have only got to imagine the comical effect of a cleverly got up imitation cock flapping his wings and running away from the vigorous attack of his minute but plucky little rival to almost see the fun of the thing, and when the little fellow rears himself up, flaps his wings, and gives forth his victorious "cock-a-doodle-do" the applause was universal. We can heartily advise our readers who enjoy a good laugh to see Mr. Haverly's show before it leaves, as it very shortly will.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1881.

NOTES ON THE "FISHING GAZETTE" TOUR-NAMENT,

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

THROUGH the courtesy of the publishers of the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, and *Funny Folks*, we are enabled this week to give two illustrations in connection with the above. They need no explanation but we may mention that

Mr. Temple's capital sketches were made on the spot, and Mr. Shirley's amusing caricature was done from a verbal description of the affair.

THE COMPETITIONS.

It was the general opinion of all present that, but for the terrible weather, the casts would, in all cases have been very much longer—in our opinion, twenty-five per cent. longer in many cases. The rain made the lines cling to the rods, the wind was strong, but came in gusts from all quarters, the cold made it a difficult matter to manipulate the tackle. All the casting was done with the same baits, artificial dace, weighing just an ounce, and with lead on trace weighing about a quarter of an ounce. Of course, the hooks were taken off the baits. It would be a difficult matter to say which style of casting had most admirers—the Thames style, from line coiled at feet, or from hand; or the Nottingham style, from the reel. Mr. Little made the champion cast of the day, viz., 52½ yards from the reel, and beautifully straight. We confess this splendid cast, which would have been extended to at least another dozen yards under more favourable circumstances, gave the Nottingham style a position in our estimation which it had not had before. None of the professionals equalled this throw, even in their own particular styles. There can now be no doubt whatever that casting from the reel is the very best style of all, and an angler who has mastered the art as Mr. Little has can go and take fish where it would be impossible for anyone else to get them. He can stand up to his knees in a hedge and yet kill a fish fifty or sixty yards away. The angler who can only throw with the line coiled at feet must have a smooth footing free from all obstructions. The only style approaching the Nottingham in this particular and often inestimable advantage is the method of gathering the line into a ball in the palm of the hand, as was most beautifully and cleverly done by the professional Thames fishermen, Harry Wilder and Ned Andrews; in fact, as an exhibition of *skill*, this took the lead, we think. But to learn to do this must be far more difficult than to learn to throw from the reel, and the result can never be so good, for these reasons: the same length of cast cannot be attained, the same speed in getting back the line cannot be attained, and the same certainty of avoiding kinks and catching of the line can certainly not be attained.

Mr. Martin, the "Trent Otter," was unfortunate, smashing his favourite rod, and having to use a less suitable one; he feels certain he can throw sixty yards from the reel on a favourable day. Mr. Bailey junior's style of throwing was much admired, and we can well understand that he has the reputation of being one of the best, if not the best, at throwing from the reel in his native county. The forked stick throwing was another surprise to us. We imagined it was done (as indeed it often is) with a short forked stick; but Messrs. Lealand and Sawyer both used a specially made fork, with a jointed handle about five feet long; they coiled the line at their feet, hung the trace over the fork, and then with a swing sent the bait out nearly fifty yards. In many lakes and rivers where it is necessary to get a live bait or ledger out beyond a bed of weeds, this forked stick style would prove extremely useful, though here, again, the Nottingham style would offer greater advantages.

The state of the weather prevented the float throwing in Nottingham style being entered as a competition; but Messrs. Bailey, Martin, and Foster all showed that great distances can be covered even with such light weights as float tackles. Mr. Foster especially made some beautiful throws. Mr. John Bullock, of Derby, whom we were very glad to see present, showed us his style of fishing for trout with his own bait, the Derby killer. He throws it off his left hand, winding up the line in and out over the thumb and fingers. It is a very useful style, and we have seen him prove its practical utility by standing amongst bushes and sticks, and killing trout thirty yards away. The fly-casting competition between Messrs. Murphy and Marston was got up more to keep the ball rolling than with any idea of doing much. It is impossible to throw over grass in the same style as over water—the water gives a "pull" in withdrawing for a fresh cast, which brings out the power of the rod and enables the angler to get the line well back; on grass there is no resistance. Mr. Murphy used a trout rod of about eleven feet six, and Mr. Marston one of ten feet six; both used the same cast, but the wind made havoc of all attempts at artistic throwing.

SUGGESTIONS AT THE DINNER.

We have previously mentioned the names of the gentlemen who spoke at the dinner. We regret very much having to rely upon memory as to what was said. On two points all speakers agreed, and these were that the exhibition we had just witnessed was a thoroughly interesting, and practically useful one, and could not fail to be followed by others of a like nature; the other was that the Anglers' Benevolent Society was an institution which deserves the warmest support from all anglers. Mr. Spreckley, who takes the deepest interest in the society spoke most warmly in its

favour, and we think this alone is sufficient to inspire confidence in the society. He said he was perfectly satisfied that the work was being carried on in an able, conscientious, and purely unselfish spirit by the officers, who give, in the most generous way, their services to its promotion to the utmost extent of their power, and just in proportion as the members increase, so will their power increase. A very considerable amount of real good has already been done. We look upon this society as one of the best features in connection with the constantly increasing London Angling Clubs, and are delighted to learn that anglers are beginning to see it is a plain duty to belong to and help this society. Messrs. Ghurrey, Morgan, Bonvoisin, Geen, Hoole, and the other members of the executive, deserve the hearty thanks of the angling community for the work they are doing.

Mr. Jardine in his speech most cordially introduced to the anglers present a gentleman whose name must have been known to all of them, we refer to Mr. William Senior, better known under his *nom de plume* of "Red Spinner," author of "By Stream and Sea," "Waterside Sketches," and other charming works. Mr. Jardine said it was one of the pleasantest events of the day to him when he found his old friend, Mr. Senior, was present. Mr.

THE CULTIVATION OF COARSE FISH.

Our suggestion in regard to this very important question was so well received at the dinner and has since been so approvingly referred to both by the press and by prominent anglers, that we have no hesitation in reproducing here our remarks on the subject, and sincerely trust the matter will not be allowed to drop. Amongst the agents causing decrease of fish, we fear only the gradual advance of civilisation, in other words, the increase of population, paper-mills, *et hoc genus omne*. As long as any water remains sufficiently pure to support aquatic life, both vegetable and animal, the question of keeping it stocked with a sufficient quantity of fish is, as we have so repeatedly within the last two years said, merely a question of pounds, shillings and pence. The reason that coarse fish have never in this country, or to any extent abroad been artificially cultivated, is simply owing to the fact that until within the last few years there has never been any diminution in the natural supply, and consequently no demand for fresh stock. It seems to be admitted on all sides that at any rate, certain kinds of our English freshwater fish in the neighbourhood of London, Sheffield, and other large towns, could now well bear an increase in their numbers.



HIGH AND DRY ANGLING.

LAWN-TENNIS HAS BEEN SUPERSEDED BY LAWN-ANGLING, AS EXEMPLIFIED AT THE LATE ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT. THIS SCIENTIFIC STYLE OF FISHING REQUIRES NEITHER WATER NOR FISH. THE AIM IS TO SEND AN ARTIFICIAL FLY TWENTY OR THIRTY YARDS INTO A HAT, A TEA-CUP, OR— BUT NO; HOOKING POOR FIDO WAS A MISHAP. THE SPORT DOES NOT INCLUDE DOG-FISHING.

From Funny Folks.

Senior, in responding for the Press, was most warmly received. He said that in all his travels abroad he had never found such a delight in fishing as in the old country, and he had given all sorts of reasons to his family for leaving Australia, but the real one was that he longed to revisit his favourite English streams. His experiences of fishing in Tasmania and New Zealand will be found in his book "Travel and Trout in the Antipodes," published by Messrs. Chatto and Windus, and which we shall presently notice more fully in the GAZETTE. By the way, Mr. Senior made a suggestion with regard to the GAZETTE which we need hardly say we sincerely thank him for, and that was that if all its readers would give it a help when they could by inducing friends to advertise, it would enable us to give them a greatly improved bill of fare each week. We are sincerely grateful to those advertisers who have supported us so well hitherto, and are glad to know they are satisfied with the results; at the same time we have plenty of room for more advertisements, and if any of our friends will help us in this important feature, they will soon reap the benefit of it in the improvements it will enable us to make in the paper.

For some considerable time past we have been thinking out some plan by which an undertaking of the nature of a coarse-fish hatching and breeding establishment could be established for the purpose of providing young fish and ova for re-stocking depopulated waters. If we get sufficient support from the angling community, we see no difficulty whatever in arriving at success. We shall have nothing to do with the salmonidæ, but confine the experiment entirely to the coarse fish. It is too much to expect any private individual to undertake an affair of this kind. Here, then, is what we propose: That a society for the cultivation of perch, pike, roach, chub, carp, barbel, bream, dace, tench, gudgeon, &c., be formed; that an experienced German fish-culturist (used to breeding carp and other coarse fish), be imported to take the practical management of the affair; that all subscribers (and consequently members) of the society be entitled to take out of the stock either fry or ova to the amount of their annual subscription—the prices of the ova and fry to be fixed by general consent of the members. As an earnest of our interest and confidence in the scheme, we will give five guineas as our own subscription, and will undertake to get all the neces-



SKETCHES AT THE F. G. TOURNAMENT.—(From the Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.)

sary information for starting the thing in a business-like way. We do not propose that it should—at the outset at any rate—be a commercial undertaking with a view to profit in money, but there will be no objection to selling fry or ova to outsiders at such price as will help to pay working expenses. What we should like would be to see the London and provincial angling clubs take the matter up; a subscription of a guinea or two annually from say a hundred angling clubs, and as many private individuals, would give us ample working capital. Here is an example of how we think the affair would work. Having secured our water (and we have our eyes on some which would answer admirably), we should get first of all say a few dozen perch in spawn, and put them in our carefully arranged ponds; these perch would deposit their millions of eggs and milt on boughs placed under water for the purpose and carefully guarded. We could then either sell the boughs with the spawn on them (easily transported any distance in water), or we could wait till the fry appeared and sell them, or do both, as might be required. Now suppose the Piscatorials, or the Gresham, or the Bristol Golden Carp Angling Society, or any other club has subscribed a guinea, they would then be entitled to some thousands of eggs or some hundreds of fry, and could place them in any water they wished to re-stock. There is nothing impossible in our suggestion—look what marvels have been accomplished with the far more delicate fish, trout, char, grayling, salmon, shad, oyster, &c. The continent of North America is now being stocked in every part with carp carried from Germany, and propagated in the States—we mention the carp because it comes specially under our term “coarse fish.” Pike can be very easily cultivated; and we could name dozens of lakes and streams near London which ought to afford good pike-fishing, and did formerly, but which are now depopulated. As we said before, this is not a matter for private enterprise, and we cannot undertake it singlehanded or expect any one else to; but if any anglers who read these lines will send us their promise to attend a meeting to discuss the question, we will undertake to call such a meeting together.

TOURNAMENTS FOR ANGLERS AND REPORTS OF NETTING.

ANGLING TOURNAMENTS.

THERE can be no doubt the Anglers' Tournament was in some respects a great success. The idea was right and as an inauguration of similar gatherings amongst anglers at occasional periods it will become practically suggestive of coming events. The only drawback was the weather, which no one can rule. Had it been fine there would have been more competitors, a larger attendance of spectators, and the funds of a most excellent society more considerably benefited. The judges did their work nobly, the competitors, amidst great difficulties, did their best, the lookers-on disregarded the pelting rain, and when all was over there was a decided run on the “Scotch” at the Welsh Harp; and, after all is said, no one grumbled. I did not remain for the dinner, as I was then suffering from a severe cold, and I had other engagements on hand which I was particularly anxious to fulfil. I only want now to add one word of praise to Mr. Marston for the introduction of an Anglers' Tournament, which, I am satisfied, is full of practical usefulness. It will encourage the development of a greater amount of skill amongst anglers, and many will become ambitious to exhibit what they can do on future occasions. At the summer dinners, in the country, of angling clubs, these tournaments will, I apprehend, become general; but we *must* have at least one grand annual meeting of a national character as commemorative of Mr. Marston's introduction. The idea of holding it during the close season may be a correct one. The grounds at the Welsh Harp are in every respect suitable for the gathering of anglers, and in addition to the tournament, if held during the angling season, a fishing competition in the magnificent piece of water might take place; and, altogether, it would complete a grand day.

NETTING REPORTS.

I do not see that I am called upon in the pages of a public newspaper to comply with the wishes of “A Thames Fisherman” to give names. He must be satisfied with my assurance that what I state is perfectly correct, and that the remark was made by a fisherman in the presence of Mr. Spreckley and myself. Mr. Boalch, in his reply last week, very properly takes the same view, and offers to give names to the officials of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, which I am sure will satisfy both Mr. Clench and “A Thames Angler.” If “A Thames Fisherman” thinks I ought to placard about the name of every one I hear under similar circumstances, I certainly cannot agree with him; and, upon reflection, I think he will change his opinion. Those who have charge of the river are the proper persons to be made acquainted

with names, and when confirmatory reports of netting are given to individuals, let them go at once to the right quarter, where, if proof can be afforded, steps would be taken and a conviction would follow. All we want is satisfactory evidence of facts—not such reports as we have investigated lately, where the parties reporting them have been obliged to confess at the last there was no truth in them. Let anglers and fishermen unite with the various preservation societies, and at once report to those connected with them when they can fully prove an illegal offence has been committed, but let them be certain it has actually taken place, and not on the hearsay of others. They will then do some good, and materially help to check the evils which have always existed and always will to a greater or less extent. B.

BIG FISH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[The editor of the *Investors' Guardian* very kindly sends us the following extract from a letter from the Diamond Fields.—ED.]

IT is so long since I saw any reference to Koffyfontein in your paper, that I expect you have almost forgotten that such a place exists. Nevertheless, we are alive and flourishing, that is to say, there are new buildings being put in the township. Boys are scarce, as is the case at all the other mines, but I hear a supply will soon be here. The place is looking very pretty now, all the fruit trees being in blossom, and the willow trees on the river banks all in leaf. Koffyfontein will be a favourite township now that the mine pays—what with the boating, bathing, and fishing. *Apropos* of fishing, Mr. D. G. A. Dowling, the manager of the mine, caught a monster barbel with a frog last Thursday. It weighed 40 lb., and was 5 feet long, the head being a foot broad, and it measured just a yard round the belly. A champagne bottle was put into its mouth and disappeared entirely. The following day he caught another, weighing just 35 lb., besides a smaller one of about 5 or 6 lb. It is not often that an angler has the good fortune to catch two such fish on two consecutive days. On Sunday the same gentleman and Mr. Clifton caught some fine yellow fish. In fact, there are plenty of fish here; and now that the proprietors of the farm have put a stop to the use of dynamite on the river those who are fond of fair fishing will be able to look forward to favourable results attending their devotion to the ‘gentle art.’ Fish of the above size would try the strongest tackle ever made, and there must be still larger fish in the river.”

THE NUMBER OF SPINES ON PERCH.

IT is a curious fact, but that I had during the past week prepared a paper asking the same question as suggested by the editor of the *FISHING GAZETTE* of this week's issue, viz.: “How many spines are there in the 10½ lb. perch,”* but, owing to pressure of business, was unable to complete for Saturday's number. This must be an enormous fellow, but as to the reality of its being a true perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), can be easily diagnosed by observing the number of spines in the first dorsal fin, these fish having two dorsal fins, whilst the “serranus,” (*Perca cabrilla*) or sea perch, has but one, although the “bass” (*Perca labrax*) has two also, but then no one would think a bass would be taken for a true perch. I have taken many hundreds of perch, but have nevertaken any over 3 lb. weight here in Devon, but have heard of fish of 4 lb. being taken. In September, 1872, I had a dusky perch (*Serranus gigas*), in my possession, weighing 23 lb., of which the late Frank Buckland stated in *Land and Water* for that date, the following: “I regret very much that I did not receive the rare and curious fish from Mr. Gosden. It would have made a splendid addition to my museum.” I merely mention this, because it thus shows that such large fish of the perch tribe are occasionally taken, but this is certainly not a fresh-water specimen. This is also like the fresh-water perch, as stated by Mr. Buckland, a most beautiful fish, although not in appearance, as to shape and colouring, like the former. Latterly I have examined a great number of perch, for the purpose of counting the number of fin rays, the result being in most cases, first dorsal 13, sometimes 14, all spinous; the latter number appearing on mature fish, the lesser number on the lesser kinds. Whether they produce this extra spine as they get larger, I am not prepared to say, the second dorsal, 1, sometimes 2, spinous and 14 soft; but as a better proof of my observations it will be as well to quote some better authority, for instance, Dr. Gunther, Cat. i. p. 38. “Two dorsal fins: The first with 13 or 14 spines, and fin with 2 spines, operculum, spiniferous; præoperculum and præorbital, serrated;” and the Rev. W. Houghton, M.A., F.L.S., in his history of “British Fresh-water Fisheries,” states,

[* Mr. Jardine suggested the query to us.—ED.]

"Dorsal fin, 14-15; all spinous, 1-2 spinous + 14-15 soft; pectoral, 14 all soft; ventral, 1 spinous + 5 soft; anal, 2 spinous + 8-9 soft; caudal or tail-fin, 17 rays soft."

I give the whole of these figures, in case some portion of the fish, probably being damaged and deformed in one particular fin, recourse can be made to the others. Mr. Buckland also tells us in his *F. H. British Fishes*, that a monster of 9 lb. is recorded as having been once on a time captured in the Serpentine, Hyde Park. This, however, is an old story, which he did not believe, although some of 5 lb. or 6 lb. have been taken.

Mr. J. L. Keene, in the "Practical Fisherman," states, "That in England the limit is probably 6 lb., but confesses he never saw one over 4 lb.," but Blakey speaks of some 6 lb. taken from Whittlesea Mere, and "Ephemera" also speaks of the above 9 lb. fish, and Izaak Walton speaks of a friend having caught one 2 ft. in length. Perhaps our Whittlesea brother disciples will inform us as to the size of fish still to be had, and I hope the question on the number of spines on the perch will solve the vexed problem as to whether 'tis a true perch or 'tis not.

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

THAMES FISHERY CONVICTIONS.

THE following convictions have been made by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, Mr. Hickson Briggs, the society's solicitor, being the prosecutor.

Mr. Macgregor was convicted by the Brentford Bench on Saturday last, and fined in the sum of 10s. for laying night lines at Teddington. The defendant, who pleaded guilty, said he was ignorant of the bye-laws relating to night lines.

Daniel Lamb was convicted by the Chertsey Bench on Wednesday last, and fined in the sum of £1 for illegally fishing in the river Bourne, which is now under the protection of the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The defendant in this case also pleaded guilty, and being the first under the present management, Mr. Briggs was instructed to ask for a mitigated penalty as it was intended more as an example and caution to others. This portion of the river Bourne running through the grounds of Mrs. Brooks, of the Hamm Farm, Weybridge, is a valuable adjunct to the Thames, as that river runs in above the Weir at Shepperton, and empties itself below the Weir at the Hamm Point. It is a capital lay-by for fish in the close season. A notice board is placed at each end as a caution to anglers, and this conviction must have a salutary influence against illegal fishing.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

BY L. B.

I HAVE just received from Mr. W. H. Brougham, the indefatigable secretary, the Thames Angling Preservation Society's Annual Blue Book. It would take up too much space to notice, however briefly, all the valuable information it contains. How pleased Mr. W. H. B. must have felt as he wrote for the first time on the first page proper, and in a line by itself—"Patron, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." Passing over a lot of useful matter we find the annual report, page 27, is in every sense satisfactory. Assistance and advice given to younger kindred societies on the upper portions of the river—important convictions obtained by the Society—proving the vigilance of their keepers. The Society is able to congratulate its members and the angling public upon—at least in the tideway—a very successful season.

Again, owing to the entire absence of floods, the spawning season of 1881 was the most successful there has been for many years. A large number of fish, which had gone up the back water at Hampton Court, have been netted out and returned to the parent stream.

I am sorry, however, to be obliged to differ *in toto* with the opinion expressed and the recommendations made in paragraph 6 of the report—"The entire abolition of gross weight competitions among members of angling societies, and the substituting, in their place, of competitions for a limited number of big fish." The recommendation is made in the kindest possible spirit, and I feel convinced in what the suggestors believe to be the best interest of the sport; but it would, nevertheless, if carried out, have an entirely contrary effect. I know there are many gentlemen who hold with the spirit of the paragraph from which I have quoted, and though I must positively decline to enter into a necessarily long paper controversy, I shall be happy to meet any of them and talk the matter over.

Paragraph 7 is a courteous recognition of the services the Central Associations have rendered the cause of angling.

Paragraph 8 deals with the artificial propagation of fish (trout), as carried on by Mr. Jas. Forbes, of Chertsey, and also of the Society's own experiments in the same direction.

The next paragraph explains the Society's satisfactory relations with the Board of Conservators—recommendations made by the committee to the Conservancy concerning important alterations in the lower Thames bye-laws.

In the concluding paragraph the usual appeal for support and

funds is made, an appeal which, in view of the great amount of good work the Society is doing, I hope will be liberally responded to.

Finally, this little book contains such a lot of valuable and interesting information that I cannot do better than advise the readers of the FISHING GAZETTE to invest sixpence in its purchase.

A local and general visit combined was paid to the Good Intent Angling Society, the Crown Inn, Church Street, Shoreditch, on Monday evening last. Mr. Parker occupied the chair, Mr. Richard Murphy facing him in the vice. No need to say the visit to such a society was well attended, sixteen clubs being well represented. The singing was very good. I don't like to particularise, where all who tried did so well, but Mr. Imey da Costa's two songs were received with roars of applause which they well deserved. Messrs. Ghurney and Bonvoisin, who were present—both at the invitation of the chair and vice-chair—made a few remarks, the former dealing principally with the complaints of the abuses of the privilege cards by certain anglers, the latter going over more extended ground, and dealing with the Anglers' Benevolent, legislation for the protection of coarse fish, the close season, the return of undersized fish, and the suggested abolition of gross-weight competitions among the members of angling societies.

On Tuesday evening the West Central Association, No. I. district, visit was paid to the Marylebone Angling Society, the "Prince Albert," Sherborne Street, Blandford Square. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Prosser, the vice by Mr. J. Hickford. The singing, recitations, etc., were *À l'*, and upon the roll being called at 11 o'clock by Mr. T. Osmon, the district presiding officer, twelve clubs were found to be represented. The next visit to this district will be to the Norfolk Angling Society, Norfolk Arms, Burwood Place, Edgware Road, on Wednesday evening next, the 9th inst., when I hope the anglers will muster in force and give host Galloway, who is an ardent piscator and a good attendant at these friendly visits, a bumper.

From Haslett, of Chertsey, a line comes to say things have been very quiet in his district, a few odd fish—barbel, chub, and good perch—being all he speaks of, but adds, in conclusion, "the water is getting all right again, and I am glad to say old Father Thames has taken his physic pretty well, and I think now he is getting better there will be a chance of some good fishing. Now the weir is shut down again I shall bait up for the bream, and hope to have another good take to report shortly.

A friend and self had a good day at Twickenham last Sunday, and though our boatman, George Coxen, tried all he knew, the fish would not hang on. The few we did get, however, were good fish and in capital trim. I never saw such a lot of clubmen punt-fishing as I did last Sunday between Twickenham deeps and the Orleans club.

On Friday evening, December 4th, there will be a meeting of the working committee, at which Mr. P. Geen has promised to be present. Business of importance will be brought forward, and a new society, "The Jovial Anglers," will be proposed for enrolment.

Re the dace taken in the Colne, at Uxbridge, I beg to assure Mr. Woolfall that the report, as printed in my notes in the FISHING GAZETTE, is perfectly correct, and I originally had the particulars on the highest authority, and have since had them substantially confirmed by several members of the H.U.A.C., whom I met at the dinner which followed the recent tournament at the Welch Harp, one of whom, Mr. Hobden, has preserved a number of the dace in spirits, as I stated last week in my notes. Mr. Woolfall must remember that, in this case, the keeping of these fish by Mr. Walters served the cause of science and fish-culture far better than their return to the water would have done, though I agree with him, if what he wishes to convey is that a lesser number of fish would have proved the point quite as satisfactorily.

BLUE BOOK OF THE THAMES ANGLING PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

THIS most useful publication of the T.A.P.S. has been greatly improved this year by the addition of a much larger amount of useful and referential information. It has evidently been compiled with great care, and a large amount of labour has been bestowed upon it. The printing is admirably executed, and the general appearance of the book is very striking. In addition to important extracts from the bye laws—which every angler and fisherman should know besides the sizes and seasons of fish—there is a river distance table, pleasure boat tolls, river preserves, names of fishermen, angling hotels, lock keepers, river keepers, railway fares, time of high water, number of swans and cygnets, number of fishing boats, fishing tackle makers, list of preservation societies to Reading, fish culture, officials of the three central associations, a complete list of angling clubs up to the present time, officials of the Board of Thames Conservators, the names of the inspectors of salmon fisheries, the origin of the society and the rules, annual report, list of subscribers, &c. The "Blue Book," which is published at sixpence to non-subscribers will be sent post free on receipt of that amount by Mr. W. H. Brougham, 7, Ironmonger Lane, Cheapside, London, and no one will regret the investment. The society is now under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, and the "Blue Book" is eminently in character with its present influential position.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Galis, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVR.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My busines in this State
Made me a looker on."—SHAKESPEARE.

The river is in prime order for any kind of seasonable fishing. Chub are well on; jack are feeding; perch are on the move, and roach are active, so what more can mortal angler wish for? At Marlow, Maidenhead, and Bray, excellent miscellaneous baskets have been made, the best bag in quality having all been had with lobworms. At Hurley, Messrs. Lee and Harrison have not experienced their usual good luck, one day's angling only resulting in a few pounds of roach. At Medmenham, the river seems in fine trim for chub, several men doing big things. From Mapledurham I hear that Mr. Torridge one day took some fifty perch, and on another occasion three jack of presentable proportions. The foliage at the side of the river is now something worth a journey to see. So what with this and the excellent chance of sport, I would advise my gentle readers to pay a trip to Old Father Thames before the excessive possible cold precludes such a visit.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack, perch and chub; perch biting very well. While out on Thursday I took 10 lb of perch; best day 4 jack and 6 lb. of perch—J. RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

Owing to the cold north east winds, we have had the fishing very bad. Mr. Innis, fishing with me at Weybridge on Sunday last, caught six roach, one barbel, and two small chub. Mr. Jukes, fishing with me on Tuesday morning, took twelve roach. Mr. Innis, fishing with me at Halliford on Wednesday, caught 2½ dozen roach. Thursday: weather, fine; wind, south-west; prospects for fishing, much better.—GEORGE ROSEWELL, fisherman.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in splendid order for roach fishing now, and the change in the weather to-day has brought the fish on again. As I reported last week this would be a good week, but it was not to be the case, for on Sunday morning there was a stinging frost, that took the fish dead off the feed; in fact, it almost took my wits away as well, for more than once I did not know whether I was frozen or not. Since my last report all the punts have been out most days. On Friday and Saturday last sport run from 15 to 20 lb. of roach to each punt; Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, about 10 lb. per punt; and to-day Job Howard, with two gentlemen, 15 lb. roach; Harry Howard, 10 lb. roach; myself, with Mr. Macfarlain, 25 lb. roach, with one barbel, 3 lb.—JOHN BUSHNELL fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind north-west and showery. A little rise of water, but nothing to interfere with anglers. We are still having some very fine takes of roach and dace. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Howes, with Ted Brown, took 60 lb. of splendid fish in two days; Pert Hammerton, one day 18 lb. and two days 45 lb.; George Coxen, one day 6 dozen, one day 4 dozen of roach, weighing 18 lb.; Joe Dobbin, with Dr. Clark and Rev. Limpus, 4 dozen of fine roach in three hours after tide. I am sorry to have to inform the friends of James Brand, who has worked on the river from the Two Sawyers for the past twenty years, that he expired on last Tuesday night after a long and painful illness.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water here is very much discoloured, though we have had no rain to speak of. I think the great quantity of leaves in the water has something to do with it; also, perhaps, the cause of fish not feeding, as very little has been done—only here and there a few roach and perch and barbel. The latter are still to be had, though they are very shy. I tried them at Windsor Bridge last Friday; there being a very strong water on I had to use lead three times the ordinary weight of fine tackle—the consequence was the first I hooked had the laugh of me, so gave it up till the water dropped off a bit. Lumsden, on 28th ult., had five barbel, averaging 2½ lb., and on the 1st inst., with a patron, had a heavy chub, going 5 lb. good weight; had it been in a proper condition would have gone 6 lb., or over. It was taken whilst legering for barbel. A good flood now would do a lot of good by carrying away the decayed weed and other refuse in the river; as it is now, the fish will not feed as they generally do when we have a rainy October.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

The advent of winter has put a stop to the fishing of those who only visit the water during fine weather. The past week has been noted for a succession of snowstorms and frosty nights. Despite these drawbacks a few brave ones have faced Boreas, and been rewarded with a measure of success. Mr. J. Atkinson, of Brigg, and a friend were fishing above Brandy Wharf on Friday last. The latter gentleman hooked a large pike of 10 or 12 lb., with the spoon bait, but before he had safely got it to the top of the steep bank Master Jack gave one of his artful summersaults, broke the gimp, and vanished with the electro-plate beneath the waves. These are the sort of lessons anglers require. They do

us good in causing us to examine our tackle to see if it is reliable. I have recently had some very heavy fishing, and have found the new Acme lines to meet every reasonable requirement.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove

Since my last, we have had a heavy fall of snow, but it has now entirely disappeared. Grayling have been feeding well, and the dark October cock-winged duns have been accounting for some nice dishes, as also has the caterpillar. On Monday, in the Birdsgrove length, a local rodster was fortunate enough to take no fewer than thirteen fish, most of them goodly size ones. In Dove Dale too, some pretty samples have been killed, both the flies mentioned above having proved best. Mr. David Foster of Ashbourne has also been doing well with the cocked-winged duns, below Mayfield. Amongst his fish were several trout, which had, of course, to be returned to the river. The best time to fish now is from about eleven till three. Either before or after the hours named the fish won't rise as the naturals disappear from the water. Pike fishing about Uttoxeter, and on the lower lengths of the river, excellent.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

During the past few weeks, sport, in the way of fishing, has called for little or no remark. In the first place, the river has been so exceedingly low, and the storms following in such quick succession, caused the river to become so full and turbulent, accompanied with sharp frost and strong easterly winds, being the chief cause. Many anglers have been out, and plenty of fish are seen, but are in no humour for feeding. Spencer Walpole, Esq., Her Majesty's Inspector of Salmon Fisheries, paid us a visit last Thursday, who, with several of the Conservators, made an inspection of St. James's Weir, commonly called Salmon Pool, previous to deciding as to what kind of pools or pass should be placed in lieu of the useless rotten structure now fast falling to decay by actual wear and tear. During the inspection a fine otter attempted to mount the weir through the old pass, but perceiving the company on the bank, turned a backward somersault, and went down with the tide, giving them many adieus on his way thither. A few fine jack have come to bank, and, should the weather at all favour, sport may prove prolific.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Sea fishing, Friday afternoon. All boats out. A few came in at seven o'clock with two and two and a half maize of herrings in a boat at ten o'clock; the larger boats came in with very good catches. One had sixteen, another fourteen maize of herrings, which sold readily at 2s. a maize; also a few fine hake and whiting; some caught with hook and line, others in the nets. Saturday—squally, however, a few fine boats drifted and caught altogether about eight or ten maize. Several ling caught with hand lines from the jetty; also some fine cod, weighing about 14 lb. each, in prime condition. Sunday—several boats out, their catches varying from two to four maize in a boat. One boat with her nets drifted on the rocks, in trying to clear the nets from the rocks, they tore five nearly to pieces, belonging to Mr. J. Turner, of the Admiral Rodney. Monday—fishing rather slack; about a maize or maize and half in a boat, with a few hake. One boat had two nets very much damaged by a vessel going over them. Tuesday—a quantity of hake caught, which sold freely at 1s. each; herrings, twenty-four for 1s. Wednesday—blowing strong, with heavy sea. Three boats went out; they returned with about sixty herrings; and a vessel, with 150 maize of herrings on board, from from Clovelly, bound to Swansea, finding it too rough for them to proceed on their voyage, put into our harbour. This morning, Thursday, the weather moderating a little they started for their destination. Many of our boats have made a start again to-day for Clovelly Bay, where we hope they may be successful. Prospects for the present good.—E. COMER.

Lea (Cook's Ferry).

On Sunday last we had a great number of anglers down with us, and their takes were encouraging. A Mr. Morrison and Mr. Collyer, both members of the Edmonton and Tottenham Fishing Club, took some perch in fine condition, and others returned home delighted with their takes. I may here notify that a new landlord will shortly take the above house, and he has informed me that he intends to do everything in his power to make all who visit this fishery comfortable by supplying them with good and cheap accommodation.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order now. The wind east and very cold. There has been no sport all the week.—WM. COWELL.

The water is getting all right now. It has not been fishable since Sunday. The wind is north-east and cold. Mr. Moss took a small jack on Sunday about 4 lb.—WM. COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

The water here is richly coloured and in good condition. The Bloomsbury Brothers visited here last Sunday, and had a peg-down match, the result of the day's taking, after some grand sport, was as follows:—First prize, Mr. Davis; second, Mr. Barr; third, Mr. Gill; fourth, Mr. Young. The Highbury Brothers and the Izaak Walton were also represented. Lucky Mr. Holford took a jack on Nov. 1 in the Barge river, weighing 9½ lb., the largest I have heard that has been taken here this season so far.—VON LEEFE.

Ouse.

Water in fair condition for all-round fishing; but a rapid stream on, owing to the recent heavy rains, which makes it necessary to use fine tackle, heavily weighted. The searching east wind is spoiling the prospects, otherwise there would be every reason to expect good roach and pike fishing for some time to come. Sport during the week has been very fair for the few anglers who have ventured out; the following are the results:—Oct. 27, Dr. Moxon, Cambridge, fishing with Mr. Innes, Trinity College, got 16 lb. very good roach during the afternoon, very showery and cold, only biting at intervals. Oct. 28, Mr. W. C. Carr, Cambridge, 15½ lb. roach, four largest going 4 lb. the lot. Oct. 29, several anglers out, but little doing; very cold and stormy. Oct. 31, sharp frost during the night, but a few roach taken, Mr. R. B. Marston, London, with a nephew, and Mr. George Basingbourne, getting 8½ lb. I did not expect there would have been a fish taken. Nov. 1, Mr. W. B. Rogers, London, 7 lb. good roach.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Thorney Broad.

The water is in first-rate order for fishing—not too bright. There have been some good takes of roach, dace and chub during the past week. Anglers would do well to give the water a trial for roach, etc., now. Sport during the past week:—Mr. Stocker, 1 chub, 4 lb. 9 oz. Mr. Griffin has had several chub, the largest weighing 4 lb. 14 oz., the smallest over 2 lb. Mr. W. Hawkins had a quantity of dace with the fly, all weighing over 9 oz. Mr. Walker, 4 roach, largest 1 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Holding, 8 roach, several of them weighing over 1 lb. 6 oz., and smallest about 9 oz. Mr. Hawkins, 4 roach, over 1 lb. each. Mr. Browning had a fine jack of 9 lb. $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., and several others had fair takes of roach, &c., too late for last week's paper.—E. GODFREY.

Trent.

Little of import has been done this week, at which I am not in the least surprised. On Monday the river was reported in good fishing order, but the wind blew so fearfully cold that the few anglers who ventured out returned with only meagre catches. On Tuesday a heavy fall of snow and sudden thaw upset all calculations, for, in a few hours the water was again so thick that the fish could not see a bait in the slowest swims. The river to-night is reported out of all condition from the snow broth, and angling will be found stale, flat and unprofitable before the beginning of next week.—J. M.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in fairish condition for all-round angling, but cannot say how long it will keep so, for it has been raining somewhat heavily most of the day, and so in all probability we shall have a high and thick water by Saturday; but I hope for the best; if the water continues in the present trim, chub ought to take scratchings or pith, and roach gentles, but should advise anglers to bring a few worms down to the river with them, if the water should be high and discoloured. Wind, south-east. The splendid weather of last Monday tempted a lot of anglers out, and some of them did pretty well among the roach. Mr. Slater had a very nice bag of those fish; and so had some others, gentles being the favourite bait. Last Saturday, I tried my hand with the jack, and ran seven, but only succeeded in grappling four, Mr. Gregory's "clipper" being the fatal attraction. I have been frequently asked to describe the method of preparing pith for chub fishing. Now this is the way I do it. For a small consideration the butcher's boy draws me out of the bullock a quantity of the pith, which is the spinal cord. It is rather a dirty, disagreeable affair to look at, but, with a pair of scissors, I carefully remove the skin, and then the inside I carefully wash in cold water two or three times, till it is perfectly white and clean. It is then, after all the water is drained from it, ready for use. Some people scald it, or boil it, etc, but I have tried all dodges, and I find it is the best left as it is after washing. A piece about the size of a hazel nut is carefully put on a No. 4 or 5 round bend Carlisle hook; stick the hook through and through, and through again, the pith, till it works up the shank, and the point is covered. Careful practice is necessary in order to put a bit of pith well on the hook, so that it will stop on for a few minutes. It is a clinking bait for chub when the weather is cold and the water is clear. Our respected editor tells me that he has sent my prize that I won at the tournament, "Mr. Gregory's Baits." He says they are a grand lot and no mistake, but they have not yet come to hand. When they do, I shall perhaps have something to say about them in the next issue of the FISHING GAZETTE.—TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both rivers have been in first-class order for angling up to-day (Thursday), when we have here a thorough wet day, and both rivers are milky from the limestone roads, and rising. Sport during the week up till Tuesday, and to-day Thursday has been generally good, and some splendid baskets of good size grayling have been killed with careful good fly fishing off of both streams. The killing flies have been furnace, dyed hackle, bumble, black, or little snuck flies. Fish have been found to rise the best during the past week from "eleven to three," and have been killed chiefly in the deep slow runs, and in the tails of the streams. The bottom fishers on the Derwent have done well during the week, killing both grayling, roach, dace, chub, and a few small sized perch, with maggots and brandling worms. The maggot killing the greater quantity of fish.—J. C. EATON, Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Snow has fallen in this district since my last report, and the frosts at night have been very keen; this has brought the grayling well on the feed; and I have heard of some very nice dishes being taken with both the little red worm and maggot. The rivers are now in excellent order, and should the weather keep fine and open, no doubt some good sport will also be had with the fly.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE FISH SUPPLY.—The supply of fish to Billingsgate Market for the week ending Friday, Oct. 28, was as follows:—Oct. 22, by rail, 221 tons; by water, 48 tons (1 steamer); Oct. 24, by rail, 264 tons; Oct. 25, by rail, 284 tons; Oct. 26, by rail, 316 tons, by water, 32 tons (1 steamer); Oct. 27, by rail, 306 tons, by water, 48 tons (1 steamer); Oct. 28, by rail, 371 tons, by water, 40 tons (1 steamer). Total by rail, 1761 tons; by water, 168 tons. The above figures go to prove that the Corporation could well provide for land-borne fish, as the water-borne supplies are falling off considerably.—*City Press*.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. The Gregory's the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford" and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Kedditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

MRS. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

SCIENCE LADDERS. By N. D'ANVERS, author of "Heroes of North African Discovery," "Heroes of South African Discovery," "Elementary History of Art," &c. Series I. No. 1. "Forms of Land and Water." Series II. No. 1. "Vegetable Life." Series III. No. 1. "Lowest Forms of Water Animals." London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington. 1881.

IF there is one subject above all others on which the literary historian of the future will surely fasten, it is the immense improvement effected in educational literature during the latter half of the present century. This improvement, it should be observed, extends not only to the high character, thoroughness, and general usefulness of the books themselves, but to the extraordinarily low prices at which they are procurable. And, as an instance in point, we would draw attention to the very newest aids to scientific learning, namely, the batch of little books whose titles are ranged in order at the top of this notice. These "Science Ladders" form an illustrated series of geographical and natural history Readers, intended to teach the great laws of nature in language simple enough to be intelligible to every child who can read. Purely elementary, they aim at awakening the powers of observation and of reasoning—and to this end the excellent scientific illustrations with which they are copiously supplied must very materially assist. The author's aim and intention is fully secured and carried out in every line, and an almost incredible amount of sound learning is encompassed by these delightful little volumes, averaging seventy pages each. At present only three Readers, the first of each of three series, are sent out to secure the well-deserved favour of the public, but these will shortly be followed by companion Readers, designed to carry their respective subjects to another and a higher stage. The titles of these additional volumes, already announced as in active preparation, are as follows: "The Story of Early Exploration," "Flowerless Plants," and "Lowly Mantle and Armour Wearers."

The short limits of this notice preclude any detailed exposition of the author's admirable method, or any attempt to convey an adequate idea of the easy progressive character of each succeeding lesson. Though primarily intended for the use of children, these books are also well worth the attention of others who are properly curious about what goes on round about them day by day, yet lack the wish or time to study larger works. In conclusion, we would express an earnest hope that these Good and Truth compelling little books may be spread broadcast wherever children are and the English language reigns; for no pleasure can compare with that of climbing up to the vantage ground of Truth; and Good, the more communicated the more abundant grows.

COARSE FISH CULTURE.

WE beg our readers to carefully consider the proposal we make in respect to establishing a society for breeding roach, perch, carp, pike, dace, &c., &c. For details see the article on our FISHING GAZETTE Tournament this week.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

Thursday 20th ult. was the last angling competition of this club for the year. On the occasion the Chichester Angling Society (a club very recently formed in the ancient city), were invited to contest. The day unfortunately was most unfishy and boisterous, blowing at times half a gale from the N.E. Not at all daunted with the weather the members turned up very well, and met the Chichester club about noon at their head-quarters, the Globe Hotel (Southgate Chichester), each rodster was allowed to fish in any part of the canal he thought proper as long as the time would permit. After three hours (the time specified) the takes were anything but satisfactory. Mr. Mortimer, of Portsmouth, winning first prize, and Mr. Smith, of Chichester, the second prize. The Portsmouth Waltonians are to be highly complimented this season on many former occasions for their large takes both in salt as well as in freshwater, and some very valuable prizes have been won. Mr. Westaway scaled last week over 30 lb. weight of whiting and codlings, angling from a boat off Hayling Island in one afternoon.—DAGGERWOOD.

PRINCESS OF WALES.

A few of our members went to Uxbridge on the 23rd ult., to compete for a valuable prize given by Mr. Allport, but the majority of them met with but little luck. Mr. Glaister won the prize with a decent show of roach, only just beating Mr. C. Severn by $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.—MEDIocre.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

' COST OF FISHING PUNTS.—In answer to query on this point, we wrote to Mr. Warner and he says his punts, which are very good, cost from £10 to £12. He will give name of builder if required.—ED

W.S.L.—The worm you sent arrived in such a dried-up condition as to be unrecognisable for a certainty. We think, however, it is the *lermea* (a common parasite of fishes) which is said to be the only parasite of the Canadian white salmon (*Coregonus albus*), and is described by Dr. Carpenter as possessing "a long suctional proboscis, a short thorax, to which is attached a single pair of legs, which meet at their extremities, where they bear a sucker which helps to give attachment to the parasite, a large abdomen and a pair of pendent egg sacs." You should place some of them in spirits and forward securely in a box.

C. EDWARDS.—We have asked the "Trent Otter" to be good enough to tell you how to prepare pith for chub-fishing, in his River Report this week, but it has frequently been described in the GAZETTE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FISHING AT CONNEMARA.

SIR,—As Ireland is a point of attraction just now, it may interest your readers to hear of the hair-breadth escapes which I and a London friend had two months ago when we went fishing in that romantic land.

In the first place we took tourist return tickets for Connemara at Euston (a risky thing, you will say, not knowing if we should come back again) and arrived at the Railway Hotel, Galway, on Sunday night. On Monday morning, after a hearty breakfast at that comfortable hostelry, consigned ourselves to the care of the well known piscatorial celebrity, Nicholas Brown, for a few hours' salmon fishing. I must here allude to the marvellous show of salmon one sees on looking over Galway bridge. Hundreds and hundreds of these splendid fish are to be seen in the rapid shallow water beneath, waiting to ascend the river. What a spectacle if it could only be witnessed from London Bridge! We went to work without delay with "old Nic" (and a good guide, too, for salmon fishing), and between 10 and 12 killed four salmon of 6, 7½, 7½ and 8 lb.

A 2, after sending our fish to London, we had luncheon at the Railway Hotel, and then got on board the steamer *Lady Eglinton*, which took us up the river and across Lough Corrib to Cong. This trip was most enjoyable, the scenery around the magnificent lake being truly grand. At Cong we stopped overnight at the small but comfortable hotel the Carlisle Arms, kept by Mrs. Burke. We drove in the morning by outside car to Leenane (18 miles), approaching which, via Maam, the singularly wild and picturesque scenery of Connemara presents itself. Placing ourselves in charge of Mr. McKeown, the obliging proprietor of the Leenane Hotel, we met with the best accommodation and comfort. The cuisine was excellent, and the waiter and all connected with the hotel most willing and attentive.

We stayed here three days fishing on the river Erriff and a small mountain stream, with moderate success, and enjoying the beautiful scenery and drives. Leenane seemed to be a good station for shooting, as there were one or two gun parties staying with us who, unmindful of Coercion Bills and Arms Acts, were committing sad havoc amongst the grouse and hares; but as our object was essentially fishing, and time on the wing, we thought we would off to pastures new. We had heard that the Ballinahinch Lakes were the place *par excellence*, so we posted another 17 miles or so, and after the most delightful of drives imaginable, found ourselves snugly ensconced in the charmingly-situated hotel at Glendalough. And now I must tell you, reader, who have not yet had the happiness to know the beauties of this spot, and yet love to wield the rod, you can here attain the Ultima Thule of your expectations, that long desired haven of bliss—an anglers' paradise. The hotel, a handsome white castellated building, is situate on the margin of the lake encompassed with wood, and in the midst of sublime scenery. We found in it, as at Leenane, all the comforts and attentions of home, good living and reasonable charges, at the same time that we were at the headquarters of a large and important fishery.

It was not long until we made acquaintance with the head-keeper Steele—a man, I should say, well-fitted for his post—and learnt that we had something like fine lakes and a splendid river to fish upon, all teeming with trout and salmon. Two boatmen were appointed to meet us in the morning, and one day we visited one lake, another day another, thus varying the drives out and home and general programme. These men were not only good boatmen, but good fishermen as well, knowing all about flies and the best casts on the water. I give their names—Pat Kelly and Michael Fahertie, as I can strongly recommend them as intelligent and hardworking men, really anxious to procure sport for their patrons. We had five days' fishing at Glendalough, and good sport with the sea-trout, getting 15 to 22 per day, all with the fly, fish running generally from 1½ to 2½ lb., and very sportive. We also caught a few small charr, and hooked two salmon with the sea-trout flies, but did not succeed in landing either fish (although one was played by my friend for ten minutes), the small hooks giving way.

On returning via Galway we had a day's trolling with artificial baits on the river and a portion of the Lake Corrib. Singularly, although both possess salmon, trout, perch, and pike *galore*, and we used the finest of fancy tackle, we did nothing on the lake whatever, and we only got 5 small jack at the Galway end of the river, the biggest weighing scarcely 2½ lb. There must surely be monsters where these small fry were. As a proof of it, we saw some local spoon-baits of extraordinary size, fully four times as large as those used on the Thames. We should have remained a few days longer and given the big ones a chance, but had to pass the week which was left us with friends in Dublin prior to our return to the modern Babylon.

In conclusion, we enjoyed our short fishing tour in Connemara, and can safely advise those "brother Bobs" who desire a really wonderful change of scene, most delightful drives, and first-class fishing, to pay it a visit next season, and to make Glendalough their headquarters. As regards disturbance and the hairbreadth escapes I commenced with, believe me that such dangers are mere fallacies. We met with nothing but kindness and respect everywhere we went, and, from what we could see, the people only deplored the absence of the stranger, and were but too ready to offer him a welcome. The only thing which could suggest disturbance that we saw, was the treble guard outside Galway jail, who, from their proximity to the water, might as well have been guarding the salmon. Beyond this, we saw and heard nothing, and, as for my friend, who is a thorough Englishman, he vows he will not read his *D. T.*

any more, but be guided by his own observations, and visit old Ireland again when the season re-commences.—I am, &c.,
Athole Aouse, Gipsy Hill, Oct. 29, 1881.

CASTLECONNELL.

FISHING AT EYNHAM.

SIR,—In answer to "Perch's" enquiries, *re* the Fishing at Eynsham:—
1st. It is all free fishing at Eynsham, all on the Thames.

3rd. I know of no punt or fisherman; I should, speaking from experience, advise him to go to Bablock Hythe Ferry, stopping at the inn there. Here he would obtain good plain accommodation (but will be advisable to make arrangements first), and he will get there a good fisherman, viz., C. Webb, Northmoor, who has a good punt, and knows the waters well. He can then fish up to New Bridge, &c., or down to Skinner's Weir and Eynsham, all good fishing; about 10s. to 15s. a day will cover all expenses I should say. Eynsham, by road, is three miles from Bablock Hythe, and Oxford five or six miles. He will have to arrange for baits, &c., beforehand. He ought to obtain plenty of jack in this neighbourhood. If he will ask you (Editor) for my address, and write to me, I will inform him more. His best way is from London to Oxford or Eynsham by rail, and cab it from either place to the inn.—I am, &c.,
M.

SIR,—In reply to the inquiries of "Perch," the following answers will perhaps be equally satisfactory to him as to other gentlemen whom I know are anxious to hear the reply which I now give.

(1) I replying to this I may say it is one of those questions which has helped to call into existence the Thames Rights Defence Association, and as that body are unable to state what portions of the Thames are "perfectly free" I, as a humble member of it, cannot pretend to do otherwise than state what I know from experience of this portion of the river, and that is that the fishing is claimed by the Earl of Abingdon, through whose land the river and towpath flows hereabout; he lets it to Mr. Treadwell, the keeper of Eynsham Weir, who (and his father before him) issues printed tickets at 5s. each for the season.

(2) Day fishing is allowed by Mr. Treadwell, who is very anxious to get London anglers to fish his waters; he charges 1s. per day, but issues no day tickets.

(3) You cannot obtain either punts or fishermen here, the nearest place at which these can be had is Oxford. Indeed, those accessories to some anglers are not required here, as, except in the weir pools, the best fishing is from the banks on either side.

(4) Eynsham is on the Thames proper, and the weirs, locks and banks and towing-paths are under the care of the Thames Conservancy, who have recently been doing considerable work with a view of getting rid of the flood-water at a quicker rate.

In conclusion, I presume that the reports named by "Perch" refer to fish taken by myself, and I can assure him and others that the sport is good, and that any further information will, I believe, readily be given by Mr. Treadwell, Eynsham Weir. Any angler going to this part will do well to put up at the King's Arms, kept by Mrs. King, whose accommodation is very good and charges low.—I am, &c.,
R. W. HOBDEN.

23, Blomfield Road, Shepherd's Bush.

SIR,—In reply to the letter signed "Perch," in the GAZETTE of this week I have much pleasure in replying to his question, as far as I am able.

(1) The fishing at Eynsham is not free.

(2) The man who rents the water will give permission to any respectable person to angle, leaving the question of payment to the good nature of the angler.

(3) I do not think that a punt or fisherman could be obtained at Eynsham, but the Beasleys or Bossoms are at all times ready to take one when ordered from Oxford; fishing from the bank is the better form.

(4) Eynsham is a continuation of the Isis.

I send you, Mr. Editor, my name and address; and if "Perch" thinks well to obtain it from you, and write me when he contemplates a visit, I shall be glad to give him all the assistance and information I am able.—I am, &c.,
Oxford, Oct. 29.
CHUB.

[Many thanks.—ED.]

FISHING AT RICHMOND.

SIR,—Would you kindly allow me a space in your valuable paper in respect to a capital week's fishing (not ever seeing my name in your Richmond correspondent's report), I wish to report myself, commencing October 26. Mr. Bausback and Mr. Howard, 15 lb. of roach. Thursday 27, with the same two gentlemen, 24 lb. of roach. Friday 28, with Mr. Barlow and friend, 39 lb. of roach. Saturday 29, with Mr. Green and friend, of Richmond, 16 lb. of roach. Sunday 30, with Mr. Aldridge, of Petersham, and friend, 20 lb. of roach. Monday 31, with Mr. Bausback, one rod, 24 lb. of roach. Tuesday, November 1, with Mr. Barlow and friend, 20 lb. of roach. Wednesday, November 2, with Mr. Lovelock, of Kentish Town, 12 lb. of roach, in all, I think, 143 lb.—I am, &c.,
E. BROWN.

3, Montpelier Place, Orleans Road, Twickenham.

P.S.—I owe a great deal of my take to Mr. Walters and the Teddington assistant who captured a net at Brentford. I am sorry to say, I hear from good authority, he has notice to quit; if this is the case, I hope someone will take in hand to know the reason why, as I know from facts he is as good a man as the society ever produced.

UNDERSIZED FISH, &c.

SIR,—I frequently see mentioned in sporting papers about the taking of small fish, unweighable fish, and fish not allowed to be taken, but which I see are taken, and take all they can take, especially about the place mentioned in Sunday's *Referee*, Tottenham, &c. On Sunday, the 9th instant, I took a stroll and saw about fifteen persons, from 14 to 40, on the towing path most assiduously catching the innocents, as they are called, three or four inches long, and putting them into large square-shaped biscuit tins with a piece of rope for a handle to the same. I could not say if they were Huntley and Palmer's, Peake and Frean's, or any other men's, as the labels were not on them. One gentleman about thirty years of age, who I thought might be better off than the rest,

judging from his rod and tackle, had a tin constructed for the purpose, a round one in shape like unto a ladies' muff box, with handle to fold down, nicely japanned and perforated, and which made for him an excellent seat, as he chewed his bread and transferred the tiny ones from the river to the interior of his seat. I then strolled up the towing-path as far as the Pike and Anchor, where I found two young men fishing with small red worms, one of whom had a perch of about 6 oz., in a piece of what looked like muslin, accompanied by another, a poor little mite about 3 inches long. I think one was undersized, and I told him so, but he made no reply.

Now, sir, I have told you something of what I have seen lately; let me tell you of what I have never seen but once, and that was at Waltham, during a period of angling excursions extending over 33 years—a visit from a bailiff. I am afraid they are like otters, often read and heard of, but seldom seen at river sides. I do not like to be unkind, perhaps I have been very unfortunate, and never went when they were there. I have been told since that if small fish are taken away alive no one can interfere with them, because they can say they are "for bait." I hope, if this is the case, it will not continue long, for I think such an evasion of the law ought not to exist. Catch all the little fish, and where shall the honest angler find big ones? Not at Tottenham.

I have known several instances where the catchers have sold them to put in glass globes and small aquariums, there to be frightened and starved to death, as I have found many ignorant persons think that all a fish require is water.—I am, &c.,
New Charlton. H. P.

PRUSSIAN CARP.

SIR,—Having read the recent letters on this subject in the FISHING GAZETTE, I venture to contribute my experience as to Prussian carp.

When a boy, I used to catch numbers of these fish in some ponds in Bucks, which were situate on Naphill Common, lying on the top of the hills about two miles from Hughenden, the seat of the late Lord Beaconsfield.

How these fish had originally got there no one knew, the nearest streams being fully three miles off, and no connection between any of the ponds and them, and I never heard of any of these fish being found in them.

One or two of these ponds lay right away from any roads, shut in among juniper bushes and large beech trees, but all contained Prussian carp and in large numbers.

In one instance (a very weedy pond), by dragging out a large mass of weed near the edge, you could always get some fish among it.

We used to fish for them with a small red-worm and light float and line, generally on the bottom. As a rule, they ran about 4 inches long, but I have taken some about 8 or 9 inches. A warm summer evening was the best time for them, and I have spent many a pleasant evening by these solitary ponds, surrounded by magnificent beeches and completely shut in by the juniper bushes.

A large part of the common has now been enclosed, but the prettiest and wooded portion, towards Bradenham still, I believe, remains; and those of your readers who chance to go into those parts will find a walk from Hughenden, across Naphill Common, to Bradenham, and thence by West Wycombe to High Wycombe, will amply repay the trouble.—I am, &c., G. M. M.
October 26.

THE BAIT USED IN THE "F. G." TOURNAMENT, &c.

SIR,—May I suggest that it would be interesting to your readers to know what was the weight of the trace and bait used in the casting competitions at the late tournament, both in those for Thames and Nottingham styles of throwing. May I also take this opportunity of addressing to your able correspondent, Mr. R. Balderston, the request (subject, of course, to your according the space) that he would give us the tabulated results obtained from various flies used by him, which, in one of his interesting communications, he spoke of having drawn up, with any remarks as to districts fished, &c., he may consider necessary? I am sure the above would be of great interest and value to those, like myself, who are tyros in the art of fly-fishing, and trust that he will consider that sufficient excuse for my taking the liberty of making the request.—I am, &c.,
W. T. S.

[The bait was an artificial dace weighing one ounce, and a lead weighing about half an ounce or less.—ED.]

GOOD PIKE FISHERY WANTED.

SIR,—Can you kindly inform me in your next issue of the GAZETTE where really good pike fishing is to be obtained either public or private, within easy reach of London.—I am, &c.,
H. ATHERTON ADAMS.

[Will some reader kindly answer this? We should say Elstree Reservoir is as good a place as any near London.—ED.]

MR. WALTER'S TAKE OF DACE IN SPAWN.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Wo olfall, I can assure him he may rest quite easy, that nothing has been done in the matter of these dace not being returned to the water by Mr. Walters, who is one of our most successful dace fishermen, and a thorough sportsman. Mr. W. finding these dace to be in the condition named, considered it an excellent opportunity, in a scientific point of view, to be able to establish ocular demonstration of the fact that some dace do spawn in the autumn, and the number of fish he captured were not more than sufficient for the purposes of those gentlemen for whom they were intended. I may say that I have some of the fish now "preserved in spirits," as I see L. B. has remarked, "for the conversion of unbelievers." I am sure if Mr. Woolfall is anything of a naturalist he will be full satisfied with this explanation.—I am, &c.,
R. W. HOBDEN.

THE SEA AND THE NORFOLK RIVERS.

SIR,—I have every reason to believe that the remarks of your correspondent, "A One-year Jack," with respect to the above serious question, have some amount of truth in them, but at the same time I am proud to be able to inform him that such acts as the selling of eel nets do not apply to the River Yare. From the New Mills at Norwich to Hardley Cross, Reedham, such an object referred to by your correspondent cannot be found, nor has such a thing been allowed in the river for years.

The last time one was seen was three years, since when an old poacher was discovered putting it down between Cantley and Buckenham, but on being discovered by the water bailiff, took to flight and forfeited his net.

At the same time, he is perfectly correct about the great number used on the Bure, and I may tell him that his informant in no way exaggerated when he

put the quantity down at twelve, knowing, as I know, that there are at least twice that number. That these nets interfere with the escape of the fish up the Breads when pursued by their mortal enemy, "the salt tides," there is not the shadow of doubt, for whilst all the large fish were slaughtered in the Bure (where these nets abound) nothing but the very small fry succumbed in the River Yare.

This fact alone speaks volumes; hence the question must arise if this kind of thing is illegal on one river, why should it be winked at on another? Asking an old hand, if he thought that anything other than eels were taken in these nets, his reply was: "That the best fish in the rivers were caught in them." I think if the members of the Bure Preservation Society will refer to their bye laws, they will find that these nets to a certain extent are illegal, and the sooner done away with the better.

Thanking your correspondent for bringing the matter before the public.—I am, &c.,
ALFRED PALMER,
Norwich, October 31, 1881. Hon.-Sec., E.A.P.S.

THE STEAM-LAUNCH NUISANCE.

SIR,—Many thanks for the insertion of my letter a week or two ago on "Turn of the Tide." My acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Keene for kindly replying to my questions. I have anxiously waited to see if more of your readers would give me any information on the subject, but I find them very shy in stating their opinions on such a difficult matter.

Now, sir, I wish to put a very serious matter before you and your readers, and this is the gradual diminution of sport in the Thames. I think you will agree with me that my statement is correct, notwithstanding the noble efforts of the Thames Angling Preservation Society to prevent it. Fifteen years ago (I certainly can speak from experience) the takes of fish, both in size and quantity, were greatly superior to what they are now, more especially so in the upper waters. Surely one would expect that this ought not to be the case when we think how greatly the fence months and the prosecution of poachers induce to a larger supply. Well, sir, I think I can account for the falling off, and my object in writing to you, through the medium of your valuable and very interesting paper, is to bring the real grievance of my brother anglers before the public, in order that the enemy of the lovers of the gentle art may be brought to book.

What is the reason that anglers are not allowed to fish during the fence months? A silly question, you will doubtless say, but pray bear with me to the end of my letter and my meaning will be plain. The answer is that nearly every fish caught during that time is in spawn, and in taking one you are really destroying many.

Every true fisherman hails with enthusiasm the fenced months, but it is not against anglers alone that these months ought to be enforced. They ought to be enforced against those murderous steam-launches which on every journey wash away and thus destroy the spawning beds.

Many of your readers doubtless derive great pleasure from steam-launches, and in making my complaint, I hope I am not in any way hurting their feelings; at any rate it is far from my wish to do so. All I ask is that not only anglers but also steam-launches may come under the rules of the fence months, and I request this boon for the non-tidal waters of the Thames only, although I honestly confess I should like my hopes to hold good as low down as Kew Bridge, but I fear this to be impossible.

Hoping you, sir, and your readers will do your best to bring my growl before the proper authorities, I am, &c.,
"THE CONSTANT READER,"
London, Oct. 31.

LETTERS BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—Permit me to thank you for your kindness in respect to my last week's letter, and also for your kind invitation to write you again. I will accept that invitation, and send you a letter next Wednesday, and every second Wednesday during this winter, and possibly during the fence months. I hope your readers may not tire of me. I promise them and you, sir, that my heart and the truth shall be in what I write.—I am, &c.,
A THAMES FISHERMAN.

IMPORTANT TO ANGLERS.

RIVER LEA BOUNDARY (Navigable portion), and one mile above the Town Mill at Hertford to Limehouse, under the Fishery Bye Laws of the River Lea Conservancy Board.

From one mile above Hertford Town Mill to Ware Park Mill (free) from Ware Park Mill to Engine House (subscription)—Engine House to Gate above Black Pool (free)—from Black Pool to Fielde's Weir Lock, better known as Ratty's Lock (subscription), permission will be given on application to the Rye House—from Fielde's Weir Lock to Dobbs' Weir Lock (Smith's free)—from Dobbs' Weir Lock to Aqueduct Lock, the first lock below King's Weir (subscription)—from Aqueduct Lock to Horse Bridge, Swan and Pike below Enfield Lock (free)—from Swan and Pike to Horse Bridge at Pike and Anchor (subscription)—from Pike and Anchor to Limehouse (free).

N.B.—It is to be understood that the above refers to towing path only.

PRIVATE BACK WATERS.

From Town Mill Hertford (subscription)—from Ware Lock Priory Mill (private)—from Ware Tumbling Bay to Black Ditch (private)—from Black Ditch to the outlet below Stanstead Lock (Amwell Magnum Water reserved subscription)—Stanstead Mill streams (private)—the Swamp and High Bank Fish and Eels (subscriptions)—Hoddesdon Mill Streams (private)—from King's Weir to Powder Mill Stream (reserved subscription)—Cheshunt Mill Stream, from King's Weir to Cheshunt Mill (private)—from Cheshunt Mill to High Road Waltham in Cheshunt Marsh (free)—from High Road, Waltham, to the outlet above Ordnance Factory (private)—Powder Mill Streams (private)—Abbey Mill Stream, Waltham (subscription)—Ordnance Factory Streams (private)—Sewardstone Mill Stream (private)—The Crooks and Stream from Ordnance Factory to Chingford (Bailey's and Coventry's subscription)—Chingford Mill Stream (subscription to the Mill)—from the Mill to Higham Hill Water (free by permission of the Landowners)—Higham Hill and Ferry Boat Waters (Day's subscription)—Reservoirs and Waterworks Streams (private)—White Horse Waters (subscription).

BYE-LAWS OF THE LOWER THAMES.

THE following memorial has been presented to the Board of Thame Conservancy supplemented by a deputation, and a reply has been received, expressive of a desire of the Conservators to thoroughly revise the old Bye-Laws, and a Committee has been appointed for that purpose. We have great pleasure in giving it our hearty support.

GENTLEMEN,—The Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society are desirous of calling the attention of the Board of Thames Conservancy to the desirability of making some important and necessary alterations in the present Bye-Laws of the Lower Thames; and in making the following suggestions would assure the Conservators they have not only occupied the serious consideration of the Committee for some time, but have been unanimously and enthusiastically approved of by upwards of one hundred and thirty angling clubs of London and the suburbs.

First, in reference to the sizes of fish, mentioned in the submitted tabulated scale, several having been reduced in size, one or two increased, and fish introduced which are not now mentioned in the Bye-Laws, but are caught in large quantities in all portions of the waters below the City Stone at Staines.

	Proposed Size.	Present Standard.
Trout	14 inches	1 lb.
Jack	18 "	12 inches.
Barbel	13 "	12 "
Chub	10 "	9 "
Bream	9 "	"
Carp	8 "	"
Tench	8 "	"
Perch	7 "	8 "
Roach	7 "	8 "
Dace	6 "	6 "
Rudd	6 "	"
Gudgeon	4 "	5 "

It has been considered necessary to alter the mode of measurement to the extreme length of the fish, instead of from "the eye to the end of the tail" and in the alteration of sizes as above it will be found, where an increase is made, it is not so large—for instance, in the jack there is a space of about three inches from the nose to the eye, in reality making the increase only three inches instead of six, and then the general opinion is that that is too small a size for a jack to be taken.

Secondly, as regards the season for jack, it is highly desirable to extend the close period to the 31st of July, as the fish previous to that time are not fully recovered from spawning, but lean, and consequently unfit for food, and being hungry are caught in large numbers. This extension of the Close Season is considered of so much importance by the angling clubs of London that they have already adopted rules which exclude jack from being weighed-in before the 1st of August, and in some societies before the 1st of September.

Thirdly, in reference to the enlargement of the bait net. It has long been a matter of complaint amongst those following the trade or business of fishermen that the present size of 13 feet in circumference is much too small to enable them to get bait for their customers, and the Committee are of the same opinion; but in making the increase to 20 feet, it is important to limit its use to those fishermen only. And in making this concession to such fishermen, it is strongly recommended that the net which is sought to be increased from 13 feet to 20 feet in circumference should be given by a license, at a nominal sum, with power to the Conservators to revoke the same when any fishermen holding a license has been adjudged guilty of committing any wilful breach of the Bye-Laws. The Committee have enclosed a memorial from the fishermen on this question.

Fourthly, as regards the abolition of netting between Richmond Bridge and Kew Bridge. Owing to the increased purity of the water in the tidal portion of the river, the fish do not as formerly remain at the head of the tide, but are caught by the anglers much lower down; and it has become necessary in the interests of thousands of anglers to prevent the fish being netted between the two bridges of Richmond and Kew; and as the bulk of the fish have taken up a position much lower down the river, it is important to the anglers that the abolition of netting should be extended to Kew Bridge, and in doing this, it is not depriving the netsmen of any previous advantages, inasmuch as there is a much greater body of fish below Kew Bridge than formerly, and no necessity for to go higher up, unless it is the netsmen to wilfully take the fish away from the anglers. Only a short time since eight of the netsmen's boats came up between Richmond Bridge and Isleworth, and it is believed their visit was only made to annoy the anglers and not as a necessity to get fish. As a further proof of the better condition of the water, anglers are now to be found in considerable numbers at Mortlake, Putney, Wandsworth, and even lower down; and in additional evidence of this fact the netsmen are compelled to work much below Wandsworth to catch flounders and other fish. There appears, therefore, every reason that the Conservators should abolish the netting between Richmond Bridge and Kew Bridge.

Fifthly, the great check that would be given to poaching if the magistrates had the power to imprison, without the option of a fine, as the payment of any amount of fines is no punishment.

Sixthly, to correct the recent Bye-Laws as regards the trout season for the Lower Thames: as in making the alteration, a Bye-Law of the Upper Thames was repealed instead of one of the Lower portion.

The Committee feel they cannot too strongly impress upon the Conservators the necessity of carrying out these suggestions, and they

would be glad if the Board would fix upon a day to receive a deputation from the Society to enable them to give any further information.

THOMAS SPRECKLEY, Chairman.
W. H. BROUGHAM, Secretary.

7, Ironmonger Lane, London.

THAMES BYE-LAWS.

THE following memorial has been forwarded to the Thames Conservators from the Reading Preservation Society. We hope the other associations on the Upper Thames will follow the lead:—

TO THE BOARD OF THAMES CONSERVANCY.

GENTLEMEN,—I am instructed by the committee of the Reading and District Angling Association respectfully to request your honourable Board to consider, and, if you think it well, to carry out the following suggested amendments in the Upper Thames (Fishery) Bye-laws. The matter has engaged our attention for some time, and we feel that the present is a fitting opportunity for bringing it under your notice, as we understand you are now considering the desirability of altering the bye-laws affecting the lower river. We would like to see the following alterations made in the bye-laws of the Upper Thames:

(1) SIZE OF FISH—

	Proposed standard. (Extreme length).	Present standard. (Eye to end of tail).
Trout	16 in.	1 lb.
Pike	18 in.	12 in.
Tench	12 in.	8 in.
Barbel	13 in.	12 in.
Perch	9 in.	6 in.

(2) FENCE SEASONS.—The close season for trout to be extended to the 30th April, and for pike to the 31st July.

(3) BAIT NET.—That a 20-feet cast-net be allowed to fishermen for taking bait only, by licence (as recommended by the Thames Angling Preservation Society).

(4) NIGHT LINES.—The total prohibition of night lines and "bank runners" on the Upper Thames.

(5) PENALTIES.—The power to magistrates to imprison offenders without the option of a fine.

It will be seen by your honourable Board that in many points we ask for the same alterations to be made in the Upper Thames bye-laws as you have been memorialised by the Thames Angling Preservation Society to make in those of the lower river. We earnestly hope that in re-adjusting the sizes of fish, you will take into consideration the importance of a high standard for trout, tench and perch. We also think it of the greatest moment that the close season for trout should be extended as suggested, as during April Thames trout are really kelts—unfit for food, incapable of giving good sport, and, being ravenous, they fall an easy prey. This alteration, if passed into law, will powerfully aid the efforts being made to increase the stock of trout in the river.

By this post I send a copy of the above suggestions to the committees of the Marlow, Maidenhead and Windsor Preservation Societies.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. BUTLER,

Hon. Sec. Reading Angling Association.

Great Western Hotel, Reading,

Oct. 22, 1881.

"What do you think of Nubian Ink?" "I have heard of Nubian blacking, but Nubian Ink, no, never heard of it." Just so, it is a new thing, and you are not likely to have heard of it. You never do hear anything until it is as old as the story of Queen Anne. Well, I'll just tell you what it is. It is the best combined writing and copying ink in the world. Black, non-corrosive, permanent, gives distinct copies at any time, and is made in soluble pellets, which can be immediately dissolved as required, and thus transformed into this beautiful liquid ink. You can carry it about in your pocket in its solid state, pack it up in your best dress shirt, or sleep with it under your pillow, it won't soil anything till the water is applied. Try it, my friend, and you will never use any other.

The Alhambra Theatre, it is announced, will shortly close, to make some extensive alterations to the stage, required by the Lord Chamberlain, and also to redecorate and refurnish the theatre. The "Bronze Horse," which has been played over one hundred nights, will then have to be withdrawn, and on the re-opening will be produced a new version of the "Black Crook," founded on "La Biche au Bois," a grand spectacular fairy opera, now creating a great sensation at the Porte St. Martin, in Paris. The "Black Crook" is to be mounted on a scale of great splendour, and one of its most interesting features will be the introduction of no less than three new grand ballets, in which Mdlles. Pertoldi, De Gillert, and Palladino will appear. Amongst the artistes engaged for this new opera (the music of which is by Mr. Frederick Clay and Mons. G. Jacobi, and the libretto by Mr. H. Paulton) are Misses Constance Loseby, Lizzie Coote, Emelie Petrelli, Rose Berend, Julia Seaman, and Messrs. Harry Paulton, Henry Walsham, René Longrois, Louis Kelleher, J. H. Jarvis, and W. Hargreaves. We understand that the Alhambra is to be redecorated in the most recherche style of art, and playgoers will doubtless look forward to the re-opening with considerable interest. It is rumoured that during the alterations the "Bronze Horse" and grand Ballet will be transported to Her Majesty's Theatre.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Since I last wrote more members have joined. The following gentlemen have taken roach:—Messrs. F. Cooper, 5 lb. 7 oz.; W. Howell, 5 lb. 11½ oz.; W. Howell, 4 lb. 14 oz.; W. Head, 6 lb. 11 oz. Roach and dace—Messrs. W. Slatter, 3 lb. 1 oz.; W. Dudley, 2 lb. 1½ oz.; W. Slatter, 5 lb. 12 oz.; A. Eydman, 4 lb. 5 oz.; F. Adams, 3 lb. 9½ oz. All these fish were taken from the Thames with Jack Spong, one of the best professional fishermen I know of, from the Queen's Head, Twickenham. To-day (Thursday) I have no doubt he will pilot some of our members to a good swim. Mr. Brooks, host and treasurer, has bought a piano, which will be performed on soon.—C. J. DEAN, sec.

Oct. 27.

ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

Several members out on Sunday, but the shows were small. Mr. Wills being the only member to weigh. The next district visit of the Eastern will take place at the Crown and Anchor, Cheshire Street, corner of Mape Street, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday, November 8th, when we shall be happy to meet any anglers that will favour us with their company.—C. MAITLAND, sec.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday, November 6th, a peg-down match will take place at Kingston.—A. SHAKEL, sec.

Nov. 1.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since the last report I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions, with thanks:—J. H. Edwards (United Essex Angling Society), £1 1s.; J. P. Wheeldon (*Bell's Life*), 10s. 6d.; J. Cooper, (naturalist, Radnor Street, St. Luke's), 10s. 6d.; Mr. Elves (Burdett), 10s. 6d.; Mr. E. Smily (United Essex), 2s. 6d. Secretaries of societies will greatly oblige by returning the unsold tickets for the bait casting tournament at the Welch Harp.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Nov. 2nd.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this club went out on Sunday last. The "takes" were very small indeed, in fact the worst day's sport the members have experienced this season. H. Haines, J. Deeley, jun., T. Fiddes and H. Scutt weighed-in roach. The members fish for a series of prizes on Sunday, November 6th.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

Oct. 31.

A NEW ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last week I visited the Jovial Anglers' Society, held at the Jolly Anglers, White Cross Row, Richmond, Surrey. I am pleased to say I found a good muster for a young club, and amongst them some of the oldest Thames anglers. It is strictly a working man's club, and their rules are made to suit the members' pockets, both as regards matches and subscriptions. The secretary, Mr. H. W. Platt, appears to be a most genial fellow, and just suited to the post. The landlord also takes great interest in the object of the club, which is to get every angler and professional fisherman to become members, for, as it was very wisely pointed out to the meeting, if the professionals are members they will take care that all the fish they catch will be weighed-in for the prizes offered, and for their own credit, instead of, as is sometimes the case, letting their customers have the whole lot. By giving the many anglers of Richmond a chance of becoming members they are doing good work for the river, because there will be no inducement to retain small fry. Any member bringing into the club-room a fish under the T.A.P.S. size will be fined. They will also be induced to give information of any illegal practices that may come under their notice. This is just the sort of club that we want, and I trust there will be a lot more spring up. These men, who live so close, have many opportunities of learning what is going on, and their belonging to angling clubs brings them in direct communication with the proper authorities from whom they can obtain rewards for information given. Already they have eighteen members, three of whom are professionals. The society will enrol upon the West Central Association of London and Provincial Anglers' Association on Friday, the 4th inst. The meeting house is close to the riverside. Anglers visiting Richmond will always receive a welcome from the worthy host, who will supply them with refreshments at most moderate prices, and give them any further information in respect to the Jovials. I think the chairman, Mr. Green, must have named the society, he is such a jovial fellow.—H.

BOSTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last our members managed to secure a few fish, the following being weighed-in:—Mr. Bell, 5½ lb. roach and dace, from the tidal waters; Mr. Goodge, roach; and Mr. Jennings, chub, from Cookham. On the 31st ult., Mr. Taylor, 6½ lb. dace, from the Thames.—H. TAYLOR.

Nov. 2.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the ordinary weekly meeting, on Monday, the minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the chairman, Mr. Gambling, took the opportunity of informing the members that a gentleman had lately been initiated into the association, who, no doubt, would prove a very useful member, viz., A. Lawler, Esq., curator to the Brighton Aquarium, and he felt proud as chairman to find such names as the above on the roll. Mr. Lawler briefly replied, and spoke in high terms of the association, and informed the members present that he would do everything in his power to further the interest of the society. He thanked them for the carp lately presented, and was happy to say the fish was doing well. He also said he would cause a tank in the Aquarium to be wholly and solely kept for the use of the Brighton Anglers' Association. Mr. John Tree, with his usual good nature, offered his large tank at the rear of his shop, Queen's Road, and close to headquarters, that the members, bringing live fish from the various districts, can at once place them in till Mr. Lawler can conveniently send one of his assistants to take them direct under the care of the last-named gentleman. A vote of thanks was then passed. Several members went out on Sunday, but the takes were very small.—GROUND BAIT.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the above association took place at the White Hart Hotel, on Friday last, when about forty members sat down to a splendid repast, served up by our worthy host, Mr. W. G. Leigh. Mr. F. C. Morris occupied the chair, and Mr. J. Hadden the vice-chain. Mr. F. Marsh presiding at the piano. The usual loyal toasts were given also some capital songs by Messrs.

Warr, Cornish, Wheeler, Inch, Parsons and others. The health of the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary were drunk with musical honours, and were very ably responded to by Mr. F. C. Morris, Mr. J. Hadden, and Mr. S. Wride, secretary, who informed the meeting that at the present time the B.G.C.A.A. stood in Bristol second to none, both in finance and numbers. He was also pleased to say that they had a very hard-working committee—a committee who studied the interests of the association, and who always felt it a great pleasure in getting prizes to be fished for. Amongst the visitors were—Mr. Hunter, Mr. T. Thatcher, Mr. W. H. Stephens, and Mr. Skeates. The health of Mr. Leigh, Mrs. Leigh, and all the little Leighs having been drunk, the members sang the National Anthem, and dispersed at a reasonable hour, after spending a most enjoyable evening.—LEWIS WRIDE, sec.

BURDETT ANGLERS SOCIETY.

We had a very fair show of fish at this club on Sunday last, Mr. Hopkins showing roach, Mr. B. Smith chub and dace, while Mr. J. Hadkiss caused much surprise by again taking a prize for the heaviest weight, by forwarding to the club a splendid tray of rudd.—T. G. WALKER.

Nov. 3.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had a very poor show of fish on the 30th, Mr. Mortimer weighing-in 2 lb. of roach from the Rye House, which was the best take; Mr. Castell next, with chub, roach, and dace, from the Stort; Messrs. Mark and J. Chambers, roach and gudgeon, from the Thames.—CAS.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished at Weybridge on Sunday last, but being such a miserable day, very little fish was weighed-in. Mr. Brewer first, with the small amount of 9 oz.; Mr. Willman second, T. Smith third. The next set of three prizes for the last Sunday in this month, presented by Mr. E. Withers and Mr. E. Wilson, is for perch, when it is hoped members will show up in good force.—E. WILSON.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society took place on Thursday evening, at 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, and their large room was crowded—over one hundred members being present, Dr. Brunton presiding. The meeting had much interest from the fact that Mr. Bentley's paper on "Feeling in Fishes," was to be read, and also on account of the pike competition which took place on Tuesday last. The wind and weather on that day were so adverse that hardly any members had sport, although many were out, and doing their best to secure good fish. Dr. Tucker and Mr. Crumplen (hon. sec.) intended fishing with Bartholomew at Goring, but, unfortunately, missed their train, and repaired to Henley; but their ill luck still followed them, and no sizeable fish was landed—a result, as it appears, common to many others on the same occasion. The society's trays were, however, well filled, Mr. Hunt sending up from the Waveney, a superb collection of jack, weighing from 3½ lb. to 8½ lb. each, besides a number of perch, from ¾ lb. to 1½ lb. each. Mr. Barrett weighed-in one jack, 3 lb. 12 oz., and Mr. White, one dace, 1 lb. 1 oz.—as fine a specimen as could well be seen. Mr. Bentley's paper was of a highly scientific character, and abundantly illustrated by a large array of diagrams and microscopic objects, supplied by Mr. Steward, of Corahill. Mr. Bentley commenced by referring to the sense of pain in the human being, and from thence (after showing the difference between the nervous system of man, compared with the reptilia and fishes), demonstrated in a manner that seemed to meet with the general approval of the society, that fishes having cold blood, small brains, and a peculiar nervous system, did not feel pain to any appreciable extent, and in this view he was supported by remarks from Mr. Crumplen and others. Mr. Jardine and Dr. Lloyd also spoke, and Dr. Brunton delivered a very able address, endorsing to a great extent Mr. Bentley's paper, of which he spoke in terms of high commendation. A very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bentley and Dr. Brunton brought this very successful meeting to a close. Mr. Crumplen announcing that papers were in hand by Captain Alfred, Mr. Wheeldon, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Austin, and others; expressing at the same time the hope, which was enthusiastically ratified, that the society, eschewing cards and other similar pastimes, would continue in the path marked out for it as the leading angling society of London, whose sole object would be the advancement of piscatorial art, extending at the same time a friendly welcome to all societies having the same object in view. The meeting closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and the national anthem; some good singing having been given by the members after the formal business was disposed of. Several new members were elected and others proposed.

HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of the society were well filled on Sunday night with fish, but not of the right sort. Roach were the particular fish required; they were dead off feed and no wonder, a sharp white frost over-night and a strong north-easter blowing all day on Sunday. Your humble servant sat down with the idea of taking a few roach, using single hair-line gentles for bait. I am pleased to say I had not long to wait before I had a knock and struck. I said to myself, if this is a roach he's a beauty. After playing him about three minutes, I got him to the top of the water, and saw he was a chub of 2½ lb. I started again, and soon had another, a fac-simile of the first; they kept on feeding till I had 10 chub, weighing 16 lb. 12 oz.; 3 roach and 1 dace, weighing 1 lb. 6½ oz. Well done, old man, not bad considering the weather. Mr. Jas. Billings came next with a handsome tray of chub, weighing 13 lb.; E. Smith, chub, 4, 3½ lb.; G. Rogers, roach, 1, 7½ oz.; W. Dunblains had roach. All from Thames and Wey.

Will some kind angler answer the undermentioned what is the name of the river that runs by Harpenden, Heits?—G. CABORN, sec.

Oct 31.

IZAAK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The two special prizes given for the first and second heaviest weights taken on the last two Sundays in October were won by Mr. E. W. Turner, 1st; Mr. B. Crook, 2nd. There are two special prizes for the first two Sundays in November, one for the heaviest weight of chub, and one for the heaviest weight of any kind, bar chub. Mr. G. P. Rolt will give a box of cigars to be fished for on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1881, and Mr. W. H. Mechem will give a prize, value 10s. 6d., to be fished for on the same day, members to choose their own fishing water. All fish weigh. No competitor to leave London before the morning of the competition. A member of the above society (Mr. G. Manning) on alighting at Euston Station from the Watford train on Sunday evening last, took a gentleman's rods in mistake for his own. The owner can have them exchanged for his own by applying to the secretary of the above society, the Old King John's Head, Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road, E.

JUNIOR PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Since my last report, the weighing-in has been :—Mr. Henry Hewitt, fishing at Hampton, 4 barbel, 7 lb. 2 oz.; roach, 1 lb. 15 oz.; dace, 1 lb. 13 oz. Mr. Woodman, at Newbury, 1 jack, 6 lb. 4 oz.; roach, 5 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Fred Palmer, at Newbury, 14 roach weighing 11 lb. 8 oz.—ALFRED H. BISLEY, hon. sec.

NORFOLK ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society went out last Sunday, October 30, to fish a sweepstake at Shiplake. The weather being fine they had a glorious day, and, considering the average takes lately, had a very excellent show—Mr. Pitchey coming to the front with a handsome show of roach; Mr. Pauncefort being close on his heels with a very pretty show; Mr. Galloway showing a very handsome perch, of which he seemed justly proud—and well he deserved it; Mr. J. Bendall showing a very fine dace. All the other members had average takes, with which they seemed well satisfied. The supper in connection with the outing will take place on Thursday, Nov. 10, on which occasion, no doubt, there will be a good stock of groundbait laid in from the sumptuous larder of the worthy host, which, on these occasions, opens its doors very temptingly and plentifully. The next return visit will take place at the above house on Wednesday, Nov. 9, when the presence of as many friends as can make it convenient to attend will be esteemed a favour.—THOS. BUCKINGHAM, sec.

Nov. 2.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

A few members of the North-Western Angling Club have at last had a take worth reporting. On Sunday last Messrs. Stead, Bonvoisin, and Isaac had roach and dace from the Thames. Mr. Harris, a new member only made on Thursday last, had a nice show of dace (7 lb.) from Twickenham; may he have many more. Messrs. Hillier and Hill, fishing a private water on Tuesday had a nice brace of jack weighing 13 lb. and 10 lb. respectively, one falling to each rod, both being now in the hands of Mr. J. Lancaster, 2, Jeffrey Place, Kentish Town, to put up in his usual good form.—F. HILL, sec.

103, Kentish Town Road, October 3.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY.

We had very near the whole of our members out on Sunday. Fish were shown from the Lea, Stort, Colne, Thames, &c. I will give you the most successful of the lot. Mr. Newton came up smiling with a nice jack; Mr. W. Hight, roach; Mr. Brockett, roach; Mr. C. Hewett, roach, chub, and dace; Mr. Ackinson, roach; Mr. Morton, jack; Mr. Stanton, roach; Mr. Dymond, roach and chub; Mr. Tylor, roach and jack on Wednesday.—E. DYMOND, sec. pro tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society was saved from a blank on Sunday last by Mr. Neagus weighing-in roach from the Stort. On Sunday next the members fish for a series of prizes from the Jolly Bargemen, Waltham, to Enfield Lock or *vice versa*. Tow-path only.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

Nov. 3.

PECKHAM BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

The match fished for on the 30th October, for a prize given by Mr. Reed, jun., was won by Mr. W. Matthews, with roach from the river Lea. The second club match, for three prizes, will take place on the 13th November, between the Rye House and St. Margarets. The celebration of the second anniversary of the opening of this club will take place at the Club Room, Prince Albert, Rosemary Road, Peckham, on Tuesday evening next, the 9th inst., at 8.30 p.m., when brethren of all societies are cordially invited, and every measure will be taken to ensure an enjoyable evening.—W. R. M., sec.

Nov. 3.

PECKHAM PERSEVERANCE BROTHERS.

The members of the above club will have their next peg-down match on Sunday, November 6, at Kingston.—J. WINSLADE, sec.

Oct. 31.

PHENIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society had a very fair show of fish on Sunday, 40 lb. of jack, roach, perch and chub, and one bream, 4 lb. 3 oz., being weighed-in for the different prizes, by Messrs. Bentley, Maynard, Crisp, Packer, Milton and Elbourn. Four prizes will be angled for next Sunday at St. Margarets'.—W. ELBOURN, sec.

P.S.—I am sorry to say that one of our members, Mr. Edward Cragg, passed away on Sunday last after a few days' illness, and he will be buried on Friday next at Finchley; and as he was very much respected, I have no doubt there will be a good many follow him to the grave.—W. E.

Nov. 1.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The annual club competition took place on Monday last, and there was a large attendance of members in the evening to witness the return of the competitors. Mr. Hazeland took the chair. During the evening, and whilst those present were waiting for the competitors, M. W. B. Adlington revived the old custom, formerly carried out some years ago in this society, by reading a very interesting paper on chub fishing in the Thames, which was thoroughly appreciated, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him. This spontaneous act of Mr. Adlington has aroused the old spirit and energy of the club of having occasional papers on different subjects, and already both Mr. T. R. Sachs and Dr. Brunton have promised to read papers, the former in about three weeks. The result of the competition was as follows:—Mr. Robert Barker, took the first prize of three guineas with 13 lb. 10 oz. of chub from Sonning; Mr. Thomas Huggett the second prize of two guineas with 9 lb. 15 oz. from Sonning; and Mr. H. B. Brown the supplemental prize of one guinea for the largest fish, a chub of 4 lb. 1 oz. from Abingdon. There were also weighed-in—Mr. Lemann, 4 lb. 11 oz. from Maidenhead; Mr. Foreman, 4 lb. 6 oz. from Bray; Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, 2 lb. 6 oz., from Mapledurham; Mr. Simpson, 4 lb. 14 oz., and Mr. Fenning, 7 lb. 6 oz. from Culham; and Mr. Andrews, 1 lb. 1 oz. from Pangbourne. Dr. Brunton weighed-in nine brace of grayling from the Itchen, taken with the fly, the largest fish, 1 lb. 8 oz. Votes of thanks to the successful anglers and the chairman terminated a very pleasant evening. On Monday next is the extra roach competition, the first prize being four guineas, the second two guineas, and the third one guinea, for fish taken out of any public water, but no fish to be weighed-in under 6 oz. The last competition for roach was limited to the Thames—this one being open will doubtless result in a grand show of fish.—B.

UNITED BROTHERS.

The competition that I gave notice of last week, came off at West Drayton on Sunday, but through some cause or other not one fish was taken. All the members that were entitled to compete did not go. Other members went to the Thames, but only one managed to come up in time to weigh—J. Payne, with some nice roach.—WILLIAM BELTON.

Nov. 2.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

On Monday next, November 7th, a special general meeting will be held, as business of great importance will be laid before the meeting, including the report of the deputation to the Great Eastern Railway, a memorial to the Thames Conservancy for signature, and other important matters. Chair to be taken at nine o'clock, by Mr. S. Morgan.

WALTONIANS.

But little to report this last fortnight. Oct. 23, Mr. T. Watkins had about 10 lb. of roach and dace. Oct. 30, Mr. Brady had dace, 3 lb. 1 oz.; roach, 12 oz. Nothing else worthy of mention.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

Oct. 31.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

The evening of the 31st brought to a close a competition which has caused more excitement and more funny inhabitants of Father Thames, between Shepperton and Richmond, to leave their native water for the sweet village of Walworth than any other competition that has taken place in this society for some years. On this evening the following members weighed-in the following weights of fish from Richmond. Mr. Bansback, 25 lb. 7 oz., which made his gross weight from Richmond for four days, with E. Brown, 51 lb. 14 oz. of roach and dace. Next came Mr. Boalch, the energetic secretary of this society, with 11 lb. 5 oz., which brought his gross weight up to 46 lb. 6½ oz. of roach and dace; then followed Mr. F. Grigg, who courted Shepperton for three days, and got 29 lb. of chub; all very nice fish, but on this day he took on to Mr. Bushnell at Richmond, and managed to get 8 lb. 8 oz. of nice roach, the largest going over 1 lb. 4 oz., which brought his gross weight to 37 lb. 4½ oz. Mr. Weatherhead followed with over 8 lb., bringing his weight to 34 lb. 5½ oz. Messrs. Howard, Russell and Collins contributed to the competition, 39 lb. 8½ oz., which made the gross weight for the fourth weekday show competition during October over 207 lb. by these members only. In addition to those prizes mentioned in my last for the competition that is to take place on the 13th. Mr. Feuillade will give a silver watch for honorary members to compete for. P.S.—I have omitted to mention that Mr. Boalch fished with C. Brown at Richmond on this occasion.—PIXIE.

Nov. 3, 1881.

SPRING ON THE RIVER—A FRAGMENT.

'Tis April on the river! What a scene
Of varied beauty dreamily serene.
A many-jewelled landscape calmly lies
Beneath the slumbrous and blue-bosomed skies!
On either side wide meadows starred with flowers
Surround the budding groves within whose bowers
The woodlark and the nightingale repose
Secure from earthly fret and wanton foes.
The birches gleam all silvern through a spray
Of faint green leaflets bursting to the day;
Afar the tall firs rear their sable brows,
The myrtle on the air its fragrance throws,
The waterside is fringed with waving rush,
The thrush is calling from the hawthorn bush,
The lucid stream flows on with murm'rous sound
And softly blends its voice with all around,
In a deep harmony that wakes the soul
To aspirations far beyond control—
That bring a gracious freshening to brains
And hearts all fevered with the weary pains
Of care and toil. For here in sweet content
All earthly cark with Nature's self is blent.
Like to a flash of brightest azure light
Behold the swift and strong kingfisher's flight;
Like to a dream of heavenly beams behold
The water laughing back the rays of gold
—All this the fisher feels, and loves away
To speed his craft upon an April day.

Deep in yon dark recess where the huge bole
Of some large willow hides the shady hole
The Thames trout hidden from all prying eyes,
Poised, watchful and majestically lies.
The fall of fly, or bleak's quick argent gleam,
He notes afar in the down passing stream.
His dark form like a bar of mottled shade
Scarce parts the growths that form his covert's glade
His gills expanding and contracting slow
The rich deep carmine of their fronds do show.
Each fin is moveless, and in calm repose
He takes his rest, unheeding friends or foes.

He doth not sleep, but what his dreams may be
—His day dreams—none can say. Alert is he.
If wandering tread above his lair resound,
Forthwith he speedeth with a panther-bound
—Out in the stream he roams, nor doth return
Till the incipient fear is past and gone.
Cautious and subtle, never unawares,
He scorns the clumsy fisher's utmost snares.
With mighty strength and crafty wile possess'd,
His sleep is as the fox, the tiger's is his rest,

CREON.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1881.

RAMBLES WITH THE FLY-ROD ON THE TWEED AND OTHER STREAMS.

I.

A FEW years ago, fate and good fortune located me for a short time on the banks of the Tweed. With such a pretty little town as Peebles for headquarters, and such rivers as the foregoing and its tributaries close at hand, it at once became evident that

the rod could not long be a useless ornament for the shelf. Autumn was well advanced, and the season swiftly waning, but as, in the years that were gone, the streams of England and of Wales had yielded no mean tribute to the mandate of the wand I had so incessantly waved above their waters, I was loth, even at an unpropitious period, to leave untested the world-wide fame of the rivers of the north. Three weeks of fishing ultimately terminated by rough and wintry weather,

"Awa frae the labour and pother,
That had fettered one's freedom sae lang."

no doubt imparted freshness and vigour to one's frame for a time; but above this, left deep memories that last for a life.

On trying the waters of the Tweed close to the town on the third day of piscatory enterprise, I found, after fishing "the Auld" and the streams below, my reel had only become richer than at the outset by nine fish. This condition of affairs being hardly tolerable in such waters, I resolved to transfer my efforts to another arena of operations two miles further up stream to the Manor, close to its confluence with the Tweed. This course I adopted, more especially as I had not as yet had any communications with the fish of the former, and a nice freshet was coming down. Just before reaching the Manor the road descends very suddenly from a fir-clad ridge, or spur, of the hills, that is thus cut short by the Tweed itself. The road after this descent crosses the Manor, and then turns off and keeps to the valley of the tributary river. Just above the bridge is a small deep pool, to which a vast number of fish resort. The place, however, requires a peculiar mode of fishing in order to test its merits fully. At my first trial it yielded me fifteen. Satisfied for the time being, I returned home, having 24 fish in all, including those caught in the Tweed. I employed two casts; one took 19 fish, as follows, of which one dropped off before the fly was ascertained: Marlow buzz, 2; March brown, 2; black palmer (tail fly), 14; off, 1.

Two days after this I tried the same place again and the streams of the Tweed just below the point of confluence. The water had run down palpably—I however obtained 26 trout, employing three different casts of flies, the second of which was fatal to 22 of the captives: Marlow buzz, 2; orange fly, 1; hawthorn fly, 1; black palmer, 11; blue dun, 7.

On these occasions I did not fish very long, but on the following day I extended my efforts to a point about two miles up the manor. One cast only was employed, with which I brought to shore 79 fish, 64 retained were trout, the rest were returned. A dozen were caught in Tweed below, the remainder in Manor. On one occasion two nice fish came to land at once; on another, three small individuals. The record of flies is appended as follows:—Marlow buzz, 9; orange fly, 11; hawthorn fly, 8; black palmer, 20; blue dun, 23; fell off, 8.

A good many fish fell off the hook at once, on being transferred to earth, as the process of landing in the case of small fish, was summary and rapid; a sudden click for the stroke, and a gradually quickening twitch, a substitute for the actions of playing and landing. Whilst walking along I came across a fine bull trout that some depredating otter had left, after having extracted the tit-bits from the hump of its shoulders.

A week later, so late as the 10th of November, I again found myself on the banks of the Manor. The lower sections I passed over rapidly, beguiling a trout close to the bridge. On reaching the sections of the river beyond those which I had previously fished, I discovered the stream frequently consisted of long shallow streamy reaches with few pools and hardly any good lodgment for fish. I therefore walked quickly along, casting in here and there in any holds that seemed likely to contain fish; the river, however, was high, and much too full for any great feats with the fly, whilst the weather was extremely cold and windy. I went some miles without a fish, but on getting somewhere near Macbeth's Tower, suddenly got hold of two fish, both of which came to shore. At this time a gentleman and his keeper, who were shooting, passed me, but the operations of these individuals seemed no more propitious than my own. Before reaching the junction of the Glenrath Burn I had one more fish; so far eleven in all. By this time, however, the rain was descending in torrents and I was miles from home. The region, I could tell at a glance, was better than heretofore, but all other conditions were infinitely worse. Eleven fish and a drenching, for such a distance, was more than I could stand; so, despite the freezing rain and cutting blast, I determined to take home, at least, a passable dish of fish; and now diverging from Manor, I essayed to deal with the sublime Glenrath. Here is a lovely burn brawling and gliding through a lonely valley; rugged mountains rise sheer and straight, with beetling brows on either hand and in front, whilst the tortuous stream winds in zigzag course under banks of turf, or now and again breaks over a bed of pebbles from dubs that are full of fish. What could the fly-fisher wish for more! A rapid, winding,

mountain stream is above all others the home of trout; not such as we find in the middle of the Manor below, straight as the flight of an arrow, guiltless of pools or holds of fish or banked in with straight dykes thrown up by native farmers. Ahint to the wandering fly-fisher may here be not untimely. Fishing as I have for many years in mountainous countries, with no other guide than an Ordnance map, I have found it a good general rule to avoid those streams that are represented on the map as having an unwinding course, for such streams are usually devoid of pools, are banked and cut to shape or covered in by underwood. Returning to Glenrath, the fly-catcher finds the scenery alone sufficient recompense for much after-weariness, whilst any fish encreased are a reward beyond the exigencies of the case. In my case I continued fishing with rod and hands streaming with rain, the latter numbed with cold. However, I added 23 trout to the basket in the lower part of this beautiful water, which was bank-full, in many places overflowing. I then returned as rapidly as I had ascended the stream, dipping my flies in here and there, catching two more fish at a ford far down the valley, when suddenly operations were cut short by the junction of a brook with the main stream white with road washings.

The river had for some time been rising, and now became a swollen flood. As bad luck would have it, when fly-fishing was precluded, the weather cleared up, the clouds were lifted from the huge back of Bollar Law, beyond the head of the valley, whose summit the sun revealed clothed with a bright cloak of snow. I had taken by this time, 4 p.m., 36 fish, 35 of which were trout, and had been deluded by the lure in the following manner:—Orange fly, 6; hawthorn fly, 5; black palmer, 12; blue dun, 9; fell off, 4.

Seventeen miles walk at this time of the year and in such weather, for fish—which, however, were certainly in capital condition—was sufficient to render a rest for a period needful even to

THE RAVEN.

PERCH AND PERCH-FISHING.

BY J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PART I.—THE PERCH'S PERSONAL HISTORY.

THE perch at this season of the year demands, and deservedly receives, considerable attention.

Together with the pike and a few coarse fish, and an occasional grayling, it forms the chief source of sport during the winter months. Indeed, it is a debatable question whether perch-fishing is not entirely superior from all points of view.

The common trout is pre-eminently a summer fish, so also is the Thames trout, or, as it would be termed in France, "un poisson d'Avril." Roach, dace, barbel, etc., are likewise pursued with greatest pleasure when the summer sun glints the water, and the soft breezes fan the cheek of the expectant fisherman. Perch, on the contrary, are in best condition, and, on account of their shoaling, more easily found, when the icy finger of winter has been placed on lake and stream.

In the waters of England but one species of perch is known, namely, *Perca fluviatilis*. It would seem desirable to introduce the pike-perch, or *Lucioperca*, as, according to those who have taken it, its nature is specially fitted for some of our deeper rivers and lakes. Indeed, Mr. Francis Francis has particularly recommended it in his "Fish Culture" for acclimatisation. However, this is not as yet *au fait accompli*. Though, when the late suggestions of Mr. Marston bear fruition, it is to be hoped this fish will meet with due notice at the hands of coarse fish culturists.

The size to which perch attain in our waters is a point involved in obscurity. In the face of the statements made by credited writers as to the size occasionally attained by this fish, and the positively attested assertion lately uttered in these columns of the existence of a 10 lb. perch, I shall refrain from fixing the limit. Blakey speaks of a 6 lb., and "Ephemera" notes a 9 lb. fish. Izaak Walton and Schäffer also refer to monster specimens. It is probable, however, that the average size throughout the United Kingdom does not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. This, at any rate, is my experience. The sea-perch is, of course, a distinct fish.

The characteristics of the perch are, in some particulars, curious and interesting; but the style in which they have sometimes been described is even more so. Thus an old writer describes the fish as follows:—

"The perch is a fish that is hooked-backt, sometimes like a hog, and armed with stiff bristles, and its sides with dry, thick scales."

A much better description of its character, is however, that given by "Ephemera," who says:—

"The perch is a handsome, noble-looking fish; a bold, dashing biter, and a courageous fellow when hooked, never yielding so long as he has any strength remaining, but fighting bravely to the

last." To this I may add with all emphasis, "and so say all of us." Ichthyologically, it may be useful also to recall its precise character, especially as there seems some doubt abroad as to whether the 10 lb. fish before referred to is actually a fresh or salt water fish. Yarrell thus gives them: two back fins, distinct, separated; rays of the first are spinous, of the second, flexible; length of head as compared to body, as 2 to 7; teeth, small, uniform in size, curved backward, situated in both jaws, lower and palate fore-gill covers notched below, serrated on posterior edge of gill; cores bony, ending in a flattened point. In the specimen with which I verified this description the rays of the spined fin were fourteen. Its colours are as follows: The upper part of greenish brown, fading into a yellow white below; it is marked with dark, transverse bands; first back fin brown and scantily spotted with large dark spots; second back fin and pectoral fins pale brown; ventral, anal, and tail fins bright vermilion, or, as Pope has it,

"The bright-eyed perch, with fins of Tyrian dye."

So much for the ichthyological description of the fish. Sir John Richardson speaks of distorted perch found at Fahlun, in Sweden. They have malformed tails, and are very hunchback. Similar sports of nature are found in some lakes in Merionethshire, but whether either of these examples form a distinct subspecies I do not know, but rather imagine not.

The spawning time of the perch is usually about the beginning of May, although thermal influences occasionally accelerate or retard it. The spawn is deposited in riband-like layers in and out the weeds near the shore in shallow water, and the produce of one fairly large fish is enormous. As many as nine hundred and ninety-two thousand ova are said to have been estimated by Picot, of Geneva, though as to the exactitude of this tremendous number I am in considerable doubt. Of the great fecundity of this fish, there is no sort of doubt, however, as any angler taking perch during succeeding months can satisfy himself by dissection. Were it not for the ravages in the Thames of swans, and the decimation caused by floods, the metropolitan river would absolutely swarm. It may be here remarked that there would be but little difficulty in the successful artificial impregnation of the ova, and the rearing of the fry of perch, it having been largely accomplished in America.

The natural food of the perch indicates it to be essentially carnivorous. All the crustacea of the water, including, specially, freshwater shrimps, the young of the ordinary mussel (*Cygnus nodens*), worms, larvæ of the various flies, leeches, the fry of all fish, minnows, and sticklebacks, etc., etc., form its sustenance. When a perch is thoroughly on the feed, I have known it to take one-fifth its own weight in minnows without apparent discomfort. The haunts of perch in a river are probably more various than those of any other fish, especially when the river in question be large. In such case a large fish is well nigh ubiquitous. The neighbourhoods of submerged piles, old camp-sheathing, blocks of concrete, sunken trees, roots of pollards, underneath the shade of overhanging osiers, etc., form their chief habitat in running water. In still water the case is somewhat different. During summer time the perch, especially the larger ones, love to bask in the contiguity of shady weeds, such as the water-lily; and as autumn advances they frequently congregate in large schools, or shoals, round some patch of decaying vegetation. So, also, it must be said, they proceed in a similar manner during winter in rivers, and frequently a herd of five or six dozen may be found in a space hardly more spacious than a large pocket-handkerchief.

I alluded above to the curious items of angling literature in connection with this fish. One of these is odd, and suggests the idea that perch are self-concipient. Dr. Badham, in his "Fish Tattle," and subsequently a more recent, though equally learned, writer gives currency to this error. It probably arose from the observed fact that the females commonly proceed unattended by the males to the spawning ground. After winding, in a frog-like manner, their spawn about the weeds, they retire, to be immediately followed by the male fish. I have reason to believe that the unimpregnated ova will remain some considerable time capable of fertilisation before the visit of the male. It is easy to see, therefore, how the suggestion of self-concipient may have originated. Another fallacy is that which ascribes to the perch distinct and active antagonism to its fellow-marauder—the pike. Though Ausonius speaks of it as "prince of the prickly cohort," and Drayton, in the "Polyolbion," refers to it as "The perch with pricking fins against the pike prepared," and although Walton, backed up by Mr. Pennell, says, "To afright the pike and save himself the perch will set up his fins much like a turkey-cock will sometimes set up his tail," I am not inclined to consider the perch a quarrelsome fellow. The additionally horrent appearance is often presented by the fish when no cause of a provocative nature is apparent.

SKETCH OF THE F. G. TOURNAMENT, TO SHOW ARRANGEMENT OF THE GROUND.

(Made by Mr. W. LAWRENCE.)



Mr. Jardine. Mr. Martin. Mr. Foster. Mr. Geen. Measuring Line.
Mr. Wheldon. Mr. Clench. Ned Andrews.

In conclusion of this section of the article, the ascribed wholesomeness of the perch—the freshwater sole—may be mentioned. Gesner tells us that it may be eaten with impunity by delicate persons, such as women in child-bed, wounded soldiers, and so forth. Moreover, it is affirmed that there are two round bones in the perch's head which are a remedy for "stone." Where these two round bones are, however, I never could discover.

(To be continued.)

PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

ALTHOUGH the idea of propagating the ova, or of otherwise increasing the supply, of coarse fish has been frequently suggested, the credit of initiating a movement for carrying it out appears destined to belong Mr. R. B. Marston, and he will then become the true pioneer of the work. Whether the science of fish-culture should be extended to roach and dace, is a matter for consideration. As regards the Thames, my idea is we have plenty of those kinds of fish in it. I have always thought the work of coarse fish propagation should be limited to carp, chub, bream, and perch—still, I am open to conviction. In a river like the Thames, unless we can get trailing done away with and the size of jack considerably increased, the culture of that voracious fish would to a great extent be valueless, as hundreds are killed every year by that unsportsmanlike practice. I think it is more with the perch we should aim to propagate—there is no fish that gives better sport to the angler, and no fish which to all appearance has more rapidly declined in the Thames. It is also a fish which most people will recognise as food and more willingly accept than any other of the white fish species. The Thames is eminently suited for perch, and some very fine ones are even now occasionally taken out of it. I have frequently seen them over two pounds each, and one some few years ago was caught at Sunbury that weighed four pounds. As regards their diminution in the Thames the cause is by many attributed to the inlets of the great reservoirs of the various waterworks on the river banks, where they get in as small fry. There is something confirmatory in this from the fact that being one day permitted to fish in one of the reservoirs they could be taken two or three at a time, according to the number of hooks on the paternoster, and all of them not more than 5 inches in length, as though they had gone there in broods; but it may be argued that these youngsters were bred in the lake as it was reported there had been plenty of perch taken out of the reservoir from two pounds to three pounds each. I know amongst the fishermen the prevailing opinion is they leave the river through the grating when in an infantine condition. There used to be no portions of the Thames better stocked with perch than those where the reservoirs are situated, and now they are the worst. The propagation of perch cannot fail to be valuable to the anglers; and

as the Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society are turning their attention to these reservoirs, and are hoping to receive the necessary aid of the directors of the various water companies, together with the help and assistance of their engineers, the increase of those fish in the Thames will not only be perfectly safe but highly desirable. Then, as to the carp, we all know they can exist in the Thames; they may not be frequently taken, but these wary customers have occasionally given great sport to the anglers at Teddington and Kingston, and I should hail with no small amount of satisfaction the propagation of carp in Mr. Marston's movement, which already appears to be favourably entertained and largely supported by anglers and angling societies. There would be no difficulty in the matter—plenty of inspawn fish could be procured—and success would be certain. The chub are also a very desirable fish to increase. They give sport in various modes of angling, and no fish is attracted by a greater variety of baits. They also give fine sport to the fly-fishers, but there has been this great misfortune in the Thames—so many of their old haunts have been removed by the destruction of withies and boughs, which are, according to the habits of the fish, their natural homes. The Thames has produced some remarkably fine specimens of chub. I have seen them up to 8 lb. each, and notably one taken at Richmond some few years ago, which, when preserved, was exhibited in the hospitality in the Church Passage, but which has now changed hands. It was caught by the then proprietor, who invited me to see the fish, and to receive a guinea for the Thames Angling Preservation Society. There was one remarkable circumstance attending my visit, and it was this. The proprietor's wife went upstairs to get the money, and, in doing so, detected a burglar in her bedroom, taking her jewellery. I received the subscription, and, as the magistrates were then sitting, went into court afterwards and saw the prisoner committed for trial. The reach at Kingston is a very favourable resort for chub, as there is a long line of boughs where they can exist in any number. The increase of the population in this desirable colony would be well received by the natives. I do not mean by the fish that are now there, but by my Kingston friends, who are remarkably good in chub-fishing. In the lower Thames there are plenty of bream, but it would be a good fish to propagate for those portions of the Thames where they are not to be found at present, and for other rivers where the supply is short. When once these fish are introduced in a river they soon become abundant, as has been the case in some parts of the "City Waters," where they did not at one time exist. Take, for instance, at Chertsey, where, I believe, they were first introduced by a Mr. Heseltine, at that time a great Thames angler, some thirty years ago. He, I believe, brought them up from Walton, after his day's fishing; or, it may be, the result of several days' angling lower down. As a proof of the plentiful supply of bream now at Chertsey, it is not many years ago when

James Haslett in one day pioneered his customers to the capture of 147 lb., and this year, although the report was unnecessarily contradicted, he caught 75 lb. There will, therefore, be no difficulty as to bream. Although I have not included jack in my selection, I fully believe for some places their propagation would be desirable, and many owners of private waters where they have been almost fished out would be glad to replenish their stock. The demand for these fish in those places would, I apprehend, be great. Therefore, whilst only mentioning those which I think best for the lower Thames, I am satisfied Mr. Marston will be making his scheme generally complete by including all the species of coarse fish. If a meeting is called for the purpose of carrying out his suggestion, I shall make a point to attend, unless some important official duties keep me in another direction. In the largely-increasing number of anglers, we want our stocks of fish keeping up; and, as a necessary supplement to this, we shall require what I think is coming—a general law of the sizes of fish in their minimum measurements. The clubs and owners of water will have the option of making their own standard above those sizes, as, for instance, in jack, where some clubs will not recognise them of less weight than 3 lb., and proprietors of private waters prohibit their capture, or, rather, retention, under 4 lb.—live baiting or the dead gorge in the latter places not being permitted. Mr. Marston is rendering effective assistance to anglers by his various movements, and I am sure he will be encouraged and supported in carrying them out; and, referring to his latest, as Messrs. Francis Francis, Frank Buckland, and Stephen Ponder were the pioneers of fish-culture in England in respect to salmon and trout, he will become, as I have said before, the pioneer of coarse fish propagation, the latter being the most desirable for the benefit of all-round anglers, whose number is legion. B.

AUTUMNAL GRAYLING FISHING.

By FRANCIS WALBRAN.

(Continued.)

RESUMING the list of flies that are most suitable for this class of fishing, we next come to:

No. 11.—SMALL OLIVE BLOA.—Wings, starling's quill feather, stained in onion dye; body, yellow silk; cobbler's wax; legs, olive stained hackle; tail, two strands of the same. Remarks: This fly should be dressed small, and is a certain killer of grayling when they are on the feed during September, October, or November.

No. 12.—THE BROWN OWL.—Body, brown fur from a hare's face, ribbed with fine yellow silk; wings, the pale brown quill feather from a brown owl's wing; legs, a red hackle stained in copperas water. Remarks: This is a very favourite fly with some of the local fishermen on the Wharfe, both in early spring and late autumn; one gentleman of my acquaintance uses it all the season, and speaks very highly of its killing properties, but I cannot say that I ever met with much success when I used it; however, being a noted fly in this district, I include it in my list.

No. 13.—THE LITTLE BLACK.—Body, orange silk, with a morsel of magpie's harl to form the head; wings, taken from the dark part of a starling's quill feather; legs, a furnace hackle. Remarks: An excellent fly for grayling during the time that the ant flies are upon the water. I once killed thirteen good grayling with this fly alone on a dull day in September, when fishing on the Yore, near Ripon, and have ever since had a very high opinion of it.

No. 14.—THE BLUE MIDGE.—Wings, feather from water-hen's neck; body, lead coloured silk; legs, grizzled hackle. Remarks: This is a fly recommended by Jackson to be used on mild days in autumn and early winter, especially when likely for rain; on such days I can vouch for its killing properties, as I have sometimes had very good sport with it both on the Yore and Wharfe; it must, however, be dressed very small and neatly.

No. 15.—THE PALE BLUE BLOA.—Body, mole's fur spun sparingly on straw-coloured silk; wings, the fine pale blue feather from a sea swallow. Remarks: Jackson does not mention this fly at all, neither does he the whirling blue dun. I am rather surprised at this, as they are both on the water at the same time, and are equally well taken by grayling; Ronald calls it the little pale blue dun, his pattern being very similar to the one given above.

No. 16.—THE GREY GOOSE DUN.—Body, lead-coloured silk; legs, dark dun goose hackle; wings, starling's quill. Remarks: This pattern is one given by Mr. Ford, in the work of his alluded to previously; I have not yet tested it myself; although I hope to do so shortly. Since the first portion of this article appeared I have received a letter from Mr. Ford, in which he tells me that this fly is a good grayling killer, and I can easily believe it, judging from its appearance. Mr. F. recommends the angler to vary the shades of body and wing.

No. 17.—THE EDEN FLY.—Wings from the outside wing covert of the sea swallow; legs a honey dun hackle; body, pale buff, or light straw-coloured silk, waxed with transparent wax; tail, two or three fibres from a buff hackle of a Cochin China hen; Remarks: This pattern is given by Mr. Aldam in his incomparable work on artificial flies. I had some made up on the strength of his recommendation, and found them kill both trout and grayling very well on the Yore and Wharfe. The best months to use it is from the end of June until the end of October.

No. 18.—DARK GREY MIDGE.—Wings, dark grey, feather of partridge; body, brown or olive silk; legs, grey partridge or grizzled hackle. Remarks: Jackson gives this pattern, but, for my own use, I prefer a simple partridge hackle, made either with yellow or orange silk or body.

Since the issue of the first portion of this article, I have received numerous letters from brother anglers, who have kindly sent me both patterns and samples of grayling flies, but I am especially indebted to A.R.I.E.L., whose charming piscatory stanzas are always so welcome to the readers of this journal, for a really splendid collection of flies. The patterns had been given to him by a friend in Derbyshire, who is a very great expert among both trout and grayling, and the flies that were sent to me were tied from these patterns by Mrs. F. Y. Brocas, 4, Mill Street, Hanover Square, London. This is the first specimen of this lady's handiwork that I have seen, and I certainly never saw a more beautiful sample of small flies—the duns in particular are most artistically tied, the wings standing up in a very natural manner. I cannot classify this collection or give their proper names, as I do not know them, but no doubt Mrs. Brocas will be able to supply the patterns to any angler wishing to give them a trial. I may mention, however, that one set of flies comprised five patterns, that are a cross between the orange bumble and the cochybondhu, all varying in the colour of their bodies and hackles. They appear to me very likely flies to induce Mr. Salmo Thymallus to show up on days when there is no particular fly upon the water, and I hope during next week to give them a careful trial.

To some anglers who believe in only a limited selection of flies, the foregoing may seem to be a rather extensive list; but I use the greater part of them myself, and can answer for their practical utility in this, my favourite branch of the gentle art. I will now, however, leave the subject of flies, and, after giving a few hints to beginners, will conclude my paper with a glance at the other methods of taking grayling during the winter months.

Your casts should be made of either single hair or the very finest drawn gut; for although, when in the humour, a grayling rises more boldly than a trout, if your tackle be coarse or your fly be a bad imitation, he will refuse it at once. One of the finest qualities that a would-be proficient at grayling fishing must possess is a quick eye and a ready hand, as many a time all that the angler sees is a white gleam under the surface of the water—when you see that strike at once with a gentle turn of the wrist, and nine cases out of ten you find yourself fast in a fish. When hooked never attempt to hold him as you would do a trout, but let him run out as much line as he likes. I very seldom lose a grayling when once I have hooked him, and I attribute it entirely to this cause, as their mouths are so tender that the least drag is sufficient to tear the hook from its hold; the landing net should always be used. When grayling will rise to the fly, which is generally the case if the weather is at all likely, I should not wish to use other means for their capture, but there times when they turn sulky, and refuse flies both on the surface and below the surface of the water, but at such times the angler will find that they will take either a small red worm or a maggot readily. The tackle must consist of about three yards of the finest drawn gut, a No. 2 hook, a single split shot, placed about twelve inches above the bait, and a very small unobtrusive quill float. Fish the edges of the streams, eddies behind stones, and at the tail end of the pools, your bait being about six inches from the bottom. As soon as ever your float gives the slightest indication of a bite, strike at once with a gentle upward stroke, and play the fish gently as in fly-fishing. When using maggots for bait, it is a good plan to carry a little well-soaked pearl barley with you to throw in as feed from time to time, as it draws the fish together, and does not necessitate the waste of maggots, which are articles of value during the winter months.

Another way to fish for grayling during the winter is by using the "grasshopper," which is an artificial bait, only resembling the insect, from which it derives its name, in colour. It consists of a No. 5 hook wrapped round with thin sheet lead until the size of a small gooseberry, only longer in shape; over this crimson and green wool is wrapped in alternate rings, and the affair is complete. What the fish take it to be is a marvel to me; suffice to say that they do take it, and generally the largest grayling. The method of fishing it is to attach it to a fine gut cast about three yards in length; put two or three maggots into the hook, and

cast the bait into any swirly hold or deep stream likely to be tenanted by grayling, allow it to touch the bottom, and then draw it up a few inches gently, sink and draw again and so on until the whole of the water is thoroughly searched. As soon as ever you feel the tug of a fish strike instantly.* Curious to relate, this method of killing grayling is confined almost entirely to the streams of the Worcester district; in fact, on some waters in that county it is prohibited on account of its slaughtering properties. But although, out of curiosity, I have tried it in Yorkshire, yet I cannot say that I met with great success, and several other anglers of my acquaintance have tried it with similar results. The same gentleman who so kindly sent me the red tag and several other Worcester patterns of grayling flies, also sent me two or three specimens of "grasshopper," varying in both size and colour, giving me the fullest instructions for their use, but, according to my experience, they do not answer on the grayling streams of this county. Possibly the fish are more highly educated, and consider these monstrosities an insult to their good taste. One can enter into Mr. Ronald's theory of palmer's representing caterpillar, but I am certain that no living creature yet existed that in the slightest degree resembled these combinations of wool and lead. I should also add that the gentleman referred to recommends a long bamboo roaching rod for this class of fishing.

This, I believe, exhausts all the recognised means of taking grayling during the autumn and winter months; but there is still another way in which they are taken at times and concerning which I have been more puzzled and entered into more arguments than any other subject connected with trout and grayling fishing. I allude to taking them when spinning the minnow for trout; how many times I have been derided for even naming such a thing, and how many times I have put the scoffers to rout by proving it to them practically I should be sorry to have to recount, but I believe that I can assert without fear of contradiction, that I have killed as many, if not more, grayling with minnow than any other man in Yorkshire, on one occasion taking four fine fish in succession. A.R.I.E.L. has enlightened my mind more than any other author on the subject, his explanation being that grayling will, and do, take the minnow when presented to them under certain conditions; and consequently, as very few men fish the minnow in exactly the same way, the diversity of opinion arises. I have generally found them take the minnow under the following circumstances, and should feel much pleased if A.R.I.E.L. would kindly inform us if his own experience is identical:—

1st. When the water is perfectly low and clear.

2nd. When wading up-stream, and employing the very finest of tackle and smallest of minnows.

3rd. When using the natural minnow only.

4th. When spinning very slowly, or when the bait is just veering round with the stream.

I may add that I have met with a single exception to the 3rd condition, viz., one day when a friend of mine took three fish with a small Devon minnow much to his astonishment, as he previously had been sceptical on the subject.

In conclusion, I hope that the above remarks may elicit some further information from such experienced grayling fishermen as Mr. Eaton, Mr. Bullock, of Derby, Messrs. Foster, Bros., A.R.I.E.L.'s friend "X," or many others whom I could mention, and who have, no doubt, various reasons to adduce.

Of course I wish my readers to clearly understand that I do not for one minute recommend the minnow as a bait for grayling, but simply mention the fact that they do take it at times; and should, if possible, like to solve the question why some anglers catch them frequently when fishing in this manner for trout, and other men, possessing perhaps more skill and greater experience, have never once accomplished the feat.

* [This description of using the grasshopper is not quite correct. A small white quill float is placed two or three feet from the bait; you then let the bait sink slowly to the bottom and mark the depth of each dip by the float; if at your next dip the white float does not go so far under water, strike, for the grayling rises and meets the descending bait, and the great secret is to know, from the stoppage of the float for a second, when he has done so, then you strike gently.—Ed.]

A FEW NOTES FROM WESTMORELAND.

OUR fishing season is now over here, at least so far as trout salmon, and that genus is concerned. No doubt plenty of sport could yet be had amongst the coarse fish, roach, pike, and perch in the various streams and pieces of water where they abound. But, as a rule, our Westmoreland fisherman turns up his nose at such fish. It is not very long ago that one man fishing in the Preston and Kendal Canal, close to the latter place took in about two hours some 45 lb. weight, 2 pike averaging about 2 lb. weight each. This canal would be a splendid place for fish were it not run off so often. Lately certain lengths have been drained yearly, or even oftener, to allow repairs to the banks where they

may have given way. At times a good many anglers from the Lancashire colliery districts visit the canal near Kendal. Generally they bring plenty of provender with them, a lantern, and camp out in the open all night, coming, say on the Saturday afternoon, and returning home on Monday. Tickets are now required for fishing in the canal, but the cost of them is but nominal. In the Kent we have in places plenty of roach, and sadly too many pike. Windermere swarms almost with pike and perch; but the fishermen do not care about going out for them in the autumn and milder winter months. Indeed such fish in the north here are not valued nearly so highly as they deserve to be. Most of the tarns and lakes likewise contain perch, and many of them pike. Winfell tarn, about four miles from Kendal has an abundance of jack and rudd, and roach. Skelsmergh tarn is full of roach. I once saw a small carp taken out of this latter sheet of water, the only specimen I ever saw in Westmoreland. There has been very good salmon-fishing in this district during the season, both nets and rods taking more than usual. The largest fish caught with the nets was 32 lb., the best on record for this river; with the rod one of 16 lb., altogether, I should say, the rods had about 60 salmon for their share in that river. The nets would probably take a ton of fish, morts and salmon, from the Kent itself. Then more were of course caught on the sands. The Leven and Duddon have not yielded so well as has been known in other years. A few salmon were caught in Windermere. Throughout the whole district of the Kent, Bela, Leven and Duddon Board, trout fishing was, during the past season, not quite up to the average. In the spring char were very plentiful in Windermere, and towards summer capital takes were had by fishing with the plumb line. One of the county police caught a man grappling near Brigsteer last week. The unfortunate poacher threw out a sea trout which almost hit the constable on the head. Doubtless he will be prosecuted. Nothing further has been made of the fish poisoning which occurred between Burneside and Kendal nearly two months ago. The fish disease is very bad amongst the salmon, salmon-trout, and morts in the lower portions of the Kent just now, indeed, it has been so for two months or more. The other day, though the water was swollen and discoloured, I saw about eight salmon and a large number of trout badly affected with *saprolegnia ferax* in about a mile of water. Most of the trout lay at the bottom of the river dead. It appears to me that this mysterious disease is likely to be more destructive to the fish here than it was about three years ago.—SPRINT.

THE GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE rules and regulations of this very flourishing society have just reached us, and very good they are. A very capital feature in connection with this club is the reading of papers on angling subjects by members. Mr. T. Crumplen, the energetic hon. sec., recently read a valuable paper on the "Decrease of Fish in the Thames and its Causes," which we hope to have the pleasure of publishing. On Thursday last, Captain Alfred read a paper on "Jack Fishing;" on the 24th, Mr. Wheeldon will discourse on the "Science of Angling." Mr. Jardine is down for what must prove a very interesting paper on "Up-stream Fly-fishing v. Down-stream Fly-fishing"; and Mr. Geo. Austin for one on "Izaak Walton and Sir Thomas Gresham," Dr. Brunton, Mr. S. C. Harding, and other members are also on the list. They deserve the encouragement of all anglers, and we trust other London clubs will follow suit; we notice with pleasure that the Piscatorial Society does not mean to be behind the age in this respect, and last Monday night Mr. W. B. Adlington read a paper at that society on "Jack Fishing," which was very greatly appreciated by the members. The Piscatorials should get Mr. Adlington to read a paper on fishing for trout with the "Alexandra" fly. Few anglers have had more experience or killed more fish with this deadly fly-minnow. We are sometimes asked to "keep dark" on this Alexandra business, but the sole aim and object of our paper is to throw light on all angling matters, and to give a fair field to all.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING CLUBS.

A SPECIAL, and important meeting will be held on Friday, the 18th inst, when it is requested every society enrolled, will send delegates. Chair taken at 9 p.m.

T. HOOLE, Hon. Sec.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My business in this state
Made me a looker on."—SHAKESPEARE.

I have been a fairly industrious "looker on" at angling for the past week, but have failed to see or hear of any take likely to set the Thames on fire, or hesitating anglers ablaze with envy and emulation. Heavy rain has evidently fallen high up the Valley of Thames, for the river has risen very rapidly and has become of the proverbial pea-soup colour and consistency. Roach are feeding very well, as exemplified by some good catches by the Messrs. Harrison in the Hurley water. Those experts on Sunday, getting some 16lb. of these river sheep, two chub, going together 7 lb., and 4 lb. of eels. Mr. Lumley also had 4½ lb., and Mr. Birch has given the rod to a nice take of fish, best going 1½ lb. At Bisham, Messrs. Leyland and Taycop have had a friendly match amid the roach, the fish getting much the best of it in groundbait, and the contest resulting in a dead heat, one fish each only rewarding the excited combatants. The splendid trout stream at Wycombe has been utterly ruined for years by the accidental bursting of a bleach tank in a paper mill, but of this more in my next, after a personal enquiry and inquest on the bodies of some 6 cwt. of beauties accidentally poisoned.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

There has been no fishing here for some time. Water has been too thick, but is now in good order for roach fishing. By Sunday, if it keeps fine, will do well for jack and perch. I have been out to-day, and took some good roach, largest 1 lb.—J. BUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The river is now in excellent order for seasonable fishing. Mr. Innis fishing with me on Sunday last caught one barbel, and a nice lot of roach (ledgering). Mr. Castle and a friend fishing with me on Monday caught 7 barbel and 6 roach (ledgering). Mr. Field fishing with me a little while this afternoon caught 1 barbel 3 lb., and a chub of 2½ lb., also 6 nice roach. Weather fine, wind south-west. Prospects for fishing very good.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The river has been much discoloured all the week, but is now in better condition than it has been for some time past. I should say that jack and perch fishing was the best. I have not been out since Sunday. I got a few fine dace but the roach did not feed. John got a few good roach one day, and a jack 6 lb. I have only seen a few fish taken from the banks. Should it keep fine the chub will feed.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

Since my last report, owing to the mild change in the weather, I expected to send some good returns, but it has not been the case. My best days being with Mr. Green on Sunday, 10 lb. Mr. Bansback and son on Wednesday, about 19 lb., other days 4 lb. to 7 lb.—E. BROWN.

Thames (Shepperton and Weybridge).

The water is in very good condition for roach fishing. Not much prospect for perch and jack for the next few days. Mr. F. Purdue, one day, one dozen and a half very good roach, and three sizable perch; Mr. H. Purdue, three hours fishing, one dozen roach, four weighing over 1 lb. each; Mr. H. House, one and a half dozen perch, kept twelve, the other returned to the river. A gentleman fishing in his own boat caught four and a half dozen roach, returned all to the river but one and a half dozen; myself, two days, four and a half dozen roach, one jack about 2 lb. and one perch.—W. ROGERS.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, north-west. Water a little discoloured, but nothing of any consequence to interfere with anglers. I have only had twelve punts out during the week, averaging about eight dozen good fish to each punt. Next week the tides will suit well for whole day's fishing. This day I have had four punts out, and each have brought in a fine lot of roach, including some good dace. Mr. Spreckley and Mr. Brougham, with the new river keeper of the T.A.P.S. and Mr. Rough, of the Thames Conservancy, made a visit to the whole of my punts, and others out fishing this day; and, according to my customer's reports, they were well pleased with the samples of fish that were readily shown from each punt's well.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Windsor).

Water this morning is coming down rather thick. I tried the barbel before breakfast, but they would not have it, though I know they are there. Some nice roach have been had with worm and gentles, but not in quality. One of the Windsor fishermen had last week three jack, going 11 lb. and Paice, of Etonwick, on Sunday last had 5 barbel, going 7½ lb. White, jun., of Windsor, has been getting some nice roach with gentle. A good push of water wanted badly to remove decayed matter, etc. Should then be some sport to be had.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

(Dove).

Sport has again been very good amongst grayling this week. The fish have been rising well in the middle of the day, and we have had a fair number of rodders out, the weather having been very fine and mild for November. The best killing flies have been the cockwing bumble and the grey palmer. I should think it would not be too much to say that the average of takes has not fallen short of six brace per rod. Chub, too, have been biting well at greaves and gentles. Five of these fish were captured on Tuesday, near Uttoxeter, scaling 15 lb., one of them alone bumping the weights at 3½, not had for the Dove.

Trout still keep rising to the grayling flies, many having been caught this week. The river, though high, is in fairly fishing order.—THE SPLODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

This river has not improved very greatly this week, and to the changeable weather may fairly be attributed the very poor sport. Another thing, too, the waters have been much out of condition, being at times very thick and coloured, which never conduces or helps to conduce to successful angling, and many anglers have been very eager to avail themselves of every opportunity of fishing during the remaining portion of the season; but, like the commencement, sport was very indifferent. So the season closed, and the salmon and the "daisies" with the dorsal fins for the next few months are to enjoy nature; at any rate, from the cunning and art of the fair and true sportsman. Salmon and peal are pushing up in numbers, the latter especially, which speaks well for next season. During the cold days the water fined down rapidly; but Jack Frost was succeeded by a watery shift in the wind, which was but little needed to stir up the grouts again, after which it is hoped ere long the various holes and stickles will disgorge some of the piscatorial prizes that lurk in their bosoms. Jack are plentiful. Perch are schooling up, and give excellent sport to the lucky angler whose minnow happens that way to be cast. Roach and dace are very fine, but decidedly not so plentiful as last season. Rudd are in goodly numbers. With regard to chub, another brace has been taken, making the second brace taken from the Exe known to me during the past three years; consequently, we cannot say they are plentiful, but suffice to say the yare in the river. I have, since my last report, been called on the carpet by a disciple of the gentle craft, and been requested to expunge the chub from all further reports, because he never saw, never heard, and is quite certain there is no such fish in Devon, leave alone the Exe. Well, I cannot, after the ocular demonstration experienced, succumb to this, especially from one who denies even such a species as the rudd, and, as my reports are copied into our local *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, I would wish to convince him that many friends will come forward and testify as to their being. Without quoting from Yarrell, i. 358, or Couch, iv. 190, p. 44, it would be as well, my friend being an Exonian, to quote from our learned local friend, Mr. E. Parfitt, from his Paper, read at Torrington, July, 1875, on the Fauna of Devon. "Fishes," part XII., wherein at page 21 is stated:—"This, I am informed by Mr. Reading, is taken in Devon." Herrings are being taken in the estuary, but not to any extent. At present the catches varying from one to five hundred per boat, but it is expected before this report appears, the bulk will have greatly increased, as the Clovelly men are doing well.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Sea fishing has not been so good this week owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Friday, boats had some good sport with conger, ling, and skate; very few herrings were caught. Saturday, all boats out; some brought in five maize, others two, and some only quarter maize; one boat from Clovelly brought up 9 maize of herrings, and a lot of hake. Sunday morning another boat came up with 8 maize and some fine hake; several boats went out in the evening—their catches were the best for the week; over 30 maize of herrings was brought in by all the boats, and some fine pollack, weighing over 18 lb. each. Monday, fishing very slack; fisherman afraid to put their nets in the water as there are too many vessels passing up and down in shore. Tuesday, very fair quantity of fish taken, each boat having their share of herrings, hake, and whiting. Wednesday, weather squally, boats unable to put out; wind blowing strong from the S.E.; fishermen all very busy barking their nets. Thursday, weather still bad, with strong wind from S.W., with drizzly rain. There is some fine ling and conger caught from the jetty with handlines evenings.—E. COMER.

Lea (Broxbourne).

At last I can report the water in splendid condition, and all fish well on the feed. Roach, perch and jack have been taken in large quantities during the past week.—T. B.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is very bright, the wind south-east, but very mild. There were a few nice roach taken on Monday, some over a pound. They were taken close to the house with paste.—WM. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river certainly ought to be named the Mudway, for it continues as thick as ever, and when it will fine down again appears to be a grave uncertainty, at any rate to—THE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse.

Water in splendid order for rod, pike, &c. Cutting sedge at river side, which is rather troublesome, but not seriously so. Baits chiefly in use are gentles and brandlings. Paste at a discount. The catches mentioned below include a few silver bream and dace. A great many anglers have been out since last report, and all have done well, as the following will show:—Nov. 2, G. H., of Ely, 8½ lb. roach, in one three quarter hours; Nov. 4th, Messrs. Ascroft, G. Fielden, Cambridge, 22 lb. splendid roach; Mr. Crick, Newmarket, 20 lb. roach, in four and a quarter hours, largest going 17 oz. This is the best take of the year in this water, considering the time. Nov. 5th, Mr. J. Tapper, Newmarket, 10 lb. roach; Mr. F. C. M. Whitehead, Cambridge, 11½ lb. roach; Mr. W. H. Whitehead, Cambridge, 15½ lb. roach, largest 1 lb.; Dr. Cooper, Cambridge, 14 lb. roach; Messrs. J. Cole, G. C. Hardy, St. John's Wood Piscatorialists, 34 lb. roach. Nov. 6th, Mr. Harper, Ely, a pike of 5 lb. Nov. 7th, Mr. Fielden, Cambridge, 14 lb. roach; Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, 13½ lb. roach; Mr. Henry Lea, Cambridge, 19 lb. roach; Mr. James Goater, Newmarket, 13½ lb. roach; Messrs. J. Rae, G. A. Pace, Newmarket, 29½ lb. roach; Messrs. J. Cole, G. Hardy, St. John's Wood Piscatorialists, 28 lb. roach. Nov. 8th, Mr. W. Thurston, Cambridge, three pike, 4 lb. 2 oz., 4 lb., and 2 lb. 2 oz. respectively, and 9 lb. roach; Mr. S. O. Batman, Littleport, pike, 5½ lb. and 5 lb. roach.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Thorney Broad.

The water is still in first-rate order for fishing, and anglers would do well to give the roach, dace, chub, &c., a trial while the mild weather lasts. There have been some fine shows of fish taken this week. The following is a list of those shown at the house:—November 4, Mr. Simpson, 1 chub, 4 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. Rools, 33 roach, 20 lb., some of them going 1 lb. 8 oz. November 5, a gentleman that I do not remember to have seen here before, had 12 nice roach about 10 lb., the largest 1 lb. 12 oz. November 6, Mr. Stevens 2 chub 5 lb. 8 oz. Mr. Griffin caught a nice trout, perch fishing, which he returned to the water at once. November 7, Mr. Andrews, member of the Piscatorial Society, had a nice show of roach and 43 dace, for the weight of them I must refer your readers to the society's report. November 8, Mr. Rools about a dozen roach, weighing 8 lb., and 1 dace, 14 oz. November 9, Mr.

Browning 25 roach, 15 lb., some of them over 1 lb. November 10, Mr. Drake 6 roach about 5 lb. I have heard of many more fish being taken, but they have not been shown at the house. Anglers should use plenty of ground bait for roach (bran and bread).—E. GODFREY.

Trent (Alrewas).

The water has scarcely been in proper condition all the week, and little to note has been done. The beginning of the week Messrs. Chapman and Bullock had a few nice chub, and Dr. Dunnis reported taking one nearly 4 lb. with Gregory's Colorado bait whilst spinning for jack. Anglers fishing in the lakes and reservoirs in the neighbourhood of Birmingham have had some capital luck in pike fishing. The best take which has been brought to my notice came off last Saturday. The president of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association, fishing with Mr. Cope and another, landed 18 nice fish. The two largest weighed 10 lb. and 9 lb. respectively, while the remainder were all takeable fish. Yesterday Mr. John Allday, with a few friends, had some very fine sport at Earlswood. The capture represented a dozen nice pike. The best brace were taken by Mr. Sale, and as they were the first pike this enthusiastic angler has captured they were duly wetted with a bottle of "cham.," and with best wishes from his brother anglers for further and greater success. The weather is remarkably genial for the time of the year, and the river is reported to-night as rapidly getting into proper fishing order. Grayling are rising well, and good sport is in the prospective, should the wind and weather continue in the present satisfactory state.—JAMES GREGORY.

Thursday Night.

Trent (Newark).

As anticipated in my last note, the water came down very thick and high by Saturday, and as a natural consequence not much has been done in the way of sport, although this last day or two worm fishing might have been indulged in; but I know of only one or two anglers being out, and they only met with indifferent sport, a few roach being about the extent of the captures. I visited a large pond, a short distance from Newark last Saturday, to again try the jack but found them dead off the feed; four runs, and only two fish rewarded me. A bleak on Gregory's Archimedean Spinning tackle, killing one, and the "Clipper" was the death of the other; a rare bait, for an artificial, is that same Mr. Gregory's "Clipper." On looking over my last week's note, I saw that that inveterate joker, the printer, had transformed "grassing" into "grappling;" where I mentioned the seven runs from jack. [I had had, but only succeeded in grassing four (but it did not matter much, for I got my fingers, that is, grappling irons, across them, so, taking it all in all, the remark was very appropriate). To-night the water is getting into good order, and in a few more days, if the present condition of things should continue, all kinds of winter fishing should be in full swing. Gentles, if gettable, for roach, only mind and don't overdo the ground bait; pith or scratching for chub; and pike, if can get a few bleak or small dace, try them either livebating or spinning. If you cannot get any small baits, try a "Clipper." Weather very mild considering the time of year; and altogether I think the prospects look very fair for the next few days. The prize that I won at the FISHING GAZETTE Tournament came to hand a few hours after sending off my last report, and a grand lot of artificial baits they are; worth 50s. instead of 20s. as mentioned in the prize list. They are enough to make every good spinner that was not at the tournament wish he was. They are a credit to Mr. Gregory as the maker. I don't know that I ever saw so fine a lot in any one angler's outfit. I have now broken the pipe of peace, and gone on the war-path, and got fairly on the trail of the jack, and, with the help of this grand prize of artificial baits, I hope to do something in the way of slaughtering jack, and make every jack up and down the river about here tremble when he hears the name of—TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

In the beginning part of the week the water came down much discoloured, and the weather at the time being unusually mild for the time of the year brought the bream on the feed for the first time this season, and some of the anglers have been much puzzled to understand the cause, it was simply this, the temperature for some time has been so low, and consequently the water so cold, that bream refused to take worms, but this week, on several occasions, they have not only taken the cockspur worm freely on the hook, but took the groundbait in good form. The result was some good basket of bream were brought down from Weston and other noted spots up the river. Several of the fish weighed in at the clubs going over 4 lb. each, and in one or two of the baskets were found some capital roach and dace, which at last took the worm freely in that noted length at Willington. The sample being unusually good. Now, from what I have stated, the angler will doubtless understand that there is still plenty of fish in the upper part of the river, and it only required a favourable time to catch them, and I might add that all the fish that bite at this time of the year are all feeding well, and the water is in splendid condition for worm fishing, but the anglers for pike and chub will have to wait a few days longer.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Both rivers are in first-class condition for fly-fishing, especially the higher lengths of both rivers. Sport during the week, since Monday, has been good with both bottom and top, and baskets from 5 brace up to 9 brace per angler have been made off of both streams. The killing flies have been the bumbles, furnace, black and ash duns, the furnace killing the greater quantity of fish. The bottom fishers on most parts of the Derwent, have done well during the week with worms and maggots, one gentleman killing some good baskets off of the Darley Dale water with maggots and worms.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Since my last week's report a fall of snow, followed by excessive rain, produced a heavy flood in this river. By Monday, however, it had subsided sufficiently to admit of worm-fishing, and on that day I killed thirteen grayling weighing 6½ lb., using that bait. On Tuesday I fished in company with Ralph Colbeck, a capital all-round angler, who devoted himself to salmon fishing with fly, while I gave the grayling another turn. My take was nine fine grayling, and towards the close of the afternoon Colbeck succeeded in landing a nice little grise weighing nearly 5 lb.—it took the "silver doctor," which is a good fly on the Yore in a full water. On Tuesday night a drizzling rain set in, which threatened to interfere with angling on Wednesday, but should no more heavy rain fall the river will be in excellent order for fly-fishing before the end of this week.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

"Whelk-ome little stranger," as the hungry fisherman said when he hitched up a whale.—Moonshine.

CLUB REPORTS.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting of this society was held as usual on Thursday, Mr. A. Jardine presiding. Mr. T. Crumplen (hon. sec.), read the minutes of the previous meeting, and also the correspondence, including a letter from the president, Lord George Hamilton, expressing his gratification at the high character of the papers read before the society, and the steady increase in the number of its members. Letters were also read in reference to some water the society is in treaty for, and from Mr. H. E. Wood, of the Angler's Hotel, Walton-on-Thames, in reference to the facilities he proposed to offer the angling community. Following this came Captain Alfred's paper "On Jack Fishing," which it is needless to say was a very careful and elaborate essay on the subject, such as could only come from a master hand, all the different methods of fishing being separately dealt with in the clearest manner possible. The discussion which followed was extremely interesting—catching, cooking, and so on, being thoroughly dealt with by the various speakers. Mr. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*, made an extremely telling speech—in fact, two, both to the point—and added considerably to the pleasure of the evening. Among other curious topics, Mr. Crumplen suggested that "lucius" (*Esox lucius*) was derived from some great captor of the pike in ancient times (Captain Alfred stating that the pike was the crest of the Lucy family), and although this view was questioned by Mr. Jardine, it appeared from Mr. Bryant, who was well acquainted with etymology, to be a highly probable explanation—Mr. Crumplen mentioning analogous instances of derivation in other departments of science. The paper was listened too with deep attention, and on the motion of Dr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. Bryant, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Captain Alfred for so valuable a contribution. It was moved and carried that the Society's papers be printed and distributed at a fixed price, any profit to go to the Anglers' Benevolent Fund. It was also resolved to send a telegram to Wycombe, assuring the Preservation Society there of the sympathy and support of the Gresham Angling Society in the calamity arising from an accident at the paper mill, by which they have so seriously suffered. A pike of 11½ lb. was weighed-in by Mr. Knechtli, a beautiful fish, fitting sequel to the 60 lb. by Mr. Hunt last week, also a splendid tray of roach, taken on a fine hair line by Mr. Graham Bennett at Lea Bridge. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. A. Jardine.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

As was generally expected, the roach competition of Monday last attracted a large number of members to the club room, at Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden in the evening. Mr. Daniel Goodger was unanimously voted into the chair. The result of the contest was as follows:—Mr. Walker took the first prize of four guineas, with 23 lb. 4 oz. of roach from the Hampshire Avon, and Mr. Thomas Huggett, the second prize of two guineas, with 20 lb. 10 oz. of roach from the Hampshire Avon, and third prize of one guinea was won by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, who weighed-in 13 lb. 9 oz. of roach from Mapledurham. In addition to these, Mr. T. R. Sachs showed 5 lb. 15 oz. of roach, the largest 1 lb. 13 oz., and 8 lb. 4 oz. of dace from Ringwood; Mr. Andrews, 9 lb. 4 oz. of roach, the largest 1 lb. 6 oz., and three dace, 1 lb. 10 oz. from West Drayton. Mr. Robert Barker, 11 lb. 14 oz. of chub from Sonning, the largest 3 lb. 6 oz., and Mr. Pattison, 6 lb. 12 oz. of roach from the Thames. The total weight of roach and dace was 90 lb. 5 oz. Two new members were elected, and several others were proposed for election. Mr. David Goodger, in proposing the health of the successful competitors, congratulated those present on the continued and increasing success of the society, and assured them their desire to maintain a friendly relationship with all anglers was its chief aim.

STAVELEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society's anniversary dinner was held at the Elm Tree on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst., when the members and their friends, numbering sixty, of whom fifty are members, sat down to an ample repast provided by their host. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. G. C. Crofts, president of the society, took the chair. The usual loyal toasts having been given, the chairman proposed the health of J. B. Barrow, J.P., and in an expressive manner thanked him in his absence for so kindly giving the members the privilege of angling in the Rotter, Dove, Lea, etc., which was responded to by the members with musical honours. The following toasts were also given and heartily joined in: "Success to the Society," "The Occupiers of Land Adjoining the Stream," "Host and Hostess," etc. The club is in a flourishing condition, and is mainly composed of working men, who have had several matches and outings during the season. A very enjoyable evening was spent, accompanied by songs by Messrs. Briggs, Thorsfield, Goodwin, Dunfield, Tudsbury, etc., accompanied by Mr. Oldfield on the pianoforte.—M. W. TUDSBURY, sec.

Nov. 10.

FRIENDLY CITIZENS.

The half-yearly dinner of the above was held at the Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall Street, on Monday evening last. The dinner, provided by Brother and Host Maidwell, was capital. The toasts of the evening were: the Queen, and the Society, proposed by the chairman, Brother Abbott, in an interesting and amusing speech, and responded to by the whole of the brethren. The speeches were intermingled with some capital songs and music, by Brothers Styles, Simmons, Maidwell, G. G. Taylor, Billie Taylor, Musto Foster, &c. Visitor Thurlow presided at the piano, ably assisted by Dick Garner. Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary.

GOOD INTENT.

The members of this club began their November Sunday fishing for twelve prizes, in the river Lea, last Sunday, the heaviest gross weight of any to win, which is according to club rules. The jack fishermen had the best of it; roach being scarce. J. T. Richards weighed-in 10½ lb. of jack; Mr. C. Cox, one jack, 2 lb. Fifteen members weighed-in roach, all under 2 lb. We hope to make up for it next Sunday. I am happy to say all the tickets sent to this club on behalf of the Casting Competition held at the Welsh Harp for the benefit of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, will be paid for by the club, none to be sent back; hoping other clubs will do likewise, seeing the great amount of trouble and expense yourself, Mr. Editor, and many other gentlemen have been put to.—RICHARD MURPHY.

(For continuation of Club Reports, see page 560.)

MR. R. BALDERSTON'S TABLES OF FLIES USED AND RESULTS.

I SEND the tables in answer to your correspondent's question. I think they will be useful to your fly-fishing readers:—

Flies.	Fish caught.	Times used.	Average.	Most caught on one occasion above 7 in number.
Light grey mallard wing; body, bright green peacock's harl, legs orange, red hackle	532	108	4'928	35
Cochybonddu	474	152	3'118	31
Black palmer	426	143	2'979	20
Ronald's whirling dun ..	307	74	4'148	38
Blue dun	255	51	5'000	24
Black gnat	253	62	4'080	28
Orange red hackle, of Pennel's form	239	49	4'877	19
Orange fly	159	36	4'416	30
Red palmer	151	79	1'911	10
Hawthorn fly	133	41	3'244	18
Red ant	118	36	3'277	11
March brown	109	21	5'190	23
Cowdung	90	15	6'000	28
Iron blue	81	19	4'263	30
Orange blue dun	76	16	4'750	25
Light mallard, orange bodied	72	11	6'545	23
Grouse hackle	69	15	4'600	16
Black ant	63	27	2'330	9
Light mallard, peacock harl body; legs, black hackle	60	11	5'454	8
Jenny spinner	52	33	1'570	
Fern fly, ribbed with gold twist	52	18	2'888	
Light mallard, peacock harl body; legs, furnace hackle	50	8	6'250	
Quill dun	47	8	5'875	16
Holland's red spinner ..	43	6	7'166	23
Broughton point	43	18	2'280	11
Fern fly with yellow silk body	41	16	2'562	10
Little pale blue dun ..	41	21	1'952	
Landrail hackle	41	21	1'952	8
Gravel bed	39	9	4'333	14
Yellow dun	37	10	3'700	17
Water cricket	36	20	1'800	
Francis	35	15	2'333	10
Needle brown	32	6	5'333	15
Dark mackerel	31	14	2'214	
Wings, partridge and grey, double; legs, black, transparent hackle	29	18	1'610	
Blue bottle	26	17	1'529	
Stone fly	25	10	2'500	
July dun	24	12	2'000	16
Peacock	24	13	1'846	9
Oak fly	23	8	2'875	9
Pennell's green	21	5	4'200	13
Grouse fly, not hackle ..	20	3	6'666	13
Double red palmer	20	9	2'222	8
Pennell's brown	19	5	3'800	9
Grey drab palmer, transparent hackle	19	5	3'800	8
Legs, transparent brown hackle; wings, light red; body, light grey silk	19	7	2'714	12
Sand fly	18	6	3'000	9
Dark starling hackle ..	18	7	2'571	
Snipe light hackle	18	10	1'800	
Barm fly	18	5	3'600	8
Bracken clock	17	5	3'400	8
Red spinner	15	5	3'000	
Light mallard, red worsted body, red hackle ..	15	6	2'500	
Governor fly	14	5	2'800	
Green drake	13	7	1'857	
Large grey mallard	13	7	1'857	
Dotterel dun	13	9	1'444	
Dark drone	12	5	2'400	
Starling fly	12	5	2'400	9
Alder fly	11	2	5'500	11
Partridge hackle	11	4	2'750	
Shamrock willow fly ..	11	9	1'222	
Plover fly	10	3	3'333	9
Cinnamon fly	10	5	2'000	
Wasp fly	10	3	2'000	
Yellow sally	9	3	3'000	
Grey dun	9	4	2'250	
Turkey brown	9	4	2'250	

Flies.	Fish caught.	Times used.	Average.	Most caught on one occasion above 7 in number.
August dun	9	5	1'800	
Red fly, February red ..	7	3	2'333	
Coachman	7	3	2'333	
Iron blue transparent hackle	7	3	2'333	
Light starling hackle ..	7	5	1'400	
Marlow buzz, with long tinsel-ribbed body beyond hackle	6	2	3'000	
A kind of blue dun	6	2	3'000	
Greenwell's glory	6	3	2'000	
Brown palmer	6	11	0'545	
Woodcock hackle	5	1	5'000	
Sky blue hackle	6	5	1'200	
Pennell's yellow	4	1	4'000	
Ginger wings and legs, very small fly	4	1	4'000	
Wings, light starling black hackle; tail, two mottled whisks	4	2	2'000	
Golden dun midge	4	6	0'666	
Pale evening dun	4	3	1'333	
Great whirling dun	3	3	1'000	
Dotterel blue, hackle ..	3	4	0'750	
Wren tail	3	6	0'500	
Black gnat hackle	2	1	2'000	
Little chap	2	2	1'000	
A kind of large red spinner	2	3	0'666	
Caperer	1	1	1'000	
Peacock fly, with pale brown marbled wing ..	1	1	1'000	
Black silver horns	1	1	1'000	
Gold eyed gauze wings ..	1	1	1'000	
Small gaudy fly, with mottled mixed wings and ginger hackle ..	1	1	1'000	
A grey winged fly	0	1	0'000	
A hare's ear dun	0	1	0'000	
A grizzled furnace hackle.	0	1	0'000	

Fish taken from the flies 4953
Fish that dropped off when these flies were used 193

Total 5147
Flies used 99
Average 2785

The flies were employed on 224 days, giving an average of fish per day 22'973. No casts which did not effect a single capture have been used for supplying flies for the list. On some days many casts of from two to eight flies were brought into use.

Mr. Editor, in answer to the request of your correspondent W. T. S., I give the accompanying table of fish caught by 99 flies, used during a period of several years for the capture of trout and grayling, but more especially the former. For dace, bleak, rudd, roach, chub, and carp I have distinct tables. The numbers given are the direct results of absolute totals; I have however, other averages, which show the comparative deadliness or selective attraction, of flies, deduced from the fractions which indicate the relative number of fish taken by each fly of any particular cast. These perhaps are of equal or greater value, for a bad fly may obtain many fish on a good day, whilst a cast of excellent flies may be almost unavailing on some particularly unfavourable occasion. Tables I also have of separate years, countries and districts; but the results of the last three years do not form a part of the appended list. To enter more fully into the subject at present would, I fear, occupy far too much of your space, otherwise I have no desire to withhold any information I might give; but, Mr. Editor, you are aware that, when I enter on the subject of flies I am apt to become uncommonly voluminous.

ROBERT BALDERSTON.

[We are sure our fly-fishing friends who are not wedded to the "three fly" system will study Mr. Balderston's tables with great interest. We should be glad if Mr. B. would give us his table of what he finds the most deadly flies. We can dispense with fractions, and will ask Mr. B. merely to name the flies, and put after each their comparative value, 20 marks to be highest. Thus many favourites will be entitled to 20, others to 15, and so on. If he will bracket them together in the months or periods in which they are used the table will be still more practical and valuable.—Ed.]

SOME OF ENGLAND'S DAINTIEST FISHES TRANSFERRED TO AMERICAN WATERS.

MORTALITY ON THE VOYAGE.—ONLY NINE OUT OF OVER ONE HUNDRED CARRIED SAFELY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—RELEASED AT BRIGHTON BEACH.

So far three experiments have been made in transporting live turbot and soles to the United States. Mr. Frederick Mather brought over English soles in 1878, as did Captain John Mortimer. The third and last experiment was made yesterday. About 10 days ago the United

States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, Professor Spencer F. Baird, instructed Mr. F. Mather, the Assistant Fish Commissioner, Mr. E. G. Blackford, the New York State Fish Commissioner, and the Secretary of the American Fish-cultural Association, to make all necessary preparations for the reception of a certain number of live turbot and soles which were to arrive by the *Parthia* from Liverpool, and to consult as to the best locality where the fish might be placed. The *Parthia* arrived on Wednesday evening, and early yesterday morning Mr. Frederick Mather, having made all arrangements for the reception of the fish, the United States revenue cutter *Grant*, Captain Fengar, was stationed, with steam all up, at the foot of the Cunard dock. The fish had been collected by Mr. Jackson, of England, after having been caught in the Irish Channel. In order to insure their being in good order, the turbot and soles had been taken as quickly as possible to the Southport Aquarium, so that they might, in a measure, be acclimatised. By this method it was hoped that any of the fish which might have been hurt would at once declare themselves. In order to give the fish every possible advantage of judicious attention, they were placed in charge of Mr. A. W. Armistead, a gentleman who has a fish-breeding establishment of some repute in Scotland. The *Parthia* sailed on the 15th of this month, and in two wooden tanks, made on purpose for the voyage, 75 soles and 35 turbot were placed. The voyage was a fairly rough one. Yesterday, on counting the fish, only six turbot and three soles were found. The rest had succumbed, very much to the disappointment of the fish-culturists. Mr. Armistead, whose attention to the fish had been constant during the voyage, could hardly account for the loss. The water had been changed at proper intervals, always having due regard to temperatures. It seems quite probable that certain arrangements in the water tanks, such as of cross pieces of wood, may have hurt the fish when the vessel rolled. As the proper method of transporting these fish can only be acquired by experience, the loss of so many will certainly encourage the introduction. It might have been wiser not to risk so many fish in one vessel, but to have divided them up into smaller lots, for without any apparatus at all, save some glass globes and by aerating the water, Captain Mortimer, during a very long sea voyage, succeeded in bringing over quite a number of fish, his loss being comparatively small.

By 10.30 o'clock, the turbot and soles having been transferred to a smaller vessel, they were taken on board the *Grant*, and, in charge of those appointed to care for them, they were carried down the Bay. A place had been designated off Coney Island, about three-quarters of a mile from the entrance to Sheepshead Bay, as the best locality for the fish. The reason for selecting this special water was because no ponds were near, and, besides, the amount of food necessary for young fish would be large, and again, on account of the sandy bottom. The *Grant* having come to in about five fathoms, a yawl was manned, the small tank with the fish was put on board, and the boat was rowed near land, until a depth of about 2 fathoms or 12 feet was found, when Mr. Mather placed the English fish in American waters. Both turbot and soles, when placed in their new quarters, did not seem to hesitate for an instant, but with a rapid movement and in the liveliest way made at once for the bottom.

As has often been told in these columns, we have neither the sole nor the turbot in American waters. The nearest approach to the first is our flounder, and to the second what is designated as the Newfoundland turbot. The pole flounder lately found by the Fish Commission is, as far as excellence as to taste goes, at least an approach to the *Solea vulgaris*, the English sole. In London and throughout England the sole is very extensively used, and if the statement is to be believed not less than 96,000,000 of them are marketable every year in London alone. They will average about one and one-half pounds, but the late Frank Buckland writes of having seen some eight pounds, and having casts of other twelve pounds. The flesh is exceedingly sweet to the taste and delicate. The turbot is certainly the best of European sea-fish, and the *Rhombus maximus* is the great table fish. It is not, however, any better than our pompano. The ordinary weight of this fish is from five to eight pounds, but specimens have been preserved of thirty pounds. Both sole and turbot swim in the same waters and their fecundity is very great. In a turbot it is supposable that there are over 14,000,000 of eggs. These fish are caught with the beam-trawl, side by side, and innumerable are the vessels off the English and Irish coasts which fish for them. As a description of the sole may be of use, it may be generally described as longer as to its width than our flounder and with shorter fins. The turbot is much broader for a flat fish than anything else caught in our waters.

Though fish-culturists may be hopeful that these few fish which were placed in our waters may thrive, they are by no means sanguine. It is hardly possible that a dozen fish placed in a single locality with hundreds of miles of water around them, will remain in the same position. Even should they grow, it has not been satisfactorily determined whether these fish were of different sexes. But what this experiment has shown, even if nothing is ever heard of these fish, is that they can be transported.

But there are other ways of acquiring greater security as to the propagation of foreign sea-fish, and that is one which is exceedingly simple. It is to have a breeding pond or a preserve in the proximity of New York. If there had been such conditions yesterday almost all the chances of loss would have been eliminated. A certain sum of money has been apportioned by the State to the New York Fish Commissioners, and they should at once, before doing anything else, secure a favourable locality where such a preserve for fresh and salt water fish-breeding can be made. Then when fish come from abroad they can be kept until the period arrives when they are about producing their eggs. Then one or two fish, if they be of different sexes, can become the source of millions of other fish. The small fish might

be kept and reared up to a certain point of growth and then given their liberty.

In studying the mortality of the fish brought over, it was greatest on the second day out, 36 fish having died. If they were not injured on the ship, it is likely that they suffered during a short land carriage from the train to the dock. At sea the maximum temperature of the water was 59°, the minimum 51° Fahrenheit. The temperature of the water off Coney Island where the turbot and soles were placed was 57°.—*New York Times*.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

ON Friday evening last a specially convened meeting of the working committee of the West Central Association was held at the Portman Arms, Great Quebec Street, Portman Square, Mr. P. Geen, the president, in the chair, some important business being got through, including, among other matters, the enrolment of a new society, viz., the Jovial Anglers, held at the Jolly Anglers Inn, Richmond. In answer to claim for same, the secretary was empowered to pay three separate sums of £1 for as many convictions obtained against poachers by a Thames river keeper.

The thorough investigation of a charge made against two anglers of abusing the privilege cards on the London and South-Western Railway, resulting in the committee, after a long and careful investigation, deciding to cancel same.

On Monday evening, the 7th, a special meeting of the United London Anglers Central Committee was held at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. Samuel Morgan presiding. There was a very good muster, thirty-eight societies being represented besides a number of gentlemen from the W. C. A., A. L., and P. A. S., including the chairman, vice-chairman, and hon. sec., Messrs. Bonvoisin, Beckett, Hoole, also Messrs. Penny, Dean, Field, Dix, &c. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, gave a report of the highly satisfactory reception of the joint deputation from the Eastern and Western Association by the authorities of the Great Eastern Railway, particulars of which appeared in the FISHING GAZETTE at the time.

The next business was by no means so agreeable, cancelling the privilege ticket of a person against whom a clear case of abuse was proved. This also was on the London and South-Western Railway. The important question of the transfer of privilege tickets between the two Associations was also unanimously agreed to, as it previously had been done by the W. C. A. To make clear what is meant by this, suppose A is an angler belonging to a society enrolled only on the books of the East Central Committee, and would at the commencement of the season take a privilege ticket from that body, for which he would pay them the usual amount for current year. Now, should A, after he had held his ticket for a few weeks or months, either from change of neighbourhood or any other reason join another society enrolled only on the W. C. A., he would, according to the arrangement arrived at, be entitled to get his ticket transferred, or rather would have another ticket issued to him for 2d. by the secretary of the W. C. A., or vice versa. Whereas, in the absence of the arrangement, he would have to pay full charge for a second ticket, though he might have held the first only a few weeks, and possibly never used it. Mr. Phillips and one or two other gentlemen asked that the arrangement just arrived at between the two other associations should be made to include the third, viz., the Central. Some discussion took place, in which Messrs. Murphy, Beckett, Manning, Hoole, Cundall, Ghurney, Newman, Noble, Bonvoisin, Phillips, and Theobalds took part, satisfying Messrs. Phillips, Theobald, &c., that, however willing the E. and W. Central Associations might be to work in unity with, and include the third, or Central, in any movement for the general good, they could only do so at the request of that body.

The memorial from the T. A. P. S. to the Board of Conservancy, the full text of which appeared in last week's FISHING GAZETTE, was then read, discussed, unanimously agreed to, and passed round the room for signature. Some routine business was then transacted, the meeting terminating with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

Messrs. Hoole and Vanner, of the Hammernsmith United, fishing at Richmond on Monday last, with Job Brain, took 13lb. 10 oz. roach and dace, Mr. Vanner beating his brother Bob nearly 2 to 1. Messrs. Penny and Pitts, of the same society, 25 lb. odd roach, from Henley on Sunday last.

Mr. Mann, at Clapham, near Bedford, gives permission to anglers using his house to angle from his land in the river Ouse. Now, the Bedford Angling Club claim the fishery rights in this portion of the river; whether the claims have any foundation or not I am not prepared to say, if so, there is a right way and a wrong way of enforcing them. The Secretary of the Bedford Angling Association will, no doubt, understand what I mean, but lest he should not I would inform him. I refer to what took place on a recent occasion when he was on one side of the river, the London anglers quietly pursuing their amusement on the other, and he carried on a conversation with them, in which, to put it mildly, he *didn't* use Wal'on's language, and say "I love anglers, for they be such gentle, quiet men," ending his undignified tirade by threatening that since they would not go away he would send those who would systematically annoy them, and to his credit (or otherwise) he was as good as his word; for subsequently the association keepers put in an appearance, and acting, as one may naturally suppose, "upon instructions" from the opposite bank, continued for a considerable time to pelt the unfortunate piscators.

floats and tackle with stones. Nor can the anglers who, on the railway platform the other evening, politely, but firmly, refused the chief inspector of police's request for their names and addresses, and referred him to Mr. Mann, be blamed; a request which, however, was immediately withdrawn when that gentleman was made acquainted with the fact that my friends had been angling from Mr. Mann's field, and with his permission. The association is said to be very unpopular in the neighbourhood, and it is scarcely to be wondered at if this high-handed sample is a fair one of their general mode of protecting their water, and enforcing what they are pleased, rightly or wrongly (on this I give no opinion), to consider their rights.

The next meeting of the committee of the "Thames Rights Defence Association" is convened for Thursday, 10th inst., at half-past 4 p.m., at Simpson's Hotel, Strand, when it is anticipated business of importance will be under consideration.

Mr. P. Geen sends me the following cutting from an Australian paper, sent him by his cousin, Mr. W. K. Phelps, who is settled at the Antipodes. These are the curious sights many of us Cockneys hoped the Westminster Aquarium would have treated us to. Alas! for our hopes:—

SHOOTING FISH, PALMER RIVER.—"Yaboonah" writes:—"This fish swims near the surface and can squirt water with such force as to knock a butterfly over at fully 6 feet from the surface. The caterpillar hanging on its thread, and the fish squirting water beneath it is really worth seeing. The shooting fish is of a yellowish colour, brown back, with three dark spots on sides, and is like the mangrove mullet in shape; weight from 8 oz. to 1 lb.; capital sport with light rod; bait, small blade young grass and green grasshopper, keeping well back from water. For tandem, fish at night; use worms only."

Apropos of forcing fish, Mr. Harry Wynn, a member of the North-Western Angling Society, last week presented the society with the remarkably perfect weapon of a saw fish, secured by his brother during his last cruise from China.

The next West Central Association, No. 1 District, visit will be paid to the North-Western Angling Club, the Lord Southampton, Southampton Road, Havestock Hill, N.W., on Monday evening, when it is hoped there will be a goodly muster of piscators.

Haslett, the well-known Chertsey fisherman, writes to-day:—"I have not much news at present, but am glad to say the cold chill has got out of the water. I think there must have been snow in it. I tried the old swim at the weir last week, with Mr. Allen, result one jack 6 lb 8 oz. (with a lob worm), and three fine perch. On Monday, at Penton Hook, with the same gentleman, one trout 3 lb, (also taken with a worm), which was taken to Mr. Forbes, of Chertsey, for the purpose of trout culture. I am baiting some swims, and hope next week to be able to write you that I have dropped among them to some purpose."

Our Editor's suggestions about artificial coarse fish propagation are too good to be passed over, backed as they are by the offer of substantial help, and if the initiatory step is taken I feel sure the club anglers of London will generally respond to it.

There is another scheme which should go hand in hand with this one, and, in fact, the furthering of the one would necessarily assist the other—viz., the licensing of available and suitable waters, within a certain radius of London, which, from their present neglected or dilapidated condition, could be had, in most cases, for a mere song, but stocked and carefully looked after for two or three seasons could not fail to prove a morally and pecuniarily profitable investment, if only in decreasing the present heavy strain on what I may call our metropolitan rivers.

On Sunday last Mr. Marshall, the chairman of the North-Western Anglers, and myself had a nice run down from Staines to Penton Hook and back. We gave the chub a turn, but the pith and brains had gone wrong in the night, and—whether the oldest and most odiferous wasn't the cheese after all, I can't tell, but the loggerheads wouldn't have it, which didn't at all interfere with our enjoying our outing and the glorious weather.

The West Central Association (No. 1. district) visit was paid this (Wednesday) evening to the Norfolk Angling Society. The chair was ably filled by Mr. W. Woolridge, the vice by Mr. Walter Pearce, secretary of the Marylebone Angling Society. Owing, no doubt, to the attraction of the illuminations and the fact that Wednesday is the meeting night of a great many angling societies, the attendance was not so numerous as might have been expected, or as host Galloway—who, as I stated last week, is indefatigable in his attendance when a similar compliment is to be paid to another society—deserved. Fourteen clubs, however, were represented, and the singing, as is often the case at moderate meetings, was throughout excellent. As stated above, the next visit goes to the North-Western Anglers on Monday evening next.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[Advtr.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated TROUT FLIES which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[Advtr.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

FROM BELL WEIR TO OLD WINDSOR LOCK;

OR,

WHAT HAS BECOME OF OUR JACK AND PERCH?

BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—The day's fishing is done, the punt has been cleaned, and all things placed in readiness for to-morrow's early start up-stream to the best 1½ miles jack and perch fishing the Thames can now boast of. The warm meal with which our return in winter is welcomed has been disposed of, with that relish which outdoor work and many hours of fasting alone can give. One of my long boots, after sundry lusty tugs by my son, has surrendered at discretion, but, greatly to the amusement of a certain damsel present with us this evening. Number two for some time absolutely refused to be moved without the leg, and when it did come off, it was so suddenly as to send the youth, damsel, and boot—somewhat mixed—to the other side of the room. The excitement caused by this little incident has passed away—the young couple are busy, very busy. The wife has taken down her knitting, and is rapidly adding row after row to the stocking which shall complete the pair for her undeserving old man. The pipe has been filled, and, as I enjoy it, I wonder if there is a happier four than we in all England. I believe I should have fallen asleep in less than no time, had not the old lady in spectacles and knitting needles sung out, in an unnecessarily loud voice—(I was not asleep, sir; I will admit I saw a float bob)—"How about your promised letter to Mr. Editor, father?" Yes, to be sure; I must do that to-night, as, possibly, I shall be too late and tired on my return from the old river to-morrow. The morning's journey is a long one, indeed, farther than I should care to push a punt previous to such a hard day's fishing as I shall have. Fortunately, I meet one of my oldest customers, who will readily pay the man whose services I have secured to tow me up.

Through Staines to Egham Lock we shall travel at the rate of three miles per hour. Now, reader, follow me as I go, and learn from no easily purchased experience where to moor your punt or to drop your line from the bank, and I will write from my mind's eye, as I smoke another pipe, of the splendid swims I have successfully fished, and which you may fish as profitably if you will but follow the advice of one who knows, and loves, every inch of our grand old river. We shall reach Egham Lock at six, how strange, it's just sixteen years to-day, and it was at six in the morning, that two gentlemen came down the river and attempted to shoot the weir. I called loudly through the fog and partial darkness for them to stop, there was some attempt to do so, but too late, bang went the punt against a pile, and one of the two was in the wild waters of the weir (he must be a good swimmer who shall live long in boots and great coat in this water). Luckily the back eddy formed by the rush that took him over brought him back to our feet, on the weir, and we seized and dragged him out, apparently none the worse for his morning's swim. I believe that the gentleman whom I assisted out of the weir, on that cold, dark, and frosty morning, was Mr. Hoole, whom I so frequently read of in the GAZETTE. As we leave the lock, notice how quietly the water flows as compared with the rapid stream below. Now, ye roach fishers, if you should ever be in quest of a pitch or two which shall afford a good day's winter fishing, choose them here from amongst a score, which can readily be discovered near the boughs which cover the opposite bank for a full mile up stream. The boughs hang well out over some easily baited and fished eddies, varying in depth from six to ten feet, and every now and then there is a break in these woody harbours which is just sufficient to give the bank angler space to wield his long rod. A few years since you might have taken many dozen perch in a day's fishing from these swims at this season. In the spring I have seen the boughs covered with perch spawn; but I am sorry to say the mania for steam launches, driven at a furious rate, sprang up, and their chopping waves have year by year forced the ribbons of spawn from their anchor to be lost in the depths of the weir below, where the necessary sun can never reach them. Don't forget to try a small well scoured lob once or twice in each swim, for if you fail to catch the last of the perch you may lay hold of some of the monster tench, for which they are noted. Next we sniff the tar factory, and if you can stand the smell here you may fish one of the best barbel swims in this long reach. It can be, and frequently is, fished from the tow-path; and a bootmaker of Egham (friend Waxey) has taken some extraordinary fish by throwing out his ledger, laying his rod upon the path, and standing well back. On we go, and as we travel the stream changes sides—instead of flowing gently against the tow-path it rushes with considerable force under the trees, bushes, and boughs which clothe the high and crumbling bank opposite. Skilled chub fishers, come and try your skill; the chub are here, and have been these many long years. Now and then I have coached a customer that could work this tit-bit; but unless you have served your apprenticeship it will be better for you to keep your tackle for the next mile, where we shall find the stream flowing more quietly under the high banks of Ankerwycke. Before us is a mile of magnificent chub water, and if from now until March next you shall fail to take two or three brace of chub per day, with which, as a true sportsman, you will be satisfied; then there is something wrong, and you had better come to me or some other professional for advice. We must not forget the second good barbel swim, as we pass the sharp turn in the river where at flood time it rushes against and over the road, from Staines to Old Windsor. Should you decide to bait this swim with worms, be very liberal; as this hole is the home of innumerable eels as well as barbel and chub, and I may add that it used never to fail me, when I wanted a few good perch.

Should bank anglers be here when the waters are out and coloured, try just above this deep hole, you will then find a nice large eddy, with a depth of five feet; and, if it be a mild day, it's ten to one in your favour that you hook some ancients from the hole below.

Next, we reach the mead, and I must perforce pause and turn my thoughts, as I always shall; so long as my old timbers are permitted to hang together, to the days of my boyhood. Here a good father taught me my first lesson in history, a lesson that caused the blood to rush through my boyish veins with pride, as I thought of our forefathers, who dared to make a tyrant king tremble. Yes. We stand upon Runnymede, and opposite is Magna Charta Island. Before we leave the Mead, you must please allow me to say a few words about the large bed of rushes at the tail end of the island; this, at one time, was the haunt of large numbers of perch and jack; but, unfortunately, the launches have murdered the one and the trailers the other.

It was to this spot, after the three days of failure, that I brought the True

Gentleman, nine years ago. It is said that every Englishman will claim to be a judge of a horse until he has purchased a trouble on four legs. I never remember a customer that could not paternoster, yet how few fail to show their utter ignorance at the first cast.

Quietly dropped the fine gut paternoster, with small lead, a minnow, and a 5-inch dace; slowly came the lightest of lines through the rings of a perfect rod on that day. Every inch of water was worked that the point could reach, and three fine perch were landed without a cast. Then a wider circle was as carefully fished, and so on, until the pitch was finished with a take of twenty-one perch and seven jack. I then pushed into the centre of the rushes to show him the splendid fellows I knew to be laying up. Was there ever such a commotion as answered to that thrust of the pole? In every direction they flew, leaving such numerous dirty water trails behind them, so as to effectually hide those that remained.

Years after this scene, the True Gentleman invited me to London and took me to the Aquarium. We saw the seals fed, and the commotion in the tank caused him to liken it to the commotion we saw in the bed of rushes yonder.

As we leave the mead and take the road that skirts the river to the Bells, we shall pass another famous barbel swim, possibly the best of the three if baited well and carefully. No mere throwing in any of quantity of worms will answer, you must have plenty of clay that you may ensure the swirling eddies and under-currents. Do not carry the bait to a spot in this long, broad, deep and uneven bottomed swim, where the ledger cannot be used. Should you be successful you will get hold of fish that will try your tackle, and you will be skilful if you can persuade all you hook to forego a rush which shall regain for them their rocky retreat.

After passing the Bells you will see a fisherman's cottage, on the right bank, that's Haynes' home—a right good fellow, who knows the business as it should be known, and who has taught his eldest son to row, punt or fish with the best of us; indeed, for two of these qualifications he stands first, as may be seen by the records of the Thames regattas.

Immediately alongside the cottage are some excellent, deep, quiet roach swims, known as Haynes' boughs. If any one desires a day in a punt without a fisherman he may always rely on getting one from my friend, H.

Old Windsor Lock is now in sight. We shall find the lock-keeper the right sort, ever ready to let you up or down. If a bank angler would like to try the deep hole from the rear of the lock garden he has but to ask for permission. We go through the cut—it's only a quarter of a mile—and then we shall be landed at the head of our fishing. What jack and perch will fall to the skilfully wielded rod only to-morrow can tell; but I can tell you now we shall be fishing one and a half miles of the River Thames where trailers do not come and where steam-launches are never seen.

I know, sir, there are jack and perch yet remaining in that portion of the river over which we have travelled; but as you pithily and funnily put it in your footnote to Professor Balderston's, or "No Ground Bait's," letter, "Life is far too short to be devoted to the stalking of solitary fish." (I laughed when I first read that note until my poor old sides shook, a fit of coughing followed, to stop which the wife had to well thump my back.)

What is the most practical remedy for this deplorable state of affairs?

We professional fishermen are vitally interested in your readers' answer. Our bread has been difficult to earn during winter in times past; but if we shall have to earn it in the future without the aid of these two fish, it will go hard indeed with the less careful amongst us. I admit our selfish interest, yet I am bold to ask advice from all true anglers, because they have always shown kindness and consideration to your humble servant,

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

[There can be but one answer, and that is—re-stock the water. Help us to carry out our proposed society for the cultivation of pike, perch, &c. As regards the steam-launch nuisance, we prophesy the public generally will not stand it much longer.—ED.]

THE CULTIVATION OF COARSE FISH.

SIR,—I am glad you are taking up the question of the cultivation of coarse fish, an idea that long since occurred to myself, and to which I incidentally alluded, before your remarks appeared, in my paper "On the Diminution of Fish in the Thames," read before the Gresham Angling Society.

The salmonidæ have already been well looked after, and deservedly so, but what the vast number of working anglers want to see, is an increase in the number of coarse fish, from which alone their sport is derived. They have already aided in that direction, and the readiness and loyalty with which they adhere to the fence months, is in itself proof of their desire to preserve and increase our stock of fish. If their sport were greater, we might more easily induce them to advance a step further, and go in for specimen fish instead of gross weights.

The proposed society will be of service not only in propagating species, whose habits are known, but may also elucidate matters relative to others, at present obscure, such, for instance, as the spawning of chub.

We should be by nature a nation of anglers, and I trust it will not be needful to send abroad for a manager, as suggested. It will be a disgrace to us, if we cannot find some English man of science, willing and competent to undertake or supervise the work of coarse fish culture, and I hope we shall. I shall be happy to attend the proposed meeting in my private capacity, and have no doubt our society will decide to be represented when the date is fixed.

We must, however, remember that the Thames Angling Preservation Society has not wholly neglected the propagation of coarse fish; it may, in fact, be described as a great propagation society (all preservation societies are), but until the angling laws are assimilated from Oxford to London Bridge, steam launches prohibited during the spawning seasons, and netting and river pollution ceases, I fear your efforts and theirs will hardly be so successful as they certainly deserve.—I am, &c.,

T. CRUMPLEN.

Nov. 7, 1881.

[We are glad to say we have received several promises of support, and are in hopes before long of calling a meeting to discuss the question. When we referred to this subject at the dinner of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in the summer, we mentioned that Mr. W. Oldham Chambers was considering the matter. We feel sure we may rely on his valuable co-operation. We suggested it first, nearly two years ago, to Mr. Charles Capel, but we fancy he finds his salmonidæ as much work as he cares to do as an amusement. He also will help all he can, we feel sure. As regards the "man of science," we shall be right glad to employ an experienced Englishman if he can be found, who will do the work as well as a German pisciculturist. We want merely a practical working manager of one of the German establishments.—ED.]

FISHING AT EYNHAM.

SIR.—I shall be obliged if you will give publicity to the true facts of the case with respect to this fishing. I rent this water from Lord Abingdon, and I issue to all anglers season tickets at the price of 5s. each, subject to the usual fence months and certain regulations as to sizes, of which a printed list can be seen at my house on Swinford Bridge, close to Eynsham Weir. I have no tickets for day fishing, but any one can fish my water without being a season-ticket holder on payment of 1s. a day.

I have seen the letters in the GAZETTE in reply to "Perch's" enquiries, and think it a pity people do not ascertain the correct facts before putting in print things which not only mislead others, but are, as I consider, against my interest. I know Mr. Hobden as a successful angler in my waters, and his remarks are about correct. My water is at Eynsham on the Thames, and extends from Cassington Lock to Pinkill Lock. If you will insert this in your next issue I shall be greatly obliged.—I am, &c.,

H. TREADWELL.

P.S.—Tickets can also be obtained for fishing in lengths of water below mine of Mr. Robinson, Wolvercote, and at the Trout Inn, Godstow.

FISHING AT EYNHAM.

SIR,—In this week's GAZETTE I notice there are three replies to the inquiries of "Perch" on this matter. Of these three, that of Mr. Hobden is no doubt the most correct. I am an inhabitant of Eynsham, and am also an angler, and have fished the water nearly all my life. Mr. Treadwell, senior, lately deceased, issued season tickets, and I always had one from him; and his son, the present Mr. Treadwell, does the same, and I have a ticket now for this season's fishing. This shows, I think, that the fishing is not free, and it also shows it is perfectly public to any one choosing to obtain a ticket. As to day fishing Mr. Treadwell's charge is 1s., but no doubt he would leave it to the generosity of any gentlemen fishing, to pay him more than this if they felt so disposed.—I am, &c.,

W. WALL.

Eynsham, Nov. 7.

THAMES NETTING.

SIR,—Could Mr. B. give us the exact meaning of his remarks concerning our Thames fishermen, for, as they stand at present, we are left in a state of uncertainty. In his remarks of October 22 Mr. B. says: "They have even boasted in my presence, &c.," and, then, in his reply to a "Thames Fisherman," Mr. B. says: "The remark was made by a fisherman," &c. If they are really so numerous, everyone will regret the fact; and, if, on the contrary, the remark was made by only a fisherman, then B. was surely unfair to write such a tirade against the fishermen as a body. It appears to me that the remarks of B. also convey a regret that so many unfounded reports of netting should be circulated, and yet we find him stating matters which cannot fail to induce others to believe the very thing he wishes them not to. Now, does Mr. B. really believe what these fishermen so often confess to him about witnessing these nettings; and, if so, cannot more efficient means be employed to stop the netting? If, on the other hand, B. does not believe them, why put in print that which helps to fan the flame of discontent which seems to be burning. I am sure that most anglers know the T.A.P.S. are doing great things in preservation of fish and prevention of netting in our river, and that we should be greatly pleased if Mr. B. could state that these "boasts of fishermen" were made in times gone by, and not recently, and thus remove the sweeping accusation now lying over the Thames fishermen of our times.—I am, &c.,

R. W. HOBDEN.

23, Blomfield Road, W., Nov. 7, 1881.

[P.S.—I shall be most happy to attend any meeting on the fish-culture question you suggested.]

A "WHITE" VARNISH WANTED.

SIR,—As a constant reader, may I ask you to be kind enough to instruct, not alone myself, but fellow amateurs, as to the best way of preparing a white varnish. The accidents that artificial baits are necessarily subjected to renders renewal in the shape of varnish indispensable; but neither by inquiry or by reference to recipes can I find how to make a white and durable varnish such as is used upon the artificial baits sold at tackle shops.—I am, &c.,

Nov. 10.

DINSDALE-ON-TEES.

SIR,—In your numbers for Sept. 17 and 24 there appeared a very well written account of Salmon Fishing at Dinsdale on Tees. The last month afforded excellent sport on the same water, the two Mr. Surtees from day to day catching fish of large size. Last week Mr. Hall landed the fish of the season, a fine fish, in fresh condition, of 24 lb. On the 31st Mr. Surtees was again successful with six fish, two of 14 lb., and on November 1st again landed eight fish of considerable size.—I am, &c.,

TEES-SIDE.

LIVE TURBOT AND SOLES FOR AMERICA.

SIR,—I am expecting a shipment of live turbot and soles to-morrow. They come from Mr. C. L. Jackson, Hill Fold, Bolton, formerly naturalist of the Southport Aquarium, to Professor Baird. They left Liverpool on the 15th, in the Cunard steamer *Parthia*, in charge of Mr. Armistead. I will mail you New York papers with account of arrival.—I am, &c.,

FRED. MATHER,

New York, Oct. 25.

Editor, *Forest and Stream*.

THE SPAWNING DACE.

SIR,—Mr. Hobden's reply to my letter, *re* dace taken by Mr. Walters, is far from satisfactory, for though I can quite understand their value for settling a disputed or open question, I still must say that far too many good fish were destroyed for the purpose, and in this L. B. is with me. I do hope, now that the point is settled, no other report of a similar kind will appear in your valued publication.—I am, &c.,

R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

Liverpool Angling Association, Liverpool, Nov. 7.

THE RIVER AT HARPENDEN.

SIR,—In answer to a query of a correspondent—*re* name of river at Harpenden—it is the Lea, which rises some miles further on past Luton, near the village of Leagrave, Beds.—I am, &c.,

H. E. SMILY.

P.S.—I presume you received stamps for admission to tournament (which I sent to office on 24th ult.) all right.

H. E. S.

[Yes, thank you.—ED.]

A CALAMITY IN THE ANGLING WORLD.—THE WYCOMBE ASSOCIATION'S TROUT ALL KILLED.

SIR,—I regret to inform you that owing to the bursting of a tank of bleach at Mr. Marchant's paper mill the splendid stock of trout in the association water below has been completely destroyed. It is computed that five or six hundredweight of magnificent fish, some over six pounds in weight, have been killed. Hundreds have been picked up dead, and the fishing prospects, for the next year or two at any rate, are ruined.

A special general meeting of the members, to consider this matter and to decide what is the best course to be adopted, will be held at the White Hart, Wycombe, on Saturday evening next, November 12, at a quarter-past six. It is hoped that the members will make a special effort to be present, as the future of the association will very much depend on the result of this meeting.

Fish having been destroyed on a previous occasion, it will now have to be decided whether any steps shall be taken by the association, or whether their efforts to preserve the stream shall be given up, and the society dissolved.—I am, &c.,

J. THURLOW, hon. sec.

Wycombe, November 8.

P.S.—There is a train leaving Wycombe at 8.55 p.m. This would enable members from London to return after the meeting.

[We need hardly say it was with deep regret we heard of the sudden destruction of this splendid trout fishery. Unless steps can be taken rendering a repetition of this calamity impossible, we should advise the association to look for some safer water.—ED.]

"FISHING GAZETTE" TOURNAMENT AND THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

SIR,—Will you please permit the insertion of this reminder?

I sent tickets for the tournament to every society enrolled upon our books. Only about eight, out of the eighty-five, have returned the unsold tickets or cash for those sold. Surely it is not too much trouble for the secretary to attend to this without further delay. The committee are anxious to close the accounts so that it may be known how much the above institution has gained by the transaction. I must appeal to the good sense and benevolence of the secretaries to see to this at once. The money is for a charitable purpose, and should be sent immediately. "He that gives quickly, gives doubly." P.O.O. payable to

T. HOOLE, Mortlake, S.W.

CLUB REPORTS—Continued.

ACTON AND FALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members still joining. Mr. Howell, 4 lb. 14 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Cook, 4 lb. 4 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Slatter, 5 lb. 3½ oz., and Mr. Dudley, 4 lb. roach; Mr. Eyndman, one jack 4 lb. ¾ oz.; Mr. Head, dace, chub and perch; Mr. Slatter, 5 lb. 1 oz., Mr. Dudley, 3 lb. 11 oz., and Mr. Howell, 4 lb. 1½ oz., roach; Mr. Head, 4 lb. 9 oz. roach, dace and bleak; Mr. Howell again, 3 lb. 5½ oz., Mr. Slatter again, 3 lb. 10½ oz., Mr. Dudley again, 3 lb. 1½ oz., roach and dace. All these fish were, with one exception, taken from the Thames) at or near Twickenham. One member presented a fish which was carefully measured with an ivory rule, and found to be very much undersized, at one end it was short quite 1-16 inch, so of course not passed. The new piano has been performed on more than once by members and friends. A competition between Teddington and Kew Bridge is to come off some day this month.—BLACK BAG.

ANGLERS' PRIDE.

The members of the above club fished for a series of prizes at the Rye House waters on Sunday last, with the following result:—H. Scott, 1st; J. Beeley, jun., 2nd. T. Marshall and W. Ferry both claimed third honours, and will fish for it again on some future occasion. The other members in rotation being H. Mallett, T. Fiddes, H. Haines and J. Sear, having roach, dace and perch from the Stort.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

Nov. 8.

ANCHOR AND HOPE ANGLING SOCIETY.

A match took place at Kingston, on November 6; fourteen members competing. A. Shakel, first prize; D. Davis, second; B. C. Booth, third: A. Glass, fourth; and several other members weighed-in fish.—A. SHAKEL.

Nov. 8.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The members of the above held a competition on Thursday, the 3rd inst. The weather being cold, and a pouring wet day, not a great many showed up. At the finish, Mr. W. Saunders was hailed the winner; Mr. G. Saunders, second; Mr. Noble, third; the other prizes were not taken. Messrs. Tree and Anscombe had a day out: Mr. Tree took 5 lb. of bream and Mr. Anscombe 3 lb. Weather, dull; water, rather thick. Sea hooks are now at work amongst silver whiting. Several good takes since Sunday. One boat hooked 40 score, and other boats between 20 and 30 score.—GROUND BAIT.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

An excellent display of fish was shown at this club on Sunday last. Mr. Ratcliffe showing roach; Mr. Bullen, roach and dace; Mr. Frye, roach and dace; Mr. B. Smith dace, and Mr. W. Smith, who went jack fishing for the first time, was rewarded for his skill and patience with a nice specimen of that fish, we had also a good show of roach on Monday by Mr. G. Ratcliffe.—T. G. WALKER.

Nov 10th, 1880.

CLAPHAM JUNCTION ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. J. Innes and Mr. Hutchins of the above club weighed-in some nice roach and barbel on Sunday last 8 lb. 5½ oz., and W. Maslin added to the stock two pretty fish, captured by himself at Walworth, which caused great excitement in the Club-room; after being weighed, were made a present to the secretary, who had them cooked for breakfast, and much enjoyed them. Members are requested to attend on Thursday next to clear the books, as there is a long list of prizes to be fished for.—E. WILSON, Sec.

Nov. 7, 1881.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in fish on the 6th:—Mr. Mortimer, 3 lb. 9 oz. of roach from the Rye House; Mr. Castell, roach, dace and chub from the Stort; and Mr. J. Chambers, bream and roach from Amberley. Several others were out but did not show up in the evening.—CAS.

DALSTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

A roving competition took place last Sunday. The most successful members were:—Messrs. Bunn, Fortescue, Nunn, Eagles, Midson, Long, W. Richardson, Malby, Slade, Anderson, Kidd, Willday, and Barson. Our next pegged-down match takes place on Sunday next, at Watford, for a series of club prizes. Members to start by 7.30, from Broad Street.—S. MALBY, sec.

Nov. 6.

GOLDEN BARBEL.

On the 6th the following members weighed-in fish:—H. Harrison, chub, roach, perch, and dace, 12 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Gough, roach, 13 lb. 5 oz. Mr. J. Green succeeded in getting among the roach and dace above Windsor (I think all brother members will be pleased to hear that Mr. J. Green, on the 7th, was the recipient of a very substantial recognition for his services from the Society of Old Friends, in the shape of a very handsome gold watch and a purse containing £22 5s. 1d.—success to the Old Friends); Mr. T. Lee, roach; R. Fellows, roach; Lumbey, roach; E. Harrison, roach; E. Hall, dace, the gross weight going about 50 lb. Mr. Allen and Bigsby have volunteered to be the examiners of the piscatorial trophy cases.—PIXIE.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of the above society fished at Bourne End in strong force for a prize, kindly given by Mr. Dillon, fishing tackle manufacturer, of Victoria Road, Kentish Town. The members were not successful, the prize being confined to roach, 1 lb. or over. Many very nice shows of roach were brought home by members of the club. Messrs. W. and C. Messenger, having two fine trays of roach. Mr. Chiel, a fine show of bream from Weybridge.—T. H. HAYWARD, Sec.

Nov. 9, 1881.

HAMMERSMITH UNITED.

On Sunday we had a good show of fish, principally roach, from the Thames, taken by Messrs. Pitts, Penney, and Hitchcock. Mr. T. Hoole on the 7th had some nice roach from Twickenham. Last week Mr. Aldridge succeeded in landing a chub at Egham weighing 4 lb. 13 oz. A match will be fished on Sunday next at Shepperton for a fish supper, and several prizes will be given. The supper will take place on Thursday next, when a testimonial will be presented to our chairman, Mr. H. Jones.—VORTEX.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT.

On Sunday evening our table presented a very pretty appearance, the trays being well filled. The following members contributed to same:—Mr. Grey, roach and dace, 8 lb.; Mr. Wightman, roach and perch, 3 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Harwood, roach, 3 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Atkinson, roach, &c., 2 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Such, perch, &c., 1 lb. 8 oz.; Mr. Hopton, roach, dace, &c., 2 lb. 2 oz.; Mr. Heelas, perch; Mr. Scott, roach and dace; A. Evans, roach; Petrie, roach; Raine, perch and roach; Mr. Humphreys, dace. Mr. Brown, Coffee House Tavern, Charlton Street, N.W., took three jack on Saturday, at Ponder's End.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Nov. 8.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. C. Hewett, roach; Mr. W. High, roach; Mr. C. Newton, jack; Mr. E. Dymond, jack; Mr. Morton, jack; Mr. M. Dymond, jack.—E. DYMOND, sec. pro tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The above society were well represented on Sunday last. Mr. T. Longman weighing-in 12 lb. roach, 5 lb. chub, and also dace; Mr. W. Longman, with a brace of jack and also some perch, both from the Thames; Mr. Neagus had roach from the Lea, Waltham, and was, therefore, the winner of the first prize last Sunday. The members fish a pegged-down match on Sunday next, at the Forty Guinea Water, for a silver-plated tankard, presented by the worthy treasurer. Time of starting—8 o'clock train.—THOS. WM. LUCY, sec.

Nov. 10.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On the 6th inst. Mr. Tutter took 8 lb. of roach, Mr. Guynan 7 lb. Messrs. Chart, B. Hughes, G. Hughes and Holden also had takes of roach and dace. A series of prizes will be fished for at Chertsey on the 13th.—H. MILLARD, sec.

Nov. 8, 1881.

[In future send your report to 12, Fetter Lane.—ED.]

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

The secretary of this society (Mr. F. Dale) had some decent sport at Datchett last week among the dace. Mr. T. Hughes had a few days out of town, the result of which was a nice show of jack was seen in club-room on Thursday and Sunday evening.—PIXIE.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

I have much pleasure in informing you that one of our members and a friend went down to the River Ouse, at Healy in No folk, and had a fine catch of roach and bream, many of the roach scaling over 1 lb; but, unfortunately, they caught no jack, which would not feed at all. The total weight for the two days was 74 lb.—J. EDWARDS.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 4th a member out with E. Brown, of Richmond, for a few hours succeeded in getting a nice show of roach. The same gentleman will give for competition on the 18th December, two gallons of gin, the winner to receive it before Christmas. On the 5th December, Messrs. Brown and Cain started for Weybridge; on the 6th they returned the former with a tench weighing 2 lb. 5 oz. and some roach and perch. Mr. Cain had 2 lb. 5 oz. of roach. Both these gentlemen enjoyed the soothing influences of Father Thames at night time, and a steady downpour of rain from 12 till 7 the next morning. "Oh! a jolly fisher's life 'tis the best of any"; so I say. What do you think, Mr. W. Brown?—PIXIE.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The change in the weather last week was the means of our members having a capital show of fish on Sunday last. Mr. A. Taylor weighed-in roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. Bradley, roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. White, roach and dace from the Thames; Mr. W. Wilcoxson, roach, dace, perch, and a barbel of 3 lb. (taken with a hair line while roach fishing), from Chertsey; Mr. H. Wright, dace and chub from Bailey's water, Ponder End. The two prizes for this month are for the gross weight of dace and the largest perch.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. John Heywood, Manchester.
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Mr. Wm. Reid, Northgate, Darlington.
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N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1881.

FISHING AT LITTLEPORT, ON THE OUSE.

(By R. B. MARSTON.)

WHILE on a visit to some friends in Cambridgeshire a short time back, I was offered an opportunity for a day's fishing at Littleport, which I eagerly embraced. I had taken no tackle with me, and, indeed, had no intention of fishing; but while

chatting over a pipe with my host and his son, I found the latter was an enthusiastic disciple of Walton, though too young to know much about it. "If you are so fond of fishing," said my host, "you should have a talk with our friend Mr. George who lives close at hand; he will tell you all about the fishing hereabouts; he is sure to look in this evening, and I heard him say he was going to have a day very soon—why do not you arrange to go with him?"

He had hardly spoken the words when Mr. G. himself appeared at the window, holding up a bait-box with the lid open for our inspection. "Oh do not let him bring those horrid things in here," cried my host's wife.

It is a wonderful thing how angling breaks down all distance and diffidence between strangers; in a very few minutes Mr. George and I were deep in the mysteries of our craft. Talk of Freemasonry! Why, the spirit of angling will kindle a stronger feeling of fellowship in an hour than Masonry in a year. When we shook hands at parting for the evening, we seemed to have known each other for years, and had arranged to have a day's fishing together on the morrow. I stipulated that our juvenile friend should accompany us, much to his delight.

I had given directions to be called at six next morning, but somehow or other I never find any difficulty in waking early or getting up for a day's fishing, though ordinarily it is the most difficult task of my life. This is a sad confession to make, but certain "curtain lectures" on the subject frequently remind me it is too true. "Oh you terrible fishermen! I believe you would get up to go fishing even if the town were on fire." I console myself with the reflection that Mr. George is doubtless composedly listening to similar remarks as he shaves himself this bright frosty morning. Frosty! As I look out of the window the house roofs and trees and roads glisten with the loveliest rose tints, as the hoar frost reflects the sunlight. Not promising for roach fishing, I think to myself, but at any rate a lovely day to spend in the country, and Mr. George has promised to introduce me to the famous Ouse and the almost equally famous Charlie South, of Littleport. We have a walk of some three miles before us, and, punctual to the minute, Mr. George appears. I have to borrow leggings and a fur cap from my host, a "stove pipe," as our Yankee friends term it, not being quite the thing to go a-fishing in. A glorious walk over ground like iron, through a pleasant country of farm land and orchards bring us to the station. "Change for Ely" at Cambridge, "Change for Littleport" at Ely. Yes, but we have forty-five minutes to wait for the Littleport train, and that will give us just time to look at the Abbey. Bits of English history come to mind as we reverently walk through the noble building—visions of the time before it was, when the land was all water and the water all fish. Ely derives its name from the eels, which have always been a great source of revenue and food to the town, and even now many of its inhabitants get their living by catching and selling eels. The Abbey of Ely was founded twelve centuries ago by the Lady Æthelthryth, the wife of Egfrith, King of Northumbria. In the year 868 Ely Abbey was burned by the Danes and the monks slain or dispersed. But they soon re-built their Abbey, for less than two centuries later, when England was under Danish rule, and good King Canute was sailing on the Ouse and the vast fen waters which surrounded the Abbey, every schoolboy remembers that—

Merrily sung the monks of Ely,
When Canute the king rowed thereby,
"Row, boatmen, row near the land,
And hear we these monks sing."

I trust my readers will pardon this little digression. To me one of the chief charms of fishing in England is the historical interest so often attached to the districts into which the pursuit of our art leads us.

The distance from Ely to Littleport is only five miles. Mr. George was in such a hurry to get ahead of three other anglers. he had noticed, that he left his jersey behind him in the train. I picked it up and hid it until he should miss it, because he had only just previously been telling us what store he set on it. "Come on," he cried, when we got out at Littleport, "come on," or those fellows will get South's best rods, and perhaps all his bait." So away we three went as fast as we could walk, and had soon left our rivals a good distance behind; but they knew our little game, and we soon heard rapid footsteps behind us on the line—for the nearest cut is along the line to South's house—and presently a panting angler, divested of all impediments, passed us at the rate of twelve miles an hour, and booked rods for his party. A few minutes later our rivals and ourselves were laughing over the scramble, both sides explaining their haste to arrive from a desire to wish Mr. South a good morning.

I had often heard of Mr. South, and an article which appeared in the GAZETTE some two years ago by a young customer of his had impressed me both with the fishing and Mr. S.—Mr. George

had been singing his praises all the way along. I am glad to say the reality fully came up to my expectations, for a better angler, or more jovial, jolly and good-natured a specimen of John Bull I do not wish to meet. I was considerably amused by the blunt manner in which he lectured Mr. G. for bringing us to catch fish such a frosty morning. "You don't expect a bite, do you? Why, I had to break the ice to get water for the kettle this morning." Mr. George explained that catching fish was only a secondary consideration, the principal object of our visit being himself. Charlie winked at this, but was good enough to say we might get hold of a few, and that at any rate it would not be his fault if we did not. South is in the employ of the Great Eastern Railway Company, and has charge of a level crossing on the line, within a few yards of the river. I had a very pleasant chat with him, and am glad to say I easily persuaded him to promise to send us a report of the state of the river and the "takes" every week. And anglers may rely on any report Charlie South sends being correct. He will not tell them to come if there is no chance, neither will he give them credit for a fin more than they catch. I happened to mention that friend Bonvoisin had spoken to me of him, and I could not have had a better name to conjure by. "Know Mr. Bonvoisin! Why he and I are almost like old pals—I wish I saw him oftener. I'll put you on his favourite swim. My eyes, what a clever hand he is with the roach rod! I shall never forget the thirty or forty pounds of fine fish, not counting the small fry thrown back, which he got one day, and what a day it was. Rain! I never saw such rain, and there he stuck till he hadn't a dry stick on him, and had to turn it up at last for fear of being washed out, and because his fingers were so wet he could not bait his hook, his paste was all pap."

Mr. S. ran on in this strain all the time he was preparing our tackle. He keeps a dozen rods and lines all ready for use, and provides baits and ground-bait at a moment's notice, though of course it is better to drop him a line beforehand, so that he may be fully prepared. He makes his own rods, and keeps a store of good tackle, and this in itself ought to secure him plenty of customers. We were soon ready, and, after a glass of beer at the neighbouring inn, started for our swims. The Ouse at Littleport is a fine broad river, with any amount of depth and a gentle tidal current. The scenery is not very grand, one hardly expects it to be in the fen country, but it has a certain quiet charm of its own, and then the fishing is first-class.

I think if London anglers who, week after week and year after year, spend their fishing days on the over-fished Thames, Lea, and Colne, would turn their attention to the waters preserved by the Cambridge and Ely Angling Association they would do wisely, and for the benefit of such of them as may care to take my advice, I will here introduce a few practical statistics. Mr. George is a member of the society, and a most energetic and enthusiastic one too; he gave me the address of the hon. secretary, Mr. W. Purchas, 62, Sidney Street, Cambridge, and from him I obtained the following particulars respecting the club, of which, by the way, I hope shortly to become a member. The president of the society is the Rev. Dr. Porter, Master of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, and the management is entrusted to a committee of twenty-four gentlemen.

The object of the society is the "Preservation of the Fisheries of the Rivers Cam and Ouse and their tributary streams and adjacent waters." The annual subscription of members of the society is not less than half-a-crown. All unfair fishing, including, I am glad to see, trailing, is prohibited. Any member may obtain two free day tickets for friends "not resident in the county of Cambridge."

The following is a list of the waters now in the hands of the society and open to its members, making in all about "thirty miles of preserved waters in the Cam, Great Ouse, Little Ouse, and Lark." Some of this water is suited to trout; the Lark, I expect, as I see Mr. Fred. Jennings and Mr. W. B. Caldwell presented several thousand trout fry to the society, and they were introduced this year. May they prosper! :—

The following are the present hirings by the Society :—

The Cambridge Corporation Fisheries, from Sheep's Green to Barnwell Pool, about 1½ miles, rent 42s.

A fishery, extending from Barnwell Pool to Ditton Dock, about one mile, rent 50s.

Several fisheries, from Ditton Dock to the Jolly Anglers, eleven miles, from Mr. J. Morley, £20. This amount includes Mr. Morley's services as watcher.

About 1½ miles, from the Jolly Anglers down to the first jump below Denson's, at Upware, hired of Mr. Denson.

The fishery extending from the Horse Jump down to Dimmock's Cote, Wicken Fen, hired of Mr. Isaac Aspland, farmer, about one mile.

The fishing from the Cote to Pope's Corner, at a peppercorn rent, two miles.

A right of fishing in that part of the river fronting Thetford Common, belonging to St. John's College, hired of Mr. J. Lester, half-mile, 20s.

Between Pope's Corner and the Newmarket Railway Bridge comes a piece of free water.

A right of fishing between Dimmock's Cote and Ely Bridge, hired of Mr. H. Dench, about three miles, £8. The Ely Local Board of Health own the water opposite the bathing sheds. There is some free water just below Ely.

The fisheries of the South Level Commissioners, extending from the Old Fantail Mill down to a point just above Littleport Bridge, including about a mile of fishing in the river Lark, 5½ miles, £5. Also several ditches on the moor at Littleport, hired of Mr. Little and Mr. Barrett.

Swavesey fishery, from a point known as the Poplars, Holywell, down to a point called the Lode, in the parish of Swavesey, about two miles, £4.

The watchers employed to look after the above preserves are Mr. J. Morley, Ditton; and Mr. Denson, Upware; Mr. Cross, Ely; Mr. Gooby, Littleport; and Mr. T. Metcalf, Swavesey.

The Great Eastern Railway Company have, during the past year, kindly extended their favour, by issuing to members of the Society residing at Lynn and Wisbech, return tickets at single fares to Littleport and Swavesey. Return tickets at single fares are issued at present in addition to the above as follows :—Between Cambridge, Waterbeach, Ely, Littleport, and Swavesey, and from Newmarket to Ely, Littleport and Swavesey.

There have been one or two prosecutions for illegal fishing during the close season, and netting is being greatly suppressed.

The annual dinner took place at the Lion Hotel last October, and was presided over by Rev. J. Porter, president of the Society.

A meeting, followed by a supper, was held at Ely on the last night of the close season, and was a most successful gathering.

The number of members has increased upwards of 100 during the past year. The following figures show the distribution of the membership :—Cambridge, 403; Ely, 43; Lynn, 40; Newmarket, 35; Littleport, 17; total, 538.

BAITS, ONE SHILLING PER SCORE, may be obtained by Members at the following places :—Anchor, Silver Street; Banham's, Jesus Sluice; Morley's, Ditton and Bottisham Lock; Denson's, Upware; Bryant's, Ely; Appleyards, Ely; Black Horse, Littleport; J. Gooby, Littleport. Members are earnestly requested to return all undersized fish to the water.

Ely is only about two hours' journey from London, and if the rest of the thirty miles of fishing is as good as what I saw of it at Mr. South's place, I am perfectly certain it would simply astonish many of our London anglers. Then look at the entrance fee—fancy, only 2s. 6d. a year. Why, we pay as much as this a day for fishing a few hundred yards of vastly inferior water near London.

But to return to our actual experience. In the first place, the frost was against us; secondly, we had a bright sun on a bright water. Notwithstanding this, and although our young friend was a perfect novice, we caught over 8 lb. of fine roach, and with hooks on gut which any roach within twenty miles of London would simply laugh at. I confess I wished I had had some crystals with me, on fine drawn gut. Mr. South acknowledged the tackle might have been finer, but, as he very pointedly put it, when he sometimes loses as many as a dozen or twenty hooks per day, it did not pay to find finer. His rods, lines and floats are very good, but, of course, I would recommend anglers to take their own if possible, at any rate, a few hooks on fine gut. We fished from the bank, in about six feet of water. No boat is necessary or obtainable as far as I know. We used bread paste, and I heartily wished I had had some of Mr. King's paste with me. It makes such a beautifully white, tenacious bait, and is a real boon to the roach-fisher. I got six good roach with it in the Colne the other evening in about twenty minutes, and when it was almost too dark to see a bite. It must be mixed with about an equal part of stale bread paste, otherwise it is too sticky to use. My wife always uses it, partly because it sticks on the hook so well and certainly she has had some rattling good fish, both dace and roach, when using it. She says she knows what it is made of, but it would be hardly fair to Mr. King to let the cat out of the bag by taking advantage of a lady angler's knowledge of cookery matters. Suffice it to say it is a very nice article of food, and that fastidious anglers of either sex will find it as clean and dainty a bait as they can use. I saw several good jack moving on the shallows opposite the swim we were fishing, and wished I had proper jack tackle with me, our reel lines were all too short to throw across with. I am certain an American spoon on a gut trace would "fetch" them. There is plenty of fish of all kinds, and now that netting is being stopped, there will soon be more. Mr. South told me perch were rather scarce. I saw an angler near us fishing with Nottingham float tackle and worm get two small ones; he must have been fishing in ten or twelve feet of water, and threw out well into the stream. Besides the perch, he had a few very fine roach, and two jack under 2 lb. each, all taken with marsh worm. When I suggested he might use paste with advantage, he merely replied, "Big 'uns or nothing. I never use any bait but worm." He was evidently an old hand, and said the fish were "dead off the feed." I find I am rambling on much farther than I intended, so I will close this account of my first visit to Littleport, with thanks to Mr. George and Mr. South for a very jolly day, and with some hopes that what I have said will induce our London anglers to support the Cambridge and Ely Angling Association. I feel certain any respectable angler, rich or poor, will be welcomed by the society, which, with thirty miles of water at their disposal, will have no need to limit the number of the members for a long time to come. When there are a thousand members, and they all fish at the same time, they will still have each some fifty yards of water!

By the way, I nearly forgot to mention that decent accommodation can be had at the inn, close to South's place; and also in Littleport itself, at one or two places. By "decent accommodation" I do not mean all the luxuries of a big hotel, including a big bill, but all an angler wants.

EXAMINATION OF PUNTS AND FISHING IN THE THAMES TIDEWAY.

VERY glad to see you, gentlemen, engaged in so good a work as the examination of punts in the tideway, was the feeling which addressed itself to those who were busily occupied in the work on the afternoon of Thursday and Saturday of last week, and the reception so given to putting a check on the retention of undersized fish was of the most encouraging character. Commencing under the lock at Teddington, where James Kemp and a venerable piscator were raking for dace and getting some remarkable good specimens of the species—passing through the glorious deep at Twickenham, where John Bushnell and others were making some splendid shows of roach—continuing the course behind the Eel-pie Island, where, amongst other boats, two of Mr. Perrin's punts were nobly occupied in competition against each other, principally with the roach—then the enquiry from one as to the prospects of the other—the reply that at present "they were not in it at all," this answer producing vigorous action on the attendant fisherman by the introduction of a further supply of ground bait, the parting application, "Tell Mr. Perrin his punts are doing well, and the sizes of the fish quite satisfactory." Progressing then through one of the best of swims near Petersham Ait, where Job Brain with his client were picking out some fine roach, and, turning round the corner, finding Kit Brown with a customer, getting a few good roach, and terminating the visit below Richmond railway bridge, where three members of the Richmond Piscatorial Society were trying which could do the best, and then, in another boat just below, with anglers was Mausell, who has been laid up for some time, but now so far recovered as to resume his business amongst the fish. This is simply chalking out the course which was pursued through the number of punts on Saturday last, but the general result and kind recognition of the inspectors would require a more lengthened expression of words to give even an adequate idea of what passed at the various boats. The value of angling clubs in the encouragement of fair fishing and the capture of proper sized fish by their members was apparent. In addition to the Richmond Piscatorial Society, there were representatives of the new society at Acton, called the Acton and Ealing, the West Ham Brothers, and other clubs. The ready exclamation of these anglers that their societies would not allow them to bring into the club-room any fish of only a quarter-of-an-inch under the recognized standard was a great proof that the Central Associations to which they are affiliated was doing a noble work. It was also evident the fisherman attendants were equally pleased with the anglers to have their wells examined, and as the Inspector's boat was coming alongside, they got the well all ready for the dip of the net. How frequently those engaged in the examination of the punts had to exclaim as the net came out of the wells laden with good-size and numbers of well-conditioned fish, "What a splendid lot of fish!" How contradictory to the statements of some, that there is not a sizeable fish to be caught at Twickenham—here were roach up to a pound each, and dace measuring eight inches in length—not here and there one—but in takes that could be estimated by dozens. Very few indeed had to be rejected as too small, certainly not more than half-a-dozen were returned to old Father Thames again. Surely proof like this must set at naught those idle rumours as to the paucity of fish, and evidence the statements, in regard to size, as directly untrue. The contrast in the examination of punts now to what it was fifteen years ago when the work was first commenced is strikingly different. It was then regarded as an iniquitous proceeding, and very oppressive to the anglers. Attempts were made to commit breaches of the peace, and persons on the banks were invited to attack the examiners. The fishermen passed opprobrious epithets, and evinced no willingness to submit to the inspection; but there was great proof evidenced of how the slaughter of the innocents was going on when the first and early conviction was for taking and destroying about seven dozen roach, not more than four inches in length, and this was followed by others equally bad. These convictions broke the neck of the opposition, and gradually, as the work was conducted in the most courteous manner, both anglers and fishermen felt the necessity of the law being vindicated, and the practice of retaining small fish given up. There is now no insulting cries of "Brougham's babies" being sneeringly directed in visits down the river. The present president of the Thames Angling Preservation Society has, during the last few years, in the most striking manner, energetically revived the movement of examining punts, and by in-

culcating amongst fishermen and anglers the value of true sport, the inspections have become "a work of faith, and a labour of love," if a labour it can be called. The visits of last week certainly evidenced the satisfactory character of fishing in the tide way—the general civility of the fishermen, and the hearty welcome of the anglers from whom it was difficult to refuse a lubrication. Not a complaint against anything was raised, but a desire to unite in the work, and as it is intended to make these visits more frequent, the great result to be accomplished by them will be a direct negative to unfounded reports, and the strengthening of a better feeling amongst all connected with the river. It has been well said, "He is the free man whom the truth makes free, and all are slaves beside," and Burke has strikingly portrayed the necessity of union in these words, "When bad men combine, good men must unite or else they will fall one by one unpitied sacrifices in a contemptible struggle." I have given these quotations from memory if they are not strictly correct, I have no doubt some of my critical friends will tell me.

B.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING ON THE DOVE.

By R. B. MARSTON.

(Continued from page 515.)

IN my last I left the angler just below the second dam in the grounds of Ilam Hall, trying to get a secure foothold on the slippery stones of the Manifold. At the foot of this dam there are some beautiful streams; every foot of water should be carefully searched with the flies, and particularly the quieter, dark-looking water between the rougher currents. On these quiet places the white foam floats in patches, and solid-looking lumps, but they are all on the surface, and your fly will go through them, and sink an inch or two in the most deadly fashion. Many a splendid trout have I caught amongst these froth-beds away down in Devonshire, in the northern border streams, and indeed in every rapid trout stream, the kind of stream I love best of all. I daresay many of my readers have noticed that it is more difficult to catch a trout in these quiet places where he sails about at his ease, than in the stream where he must keep behind some big stone and dart up into the current for his prey rapidly going past him. I have frequently noticed this. In the quiet water he either comes up slowly and critically, and probably refuses, or he comes like lightning, and often fairly beats your quickest strike. My experience is that in all still water it is more difficult to strike quickly enough than in a stream, at any rate, more difficult to hook fish. I got one or two fish out of these quiet bits below the dam, but not a rise in the stream until I got my end fly within an inch of the wall on the other side of the river. The stream runs strongly under this wall, and I got two good rises within an inch or two of it; but missed both. Passing under the pretty ivy clad bridge just below the dam, I find a succession of beautiful streams; every likely spot is carefully fished, but not a rise is got, the fish are not moving here, and I am beginning to get tired of slip, slip, slip, and no result. At last in the last stream of all, which runs into the long stretch of dead water above the second bridge from Ilam Hall, by letting my line work down some thirty yards I got a good rise, and struck my fish, it proved to be a fine grayling. I could kill him I knew if I waded down to the quiet water he was in, but if I did so I should lose all chance of getting other fish out of this stream, and Mr. Waterfall had assured me it was one of the best on the Manifold, so I determined to risk pulling him up stream, getting him first out of the main current. He was fighting splendidly; in fact, when you get a big grayling at the end of a long line, with the current on him, he pulls more powerfully than a trout. I got him safely up full twenty yards from where I hooked him. He then rolled over and over into the full strength of the current, and although I slacked line instantly, the weight was too much, and the hold on his tender mouth gave way. I had still the consolation of knowing I had not disturbed the water to any great extent, but I got no more rises, and so walked on, past the dead water, to the bridge at the village. Just below this bridge, and in front of Mr. Waterfall's house, there is a splendid piece of water. A wide, rapid, shallow stream goes into a deep hole, forming splendid eddies on either side. The best way to fish it is to wade down the middle, as a bed of stones and gravel runs out into the pool, leaving deep water on either side. I placed my honey-dun bumble on the opposite bank, just under a branch, then drew it gently off, and the stream carried the cast under the boughs over a lovely eddy, which I could not have reached by a direct throw. I felt sure there was a fish here, and sure enough the all-welcome flash appeared—no rise, for the flies had sunk a little—and the next instant a good trout of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. was splashing on the surface, shaking his head like a terrier with a rat. I slackened line, so that he might sink, for this manoeuvre

of splashing on the surface put the chances too much in favour of the fish. After a good fight he gave in. The fishing for the next hundred yards or so is somewhat difficult, as it is overhung with branches, but there is room for the side cast, which I tried all the way down without a rise. At the end of the holly hedge, and where the river leaves the road, the fishing is open, and just at this point heavy grayling always lie, there being some beds of fine sand just here. I got a small trout here, but the grayling were not moving. In fact, I was somewhat unfortunate in the time I had selected for my fishing. The trout-fishing was nearly over, and the grayling had not fairly commenced. I wish I had made it a fortnight later. "There is a fish jumping over there," said a voice behind me, and on turning round I saw my wife, who had come to bring my macintosh. I looked in the direction indicated, and was just in time to see the expiring rings of a rise. He was in about six inches of water, right under the opposite steep bank, for the banks on both sides now get steep all the way down to the Dove junction. Wading out as far as I dared, I threw my fly a foot above Master Trout, and he rose splendidly. I had twenty yards of line out, if an inch, and I had to strike pretty heavily over my left shoulder. "Do not let him go," said my wife, watching the fun with the greatest interest; "what a beauty!" I had got him within a yard of the net when the line came away. "Oh, what a pity! Never mind, if you throw quickly, perhaps you may get him again." I explain that I may get him again to-morrow, but that for the present he is too sad and wise a trout to look at any fly. If the foothold had not been so horrible I should have killed this fish, but when I ought to have been attending to him I was absorbed in gymnastic motions to keep on my feet. "Do come out. You will fall over for certain!" my wife says; and, to tell the truth, I am not sorry to get a rest and something to eat. After lunch I decided to walk down and fish only for rising fish, if there were any. There are some lovely streams and pools in this last bit of the Manifold, and in a breeze I am certain they would yield good sport. Half-way down the last pool but one, I saw several grayling rising. This revived my energies, and it was not long before I had my line over them. The bed of the river is here very level, and covered with small stones, fairly easy to walk over in spite of their slipperiness. I got a brace in about ten minutes, both with the grey palmer—a fly I had from Mr. Foster, of Ashbourne, and which I found a first-rate killer. It is wonderful how near you can get, when wading, to rising grayling. Two or three little fellows rose persistently so close to me that I could have knocked them with my rod point. As I could get no big fish to move, I got out, and went down to where the Dove comes in, to fish in earnest in the "up-stream" style.

What a pleasure it was to get into the clear, cold Dove, with its firm foothold, after the treacherous Manifold! Turning your back on the main river, you enter the little stream under a natural bower of entwined trees, and the pretty pool and stream before you are the first of a series of some thirty or forty like them, which form the lower course of the stream, and, in my opinion, afford the best fishing until you get to the wooded water half-way up the dale. I must reserve my experiences on the Dove for another occasion.

(To be Continued.)

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BONVOISIN.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

8th November, 1881.

Chairman, P. Geen, Esq., Hill View, Addlestone, Surrey, Hon. President of the Association. Treasurer, F. C. Clench, Esq., Woodbine Cottage, Mortlake, S.W., Chairman R.P.S. Committee: Messrs. Murphy, Field, Vincent, Ghurney, Welch, West, Star, Castell, Noble, Becket, Marshall, Adeane.

At the annual meeting, in April last, it was decided that an appeal should be made to the London anglers for funds wherewith to present a fitting testimonial to Mr. Bonvoisin, chairman of the association.

For many years Mr. Bonvoisin has laboured unceasingly, and without reward, in our service, ever watchful of the interests of all anglers, never sparing himself, his time, or money, when either was necessary for the fulfilment of his duties.

Every angler will now have an opportunity of assisting to show that we are not unmindful of such services, and at the same time assist to testify to our great respect and esteem for one who has laboured so zealously on our behalf.

The following gentlemen have kindly promised their assistance Captain Alfred and T. Spreckley, W. H. Brougham, R. B. Marston, H. B. Eyre, A. Jardine, F. H. Leman, A. Nuthall, J.

Pattison, C. P. Wheatstone, W. J. Wetenhall, T. Abbott, H. Dickerson and A. Pitts, Esqrs.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly—T. HOOLE, Hon. Sec., Mortlake, S.W.

[We have elsewhere in our present issue referred to this testimonial, which we trust every angler who knows how Mr. Bonvoisin has worked for the interests of angling will heartily support.—ED.]

THE EEL NETS ON THE NORFOLK RIVERS.

EEL SETS ON NAVIGABLE WATERS.

ON Monday evening a meeting was held of the joint committees of the Yare and Bure Preservation Societies, who had been summoned at the instance of E. Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., to consider whether any, and if so, what steps should be taken with reference to the use of eel sets in the Bure and other tributary rivers. The chair was taken by Mr. E. Birkbeck, M.P., and there was a large attendance, including the Deputy-Mayor of Norwich (S. Grimmer, Esq.), Mr. E. Field, Mr. R. E. Burroughes, Mr. I. O. H. Taylor, Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin, Mr. H. W. Stafford, Mr. C. Davis, Mr. B. W. Jolly, Mr. Harmer, Mr. T. Southwell, Mr. J. W. Skipper, Mr. F. Sutton, Mr. F. C. Steward, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. J. Stanley, jun., Mr. Baldry, Mr. C. Daniels, Mr. W. Moll, Mr. A. Palmer, Mr. C. T. Green, Mr. A. Barnard and others.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Baldry, seconded by Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin:

"That a sub-committee be appointed, consisting of Mr. R. E. Burroughes, Mr. E. Field, Mr. I. O. H. Taylor, Mr. Davis, Mr. O. Chambers, Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin, Mr. E. Birkbeck, M. P., and the Secretaries of the Yare, Bure, Ant, and Waveney Preservation Societies, to communicate with the gentlemen claiming the right of placing eel sets in the several rivers and their tributaries within the area of the Norfolk and Suffolk conservancy district, to point out the injury done by the eel sets, and without admitting the right of such owners, to invite them to allow the passage of fish up stream on occasion of salt tides, and to report as to the number of eel sets, and the result of the communication."

On the motion of Mr. Chamberlin, seconded by the Deputy-Mayor, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his public spirit in calling this meeting, and for his readiness at all times to do good to his fellow-men.

Mr. Birkbeck briefly acknowledged the vote, and this concluded the proceedings.

[We await with considerable interest the report of the sub-committee, for the speakers at the above meeting were divided in opinion, one side affirming that the eel sets only caught eels, and the other that they caught large quantities of all kinds of fish. Mr. Christopher Davies laughed at the idea of these eel nets damaging the fishing, except occasionally, when they stopped the retreat of the fish before the "salts." We know one fact, and that is, that the eel is the greatest destroyer of other fish that exists, is ten times worse than even the pike, for it eats eggs and fry in millions. If a few other fish are now and then caught in the eel nets, they are as nothing compared to the fish life that would be killed by the insatiable eels, which would go free if the eel netting were interfered with.—ED.]

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE West Central Association No. 1 District visit was paid to the North-Western Angling Club, on Monday evening, 14th inst. Mr. Harding occupied the chair, Mr. Packman proving an efficient vis-à-vis; thirteen clubs were very numerous represented, the spacious room being crowded. Mr. Ernest Symonds officiated at the piano, and some capital singing, toasts, &c., made time pass most pleasantly. Among the gentlemen who distinguished themselves by their vocal powers were—Messrs. J. H. Stead (the "Cure"), Waltham, and Letch. A feature of the evening was the bringing up by Mr. Kelsey from the tidal portion of the Thames of within a few ounces of 19 lb. of splendid roach and dace. Not bad for a beginner. The next visit in this district goes to the Phoenix Angling Club, due notice of which will be given.

Apocryphal of fish, the jack are beginning to move again at the Welsh Harp, and a number of good fish were taken last Sunday. Among others, a nice one of 15 lb. Mr. Plumptre, sen., tells me they, however, were feeding very gingerly, and in the majority of cases made for the small baits, instead of for the full-sized dace which are generally most killing here.

The quiet, civil-spoken angler, however humble his station, will generally be readily granted many little privileges from gentlemen, lords of manors, millers, and others, if such are properly asked for, and that the great bulk of our London club men, are quiet and respectable, and law-abiding men, I am able from my long acquaintance

with them to positively state, but that there are some blackguards who have from time to time crept in to our ranks, is also an undoubted fact, as may be judged from the following, which forms part of a letter received this day from an intimate friend, and resident in the neighbourhood referred to :—

"I have had news from Rickmansworth. There is a piece of free water there, near Moir Park, on the Watford Road, part of which can be, or has been, fished from a piece of land owned or rented by Mr. King, of Hampton Hall. This gentleman has up to now kindly let anglers go on his property, but lately they have abused this privilege in a very shameful manner; for instance, last Sunday they, to light a fire, took anything that came to hand, destroying hedges, &c., finally kindling it upon the roots of a valuable tree, when requested by Mr. King to put it out, they threatened to punch his — head, and to pitch him into the — river. So now, he says, no one shall fish from his place again; he is heartily sick of this sort of thing, and I know for certain he has ordered bills notifying the same to be printed. I hope you will not deem this a trifling thing to bother you with, but I feel convinced this sort of behaviour is doing a good deal of harm, and shutting out respectable anglers, and setting decent people, who might prove good friends, against us. I can assure you every word of the above is true, and if publicity could be given to it, it might be the means of warning others to just keep a civil tongue in their heads."

I wish I had a little good news about the fishing. I was all up the Canal yesterday—no go—I did not see a single fish taken. A few small jack taken in the Colne at the back of the High Street, all undersized, but the natives, as you know, buy everything, if only two or three inches long."

The Trafalgar Angling Society has removed to its old quarters, at the George and Dragon, Greek Street, Soho, where the members will always be pleased to welcome any brother piscator who will give them a look up.

Haslett, of Chertsey, writes to-day (Wednesday): "The water is better for fishing, and if we do not get much rubbish and water from above, I think we shall get some fish, as the river is now down to summer level; but there is no understanding it, one day it is low, next day it rises, and down comes the rubbish. I think they must be continually drawing up the weir tackle above. I got a few roach last week, and in three days 1 bream and 31 roach, up to 1½ lb.

On Sunday last the members of the Hammersmith United Angling Society fished a match at Wraysbury, the losing side to pay for a supper, which comes off on Thursday, 17th.

A prominent member of this society has expressed his determination of ascertaining the identity of "A Thames Fisherman," and exacting satisfaction (of a fraternal kind, of course) from him for having caused the haven of his rest and the hope of his heart, "Haynes' Boughs," to be literally besieged by anglers on that day, all of whom had evidently read "A Thames Fisherman's" graphic description thereof.

The swans on the Thames are justly abhorred by all true anglers, but how about the cygnets? Perhaps the chairman of the Richmond Piscatorials will state his opinion thereon—from an epicurean point of view—as I hear he lately dined off a cygnet. An expression of opinion on this point would be of considerable value, coming from such an excellent gastronomic authority as Mr. F. C. Clench. N.B.—There is no truth in the report that Mr. F. C. C. has been inundated with inquiries from anxious friends as to "how on earth he got it down, and whether it hurt him much?"

A correspondent writes me the following:—"I met on Saturday, returning from a fishing trip, a member of the — society, who related to me [a conversation he had that morning had with a bird-catcher, who was going to Staines to catch startlings, which he sells at 4s. a dozen for shooting matches, and who said: 'When I can't ketch no starlins, why, then, if it's all quiet, I has a little bit of fish.' 'What do you mean,' asked the member of the London Society. 'Why,' says the snapper, 'I puts my nets into the water, and very soon gets out a pail of live roach.' "This," my correspondent adds: "must, I suppose, be in in the small side streams, but, if it's true, might not the T. A. P. S. just as well get the fish, and put them back into the river?"

I am not going to say that to do what the bird-catcher boasts of is impossible, or that he had not attempted something of the kind, but I do know that bird nets are very different in their shape, and the material with which they are manufactured, than fish nets. They are made of by no means coarse whitey-brown thread, have no weights, corks, or anything else requisite for fish-netting, and are in no way suited for rough work.

Still, there would be no harm in the river-keepers keeping an eye on the bird-catching gentry, when they happen to be lying anywhere in too tempting proximity to the river.

Messrs. Hobden and Geen are off to Eynsham on this Friday morning. With two such redoubtable "braves" on the war path, what a slaughter of "finnyuns" there will be to record next week? At least, let's hope so. Query, has P. G. taken with him any of those moss-scoured lobs he speaks off almost lovingly?

PRIVATE FISHERIES IN THE THAMES.

AT the Maidenhead County Police Court, on Tuesday, a water-bailiff of the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray Thames Angling Association was summoned for having unlawfully attempted to take fish in a part of the river Thames in which Sir Roger William Henry Palmer has a private right of fishery. Mr. R. A. Ward appeared for Sir Roger Palmer, and Mr. F. A. Jones (solicitor to the Angling Association) for the defendant. Mr. R. A. Ward quoted the 29th Victoria, and

said that Sir Roger Palmer had a private right of fishery from the Guards' Club to the Cliveden Estate, which he purchased from Sir Robert Harvey. He added that Sir Roger did not ask for a vindictive penalty; he only wished it to be known that he had the right of fishery within the limits mentioned. Sir Roger Palmer was then called and said: I am the owner of the private right of fishery from the Guards' Club up to the Cliveden Estate—over the whole breadth of the river. On October 12 I saw Gill with a net near my residence, and asked him if he thought he had a right to fish without the permission of the owner. He said he thought he had, as a water-bailiff. I said he had not, and he then asked me if I would give him permission; but I declined to do so, and he left. In reply to Mr. Jones, Sir Roger said he had not with him the title-deeds in which his right of fishery was defined, but that his solicitor had promised to send them to him. Mr. Jones said this private right which Sir Roger Palmer claimed had never been heard of till now, and it seemed that Sir Roger claimed a right over the whole breadth of the river. There has always been fishing in this part of the river, and no objection had hitherto been raised to it. There was no notice board, and there had been no caution as to trespass. Under these circumstances it was only reasonable that Sir Roger should be asked to produce the deeds on which his alleged right was founded. Mr. Ward said that if his friend pressed for the production of the title-deeds—if he was not satisfied with Sir Roger Palmer's testimony, he must ask, on Sir Roger's behalf, for an adjournment of the case. The case was accordingly adjourned for a fortnight.—*Land and Water.*

THE POLICE AND THE EDEN CONSERVANCY BOARD.

THE following is reprinted from the *Westmorland Gazette* of November 12th, 1881:—

We have been requested to publish the following letter addressed by Mr. Chief Constable Dunne to Captain Gandy:—

[COPY.]

Chief Constable's Office, Carlisle, 9th Nov., 1881.

SIR,—In reply to your note of the 3rd inst., I have to state that your letter which I received and replied to on the 17th ult., was taken to Kendal as requested in your letter of the 18th October. It, however, seems to have been mislaid somewhere. I have written to the Clerk of the Peace asking him to send it on to you if he has it among the papers which I gave him at the Sessions.

As there seems to be so much misunderstanding regarding the law giving Conservancy Boards power to have their bailiffs appointed additional constables, I think it desirable to again draw your attention to 28 and 29 Vic., cap. 121, sec. 27, which distinctly says "that nothing herein contained shall prevent Boards of Conservators from obtaining the services of additional constables under 3 and 4 Vic., cap. 88, sec. 19, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act. Such constables to be paid by the said Board." The lawyers are of opinion that this is quite conclusive as to the legality of a Board having their men so appointed and paid for. The system has been adopted in other counties, and it has worked beneficially in the public interest in the carrying out of all measures that are necessary for the protection of life and property, and the better prevention and detection of crime. No objections have been raised in any other county, or trouble, or difficulty interposed. On the contrary, I hear that the appointment of additional constables for this or other purposes is regarded with great satisfaction by the Quarter Sessions of the counties in England and Wales, especially as the public get the benefit of their services without having to contribute any portion of their cost.

It is quite true that at Appleby and Kirkby Stephen the officers of police were allowed upon the application of the Board, and some magistrates, to issue the licences under the Freshwater Act. That was done entirely for the public convenience. The police received no pay for it. But the Eden Board having now two officers of their own in the district they can issue the tickets and do what is necessary without putting the persons who may require licences to the trouble and expense of having to write for them to Carlisle. Surely there could be nothing illegal or improper in giving the Board that assistance?

What is it that underlies all the objections that you have raised to the carrying out of the fishery laws within the Conservancy district? If you can show that any one has a well founded grievance to complain of would it not be better to at once lay your complaint before the Home Office, or the Conservancy Board, who would I feel assured do everything that is necessary to have the same fully investigated and justice done to all concerned? I have been asked what is the meaning of your statement in the *Westmorland Gazette* of last Saturday as to certain "persons who object to police supervision under the garb of additional constables." Well I would rather leave that to the discomfitment of others. All I can say is that I hope and trust those objections, whatever they may be, with all the other allegations which have been made, will be in due form submitted to the proper authorities for a thorough and searching investigation without the slightest bias or prejudice on the one side or the other.

In the interest of the police and their efficiency and good repute, I must ask you to have the goodness to consider this as public as your letter of Saturday last.—I am, sir, your most humble servant,

(Signed) J. DUNNE.

To Captain Gandy, Skirsgill Park, Penrith.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[Advtr.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"That which we have we prize not to the worth
While we enjoy it; but, being lack'd and lost,
Why, then we rack the value; then we find
The virtue that possession would not show us."

SHAKESPEARE.

The river is in prime order for all-round angling, and my advice to hesitating anglers is that they will be lost unless they take advantage of the present good health of Father Thames, for a few days only may turn the tide of fine weather and water and launch us into mid-winter, with all its nipping propensities of frost and whisky, instead of the present delightful piscatorial surroundings, piscatorial and foliaginous, of Mid-Thames. Roach are now well on, the water being just the nutty-brown tint so beguiling to the endorser and acceptor of the bill of fare. Perch are doing like their brother finny-uns, and chub are requiring a lot of nerve and nerve matter to entice them to destruction. Barbel have departed to the piscatorial happy hunting grounds, but jack are decidedly on the rampage. My reports from various mid and upper Thames stations all contain decent reports of catches of roach and chub too numerous to detail, and also sanguine anticipations of good sport to come, in consequence of the mildness of the weather and the excellence of the water—two desirablenesses which are sure to bring down patrons to the too often, at this season of the year, washed-out or frozen-out Thames fishermen. At Pangbourne and Stratley grand bags of roach and chub have been had by Messrs. Johnson, Poynton, and Jones; at Henley, Mr. Nicholson, a brace of good jack; Mr. Witham, one day, 3 jack, the best going 8 lb.; Mr. F. Hoblyn, in the Wargrave waters, 3 jack, largest scaling 9 lb.; Potter, the fisherman, alone, some good jack near Regatta Island, but I refrain from giving weights for fear of advertising a good horse who bolts from the right course; Mr. Phillips, 16 lb. of roach on one occasion near Henley; Mr. Fritz, 22 lb. of roach in the Henley district; Mr. Elcomb 37 lb. of chub in five hours with pith and brain as bait; and Mr. J. Smith, 30 lb. of chub with the same nerve attraction; at Hurley, Messrs. Harrison and Lumley, on Sunday, some 11 lb. and 5 lb. of roach respectively; Mr. Phillips, 6 lb. of roach and a jack of 5 lb., fishing with Hatch, of Marlow.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River in splendid all-round trim, roach and chub being best on, the weather being too mild for perch or jack.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for jack and perch fishing. Roach have been off. Prospects at present looks well for this week. We had a good lot of rain here on Wednesday night, but do not think it will hurt the water, as it was getting low. Two days, 8 jack, largest jack 6 lb., and some roach. Monday, four dozen of gudgeon. I have been fishing for over twelve years; I never knew gudgeons bite in November as they did on Monday last. I had one pitch for them, and had a bite every swim.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

River in good order for reasonable fishing. Different gentlemen fishing with me during the week; their takes have been as follows: First day, Mr. Innis fishing with me, caught 6 barbel and 4 roach. Second day, Mr. Palmer, 7 barbel, 2 chub, and 4 roach. Third day, Mr. Field, 5 barbel, 2 returned to the river, a few roach and dace, and 1 eel. Fourth day, Mr. Wilson, 8 barbel and a few roach. All the above fish were taken ledgering.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is in good form for all sorts of fishing. I have only been out once and got a few chub, one day 3 barbel and 1 chub, best barbel 4 lb.; next day a dozen nice roach. I have heard of a few stray fish taken by private boats, best 4 lb. I should think perch ought to feed if any one would come to try.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Monkey Island).

Water in good condition for all-round fishing. The jack have been running well this last week. I believe a fortnight ago I mentioned having seen a great many jack moving near Monkey Island. Ned Andrews has been fortunate enough to get among them with a gentleman, he having two fish, in splendid condition, weighing one 17 lb. and the other between 14 lb. and 15 lb., and three other good fish, making a total of 48 lb. in one day. He had several other very good takes of six fish in one day and five another day. My son, out with a gentleman, one jack, 3½ lb., and, unfortunately, lost two very good fish. The same day he had a nice show of roach. There has been several other jack taken in the neighbourhood.—ROBERT PLUMMER.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is in capital order for roach fishing, but the fish are not feeding at all freely; they feed very well from Wednesday till Sunday last, but since then they have not fed so well. But by the time this is in print they may be on again. All the punts have been out most days, and the takes are as follows:—G. Howard, five days, best day 12 lb. of roach, 1 barbel 2½ lb.; H. Howard, six days, best day 16 lb. of roach; H. Mansel, four days, best day 13 lb. of roach; C. Brown, four days; Job Brain, six days, best day 17 lb. of roach; J. Bushnell on Wednesday last, out with Mr. Duck and friend, 20 lb. of roach; on Thursday, with Mr. Lowe, 28 lb. of roach to his own rod; Friday, with Messrs. Howell and Cook, 17 lb. roach; Saturday, with Mr. Pipe and friend, 30½ lb. roach; Sunday, with Mr. Hinton, 16 lb. of roach and dace.

Since then I have been fishing private waters with the last-named gentleman, and am engaged for a week. H. Wheeler has also been out four days.—JOHN BUSHNELL, fisherman.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, N.W., and weather like a spring day, the biting wind in the middle of the week did not improve our takes. On Wednesday my men had quite a difficulty to get fixed, and one punt had its head pole broken in two with the force of the wind. I have only had ten punts out this week, and our principal fish have been roach. Mr. Johnson, of the R.P.S., has been getting some nice fish in the deeps, amongst them a very nice perch weighing 1½ lb., which has been sent to Kensington to be set up. Pert Hamerton, Joe Dobbin, and George Coxen have brought in a nice show of fish on Thursday. If the wind continues favourable, I hope to give you some good reports next week.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Walton).

The water was rising on Friday last, and every appearance of continuing, but has been falling since Sunday. Water clear at banks, but cloudy in stream; fairly good for angling. This week, as shown by the report, has been bare of anglers, and those that have been out have only had about two hours or so angling. There are plenty of fish reported, but they want catching. Nov. 9, 10, 11, and 12, no fishing. Nov. 13, Mr. Wilderspin (this perch was caught with a fine gut, No. 12 hook, intended for live bait), one perch, ¾ lb., and one and a half dozen roach. Nov. 14, Mr. Wilderspin, one perch, 1¼ lb., and one dozen roach in two hours. Nov. 15, George Hone, one bream, 3 lb., and one roach, 2 lb., and one barbel, 2 lb. The last bream taken here was October 15, and barbel, October 11. It is reported that there are a quantity of fish below the Tumbling Bay, and some big ones among them. The wind is getting up at the time of writing, and beginning to rain.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

Water looking A1 for perch, jack, and chub; but very little has been done here, and it is I think the same everywhere on the Thames. I was at Cookham yesterday, and Godden tells me they seemed to be quite off the feed, though he has had some capital take. I saw a very pretty jack, a patron had caught out with him, going 6 lb. Another gentleman whom I came across in the train, had been out all day Henley way, and had not had a touch, though the water looked charming. Corporal Major Knott, of the Royal Horse Guards, had a nice dish of perch from private waters in this neighbourhood going respectively 2½ lb., 2¼ lb., to 2 lb., 1 lb., ¾ lb. The 2½ lb. fish I have sent to Cooper for preservation.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholm.

The continuance of fair weather during the past week and the presence of a fine coloured water have proved particularly favourable to anglers, but few reports have, however, come to hand. Owing to the cleaning out of some trout ponds and the addition of new sluices thereto, I have personally done nothing this week; but the pike are beginning to take the spoonbait and other offerings, but here, as elsewhere, this department of angling seems to be going to the bad. There is, therefore, the more need of the establishment of a society for coarse fish culture recently mooted so ably in this journal.—THOMAS FORD.

(Dove).

The river has been in pretty fair order all the week, and grayling have been biting well on the bottom. There has likewise been a fair rise on the surface, but I fancy things would have been much improved if the nights were frosty. So far we have had no cold weather. The last three weeks have been more like September than November, and, as is well known, a spell of really sharp atmosphere is always required to bring Dove grayling (and I suppose any other) into first-rate feeding condition. The flies that have been killing best are the same as last week, the dark October and the cockney. The users of maggots and small cockspurs have caught lots of big grayling on the bottom. In fact, I find that the heaviest samples are almost invariably captured while angling with these lines on the bottom. I hear of great quantities of chub, roach and bream being obtained in the lower waters, and also a few barbel. The mild weather seems, in fact, to have brought this fish on the feed again. Fike, like grayling, want some frosty weather to sharpen up their appetites.—THE SPLODGEK.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

In sea fishing there is very little to report this week. The weather has been very unfavourable for all fishing. When an opportunity offers they venture out, and have returned with very fair catches. Sunday evening, a few boats out; there catches were about a maize or maize and half in a boat. On Monday morning some boats caught three maize of herrings, others five and a half maize, and a quantity of hake and whiting. A few conger and ling also were caught; one boat had their train of nets cut in two by a steamer. After searching several hours they found them very much damaged; two of them quite useless; since then no boats have ventured out. The wind blowing from N.W., with a heavy sea. Thursday, wind moderating a little.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good order fishing. The weather is mild; the wind south-west. Their have been some nice fish taken this week, Mr. Mags, two jack, 10 lb.; Mr. Harding, one jack, 8 lb.; Mr. Deancoster, two chub, 5 lb.; Mr. Woodey had a nice show of roach. On Monday some nice chub and roach were taken.—WM. COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

The water here is nicely coloured, and in first rate order. Chub, perch, roach and jack are dead on a native "Bradey." Took a jack 9½ lb. at the Boom the other day. I am too wild to speak about the sport last Sunday, "Chub." Our worthy friend Bell did very well with roach last Sunday, and he deserves to do so. Mr. Olford took some nice jack again last week. I had three nice perch to-day close at home.—VON LEEFLO.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water is in first-class condition for angling of all kinds, and jack and roach are well on the feed. On Thursday the weighing-in club had a competition, most of the anglers went in for jack, but owing to a run of water coming down just after they began, none of 2½ lb., the club size were taken. Mr. J. Cox and Mr. G. Hewitt at last tried a back stream for some bottom fishing and in this they were successful. The former angler took first honours with a splendid roach, and the latter took two small ones, and secured second honours. The bait used in both instances was a worm. During the week Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Swinnard have been busy amongst the roach, while Mr. West, J. Stanley and others have done well with the jack. There will be plenty of sport if the weather continues fine.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Use.

Water is still in splendid order for all-round fishing, and looks well for some time to come, if the south-west wind, which is blowing a gale while writing, would not bother us so much, and keep the anglers off the water; for, though a good wind for anglers, it lies bad for this reach of water if too much of it. The following are some of the best takes since last report:—Nov. 11. Mr. R. Hills, Cambridge, 20 lb. roach in four hours—a splendid lot; Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, 11 lb. roach; Mr. S. Allpress, 5½ lb. roach in one hour twenty minutes. Nov. 10. Mr. Clarke, Newmarket, 13 lb. roach; Mr. Howlett, Newmarket, fishing with Mr. A. Antony, London, 23 lb. roach. Several other anglers were out, but owing to rough wind their catches only ranged from 7 lb. to 4 lb. Nov. 11. Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, 12½ lb. roach; Dr. Cooper, Cambridge, 10 lb. roach in four hours and a-half; Mr. W. H. Whitehead, Cambridge, 9½ lb. roach in four hours and a-half; Mr. W. Purchas, Cambridge, 16 lb. splendid roach; Mr. R. Hills, Cambridge, 15 lb.—largest roach, 1½ lb. Nov. 12. Mr. F. J. Hulford, Ely, 5 lb. roach in one hour and a-half; Dr. Moxon, Cambridge, one pike, 4½ lb.; Messrs. Heading and March, Ely, 14 lb. roach. Nov. 14, Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, 12½ lb. roach; Mr. Fielden, Cambridge, 12 lb. roach; Messrs. H. C. Cook and E. B. Smith, Cambridge, 12 lb. roach—largest, 1½ lb. Nov. 15. Mr. George, Bassingbourne, fishing with another gentleman, 10 lb. roach.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Titchfield.

Another otter, measuring 4 ft. 1 in., from snout to tail, and weighing 22 lb., was trapped by Mr. Delme's keeper, near the iron mills, on Wednesday last. This makes four dogs and one vixen caught near the same place in the last twelve months. The most successful method of trapping them is to set two traps near to each other, and as soon as the otter is caught, he begins to plunge about and try to escape, which he very often does, but if he happens to put a foot into the second trap, it is a case with him. On the same day a trout that had apparently been killed by a heron, was picked up on the bank. It measured 20 in. in length, and if in season would have weighed from 3 lb. to 4 lb., a very large size for this river.—RED PALMER.

Trent (Newark).

The water is now in capital condition for all kinds of winter fishing; but last night we had a very heavy downpour of rain; the water literally swept down in sheets; but, as it did not last very long, in all probability not much difference will be made in the water; sport, as a rule, has not been so good this week, as I should have thought, a few anglers having fair catches, but the majority only met with indifferent success. R. Chilton has had a fair basket or two just lately, and among his fish last Saturday were 14 flounders, rather a remarkable circumstance, considering the time of year, and other baskets that have come under notice, contained only from 20, down to 6 roach, dace, and bream. I had a suspicion last week that there must have been snow broth in the water, and I have since heard that there had been a heavy fall of snow in the higher districts of the Trent. The gentle as a bait seems to be nearly played out for this year, as worms succeeded in killing the most fish this week. Tonight the prospects look pretty good, a wriggly tail end of a lob, or a nice cockspur should do the trick for a few roach, dace, or bream, while chub ought to begin to take any winter bait freely, such as pith and brains, scratchings, or even a pennyworth of tripe, and pike fishers should try their favourite places with their own particular favourite bait.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

The river since Monday has been in capital condition for both pike and chub fishing, the water having cleared down to its usual winter height, and the anglers for jack have been very busy; in fact, some of them have put in full time; and although a good number of fair sized pike have been captured, principally with live bait, none that I have seen exceeded 10 lb., though several reached 6 lb. and 7 lb. each. The best sport was had on the upper part of the river, but I am not allowed to mention the exact spots, only when it is a sub-scription water, then when anything good has been done, the making it public is a benefit to those who have the letting of the tickets. At Shardlow, I hear some fair baskets of fish have been had livebaiting, and one gentleman in the Weston length took three nice fish, the largest 8 lb. This was persuaded to take a spinning bait in a backwater, so by this it will be seen it is not always so well to stick to one style of fishing. The anglers down the river, while fishing strictly preserved water, took some good fish, and although two or three of the spots were known to contain some large ones, they could not be tempted to feed. Chub have also been biting fairly at both scratching and pith and brains, the latter bait doing most execution, and I will here just remind those anglers who visited the upper part of the river, that it is almost a waste of time to attempt to catch chub with scratching. It may do very well lower down the stream but not above the Derwent. Since the water began to fine down, bottom-fishing with worms has been at a discount, though a few good roach have been had with the bait, and one or two bream. The river is still low and clear, but heavy rain fell last night, so it is impossible to tell what is going to come.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Alrewas).

The river has been in good fishing order all the week, but I can only learn of few anglers who have met with decent luck. Mr. W. Reynolds had a nice take of roach last Friday, weight 11 lb., and just over 6 lb. on Tuesday, principally taken with gentles. A few grayling have been taken with the fly, with a maggot on the point of the hook, but nothing of any size. Pike and chub fishing has been almost a dead letter. As far as the river has been concerned, a few small ones have been hooked live baiting, but not large enough to retain. Fishing for pike in the pools in the neighbourhood of Birmingham has been much more lucrative, and some fair takes are reported. Mr. Councillor Oliver Pemberton, as usual, takes the highest honours for quantity if not for quality. The latter, however, was destined for the youngest son of Mr. Pemberton, who bids fair to become as good and enthusiastic an angler as the genial president of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association. Fishing at Sandwell on Saturday, the youngster hooked a pike live baiting, which, after twenty minutes' good fun, was successfully landed. It proved to be a male fish, weight 18 lb., and was really a splendid specimen. The fish has been presented to the "association," and has been placed in the hands of "Cooper," London, to preserve. Other takes are reported of Messrs. S. Burnett and John Allday. From Solihull the largest fish was taken by the latter—6 lb. Several minor catches to hand, but too numerous to mention. I have just returned from the river. The water is slightly discoloured from last night's rain, and the river rising. I tried the chub with pith and brains, but it was no go. I caught a few roach with gentles and the cockspur worm, but none of any size. I can only attribute the fish not feeding so well as at the beginning of the week to the change from the genial weather we have experienced of late to a much colder temperature. The wind also was very erratic, blowing at times so strongly that it was difficult to keep a float in the water.—JAMES GREGORY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a very great quantity of heavy rain on Wednesday night, which caused both rivers to rise on Thursday and thick and muddy water is now now running down them. This rain falling will put a stop to fly-fishing on both rivers for a few days. Sport during the week with both the fly and bottom has been very fair, and good catches have been the order of the day. The wind has been very rough and boisterous on most days, which has made fishing anything but an enjoyable occupation. Stream fishing with maggots in the Nottingham style has been well practised during the past week on the Derwent, between Derby Bridge and Matlock, and some handsome dishes of good-sized trout have been captured. The bottom fishers who have been fishing between Cromford and Ambergate have been killing a good quantity of coarse fish and a few grayling, the grayling being about ½ lb. each fish. Several pike have been killed off of the Derwent during last week with both line bait fishing and by trolling with small dace for bait. The bottom fishers will no doubt do well after this rain.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

After despatching my report last week I had several other good day's grayling fishing, my best being on Thursday, when I killed twenty nice fish, partly with worm and partly with fly. I found the most killing flies to be the honey dun bumble, gray goose dun (Mr. Ford's pattern), and two flies out of the collection that "A.R.I.E.L." sent to me, one of them is a very small dun, body tied very thin with bright orange silk and starling's quill feather for wings, and the other is like a large bumble dressed with a thick body of red and orange silk mingled with peacock's harl—I fished this fly at the end of my cast, and it took the largest fish. Salmon fishing ends to-day (Tuesday), but my correspondents state that no fish were taken during the last few days. Weather and water very favourable at present for grayling fishing with the fly.

Thursday.—A heavy gale of wind and rain has caused the Yore to rise, so that grayling fishing is at an end for a few days.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

LIVERPOOL ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The third annual dinner of this association took place last evening (Nov. 8), and was a complete success. Upwards of forty members sat down to the substantial dinner, placed before them by Mr. W. Jones (the treasurer), and did ample justice to the good things prepared for them. On the removal of the cloth, the chair was taken by Mr. Pratchett, whilst Mr. Leaman occupied the vice-chair. The toast list was proceeded with, and that of the Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales and all the Royal Family was duly and patriotically received and the National Anthem sung with great *eclat*. The next toast, "The Liverpool Angling Association," coupled with the name of its chairman, Mr. Pratchett, was ably moved by Mr. Leaman, who, in doing so, gave a short *resumé* of its history and progress; how, from a handful—a baker's dozen—a little over two years ago, it now numbered over a hundred members, most of them good and true anglers; how, from a few pounds (not more than five) in its first year given as prizes, there had been this year upwards of thirty guineas competed for; and he confidently hoped that this amount would be considerably exceeded in the coming year. In replying, Mr. Pratchett endorsed these figures and ably replied to the toast, giving a fair exposition of angling generally, its delights, the pleasant places you visit, and the complete brotherhood that exists amongst the members of the craft wherever and whenever they meet. The toast of the "Donors of Prizes" was then given, and coupled with the names of Messrs. Ellinger and Boulding, Mr. W. Walker, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Haigh, and Mr. W. Jones. Mr. Boulding, in replying for himself and partner, spoke very lovingly of the "gentle art" and its followers and of those around him in particular, and stated that the prizes the firm had been enabled to give during the past year were presented for the sole purpose of expressing their feeling towards the "Association" and their hope for its prosperity and success, towards which they would do all they could, and concluded an able speech by promising for the next season a silver challenge cup. Mr. Walker and Mr. Ramsay also replied in kindly terms to the toast, both expressing their sincere wishes that the association would continue its prosperous career, and promising to do all they could to help the future prize list. Mr. Chandler, in the course of his humorous, but touchingly-worded remarks, expressed the pleasure and satisfaction he felt in having joined the association and of having made the acquaintance and acquired the friendship of its members, and concluded by promising a fern case, value three guineas, as a prize next year. Mr. W. Jones next enlarged, in a most eloquent speech, on the subject of angling generally, and the pride and gratification he felt that this particular association had its quarters in his house, and said he trusted that for many years to come the members would meet under his roof, and concluded by assuring those present, they had no firmer friend than himself. The toast of "The Officers of the Association" was then given, coupled with the name of Mr. H. Jones, treasurer, who, in responding, dwelt strongly upon the thorough way in which the officers and committee had done their work, and asserted, he said, without fear of contradiction, that it was owing to their joint and constant exertions, and the way they all pulled together, that the association had been placed upon a sure and sound basis. The toast of "The Press" next followed, coupled with the name of Mr. Machway, the *Mercury's* representative, and he, in replying, assured the members that he had enjoyed being present very much, and was delighted with the evident goodfellowship that existed amongst them. Mr. Boulding then gave what he was kind enough to call the toast of the evening, "The Honorary Secretary." In putting the toast, Mr. Boulding made the most complimentary reference to the exertions the hon. sec. had made in the interests of the association and of angling generally, and hoped he (the hon. sec.) would long occupy the position he filled so ably. The hon. sec., Mr. Woolfall, in his reply, stated he was amply repaid for anything he had done by the more than kind way in which the toast of himself had been proposed and accepted, and hoped the members would accept his warmest gratitude for the expressions of satisfaction that had been given all round with the way in which his duties had been carried out, and concluded by saying if they continued to trust him, and to encourage and support himself and the executive by their attendance at the weekly meetings, he would do all he could in his position for the society in the future as he had in the past. In the intervals of the toasts and speeches, songs and recitations were given by various members; one of them, Mr. Spencer, most ably presiding at the piano. Mr. Spencer also sang some first-class songs, amongst them being "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," which he rendered magnificently. Messrs. Leaman, Evans, Chandler, Ellinger, Higson, F. Hood, Stevens, H. Jones also contributed a variety of songs, and helped, by their vocal abilities, the harmony of the evening to be thoroughly sustained. Then followed the National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne," after which, amidst the general expressions of good will, the company separated, highly pleased with the entertainment and with each other.—R. WOOLFALL, hon. sec.

THE PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BONVOISIN.

IT is with unfeigned pleasure that we call the attention of our readers to the particulars which will be found in another column respecting the proposed testimonial to Mr. Leo Bonvoisin. Ever since we have been acquainted with and interested in the doings of London angling club life, we have admired the untiring, never-daunted, capable chief who is at last to have some practical recognition of the service he has rendered. As one of the most popular and respected of the chosen leaders of London's ten thousand anglers we feel that further words of ours, asking strong and hearty support for this testimonial are unnecessary. It is only necessary to look back on the great events in the angling world to see Mr. Bonvoisin always to the front in all of them, whether it be fighting a big railway company for concessions, establishing an Anglers' Benevolent Society, getting the fence months established, defending angling rights on the Thames, &c. These things are easily remembered, but the thousand and one little things which lead up to and are the outcome of these events have no historian. No one knows the time, money, labour and thought ungrudgingly given to them in the interests of the sport to which he is so devoted.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

GEO. WATSON.—The best way to get a list of the London angling clubs is to send 6d. in stamps to W. H. Brougham, Esq., Swayfield Villa, Hounslow, for a copy of the T.A.P.S. Blue Book, which contains the best list of the clubs you can get.

THAMES ANGLER.—We think you will have little difficulty in getting some good pike fishing, &c., at Dorchester.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

COARSE FISH CULTURE AND CRAY NOTES.

SIR,—I notice your remarks about propagating coarse fish in to-day's issue, and allusion to my name. I say now, as I said then, I sympathise with the movement most heartily, and will give it support when sufficiently developed. As to taking any practical part in the work, I fear I am unable to do so, as my space is limited, and my time is fully occupied with what is, to me, more important work. What makes me take so great an interest in it is, that I want gudgeon and minnows in large quantities to turn into our lake next, say, February, as they will root up the mud and gradually send it down. In this mud there are vast quantities of minute blood worms, so they ought to grow very fine and do well.

Allow me to give my best thanks to Mr. Robert Balderston for his table of flies; there is something really good, sound and practical in it, for which all true anglers ought to be truly obliged. I wish there were more men who took notes, and were really observant at the water side. People don't think enough before they do things, or write about them. They leave things to others, and so, very often, either fail themselves or cause others to do so.

Here is a case in point. I had a large order for sea-trout eggs for New Zealand; I cast about how to get them. One man said I could get them on his water if I paid all expense—the spawner a fee of £5, and £1 per thousand for freshly impregnated ova. That would not do, so I looked about elsewhere, and had a very kind letter from a landed proprietor, offering very reasonable terms, which I accepted. I got all ready, and had a very satisfactory letter last Thursday, saying the river was full of very fine fish coming up, and if I went on Monday all would be in trim.

On Monday evening we made a start, my manager and myself, per limited mail from Euston, got nearly shaken out of our wits in an apparently new carriage—got to our destination next day. Saw the keeper, who was full of hope, amounting, in fact, to an assurance of certainty, and next morning drove 12 miles to the head waters of the stream, where the watcher assured us he had seen forty fine fish up for spawning the day before. You may guess we lost no time in putting on needful waders, getting all in order, and seeing what we had to do. In the result we found a few fine fish, in the finest order, or “well mended,” having spawned about three weeks before! It was all “kid” or deception, I believe. I no more think forty fish had been seen than that less than forty had been taken out. I believe that every man and boy in the part of Scotland I refer to is a poacher. They tell us they know the habits of the fishes most accurately, and I have no hesitation in saying I fully believe it, and also that they make full use of their knowledge for their own benefit.

Well, to continue my story, we walked over a long stretch of water and saw four or five more spent fish, all as wild as hawks, evidently poached to death as nearly as possible, and, after much loss of time, weary waiting in the road, and misery of mind and body, our carriage came for us, and bowled us home in the dark. Next day I was fairly done up, so sent my manager with the keeper to the other stream, near the hotel; result—four spent fish; so the order was “home, sweet home,” and away we went by steamer and the limited mail. This time all was comfortable, but low spirits make bad companions, more especially when one has to sit on a box outside Charing Cross station for an hour at 4.30 on a November morning. It was a lovely morning certainly, but the weirdness of the Strand at 4.30 to 5.30 is something more than I can tell. The obliging inspector on our line, to whom my thanks are due, did all he could to make us comfortable, and my manager indulged in a cup of hot coffee, whilst I did the like in some capital ale at a little “pub” nearby, so we got into the 6.20 train, got out at Bexley, where the carriage was soon entered, and we bowled away home to breakfast, and our reflections, were none of the sweetest—all through want of observation, candour, and truth on the part of Scotchmen. I, of course, acquit the landowner of all blame, but do most severely censure the people in charge of the fisheries of that

part of Scotland. From all I found out, many old hands knew the habits of the fishes, the hours at which they could be taken by net or spear, and, so far as I could glean, the men who were paid to protect the fish were either unable or unwilling to interfere. This season I have, of course, utterly failed to procure sea trout ova for New Zealand, but I hope, if spared, to be more successful in the future. What I want is to find some stream in the South of England, such as the Hants Avon or Devon Dart, where I can post a trust-worthy man, such as my manager certainly is, to see and observe the sea trout and salmon, and either himself collect, or enable by advice, me to collect the ova needed. I am perfectly certain it is a most simple affair, if only one can get to deal with people who are not all born poachers, which I regret to say, I believe the Scotch and Irish lower orders are. I regret to make such a statement but I have good reason to believe it to be true. Any suggestion or advice the Editor or correspondents of the FISHING GAZETTE can offer for next season will be very thankfully received by me, and duly acknowledged in these your columns.—I am, &c.,

CHAS. C. CAPEL,
Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent, Nov. 12, 1881.

SIR,—Your proposition to cultivate coarse fish has met with great favour among the members of the society to which I have the honour to belong, and I am sure it cannot fail to do so in all other societies, that is if all coarse fish are included. Mr. B., in your issue of the 12th inst., says that his idea is we have plenty of roach and dace in the Thames, and that it is a matter for consideration whether these fish should be included. I say, to make the undertaking a success, they must be included, that is, if you are looking for support from anglers in general. Suppose there are plenty of roach and dace in the Thames (which I doubt very much), we can do with plenty more there; and we want them also for other waters where there is a scarcity, and where bank anglers would have a much better chance of getting a fair show of fish than they have at the present time from the banks of the Thames.

I believe the bank anglers would leave the Thames to those who can afford to hire a punt if they could get the almost depopulated rivers and streams (which are more suitable for bank angling) restocked and the breeds crossed. Ask them what kind of fish they would like to have, and you may depend they will not leave roach and dace out of the list.

I daresay there are many who prefer perch and carp to roach and dace fishing, but where there is one of the former I am sure there are twenty of the latter, and why is it? because it is prettier sport and they like it better. What better sport can a bank angler have than a good day among the roach and dace with drawn gut or hair tackle?

There is not much art required to catch perch, and there is too much required to catch carp, for are they not always artful and therefore too full of art to allow an artful angler to make a good show of them in the club room, and compete in the scales against roach and dace.

My object in writing this letter is to inform you that our society will send a delegate to the meeting for the discussion of the scheme, and that it will have our support in a practical form if it is to be carried out in a manner that will benefit all anglers alike, which it must do if all coarse fish have a fin in it.

I quite agree with Mr. Crumplen, and hope that we shall not be obliged to send abroad for a manager to come and teach us that which is surely known by many of our own countrymen, and who would be found when wanted. I know of one who might undertake it.

One word more. Why not ask owners of fisheries if they will support the scheme? I think they should, and would do so if asked, for it would be hardly fair for societies alone to stock waters where they have to pay for fishing.—I am, &c.,

G. R. H.,
A member of the Penge Angling Society.

VARNISHES FOR RODS, &c.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent “Nemo” in F.G., 12th inst., asking for a white varnish, I beg to forward the following recipe which I think will answer very well. The ingredients can be obtained of most chemists, the only objection being the price of the mastic which is rather high. Gum sandarach or juniper, 1½ oz.; mastic, ½ oz.; elemi, ½ oz.; white shellac, ½ oz.; methylated spirit of wine, 8 oz. Powder the gums coarsely in a mortar, and digest for a week in a bottle with occasional agitation, and pour off clear from any insoluble matter there may be. Another correspondent asked a week or two back for a rod varnish, I think, but I have mislaid my GAZETTE, containing his letter, so do not remember exactly. However, I dare say the following will be found to answer his requirements. Orange shellac, 1 oz.; white resin, 1 oz.; Canada balsam, ½ oz.; methylated spirit, 8 oz. Prepare as in former one.

I have thought of bringing out two or three improved varnishes for the whipping on hooks, traces, rods, flies, &c., and for general use among anglers, but am afraid there would be a difficulty in inducing tackle dealers to keep them for the reason that they would rather do the varnishing themselves; and, as bottles are not allowed to be transmitted by post, there would be no means of conveying them to purchasers.—I am, &c.,

CHEMICUS.

November 14th.

FISHING AT EYNHAM.

SIR,—I beg to tender my best thanks to both M. and “Chub,” for their very courteous replies to my enquiries, respecting Eynham, and so soon as I have made arrangements to visit that locality I shall certainly avail myself of the further information so kindly offered; the only difference is one of these gentlemen, says: “It is all free fishing on the Thames at Eynham,” whilst the other says “the fishing at Eynham is not free, and that it is a continuation of the Isis.”

Referring to the remaining letter, signed R. W. Hobden, he refers to the Thames Right Defence Association, of which, according to his own account, he is proud to be a member. The Thames Rights Defence Association I thought was defunct, as I have heard so little of it lately, but, at the same time, I am surprised that a member of that association should condescend to fish in water (in the Thames) where a charge is made, he should have resented any attempted charge for simply being allowed to fish from a towpath which flows through Lord Abingdon's property.

Mr. Hobden's takes may have been large at Eynham, but he has no right to assume (as he has done) that his takes have attracted my attention to this particular spot. May I ask him if in the face of the two other letters, written without any bias (as his own should have been) the Eynham water can be called public; this will doubtless be “equally satisfactory to Perch,” and also to other gentlemen.—I am, &c.

THOMAS F. OLIVER (“Perch”).
Grosvenor Club, S.W.

GRAYLING TAKING THE SPINNING-MINNOW.

SIR,—In compliance with Mr. Walbran's request, I have much pleasure in placing at his service my experience on this most interesting subject—I think I may even say this very vexed question. Mine is not a large experience, but it may possibly be deemed a somewhat decisive one.

During the trout season of 1858 I was a member of an angling club fishing the Tean-Brook, a tributary of the Dove which falls into that river near Uttoxeter. In that—my first touting season—I took four or five grayling when spinning the *natural* minnow for trout.

The next occasion on which I spun a minnow in any grayling stream was one day, or rather one late evening and the following early morning, in July, 1863, when I fished the Dove in Dovedale in company with "X," as mentioned in my article, "Reminiscences of Dovedale." On that occasion, out of four good grayling which we killed with the minnow, one fell to my 'prentice-rod.

From that day till the autumn of 1879, I never wetted a line in any grayling water. But at the end of September in that year I went—on the courteous invitation of your contributor, Mr. W. J. Bullock, "the Otter of the Arrow"—to fish with him for grayling in the Arrow about the charming village of Eardisland, in Herefordshire, his native place. On my arrival there a flood was running off, and the water was too thick for grayling with the fly. So our first essay, was, at my suggestion, a spin with the minnow for trout. We neither of us were favoured with a run from a *fario*. But just below a small fall at the head of the waste-water pool of the mill of that most hospitable of friends (Friend Hundley) there, where the water was somewhat clearer, I, spinning, and rather sinking and drawing a small minnow on the finest of hooks and the flimsiest of drawn gut, hooked a grayling of about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. It managed to foul the line round a sunken pile; and ultimately it broke away. But before I or Mr. Bullock—*ferente*—lost the fish, he had seen it and had satisfied himself that it was a grayling. He could hardly, however, bring himself to believe that it was fairly hooked. For not only had he just spun over the very water where I hooked the fish, but he had been in the habit of spinning the minnow in that river for more than thirty years, and had never hooked a single grayling, a fact which, indeed (in answer to an enquiry of mine), you will recollect he had stated some few months before in one of his pithy and practical articles on spinning for trout with the natural minnow (in his one of the old styles) which appeared in your paper. On one other day only did I spin in the Arrow.

The next and the last occasion on which I have spun the minnow in a grayling river, was at Whitsun, '80, when I went with "X" to pick up the rudiments of fly-fishing-spinning at Corwen on the Dee. He spun for three days, and on one day took three good grayling. I spun for a part of the first day only, contenting myself with humbly and intently watching the fishing of my teacher during the remainder of our time there. But within about the first hour of my practice I took as its first fruits, as the very first fish which I caught in the new style, a grayling of about 3 oz. Not so bad an augury?

Although, therefore, my experience of taking grayling with the spinning minnow is not an extensive one, am I not warranted, nevertheless, in regarding it as a rather remarkable one? tending in the strongest manner to show that it is no such very wonderful freak of nature, after all, nay, that it may be made an almost everyday occurrence to take grayling by that mode of angling, provided only it be practised under the true conditions necessary for ensuring success, viz., lowness and brightness of water, smallness of minnow, fineness of tackle, and slowness of spinning. Drawing up stream or across stream is the best way of spinning for grayling, inasmuch as the spinning thus is slower than it would be in drawing down stream. And no doubt—as F. well observes—sinking and drawing is the form of spinning best adapted for taking grayling as being most in harmony with the habit of that fish. I allude to its almost vertical rise to seize a bait. In fly-fishing-spinning that mode of working the bait is not practicable, but the loss is more than compensated for by far greater gains.

Still, I cannot wonder in the least degree at Mr. Bullock and many another "old hand" at spinning the minnow—anglers who all their lives have spun for trout under very different conditions, yet with great success—never taking a grayling when spinning, and consequently never believing that it is to be so taken, and that "as easy as a glove," till they have had very good proof, by ocular demonstration, of the apparent miracle. For those sceptics are in the best of company; they have very high authority for their fallacy. Was not Sir Humphry Davy (who has given us, you know, that new and true definition of the angle, or, if you please, of the *right* angle—as a line with a fly at one end, and a philosopher at the other—an angler as acute as ardent? And yet, in his *Salmonia*, in the dialogue on fishing for hucho, I read as follows:

"Hal.—Well, what sport have you had since I left you?

"P.—We have each caught a trout and two large chubs, and have had two or three runs besides—but we saw no huchos; and though several large grayling rose in one of the streams, and we tried to catch them by spinning the minnow in every possible way, yet they took no notice of our bait.

"Hal.—This is usually the case. I have heard of anglers who have taken grayling with minnows; but it is a rare occurrence, and never happened to me."

I am, I know, well within bounds when I state that "X" and his pupils have caught many hundreds of grayling by minnow-spinning, more especially of late years in fly-fishing-spinning. When spinning in the spring now, they often find the large grayling a very great nuisance.

All that I have written refers to spinning the *natural* minnow; for I have always been taught to treat "the artificial" with comparative contempt.

Of course, in fishing for grayling only, the spinning-minnow, even at its best, is too uncertain a bait to be depended upon, at all events for the best sport. I take this opportunity to crave pardon of "A Constant Subscriber," and of all other your readers, for not having yet performed my promise of describing in your columns the trout-spinning of the future—as I have ventured to call it—that fly-fishing-spinning. If I *must* be "free to confess," I may as well admit that I did sketch out a description of the invention shortly after my trial-trip to Corwen. But I was not satisfied with the article; and since then I have felt more and more that I should like a little more practice with the new art, so as to become a little more of a learner before I come to be so much of a teacher of it; for, somehow, ever since I acquired the A.B.C. of that most elegant of angling accomplishments, my fishing, such as it has been, has lain far more among chub, and pike, and salmon, than amidst the trout. But I live in hopes of studying a good deal more deeply that subtilst of piscatorial philosophies this next season—*nulla dies sine linea*. And then, after that, in the fullness of the right time, I shall redeem my promise, and tender to you my performance, in a wrapper, neatly endorsed (as if by the writ of the late Lord Eldon): "*Sat cito, si sat bene*." In the meantime, will not your readers, one and all, patient as true anglers always are, permit me to take the full benefit of so excellent a

motto? I hope so. The art is far too high for me to risk its ruin by any rash and rude revelation of its ravishing mysteries.

I should have much liked to add here a few words as to the real trolling for grayling—the fishing for it with the sunk and drawn grasshopper—the natural grasshopper mounted on the artificial one. I think Wilson of Leominster could soon show Mr. Walbran (who, I am sure, would only be too delighted to learn), that *that* lure is as deadly in the Yore as in the Arrow, or the Lugg, or the Tems. But, alas! your space, Mr. Editor, and my time, for that little disquisition, are not just now in the happiest of conjunctions.—I am, &c.,

A.R.I.E.L.

London, Nov. 14, 1881.

L. B. AND THE BEDFORD ANGLING CLUB.

SIR,—In your last week's paper I notice that an anonymous correspondent, L. B., contributes a pathetic account of how some friends of his were maltreated recently by my orders, when peaceably engaged in angling. He admits twice over that he does not know (nor does he seem to care much) whether the fishing rights at the place in question belong exclusively to the Bedford Angling Club or not. It seems to me that this is rather an important point. Now, I can inform him that this club rents the whole of the fishing rights there on both sides of the river from the owner, and that Mr. Mann, although he may find it very convenient and profitable to "give permission" to his customers, has no fishing rights whatever, nor dare he himself be seen fishing from his fields, of which he is an annual tenant. L. B.'s friends know very well what they are about, and invariably refuse to give names and addresses, because they do not fancy a summons. Referring us to Mr. Mann is a mere pretence, as they and I are well aware of. On the day referred to I certainly did not pay those persons any compliments, Waltonian or otherwise. I believe I called them poachers, and I most decidedly consider them so still.

When L. B. has a private fishery of his own, and a neighbouring innkeeper "gives permission" to a number of strangers to fish the water, L. B. will, no doubt, be charmed to see such "gentle, quiet men," and will invite them all to dinner after their day's sport, but we really cannot afford to manage our affairs here on such truly philanthropic principles. I deny altogether L. B.'s assertion that this club is unpopular, except amongst the class, to be found everywhere, who would net the river from one end to the other if they could—and amongst those who deliberately poach in private waters, are too cowardly to give their names, and have naturally a strong objection to what L. B. is pleased to call a "high-handed sample of our mode of enforcing what we are pleased (rightly or wrongly) to consider our rights."

Not long ago two persons found fishing in our water produced tickets to our keeper proving them to be members of a well-known London Angling club, and gave addresses as well. The latter proved false, and in making enquiries at the headquarters of the said club in London, the landlord took the names up to the committee, who were, he said, then holding a meeting, and returned shortly saying that the names were not on their books. Such members of London clubs are not held in particularly high esteem down here, and need not expect to be left in undisturbed enjoyment of this club's private waters, L. B.'s sympathy and friendship notwithstanding.—I am, &c.,

E. BICKNELL, Hon. Sec., Bedford Angling Club.

THE WATERWORKS AND THE THAMES.

SIR,—I was glad to see a confirmation of a firm belief which I entertain, in your issue of last week, in R.'s letter, "Propagation of Coarse Fish." What I allude to is the diminution of fish in the Thames by their being able to enter the reservoirs, or by their being sucked in by the rush of water.

Now, I enjoy the privilege of being able to fish some of the principal of these reservoirs, and I feel confident that the rush of water from the Thames being so great must inevitably force in shoals of little perch, &c., which may happen to be cruising round the gratings or pipes in the river; and, sir, not only are small fish drawn in, but I can assure you that not unfrequently jack of 3 or 4 lb. manage to get in.

A year or two ago many bream of 8 lb. and over were netted from the Barnes reservoirs. Is it probable that these fish had grown to that size, from say even $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. and under, in the water from which they were taken? I confess it seems improbable that such deep fish as bream of over 2 lb. should be able to have ingress to the different companies' waters, for if they could get in much heavier fish of different species would be capable of doing so.

It seems that the system by which water is let into the reservoirs from the Thames requires alteration. Either the holes of the gratings are too large, or they are so placed that any shoal of fry coming within a short distance are inevitably sucked in, or perhaps after all the grating are not kept perfectly sound; but whether either of these hypotheses be correct or not, it seems to me a fact beyond doubt that myriads of helpless fry are swept into these miniature lakes never again to return to the river which first saw them exist, thereby depriving it of an innumerable quantity of what should be its occupants.

To this matter it appears only reasonable to hope the energetic consideration of the Thames Angling Preservation Society will be directed, and may they be able to reckon the remedy of this evil among their many other good works.—I am, &c.,

H. G.

The Firs, Cricklewood, Nov. 15.

THAMES FISHERMEN.

SIR,—I want to thank you for giving "A Thames Fisherman," the chance of standing up in our defence, and saying that which no fisherman can deny to be true.

Mr. Brougham is the only man to be found amongst the lot of your readers who differs from him, and he would like the difference settled by "A Thames Fisherman" altering his mind.

Now, sir, I want to know how that can alter the facts, which are the following:—

Mr. Brougham, on October 22, distinctly states "they have boasted in his presence of having stood by and seen the river netted, thereby robbing their customers."

I say it is not true. We never said anything of the kind, and I will prove it out of Mr. Brougham's own mouth. In last week's GAZETTE he says the remark was made by "a fisherman," so it was not "they" after all.

We want the name of that one man, Mr. Brougham, and if you cannot give it, please not to call Thames fishermen robbers of their customers. A worm will turn, you know.—I am, &c.,

A FISHERMAN.

SALMON ROE WANTED (!)

SIR,—I shall be glad if you can tell me, through your paper, where I can obtain salmon roe, and how to preserve it.—I am, &c., P. H.

[We have had some queer queries sent us, but this is about the most cheeky, outrageous insult we have ever received. It is not intended as an insult, but fancy asking the FISHING GAZETTE where to get and how to preserve that unlawful poaching thing, salmon roe. We do not give P. H.'s address for fear the anglers of his town should call and "duck" him.—ED.]

THE LAKE, WIMBLEDON PARK.

SIR,—I hear some one has been giving the lake a bad name in your paper. Now I should like to let you know what sport we have been having this season. Mr. Ward, of Putney, took in June last 19 lb. of bream in one day, and 17½ lb. another, and other gentlemen made some good catches. Now, as regards the carp, there were some good ones taken, the largest weight 12 lb. The weight of carp taken in the season was over 200 lb. Now for the jack—there has been some good sport. Mr. Seppings, of Southfields, Wandsworth, took 52 lb. of jack in three days, the largest weight 11½ lb.; we have had taken since the 17th of October over 100 lb. of jack. Now, sir, I can let you know why we have not got many roach—because we have too many jack. I hope you will let my friend or friends see this.—I am, &c., A. WOOLGAR, Lake Keeper, Wimbledon Park. November 12.

[How about the statement of the setting of trimmers and night lines. Is it true or not?—ED.]

"WHAT HAS BECOME OF OUR JACK AND PERCH?"

SIR,—The above question is asked by your correspondent, "A Thames Fisherman," and notwithstanding his quasi-answer about "the mania for steam launches" and "ribbons of spawn," I believe the real answer to the question to be "Ask the Swans."

These birds, which appear to increase steadily in numbers do, I believe, more towards clearing the boughs of these ribbons of spawn than the launches. I have been told by an eye-witness that he has seen congregated swans making a meal off the spawn on the boughs and reeds, and doubtless the same thing has been observed by many fishermen and river-keepers. Anglers are a daily increasing body, and apparently Thames fish are not; something, then, should be done to put an end to this wholesale destruction of spawn.

Either the various preservation societies should collect the spawn-covered boughs and reeds in the respective waters over which they have control, and place them where they can be easily protected from the swans, and also, to a great extent, from the wash made by steam tugs, which is, as a rule, bigger than that made by the much and often rightly abused steam-launches; or else a combined appeal should be made to the City Companies, whose property the swans are, if possible, to put some restraint on the movements of the birds during spawning time, or to waive some of their rights and diminish the number of these beautiful but destructive creatures.

Anglers are now a recognised part of the community, and are, as a rule, treated with a generous courtesy by the public at large, who would doubtless be ready to dispense with the presence of a few swans, in order that the brethren of the angle might meet with a reward more worthy of their skill and patience than they do at present.

Hoping that these suggestions (should they appear in the FISHING GAZETTE) may lead to some step in the right direction.—I am, &c., BLANK DAY.

[Last year the T.A.P.S. did good work in getting the swans incarcerated while the perch were spawning. We should much like to see these graceful poachers made into one big pie.—ED.]

RIGHTS OF FISHING IN THE RIBBLE, AT WALTON-LE-DALE.

SIR,—On September 8 I went to fish the Ribble, at Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, and I called at Mr. Prescott's, the public-house near the bridge, to ask him which was the best place to get some sport, when he informed me that the mouth of the river Darwen was a very good place to fish. I then, of course, asked him which was the best way to get there. He told me that there was a new tenant at the Nursery Gardens, named Mr. W. Throughton, and the said Mr. W. T. had told him that any anglers coming from Bolton, or any one that looked respectable, might go to the river through his gardens. Well, of course, I went through his gardens to the river; and I caught five chub, one roach and one eel, as the tide was receding. I then went to the public-house for refreshments, and as I was coming back I met Mr. W. T., and he asked me where I was going. I told him, when he ordered me off immediately, and informed me that he had never given Mr. Prescott liberty to send any anglers through his gardens at all, and that he would not allow any one the privilege to fish the Ribble there. Now, I may say that the river Darwen empties itself into the Ribble close to Mr. W. T.'s gardens, and it is a very noted place for Bolton anglers to go to; and no one has ever been stopped before for fishing there. Now, what I want to know is, can Mr. W. T. stop any one from fishing there at all, as the fence of his gardens is 8 or 10 yards from the river at this particular spot? and I always thought it was a right for all the Queen's subjects to fish where the tide ebbed and flowed. Perhaps some of our Preston friends will let us know through your valuable GAZETTE whether Mr. W. T. can stop any one from fishing there or not.—I am, &c., WILLIAM DUCKWORTH.

Cross Guns Angling Society, Bolton, Nov. 7.

[Mr. Throughton has a perfect right to prevent any one entering his garden, and if his garden borders the river he can prevent any one fishing from it, but he has no right whatever to prevent any one fishing in the tideway, unless he can produce some special charter giving him the right, or prove that it is his by "immemorial use;" if he cannot prove this, and it rests with him to do it, the right of fishing belongs to the public. See "Oke's Fishery Laws," edited by Mr. Willis. B.A.L.—ED.]

WORMS.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Mark Antony," asks in the FISHING GAZETTE of October 22, the following question:—

"Can any of your numerous readers inform me whether worms that are cut in halves with the spade when digging regain their original forms: and, if so, in what way does the tail portion form a new head, and how does it obtain nourishment to enable it to perform this extraordinary feat?"

For my own part I cannot give any proof from ocular demonstration, neither have I yet been able to peruse Mr. Darwin's late exhaustive treatise on worms; but when at school, some forty years since, I was given to understand that

worms so mutilated, viz., with the spade, were not destroyed, but actually formed separate animals. Fortunately the old school-book is still in my possession, and bears the printer's date of 1829, from which I cull the following, in hopes it may meet the views so much wished for by "Mark Antony," an answer not having appeared to that effect. "Worms unite both sexes in themselves, at once impregnating and being impregnated in their turns. Their eggs are laid in the earth, and become hatched in twelve or fourteen days by the genial warmth of their situation. During the winter these animals bury themselves deeper in the earth, and appear in some measure to partake the torpidity of the insect tribe; but in spring they revive. And as a proof of the simple organisation of worms and their degradation in the scale of being, they are also capable of being multiplied by 'cuttings.' Each section gradually acquires what was wanting to complete its form, and, in a few months, the minute parts of the original creature attain their natural size and proportion. Thus, one of the most seemingly abject of lives is the most difficult to destroy, and, in proportion to the dangers to which the tribe is exposed, Providence seems to have allotted it qualities requisite for its preservation."—I am, etc., FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

[The supposition that earth-worms can be propagated by cuttings is a well-known popular delusion, in common with the general belief that the thickened knot (*clitellum*) situated in advance of the middle of a worm's body is the healed junction of two wounded parts. The tail-end of a divided worm invariably dries, but under favourable circumstances the wounded anterior end has occasionally been known to heal, and the mutilated worm to drag on a precarious existence.]

THAMES STYLE v. NOTTINGHAM STYLE.

SIR,—If the subject of the "Tournament" is not yet exhausted in your columns, perhaps you would kindly find room for a few remarks supplementary to your own of last week on the relative merits of the Thames and the Trent styles of casting.

You were certainly right in saying that a fisherman of the latter school has a vast advantage in being able to fish from a bank where weeds or brambles abound; also in a high wind when the Thames spinner has such difficulty in coiling his line at his feet so that it shall run easily through the rings without entanglement. For mere distance throwing, too, the Trent fisher has another advantage in being able to use a much finer line, which, of course, exercises far less "drag" upon the bait thrown than a heavy one; though I fully anticipate that if the weather is fine at the next competition the distance thrown by the Thames spinners will exceed that of the Trent men, because, in spite of the finer line, the revolution of the Nottingham reel, however delicately poised upon its axis, must cause a greater loss of power than the mere picking up of the line from the ground of the other method. Even the other day, at Hendon, although the weather was far more adverse to the Thames than to the Nottingham style, the Trent champions (with the one notable exception of Mr. Little's splendid throw) were distanced by the men from Maidenhead.

Now, as to the true art of working the bait, and the keen sport of playing the fish when hooked, there can be no comparison between the two systems. The one man plays his line with the tips of his fingers and thumb, wherein is situated the most acute sense of touch; the other with the mere mechanical winding of a wooden reel. And, although by winding in the bait with the reel it spins more evenly the whole way back, still, to my mind, that is less attractive to the fish than a bait played with a series of graceful leaps, as many of our Thames men know so well how to work it. Again, in playing the fish when hooked; of course, grinding him in on the reel is an effectual way of "putting the screw" on him, but there cannot be the same exquisite sense of sport as is enjoyed by the man who feels every struggle and plunge communicated through the line to his fingers; much in the same manner and as acutely as the other sense—hearing—is exercised by two persons conversing from a distance by means of the telephone. The difference between the finger work of the one system and the mechanical work of the other, is as great, as in art, is the difference between a fine water-colour drawing and a chromolithograph.

One word on another subject, and I will bore you no more. I was very pleased to see the weights of the baits used at the tournament given in last week's GAZETTE, as it will, I hope, satisfy those who, I hear, have expressed disappointment at the distances thrown. You, sir (or one of your correspondents), the week before the event, doubted the 60 or 70 yard casts, so often spoken of in club rooms, &c., and I think that if one were to try and verify any of them, it would be found either that the distance was only "strided" out, or that a heavy weight (such as was shown at the Welsh Harp, and unanimously rejected by all the competitors) was used to accomplish it.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for having inaugurated these interesting friendly competitions.—I am, &c., V.

[Having just got back (10 p.m., Wednesday) from a jolly day's spinning in the Thames style we can fully endorse V's remarks about the pleasure afforded by feeling the bait spin and feeling the fish fighting; at the same time, we think that the Nottingham angler will claim he can spin fast or slow, can stop his reel and let his bait dive like a goose bait, &c.; at the same time it is a curious fact that whilst two of us used the Thames style and did well, a more skilful angler with us spinning from the reel did not do so well, getting but one fish against our ten.—ED.]

LARGE PERCH.

SIR,—Having seen so many reports in the FISHING GAZETTE about large perch, I beg to say that I was in the employment of the late Mr. John Cooper, naturalist, upwards of 33 years. During that period the largest perch preserved in his establishment weighed 5 lb. 1 oz. I presume it was the one "Esox Lucus" saw many years since at Holroyd, fishing tackle makers, in Gracechurch Street.

I will give you a brief history of it. Upwards of thirty years ago, Clapham, the keeper to Mr. Sage, the owner of Dagenham Lake, brought two pike, 20 lb. each, to be preserved. On that day Mr. Cooper had a perch, 3½ lb., come in for preservation, and observed to Clapham that it was a large specimen. Clapham thought very little of it, as there were perch in the lake between 6 and 7 lb. Mr. Cooper offered him a sovereign to produce one of that weight. About a week had elapsed when he came with the above-mentioned perch, saying that it was upwards of 6 lb. Upon putting it in the scales it balanced 5 lb. 1 oz. Mr. Cooper gave him the sovereign, remarking that it was the largest perch he had ever seen. When preserved it was exhibited at Holroyd's about three weeks. Mr. Sage having heard of it, requested the fish to be sent to Dagenham. Mr. Cooper, being an obliging man, acceded to his wish; the

remuneration he got was two more perch, one 3½ lb. and the other 3 lb. Respecting the 10½ lb. one there must be a great mistake. I remember the present Mr. Cooper, previous to my leaving him, having a skin filled out by some local stuffer, to be fitted into a case. That fish was not so large as the one from Dagenham. I think it must be a pike-perch, as we cased one or two of that species.—I am, &c.,

WM. GIBSON, Naturalist.

19, Richmond Grove, Barnsbury, N., Nov., 1881.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since the last report, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions, with thanks:—A. Jardine, £1 is., annual; A. Rogers (Izaak Walton), 10s. 6d., annual; J. Boalch (Walworth Waltonians), 5s.; E. Hoffman (United Essex), 2s. 6d.; G. Grimes (Gresham), 2s. 6d.; and M. H. Rodell, Clarence Gate, Regent's Park, 5s., annual.—R. GURNEY, sec.

Nov. 16.

ANGLERS' PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members of this club were out on Sunday. Mr. T. Fiddes, 3½ lb. roach; Mr. J. Soar, roach and gudgeon; Mr. J. Dealey, jun., roach and gudgeon; Messrs. H. Haines, D. Dodson and F. Nash also weighed-in fish. A very nice show of gudgeon.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

Nov. 15.

BRISTOL GOLDEN CARP ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, November 11, the Committee of the above association had a contest on the association waters, which proved very successful. At the close of the contest the competitors journeyed to the club house, the White Hart Hotel, Old Market Street, and partook of a beefsteak and oyster supper, served up by our worthy host (Mr. W. G. Leigh). The cloth having been cleared, preparations were made for an enjoyable evening. Mr. J. Hadden occupied the chair and Mr. H. Inch the vice, Mr. F. Gazzard presiding at the piano. The vocal talent was grand, which comprised the noted Mr. G. Pullin, Mr. Ross, the venerable H. Warr, and Mr. F. Cornish. The usual loyal toasts were given, likewise the drinking of health to the chairman, host and hostess, pianist, and vocal talent. After spending a most enjoyable evening, the members dispersed at a reasonable hour.—LEWIS WRIE, sec.

BRIGHTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

The fine condition of the rivers in the Brighton district has induced several members to go out. Mr. Ash took, on Sunday, at Berwick, 6 lb. of bream and perch; Mr. Tree, 3 lb., at the same place; Mr. Anscombe and G. Saunders had smaller takes. Three of Mr. Ash's bream were brought to Brighton alive and placed under Mr. Tree's care till Monday, and they are now in the Brighton Aquarium, doing well. Mr. Power and G. Foord had good takes of silver whiting and gurnard, last Sunday, only two miles at sea. Wind, south-south-west.—GROUNDBAIT.

Nov. 16.

BROUGHTON ANGLING CLUB.

The members of this club held their dinner in connection with the closing of the past trout season, Mr. Griffin, of the Apple Tree Inn, in the chair, Mr. D. Hooper in the vice. There was not so good a muster as expected. Amongst those present were Messrs. A. Bosworth, J. B. Bosworth, Alfred Bosworth, J. Hill, J. Deakin, of Malvern, C. Halier, W. H. Carey, J. Griffin, H. Watkins, C. Watkins, &c. After the loyal toast the hon. sec. read a short report, part of which we give:—"This club is formed for the object of carrying out as far as possible the protection of fish against poaching, and the committee recommend all its members to assist the water bailiff at all times in so doing." The following gentlemen were the most successful up to end of last month: Mr. A. Bosworth, 90 lb. of dace, roach and chub; Mr. Guillams, best take of trout in one day; Mr. J. A. Griffin, 37 brace of trout and best brace of grayling, 2 lb.; Mr. Hopkins, 24 lb. of white fish; Mr. Carey, trout, chub, dace, &c.; Mr. A. Bosworth, best fish 3 lb. 4 oz., a chub; Tandy, 11 chub, weighing 9½ lb., one take, and others are upon the list, but not to the front; yet there are four months for the white fish and pike. We expect some good takes after the water has run off. The rivers are full of snow-water, and fish are shy and lie close. We have eight prizes this season. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and the health of host and hostess was heartily responded to. It may be interesting to many readers of the FISHING GAZETTE to know that I have a roach now alive that was taken with the hook, and put into a basket with a dozen others; it was quite lively after being weighed, and in the basket from half-past four o'clock until half-past nine; it was a very foggy night. Mr. A. Bosworth gave it me, and it is doing well in my tank.—J. A. GRIFFIN.

St. John's, Worcester.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last we had another very fair show of fish at this club. A good many members went out to find some sport, but only the following gentlemen were successful—Mr. Hastings, roach; Mr. Ratcliffe, roach and dace; Mr. Coughlan, roach; Mr. B. Smith, a very nice take of dace from Waltham; Mr. Samuel Fouch, a very interesting bachelor angler, who is always full of fun and jokes, was duly appointed master of the scales for the rest of the season. Mr. Ratcliffe again favoured us with a nice show of roach, from Richmond, on Monday.—T. J. WALKER.

Nov. 17.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLING CLUBS.

This association continues to make satisfactory progress, and possesses comfortable quarters at the Star and Garter, St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross, the worthy host, Mr. F. C. Hatfield, who holds the position of treasurer, doing all he can, and no man can do more, to make success a certainty. Two new angling clubs were enrolled at the last meeting—"The Second Surrey," at the Queen's Head, Brandon Street, Walworth, and "The Crown," at the Crown and Sceptre, Friendly Street, Deptford. Mr. R. Stebbings makes an active secretary and Mr. J. C. Murray a thorough business chairman.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

The following members weighed-in on the 13th inst.:—Messrs. Payne and J. Chambers, roach and bream, from Amberly; Mr. Castell, roach, from the Stort; and Messrs. Mortimer and Mark, a good show of roach, from the Rye House.—CAS.

DUKE OF CORNWALL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society have been meeting with capital success during their new half-year. Having removed to their old quarters, the Duke of Cornwall, Lismore Circus, they appear likely to have a successful season up to the

end of the year. On the 6th ult., Mr. B. Sargeant headed the show with 23½ lb. of splendid roach and one jack of 2½ lb., Mr. W. Hyde being close with a capital collection of roach, perch, chub, and dace; Mr. Evans some 5 lb. of roach. Several prizes were still to be had from Boxmoor, and Mr. Robinson ventured there, taking first, Mr. W. Kettle running close for second; but as they were down for roach only, their shows were somewhat small. Even those stakes were beaten on the 13th, Mr. Evans having a roach and losing a jack, estimated at all sorts of weights; Mr. Arthur Sargeant, a brace of jack, 9 lb. But the "plumber" was Mr. Hannagan, with 3 lb. of roach, one chub, 4 lb. 7 oz., brace of jack, 9 lb. 8 oz., and one of the handsomest specimens of *Esox Lucius* that your correspondent ever had the pleasure to see—weighing 2 oz. short of 14 lb.—which has been sent for preservation. But this young angler's first fish ought certainly to have been wetted, if not toasted.—J. HICKFORD, sec.

FIRST SURREY ANGLING SOCIETY.

Owing to the non-attendance of members last Wednesday the match, which was to have come off next Sunday, has been postponed until Nov. 27. It is hoped that the members will show up well next week to make final arrangements.—P. D. MANNING, sec.

GOOD INTENT.

The members of this club finished the second Sunday out of the four for the month's competition, the jack fishers having the best of it up to the present. Mr. Ovines brought in close on 10 lb. jack, Mr. Cox jack; twenty members weighed-in roach, the heaviest weight being 4 lb. The roach appear dead off on the Lea. Mr. Bonnick brought in a handsome perch on Tuesday from St. Margaret's, 3 lb., sent to Cooper's. The members voted £2 2s. to Mr. Bonvoisin's testimonial, hoping it will be a great success.—R. MURPHY.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Sunday, November 6: Mr. Theobald, 7 lb. 7 oz. roach; Mr. J. A. Fitch, one jack, Mr. W. Parkin, 8 lb. 9 oz., including a nice chub, 3 lb. 4 oz.; Mr. J. K. Fitch, 3 lb. 13 oz.; all from the Wey. Mr. Armstrong, 4 lb. 5 oz. roach; F. Watling, 4 lb. 3 oz. roach, from the Thames; Messrs. Hutchings, Kirk, Butler and Smith, roach, from the Colne. Sunday, November 13: Mr. Stammer, 3 lb. jack, from the Welsh Harp; Messrs. Baker, Theobald, J. K. Fitch, G. Parkin, W. Parkin, Hutchings, and J. A. Fitch, roach, from the Wey; Messrs. C. Warren, F. Watling, Smith, Armstrong, Young, and Warne, roach, from the Thames. Mr. F. Watling won a spinning rod given by Mr. Dillon, tackle maker, Victoria Road, Kentish Town.—J. A. FITCH, jun., sec.

Nov. 15.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met, as usual, on Thursday evening, T. P. Cooper, Esq., in the chair. The hon. secretary stated that the society now numbered about 190 members, and that the memorial in favour of an alteration in the Thames Conservancy Bye-laws, having been signed on their behalf by the president, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., had been duly forwarded to the Thames Angling Preservation Society. The fish taken during the week were small, and mostly returned to the water, but a jack of 9 lb. 14 oz. had been weighed-in by Mr. Cooper, the chairman of the evening. The society expected to rent some water in the course of a few days, and if so, Mr. Cooper's prize of the value of £2 2s. will be fished for in it. This being an off night, when no very special business was to be transacted, some of the members gave musical selections, Mr. Winterbottom presiding, with his usual ability, at the piano. There was also a ballot for new members, and Messrs. B. Simkins, J. Budd, E. J. Hoffman, A. Benningfield, J. T. Long, C. Bates, and R. Robertson were elected. Other candidates will be balloted for at the next meeting. Mr. Wheelton will give his paper on "The Science of Angling" on Thursday, the 24th inst. at 7 p.m., when Mr. S. C. Harding will preside. The committee anticipate a large attendance, and will do their best to accommodate members. The evening of Thursday, December 1, is to be devoted to music, when Mr. Winterbottom, Mr. Harding and friends will reproduce the old Waltonian airs. Secretaries of societies, and gentlemen interested, are welcome to attend any of these gatherings on signing the visitors' book.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. B. Crook won Mr. T. Davison, jun.'s prize for the heaviest weight of any kind (bar chub), taken on the first two Sundays in November. Mr. E. W. Turner's prize for chub was not taken, but by request of Mr. Turner, it is to be fished for on Sunday next, the 20th inst. Two special prizes were fished on Wednesday, 16th inst.; Mr. W. H. Mechem secured first honours, Mr. G. Bliss, the second. The half-yearly distribution of special prizes will take place on Wednesday, the 30th inst., on which occasion it has been proposed and agreed that the members have a supper. Members who intend being present will please send in their names to the secretary not later than Sunday, the 29th insts. No names can be received after this date.

Nov. 17th, 1881.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

This club met on Sunday evening last, when Messrs. Green, Smart, Kollemann and Jeffrey weighed-in fish from Shepperton, and Mr. Steade had a nice show of dace from Richmond. The club is now in good working order, and its members are steadily increasing.—H. M. PLATT, secretary.

Nov. 7.

LARKHALL.

The first smoking concert of the season was held on the 9th inst., when some 70 members and friends assembled in the club-room at the Larkhall, Clapham, and spent a most enjoyable evening. Mr. F. Croutet opened the proceedings by a good rendering of "The Bay of Biscay," which was well received. Messrs. Lovett and Edmondson sang in their usual finished manner, their duet being greatly appreciated. Mr. Broadlake gave some good serio-comic songs, and our worthy president, Mr. G. F. Spencer, and his brother, W. Spencer, won hearty applause by the telling delivery of their recitations. Of the excellent songs that were sung, special mention should be made of those by Messrs. Cranch, Creak, Owen, Mitchell and Taylor. Mr. Charles Hallé, of the Royal Aquarium, played two solos with his accustomed good taste, and gave the utmost satisfaction by his efficient accompanying.

The next concert is fixed for Wednesday, December 14, when a large muster is anticipated. The following members have been fairly successful during the past week: Mr. Westley, from Datchet, perch, 1 lb. 15 oz., and from Richmond, roach, 3 lb. 3½ oz., dace, 1 lb. 6 oz.; Mr. Morris, Weybridge, perch, 3 lb. 11 oz.; Mr. Bird, Shiplake, weighed in some fine tench, three fish going 7 lb. 10 oz., which were much admired, and two chub, 3 lb. 2 oz. and 4 lb. 5½ oz., perch 12½ oz., roach 4 lb. 7 oz., and from Hertford a fine sample of dace, 5 lb. 11½; Mr.

G. Watkins, from Egham, chub 1lb. 2oz., and Mr. E. Watkins from same place, perch, 3lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Taylor, from Hertford, 1 jack, 4lb., dace, 1lb. 4½ oz., roach, 3lb. 13oz.; Mr. G. Spencer, at Egham, took a lengthy jack in bad condition, weighing 10lb. 5 oz., and another 2 lb. 10 oz., and one perch, 15oz.; Mr. W. Spencer at the same place killing his first jack, 3lb. 5½ oz.; Mr. Kerry weighed bream, roach, and dace from Richmond, and Mr. Penn roach and dace from the same place, but both takes were small.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A large number of our members were out on the 13th, and the majority weighed-in, but the takes were generally small. Mr. Hurwood 2 lb. 11 oz., Mr. Letch 2 lb. 8 oz., Mr. Petre, 2 lb. ½ oz. roach, &c.; Mr. Laich, perch; Mr. Scott, perch; Mr. Wightman, perch and roach; Mr. H. Moore, perch; Mr. Heelas, roach; Mr. Grey, roach and dace; Mr. Raine, perch and gudgeon; Mr. Humphreys, roach and gudgeon. On Wednesday Mr. P. Banfield tried his luck at the Rye House, and got some jack and roach, one jack weighing 4 lb.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Nov. 4.

ODDS AND EVENS ANGLING SOCIETY.

Tuesday, November 22, has been set apart, at the Grecian Theatre, for the benefit of Mr. Charles Watling, sen., member of the above society, who, through depression in trade and many heavy losses in business, is compelled to appeal to his brother anglers and friends for assistance. Mr. C. Watling, sen., having been connected with angling clubs for thirty years, and at various times rendered great services to the anglers of London, the committee trust this appeal will be well supported. Please apply to Mr. J. Fitch, jun., Robin Hood, Southampton Street, Pentonville.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA.

We had a fine show of fish on Sunday last, Mr. E. Brockett roach and dace, Mr. C. Hewett roach, Mr. Blackledge roach, Mr. Newton jack, Mr. Sharp jack, Mr. M. Dymond jack. Our winter concerts commenced on Monday last, and proved a great success, and it will be continued through the winter months.—E. DYMOND, secretary pro. tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

On Sunday last eighteen members of the above society fished a pegged-down match at the Forty Guinea Water, and after a spirited contest Mr. J. Drew was declared the winner. Mr. Neagus had a show of roach from the Stort, and Mr. Lucy, sen., jack from the Lea. On Monday next, Nov. 21, a general meeting will take place to receive the delegate's report, and on other important business.—THOS. WM. LUCY.

PHOENIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

The fish ran rather shy the last week or so, but nevertheless Mr. G. Bentley and Henry Maynard and Henry Parker have been up to their old game again, and captured a very nice show of roach and perch, weight 19 lb., Messrs. Milton, Crisp, Hamilton, Lochmuller, and Reed contributing their mite. The next return visit of No. 1 District Angling Societies will take place here on Tuesday next, November 22, when we shall be pleased to see all old friends.—W. ELBOURN, sec.

November 15.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Sunday last a series of prizes were fished for at Chertsey. Most of the members were new to the place, so did not settle down so comfortably as might be expected. Winners of prizes:—first, Mr. Harnack; second, Mr. B. Hughes; third, Mr. Holden; fourth, Mr. Wilcox; fifth, Mr. F. Millard. Mr. Hughes also took a prize for the largest fish bar jack, won with a bream weighing nearly 2 lb.; Messrs. Guyman and Trotter, a splendid show of roach, from the Lower Thames.—F. MILLARD, sec.

Nov. 16.

SOUTH LONDON.

On the 11th Mr. Brown, from Chertsey, had 6½ lb. roach, and on the 13th 7 lb. roach; also Mr. Brewood, who tied him with 7 lb. roach; Mr. Mitchell, 3 lb. roach; Mr. Head a small jack, 3 lb., all from Chertsey; Mr. Boorman, a jack 3½ lb., from Edenbridge, same day; self was at Chertsey on the 15th, and got 3 lb. roach.—G. H. FIELD.

November 17th.

STANLEY ANGLERS.

At the weekly meeting on Wednesday last it was unanimously resolved to support the memorial of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in reference to certain proposed alterations in the bye-laws, as published in the FISHING GAZETTE about a fortnight or three weeks since. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, as president, occupied the chair, and Mr. W. H. Brougham was also present to speak on the various points. Whilst cordially supporting the memorial in every particular, there was a strong feeling expressed to close the season for jack-fishing at an earlier period. Mr. George E. Walker has undertaken the secretarial duties in succession to Mr. Charles Laidlaw, who has resigned, and the members appear to have made a happy selection, as Mr. Walker has both the ability and the will to make the society prosperous, and has already evinced a desire to make punctuality in attendance one of the elements to ensure success. The arrangements of Mr. Jarvis, the worthy host and treasurer, in providing tripe on the occasion of these weekly meetings, is a popular movement, and, being done so well, is immensely appreciated. A report of the fishing at Walton and the state of the river was received from Mr. Wood, of the Anglers' Hotel, together with a "special tariff for anglers," and read by the secretary, which great satisfaction, and Mr. W. H. Brougham confirmed the desire of Mr. Wood to promote the interest and sport of the anglers.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

The result of the competition among the members of this society, which took place on the 9th, is as follows:—1st, Mr. Duck, 8 lb. 6 oz. of roach and dace; 2nd, Mr. Pugh 7 lb. 12½ oz. tench, roach, and dace, the largest tench going over 2 lb. 12 oz.; next came the worthy chairman of the society, Mr. Meadow, with 7 lb. 2 oz. of chub, from the Colne. There were also two prizes for honorary members, these were taken by Mr. C. Bansback, jun., and Mr. Watson, with roach from Richmond. Messrs. C. Bansback, sen., Hayward, Beckett, and Murray also had fish, bringing the gross weight up to 50 lb. The next competition will take place in December; how and where, will be open for discussion on Wednesday next. The prices for this occasion will be as follows:—1st, £2 2s., given by Mr. Linstead; 2nd, £1 1s., by Mr. Walker; and a guinea given by Mr. Smithers. I have been informed that Mr. Pugh has sent his tench to be preserved, and also that Mr. Meadow intends to have his chub preserved; and when finished will be added to the collection of the society.—PIXIE.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Scarcely anything worth reporting this week, only just enough to say we had something to weigh. F. Watts, roach, from the Thames; and J. Edber, roach and dace, from the Medway. There is just one other item I should like to report, viz., the reports which have been published recently in reference to the Medway—notably last week—in which "The (not "Ye") Medway Water-rat" says "The river ought to be called the Mudway, &c." Now, to say that a river is thick when the reverse is the case, is, to say the least, very misleading, and cannot be condemned too strongly. A friend of mine was down at Tunbridge on Sunday, the 13th, and he says the water is and has been in good condition for three weeks past. Perhaps Mr. Hollomby will explain, if he sent the report, which I hardly think probable.—WILLIAM BELTON.

Nov. 14.

WALTONIANS.

Nov. 6.—Very handsome show by Mr. Phillips, roach, 11 lb. 14 oz.; chub, 2 lb. 9½ oz.; Mr. Watkins (T.), also a very handsome show of roach and dace, 9 lb. 3½ oz., also three perch, 4 lb. 9½ oz. A prize, fished for at Moulford, was won by Mr. Putnam with jack and roach, 4 lb. 10½ oz.; Mr. Togwell had roach and dace, 5 lb. 7 oz.; Messrs. Malcom, Waltham, and Good, jun., also weighed-in; and I weighed a jack from Broxbourne, 2 lb. 7½ oz., and a small show of roach. Nov. 9.—Mr. Malcom, roach, 4 lb. 4 oz.; I also weighed a very handsome little jack from Broxbourne, weight, 6 lb. 14 oz., taken with a paternoster. Nov. 13.—Mr. Roland had roach and dace, 9 lb.; Mr. Phillips, roach and chub, 7 lb. 3 oz., largest chub, 3 lb. 12½ oz.; Messrs. Grace, Greenfield, Starr, Read, Malcom, Good, jun., and Waltham, also weighed-in fish.—N. J. MARRIOTT.

Nov. 15.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

Mr. Weatherhead and Mr. Grigg were out on the 9th and 10th, they succeeded in getting some roach and chub on both occasions. On the 11th the erasing of a name from the books of the society for breaking the rules of the same was met with unanimous approbation. On the 13th a competition took place at Windsor, for a silver watch given by Mr. Feuillade. A guinea pair of boots by Mr. Boalch, and 10s. 6d. by Mr. Delehay. Honorary members were allowed to compete on this occasion, and the following is the result. Mr. Delehay won the watch, Mr. Mawby (H.M.) the boots, and Mr. Bayley, the 10s. 6d. The next competition will take place on Tuesday, November 29th for a set of tankards given by Mr. South. Box of cigars, pipe, and a ½ lb. of tobacco, by Mr. W. Taylor. Mr. Blake will give half-a-dozen bottles of wine for the same day. Mr. W. Brown has informed me, in a very polite manner, that it was on the 5th of November that he and Mr. Cane visited Weybridge, and not on the 5th of December as stated in your last issue. He says, "You must have been indulging in a sample of that two gallons of gin that is to be given by a member for the 18th of December, or something else." Well, Mr. W. Brown, I might have put December to the date of your nocturnal visit to Weybridge after writing about that prize, but as to the sample of the "juniper juice," I must say that I have not received it, nor do I indulge in that liquor, the waters of Burton being more to my fancy.—PIXIE.

November 15.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

We had another capital show of fish in the club room of the above society on Sunday last, taken from the Thames by the following members:—Mr. Taylor, roach and dace, one dace scaling 6 oz.; Mr. White, roach and dace, one dace scaling 5½ oz.; Mr. Bradley, dace; and Mr. Webster, jack from Amberley. A concert will take place at the club room, the Cross Keys, Theobald's Road, on Tuesday, Nov. 22, for the benefit of J. Wilcockson, late a member of the West Central Angling Society, who has been out of employment and laid up with paralysis for a long time. Members of other clubs who will kindly give us a look up on that evening will be sure of enjoying themselves with a good entertainment.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

Nov. 14.

AMERICAN METHOD OF PUTTING ON A LIVE BAIT.—An Indiana fisherman gives the following as the best method of hooking minnows alive for bait:—"Take a piece of black cotton thread a foot long, tie the middle of it tight under the barb of the hook; now take the bait in the left hand, lay the hook on its left side, the barb up by the shoulder of the bait, with the shaft along the belly; now pass the thread over the shoulder and around under the fish, and tie to the shaft of the hook, then pass the thread along the shaft until under and back of the back fin, then tie tightly around the shaft of the hook, then pass the thread on each side of the fish up to the back, just back of the back fin, and tie with a bowknot. This fastens the bait securely without hurting it, and you will have the liveliest and best bait ever used. As the shaft of the hook lies along the belly, it keeps the bait in proper shape, and as the fish usually takes the bait head first, you are sure to hook your fish. With just a little patience at the first trial, you will find that you can tie on the bait very quickly, and then have the best bait you ever used.—Chicago Field.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. The Gregory, the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedeian spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedeian fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout FLIES which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

NOTICE.

—o—

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

THE FISHING GAZETTE is published every Saturday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the following, amongst other Fishing Tackle Dealers in London and the Provinces:—

Messrs. Alfred and Son, Moorgate-street.
Messrs. Price and Co., 8, Seymour-street, Euston-square, N.W.
Messrs. Williams and Co., Great Queen-street.
Messrs. Gee and Co., St. Andrew's-street, St. Martin's-lane.
Messrs. Gee and Co., Gray's Inn-lane (near Holborn end).
Messrs. Little and Co., Fetter-lane, E.C.
Messrs. C. Kewell and Sons, 197, St. John-street-road, E.C.
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Mrs. F. Y. Brocas, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, W.
Messrs. Gillett and Co., 40, Fetter-lane, London.
Mr. Alfred Young, "The Golden Perch," 174B, Oxford-street, W.
Mr. T. Barnett, 26, Church Street, Lisson Grove, N.W.
Mr. J. Smith, 7, Tottenham Court Road, London.
Mr. Edwin Stevens, Newsagent, 220, Kentish Town Road.

or

Mr. B. R. Barnbridge, 74 and 75, High Street, Eton, Bucks.
Mr. Cowan, 33, South Frederick-street, Edinburgh.
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Mr. C. J. Greene, 54, London-street, Norwich.
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Mr. James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.
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Messrs. Gaynor and Son, 10, Royal-terrace, Richmond, Surrey.
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Mr. Wilkes, Gunmaker, Leeds.
Messrs. Cayless and Sons, Midland Tent Works, Loughborough.
Miss G. Wells, 1, Sussex-street, Nottingham.
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Mr. John Wells, 4, London-road, Nottingham.
Messrs. Mitchell and Co., 50, Market-street, Manchester.
Mr. J. Croisdale, 56, Briggate, Leeds.
Mr. John Keeling, the Golden Salmon, 7, Digbeth, Birmingham.
Mr. John Heywood, Manchester.
Mr. John Cocks, Baker Street, Weybridge, Surrey.
Mr. Wm. Reid, No 14 gate, Darlington.
Mr. R. Pearsall, 11, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham.
Mr. G. T. Gibbons, 10, Bridge Street, Salisbury.
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News-vendors can obtain the journal through their London Agents.

* * The "FISHING GAZETTE" SPINNER (Registered) is sold by all the above firms.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the Manager of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

N.B.—All Remittances must be sent, and all Cheques and Money Orders must be made payable to ROBERT B. MARSTON.

The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1881.

PERCH AND PERCH - FISHING.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PERCH-FISHING is, to me, very fascinating. To witness the gallant fight of a large perch, and, above all, to feel his severe struggles, is one of the treats of the angler's experience. Yet it sounds cruel to say so, and cruel it would unquestionably be

if the sensations of a fish at all equalled those of a human being. But this I cannot acknowledge to be the case, and perhaps I may here be allowed to digress a little in the direction of the "feelings of fishes."

"Do fish feel pain when hooked?" is, perhaps, the best way to put the question; and it must be further added that the pain referred to is not the momentary pang alone, but its possible continuance during the whole process of playing, landing, and subsequent asphyxia in air, which must be considered before we can arrive at any conclusion respecting the cruelty or otherwise of fishing. In regard to the soft-mouthed fishes, such as roach, tench, carp, etc., it may at once be conceded that pain, if felt at all as pain, on being hooked, is greater than in the case of the bony-lipped pike or perch. With the latter the nerves of the mouth are fewer and less sensitive, and consequently less pain follows on the piercing of the hook's point. But the question arises, "How far are we justified in applying the term *pain*?" Judging from the frequent instances of fish—of prey especially—being pricked, breaking away, and returning again to the bait, it would seem that the word, as we understand it, is a misnomer. Indeed, I frankly confess I believe that it is not incompatible with the nature of a strong, agile fish of prey to rather enjoy the struggle than suffer the poignant anguish which such struggles in more sentient animals would seem to indicate. In the case of a warm-blooded animal, the higher organisation seems to furnish certain susceptibilities which, revolting against interference, react, causing pain just in proportion to the development of the organism. In the fish, the lack of intelligence; or its extremely low order, must render nil the anguish of anticipation; and if there be few nerves, and those of not high appreciative power, the actual pain resolves itself at most to inconvenience, which, in turn, may be rendered pleasant, in that it causes one of the greatest of physical pleasures, namely, the exercise of vigorous and strong muscular powers. The athlete rejoices in antagonism of strength. The greyhound rejoices in the exercise of its powers of swiftness and endurance, so does the horse. Warm-blooded creatures of prey delight in the chase—why should not the cold-blooded marauder of the water delight in the struggle between itself and the frail line?

But to return to perch-angling. The rod which I have found most useful is one which admits of a sharp strike, and ought, therefore, not to be too long, because the necessary stiffness implies weight; nor too short; because, when the bait is some distance from the angler, it is obviously unlikely that a good, instantaneous strike can be brought to bear on the mouth of the fish. About ten feet is the most useful length for paternostering from a punt, for I will refer to this style of fishing first. Let it not be understood that I direct the tyro to strike at once on perceiving a bite. This should never be done; but sufficient time—say while one can count ten—should elapse before the instant strike is made. By this time the bait has been fairly taken in the fish's mouth, and it is improbable to miss hooking the perch when such is the case. A perch usually takes the minnow head first.

For perch-fishing, I always use a dressed fine plait line, and I, in every case, when fishing for fish likely to inhabit weeds, prefer a greenish coloured article. Now there is a complaint often made concerning the difficulty of getting a good green dressing, and many lines which cost a lot of money and look beautifully dressed with this colour turn out very indifferently, owing to the peeling off of the application. The real fault, however, is in using a coloured dressing at all. Why not dye the line, as I always do now, with Judson's dyes, to whatever tint you desire, before dressing it. I have never found that these dyes hasten the rotting of good silk, and it is a certain thing that they permeate the entire fibre so that the line will always bear the same colour to the last thread. Having thoroughly dried the line, I apply the ordinary boiled oil and gold size dressing, and this is repeated every season, as long as the line lasts.

Apropos of dressings, it may not be out of place to give a few of the formulæ I have tried from time to time, and found good, as at this time of the year many are looking up their perch and jack tackle. (1) 2 oz. gold size, 4 oz. boiled oil. (2) Teaspoonful boiled oil, resin and beeswax each pieces about the size of a walnut, pulverise the resin, and slice the beeswax. Put them together in a jam pot in boiling water till dissolved, stirring with a bit of wood; put the line in while the mixture is warm; clear off superfluous dressing with a piece of sponge or wash-leather. (3) Boiled oil, 1 pint; beeswax, ½ lb.—melt in a jam pot in boiling water; put the line in while mixture is hot. (4) ½ pint boiled oil, beeswax as large as a filbert; Burgundy pitch as large as a walnut; teaspoonful of copal varnish. Soak when the mixture is quite warm. (5) After the line is quite dry from the last dressing immerse it in gold size, stretch it quick, and cleanse it from superfluous dressing by means of rag and sponge; again dip it in gold size, and cleanse; then steep it in an india-rubber solution—this may be made by digesting shreds of india-rubber in salad oil; cleanse and dry. It will take a long time to dress the line in this

way, but after it is done it will be found wonderfully smooth, and entirely waterproofed. (6) $\frac{1}{2}$ gill oak varnish, 1 gill boiled oil. (7) White india-rubber in chips, 2 oz.; half pint methylated spirit I am doubtful of the last dressing—(7)—never having tried it, and shall feel obliged by any correspondent trying it, and reporting results. Mr. King (the maker of the natural bait) sells a very nice solid dressing which, as a temporary application, may be recommended. He calls it "Ceroleum," and it contains beeswax in some quantity and resin, I think.

To resume, however, about actual perch-tackle. The next consideration is the bottom arrangement, a paternoster, which I prefer made of salmon gut for the main line, and fine gut for the hooks—that is, when only perch are expected. As, however, it very often happens that pike are present in the water, gimp may be advantageously employed for the hooks—it should be fine, and in proportion to its fineness so ought the quality of it to be: hence, "buy the best." The sinker, a plummet, should be painted green, or some dull colour, and be of cylindrical cone shape so that it may not catch in the weeds. A couple No. 8 swivels should be tied in the main line of the paternoster. The hooks may be No. 10 triplets, or No. 6 or 7 Dublin Limerick.

(To be continued.)

PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

HITHERTO the progress in the artificial propagation of fish in this country has been so slow as to be a matter of surprise, and although much has been done within the last few years in the artificial propagation of salmonidæ, the culture of freshwater fish generally has received little or no attention whatever. The suggestion of Mr. R. B. Marston is a move in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that anglers and others who have devoted any thought to the subject, will ventilate and discuss the subject amongst themselves, and also in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, and so create interest in a matter of such vital importance to our angling prospects. The valuable practical suggestions of "B.," in the FISHING GAZETTE of the 12th inst., are what is required, and if others will follow his example, it would undoubtedly be a great help towards the proposed meeting arriving at something definite. If a society of the kind suggested can only be started, I feel sure that, with the great and continued spread of angling all over the country, it cannot be other than successful; but I think the efforts of such a society should be devoted to the propagation of the better sorts of our freshwater fishes, other than salmonidæ, and to the introduction of some of the excellent—both from an angler's, and an edible point of view—American fishes.

With regard to the cultivation of carp, it is an open question whether or not the money and time required for it might not be better employed in the cultivation of other fish; for although the introduction of the best varieties of carp has been for several years a favourite object with the United States Fish Commissions, it now appears from their report there is very little demand for the fish, and that it is not appreciated there as a food fish, and their experience might be brought home to us, for if its edible qualities will not recommend it, it is certain that its qualities for sport will not. Now, with regard to some of the American fishes, notably black bass, it is far otherwise. Black bass gives first-rate sport in all branches of angling, and is an excellent fish for the table. Successful attempts have been made to introduce this fish into English waters by the Marquis of Exeter, and, I believe, others; and, although the cost and trouble of getting them over from America, in case the proposed society could not obtain them here, would be greater than getting over the best varieties of carp from Germany, it would be infinitely better for anglers, and, when once a good supply of stock fish is obtained they might be multiplied to an indefinite extent. I find by the American reports, that about 100 black bass were introduced some years since into the waters of the Upper Potomac, and they soon became so plentiful as to play an important part in the food supply of the interior of the State. Hundreds of families residing in the region drained by those waters are saved thousands of pounds of meat annually by the introduction of this wholesome change of diet, and the fine fishing in the streams has attracted anglers from all parts of the country to enjoy the bass fishing, nowhere to be excelled. It must not be understood that I put our waters on a par with the American waters, which, like everything else in America, are on a "great" scale; but we can follow their example as far as our means will allow. And although our beautiful Thames is only a "darned creek," as an eminent member of the United States Fish Commission is pleased to term it, it, and our other rivers, are capable of great things if only properly cared for; and I am sure that the said "eminent member," from what I have heard and read of

him, would do all he possibly could to help us in the introduction of American fish to English waters.

If a society, like the one proposed, can succeed in increasing our better class of coarse fish, and in introducing others, and so afford better sport, it will follow that the noble army of anglers will vastly increase, and that, instead of being numbered by hundreds, we shall be numbered by thousands.—Yours, &c.,

King's Lynn.

"Respecte finem."

[Why are anglers so shy of carp? Some one said the other day that they were too difficult to catch! We should think the more difficult a fish is to catch, the more worthy is he of being caught; and as for sport—well, a 2 lb. carp will give as much sport as any fish, except a trout or barbel. We should like to see some black bass introduced, and wrote some weeks ago to America for prices of ova and fry. They will only thrive, we think, in deep, cold streams or lakes, with rocky bottom. We do not propose to get any fish from Germany. By the way, carp are good eating, if properly cooked. Her Majesty the Queen eats them frequently.—Ed.]

JOHN HORROCKS.

(DIED, JUNE 15.)

IT is with great regret we learn of the death of Mr. John Horrocks, an Englishman, who, for the last forty years, lived at Weimar, in Saxony. He had carried on the business of a brewer before leaving England, and went to Weimar for rest. He was a most enthusiastic fly-fisher, and has done more than any one towards creating a taste for this highest branch of the angling art amongst our Teutonic relatives on the Continent. A few years ago he published a really beautiful and valuable work, entitled, "The Art of Fly-fishing for Trout and Grayling in Germany and Austria," with the express purpose of teaching the art. We value our copy of it highly. Mr. Horrocks was greatly respected by his adopted countrymen, and the German "Fishing Gazette," speaks very highly of him, saying "he was a true English sportsman," who looked upon fish as valuable just in proportion as they afforded him sport, their value as food for the people being but a secondary consideration in his eyes, consequently he had not much regard for professional fishermen who get their living by the use of the net. He "strictly preserved" a stretch of water in the neighbourhood of Weimar, the beautiful town he resided in, and both by example and precept, fostered a love for true angling in the Fatherland. Any English angler who may visit Weimar should not forget to pay a visit to the last resting place of John Horrocks.

CLUB ANGLERS AND PRESERVED WATERS AT WATFORD.

WE are asked, for the benefit of certain anglers who may find themselves in a fix if they persist in wrong-doing, to publish the following:—

"I should be very glad if you could put a line in the GAZETTE that would appeal to the anglers who come to Watford. Some other gentlemen and myself rent and preserve the water (the Canal) that runs through Cassiobury Park. Our water is from Castro Bridge to No. 166 Bridge; in spite of conspicuous notices that the water is 'Private, &c.,' many of these anglers fish our waters; some of them are members of clubs. Three or four weeks ago I found fifteen or sixteen of them fishing, and went and civilly spoke to them; not one moved, and I had to get one of Lord Essex's keepers and two more men to turn them off. The fishing that is open would not be as good as it is were it not that we carefully stock and preserve our reach, and as one of our members is the engineer to the Grand Junction Canal Company, he will not allow the barges to use nets, which they freely did before we took the fishing in hand. We do not wish to make examples of any of these men, but every Sunday it is the same, and we shall be compelled to adopt more stringent measures. They would not like to go home minus their whole kit some day. Excuse my bothering you with our little lament."

We hope that by inserting this "lament," the threatened unpleasantness may be averted. There is not a particle of excuse for any angler, rich or poor, who deliberately goes and fishes in a water he knows to be preserved; and, for our own part, we feel no sympathy with such poachers, who bring disgrace on the whole body through their selfishness. There is not an angling club in London which does not annually spend at least twenty pounds in prizes for fishing matches, and many clubs spend hundreds of pounds for this purpose. Why do not they devote some of this money—say ten or fifteen pounds a year—to renting a piece of water of their own? They would soon get their

money back by issuing day tickets to outsiders if they cared to do so. The Bedford club has recently had to complain, and it must be remembered that however generous a club may be it cannot exist if its waters are open to every outsider who chooses to fish them. We should like to know what would be the effect of throwing all waters open to all anglers: would any fish be left in a year or two? No one would be responsible, and no one would move to stop netting or poaching if the preservation societies were done away with. Take the case of the Bedford club, how could it possibly keep its members if the officers did not do their duty; and if the club broke up, who would preserve the water, and prevent poaching? In our opinion these preserved stretches of our rivers are the mainstay and support of the free waters, which are in many cases stocked with fish entirely from the preserved portions. Fish do not remain stationary, and every flood distributes fish from the preserved to the unpreserved waters.

THE SALMON DISEASE IN THE TWEED.

THE dreaded *saprolegnia ferax*, which during the winters of 1879 and 1880 caused such havoc amongst the fish in the Tweed, has this year made its appearance sooner than on any other occasion, it having been observed at the beginning of the present month. In the last two winters a general opinion prevailed that the fungus might be attributable to the cold weather and the ice, but this year such a theory cannot hold good, as the river has not yet been frozen, and the weather is remarkably mild. Some people think now that the disease can only be due to pollution, and the Tweed Commissioners are taking evidence privately on this subject to ascertain if possible whether or not it is the fact. Fortunately the number of cases detected in the Tweed this season are not yet numerous, but as the fungus is contagious, fears are entertained that it may again work much havoc amongst the fish, especially as the disease has made its appearance a month sooner than in 1879 and 1880, and the river is well stocked at present. One day lately no less than 73 salmon, grilse, and trout were killed by anglers on the Tweed.

TROUT-FISHING AT WEYBRIDGE.

“WEYBRIDGE is about twenty miles from the metropolis, and is an excellent locality for genuine fishing purposes. Trout are often pretty plentiful. At the time we are penning these lines we have seen a capture of this fish made, on an angling excursion, by Mr. Alfred, jun. of 54, Moorgate Street, City, which is a splendid specimen of Thames trout-fishing. His creel contained thirteen fish in all—one was 12½ lb. one 7 lb. and one 5 lb., and the residue were of more than average size. These were caught by an artificial bait (an imitation of a small gudgeon, manufactured by himself), by spinning. Two of these fine fish are now preserved, and may be seen at the above fishing-tackle establishment. Such an exploit as this shows that the trout must have become pretty numerous in the river, and that the late regulations respecting poaching and netting have operated beneficially for the interests of the fair angler.”—From “Angling and Where to Go,” by Robert Blakey, published in 1854.

[We wish Mr. Alfred would give us a short account of this exploit of his, which we came across in Blakey's book just now.—Ed.]

COARSE FISH PROPAGATION.

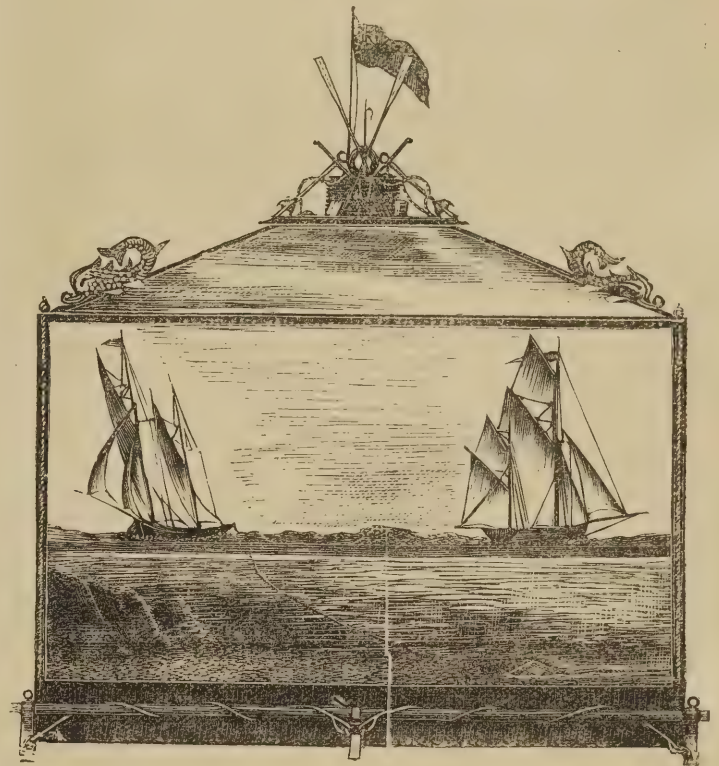
IT is with much pleasure we refer our readers to the correspondence on the above subject in this week's GAZETTE. We are delighted to get such hearty support from Mr. W. Oldham Chambers, Gold Medallist in Pisciculture at the Norwich National Fisheries Exhibition, and go with him in spirit to the utmost limit of his glorious future for this proposed society. We think, however, that this proposed society should, at the outset, attempt nothing but the propagation of all our coarse fish. “And quite enough, too, our readers will say.” It will then interfere with no interest, for nothing of the kind exists. We cannot agree with Mr. Chambers that our suggestion has been coldly received. On the contrary, we have received so many promises of support that before long we hope to announce that a meeting for the consideration of the subject will be held at the Society of Arts, and we are preparing a scheme to place before the meeting.

Mrs. F. Y. BROCAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand. Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

THE TRAWLING MODEL.

TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Soman, of the Norwich *Argus* we give above an illustration of the ingenious model made by Mr. Burwood, of Lowestoft, which was shown at the National Fisheries Exhibition, and which is shortly to be presented to the Princess of Wales in celebration of her attendance here at the opening of the show by her Royal spouse. This clever piece of work is enclosed in a large glass case, which stands on a support of appropriate design and admirable execution. The main features of the model are two vessels—one a trawler engaged at its labours, the other sailing into harbour with fish. Two of the best Lowestoft boats have been chosen for illustration—the *Lahloo* and the *Paramatta*, which latter gained the prize in a recent match for craft of its class. In the model there is also a boat, containing two men, which is supposed to be passing from one vessel to the other. The whole system of this mode of fishing is thus clearly brought before the eye. By means of elaborate mechanism the mimic sea is agitated, and the craft on its bosom pitch and toss



with striking effect. By way of explanation, it may be mentioned that the trawl lying at the bottom of the “sea” consists of a long beam, which is kept off the ground by an iron at each end. Behind this beam stretches the net, the upper edge fastened to it while the lower is attached to a heavy rope, the bottom of the sea being thus swept in a half circle, and the fish gathering in the net, which extends back into a long poke, or cod.

The model will in a few days be on view at Messrs. Boswell's, in London Street, and it is expected that it will be handed over to the Princess of Wales in about a fortnight, by which time Mr. B. V. Winch, the leading spirit in the affair, hopes to collect the balance necessary to defray the expense.

The following is the inscription on the silver plate in front of the stand:—

“NATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1881.

“Presented to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, by the Mayor, Sheriff, Deputy Mayor, and other citizens of Norwich, as a slight memento of her Royal Highness having graciously assisted in opening, at Norwich, the First National Fisheries Exhibition held in Great Britain.

“SAML. GRIMMER, Mayor.”

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. “The Gregory,” the “Flexible Cleopatra,” the “Oxford,” and the “Colorado,” pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name “Gregory” is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

KNOWLEDGE: An Illustrated Magazine of Science; plainly worded, exactly described. Conducted by Richard A. Proctor, B.A. Vol. I., No. 1. November 4, 1881. Price 2d.

"KNOWLEDGE" is a weekly magazine intended to bring the truths, discoveries and inventions of science before the public in simple but correct terms—to be, in fact, the minister and interpreter of science for those who have not time to master technicalities (whether of science generally or of special departments.) With these words, Mr. Proctor, the well-known author and lecturer, ushers in the first number of a valuable addition to the scientific periodicals of the day, and a welcome boon to the reading public in general. His programme is varied and full of promise, and meets the requirements of every one interested in science. The ablest exponents of science will contribute original articles and serial papers explaining scientific methods and principles, and descriptions of new discoveries and inventions will invariably be freed from the technical language in which they are customarily presented to scientific societies at home and abroad. It is also intended to provide a correspondence section for full and free discussion, and especially for inquiry into matters which readers of the original articles may have found difficult or perplexing. Reviews of scientific books suitable for general reading will, of course, find insertion; while the demands of mathematicians, chess-players, and whist-players, will be met in a manner at once useful to learners and interesting to proficients. But that which will most effectually secure the success of "Knowledge" is the Editor's determination to exclude everything that is not plainly worded and exactly described. Scientific word-mongers are herewith warned off, especially the man we once heard of, who thought concise language a pitiful and pernicious economy of words; and who, while ready enough to admit that language was large, considered it scarcely equal to his mental conceptions. On one occasion this individual characterised change as a "perichoretical synechy of pamparallagmatic and porroteroporeumatical differentiations and integrations," and further declared that this definition touched upon perfection; for, besides being accurate and harmonious, it shaved etymological parsimony as closely as the most niggardly-minded could desire. What happened to him after this we are unprepared to state with certainty; some say his fate overtook him in the form of lock-jaw, others that his friends suppressed him by unlawful means. But if still at large, as there is some reason to believe, one thing, at least, is sure: neither he nor jargon-grinders like him will ever gain admission to the columns of "Knowledge." This fact alone ought to make subscribers rush in by thousands, and, to use the words of Mr. Proctor's well-selected motto, help to "Let Knowledge grow from more to more."

GOOD THINGS MADE, SAID, AND DONE FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD. Published by Goodall, Backhouse and Co., Leeds.

If any of our readers want to make a present to the ladies of their household of a thoroughly good, useful cookery book, they have only got to mention the name of our paper, and send address and a penny stamp to defray postage, and they will receive from Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse and Co., Leeds, a copy of the above work, which is well worth a shilling. If any one adopts our advice, and is not thoroughly satisfied with his bargain, we will take back the book from them and refund their outlay.

IMPORTANT DEFENCE OF FISHING RIGHTS ON THE THAMES.

MAIDENHEAD COUNTY BENCH.

Before J. Hibbert, T. J. Hercy, I. J. I. Pocock, Esqrs., and Sir George Young, Bart., and Sir G. A. C. East, Bart.

THE CLAIM TO A PRIVATE FISHERY.

On Tuesday the adjourned case was heard in which Joseph Gill, a water bailiff of the Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Thames Angling Association, has been summoned "for that on the 12th October he did unlawfully and willingly attempt to take fish in that part of the river Thames in which Sir Roger William Palmer has a private right of fishery."

Mr. R. A. Ward appeared in support of the prosecution.

Mr. Wildey Wright, barrister-at-law, instructed by Messrs. W. A. Crump and Son, of 10, Philpot Lane, London, solicitors to the Thames Rights Defence Association, and Mr. F. A. Jones, of Maidenhead, appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Ward, in his opening, said the case was brought under the 24th sec. of 24th and 25th Vic., and Sir Roger Palmer was the owner of a set of islands in this neighbourhood, on one of which he lived, and that he claimed a private fishery from a point nearly opposite the Guards' club-house up to the Duke of Westminster's estate at Cliveden, except a few yards where the weir runs across the river. Mr.

Ward went on to say that he took it that in this country there was no spot of ground that had no owner; that every spot belonged to somebody, and that, in fact, every square yard of the Thames had an ownership. In the tidal part of the river the bed originally belonged to the Crown, and any person claiming a right therein must show his title from the Crown. But in the case of a non-tidal river, like the Thames at Maidenhead, the ownership belonged to the riparian owners, and no length of time could possibly create a right to the public to fish anywhere in the river. It was clear that the owners of the soil upwards and downwards had a right to any minerals under the river, and to any fish in the river. But Sir Roger Palmer, not being the owner of the banks, was obliged to produce his title deeds. Mr. Ward then produced a deed of conveyance from Sir Robert Harvey and his trustees to Sir Roger Palmer, dated 14th Dec., 1868, which conveyed to Sir Roger Palmer rights over the waters of the Thames within the points mentioned, and the messuages, land, and eyotts belonging thereto, whether covered or uncovered by water. The accompanying schedules specified several small eyotts, one of which Sir Roger's residence is built, and two fisheries—one of 16 acres and another of 19 acres. He repeated that in a non-tidal river like the Thames at Maidenhead, the presumption was that the owner was a private person, not the Crown, and the deed produced was sufficient to show that the right in this case was vested in Sir Roger Palmer. Mr. Ward then cited various cases in support of his contention that non-user did not disturb this right of fishery, and that there was no public right of fishery in non-tidal rivers. Sir Roger Palmer did not, he declared, desire to press for a large penalty. He only came there to maintain what he believed to be his right. There had been some feeling on the part of the public that Sir Roger Palmer wished to discourage angling in the river in the part over which he claimed a right. But, in fact, Sir Roger was one of the vice-presidents of the local angling association, one of its earliest promoters, and an annual subscriber to its funds, and he certainly did not wish to discourage angling. Mr. Ward remarked, in conclusion, that he was very much afraid the case might collapse on a point outside its merits, inasmuch as his witness, Mr. Ricardo, was disposed to think that the fishing he saw was in a part of the river other than that to which the prosecution related. He hoped, however, that the case would be decided on its merits, and not on a point quite outside them. He then called

Sir Roger William Palmer, who said: I am complainant in this case, and live at Glen Island. I produce the deeds of conveyance to me by Sir Robert Harvey, dated 14th December, 1868. On the 12th October I saw Gill in punt on the river nearly opposite my landing place. [Sir Roger indicated the spot on the Ordnance map.] He was standing in the punt with a net. I told him he had not the right to fish there without leave from me. He said he thought he had, because he was a water bailiff. I told him he had not. He then asked me to give him leave. I said "No," and he then went away.

By the Bench: He asked leave to fish with a net.

Examination continued: I gave him no authority to fish there or elsewhere. The Thames at Maidenhead is not a tidal river.

Mr. Wildey Wright postponed any cross-examination. There was no evidence, he said, at present.

Charles Ricardo was the next witness. He said: I live at Ray Mead, near Sir Roger Palmer. On the 12th October I saw the defendant on the river in a punt with a casting-net over his shoulder.

The witness pointed out a spot on the Ordnance map near the mill, and Mr. Ward admitted that the case could not be carried further, save in respect of the alleged fishing in water adjoining Sir Roger Palmer's dwelling-house, by way of indictment for misdemeanour at Quarter Sessions—a length to which Sir Roger was not prepared to go.

Mr. Wildey Wright: I should think not, indeed.

The magistrates thereupon dismissed the charge.

Mr. Wildey Wright said the case must have broken down in the long run. The proceedings were about as groundless as they possibly could be. "I hope," he added, "that Sir Roger Palmer will not set up again a claim which has no foundation in law or common sense. We shall fish and our children's children will fish in the Thames, as our fathers' fathers fished."

The learned counsel applied for costs, and the Bench ultimately allowed £8 8s.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY OF FISHING TACKLE FROM MESSRS. ALLOOCK'S FACTORY AT REDDITCH.

REDDITCH PETTY SESSIONS.—WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9TH, 1881.

Before R. S. Bartleet, E. W. Heywood, J. Smith, and V. Milward, Esqs.

JULIA DAW and Annie Perks, in custody, were charged with receiving and stealing a quantity of gut lines and hooks, to the value of £13, during the month of September, the property of Messrs. S. Allcock and Co. The elder prisoner (Daw) was further charged with inciting the younger prisoner to commit a felony. Mr. Buller, of Birmingham, prosecuted, and Mr. Cheston, of Birmingham, defended. Mr. Buller said he proposed at the outset to withdraw the charge against the younger prisoner, as the prosecutor was satisfied that what she had done had been at the instigation and under the order of the elder prisoner. He also proposed to call her as a witness. He would explain the case at some length, in order that the Bench might more readily follow the evidence. Some four months ago, in Littleworth, the younger prisoner met the elder prisoner, who suggested to her to steal her some wax from the manufactory, which she did, and took it to the elder prisoner, who, when she had got the wax, induced the

younger prisoner to take other things, threatening her that if she did not she would inform Mr. Allcock what she had done. Acting on that, the girl continued to purloin many articles, and thus, partly by threats and partly by a payment of 2s. or 3s. weekly to the younger prisoner, the elder prisoner was enabled to procure a large quantity of prosecutor's goods. A short time since Mr. Ramsbottom, of Liverpool, received a letter from the elder prisoner offering gut lines at a price that aroused his suspicion, and he accordingly wrote to her for certain articles. On Friday morning last the younger prisoner was seen by a young boy to take some lines and put them in her basket. She was then sent on an errand, when her basket was searched, and sixteen dozen of lines were found in it. She was taken into custody, and searched, and upon her was found a part of a post card sent by Mr. Ramsbottom to Mrs. Daw, requesting her to send him certain things; and on the day previous the girl took certain articles which were found in Daw's possession when she was arrested. He (Mr. Buller) proposed to divide the case, for convenience, into four parts—first, the London case, in which he would show that a person named Avery received six dozen lines from the elder prisoner, and disposed of them to Messrs. Carter and Co.,* at less than half of the wholesale prices; secondly, the Liverpool case, that of Mr. Ramsbottom; thirdly, goods found on prisoner's premises; and fourthly, with inciting to steal. Mr. Buller remarked that partly from family affairs and a sense of public duty his client's position was a most painful one. Mr. Buller spoke in terms of warm commendation of the course taken by Mr. Ramsbottom, to whom much credit was due for discovering the thefts, which were most serious, some 600 dozen gut lines having been taken since the last stock-taking.

The younger prisoner was then discharged, and entered the witness box. She gave her evidence as follows: I am sixteen years of age, and have worked for prosecutor for about three years. I met Julia Daw in Littleworth three or four months ago, when she said, "You might help me to some wax from the shop." I said I would try, and got some wax, which I gave to her son, William Daw. I saw her some few days after, when she said, "You might get me some hair hooks." I sent her some by her little boy, William Daw. The last time I took her any was on Thursday last, the day before I was arrested. Between the time of my taking the wax and Thursday last I had sent things to her, several times weekly, some weeks three times, and some weeks four. On the Thursday I gave her gut hooks similar to those produced. I have taken her some gut hooks two or three times, or on more occasions than that. They were wrapped up. I took the parcels from the warehouse without examining them. Prisoner did not give any directions how to take the goods away, but afterwards she said, "If I were you I would use a big pocket and not a basket." I sometimes got 2s., and sometimes more, from the prisoner for taking the things. I got the money weekly. She made me various presents and said I must be very careful and not make a fool of myself. She said we should not be found out because she had got gut from the "gut Spaniards," and bills from the hook warehouses. She said if I did not keep on bringing things she would tell Mr. Allcock.

The Chairman: How long ago.

Witness: About a month ago, I think. The day I was arrested I had taken a quantity of gut lines, and put them in my basket. I was charged with stealing them, and given into custody before nine in the morning. The part of the post card produced was brought to me by prisoner's son, William Daw, the day before I was arrested. After I was in custody I gave it to Sergt. Moss. In consequence of her giving me the post card I committed the theft. (Mr. Buller explained that the post card came from Mr. Ramsbottom, of Liverpool, and was an order for certain goods). All the goods I took were the property of Mr. Allcock, and from his premises. I am a forewoman, and have free access to where they are kept.

To Mr. Cheston: I was sixteen last April. I am no member of any particular congregation, but go to the Wesleyan chapel mostly. During the last four months I have been in the habit of going to chapel. I was at Mr. Daw's house last Thursday night ten minutes or half an hour. I was not there by myself at all. I was not in her house on Wednesday night, but I was on Tuesday night for about the same time. I was not by myself. If any pieces of paper were lying about I had no opportunity of picking them up. If the police had not taken me I should not have said what I was going to do with the things. Sergt. Moss charged me with stealing the things.

Mr. Cheston: What was said to you to induce you to tell the story you have told?

Witness: Nothing was said to me.

Mr. Cheston: Without any inducement you told the story straight off.

Witness: The master asked me before the policeman came. He told me to tell the truth, and said it would be better for me; before the policeman was sent for. He did not say if I told him what I was going to do with the things I would not be prosecuted. I did not tell him all; I told Sergt. Moss as I came up to the station on Friday morning. He told me on Friday morning at the office that I should be discharged, but that I must tell all I knew about it. I told Mr. Buller this morning more than I told Sergt. Moss.

Mr. Buller said the communication made to him was privileged, and it was then the girl really knew that she would be discharged.

* With reference to Messrs. Carter and Co., we think it only fair to that firm to say that amongst a small parcel of goods received from Messrs. Avery and Son, of Redditch, with whom they have had dealings for years, there were a few things which, it now appears, formed part of the lot stolen from Messrs. Allcock. Messrs. Carter, of course, had no suspicion of this, and immediately on hearing of the affair gave Messrs. Allcock all the information in their power, and attended at Redditch to give evidence, but were not called upon to do so.

After some further cross-examination by Mr. Cheston, as to witness's means of identifying the hooks produced. Mr. Cheston held a short conference with Mr. Buller, who then addressed the Bench to the effect that if they would consent not to proceed in the other charges, the prisoner was willing to plead guilty to one charge, in order that it might be dealt with by the magistrates. And here he might say, without mentioning any names, that a number of people engaged in the trade were known to have purchased goods at very much less than wholesale prices, and if it went forth from the Bench that in any future cases they would be severely punished, it would have a wholesome effect. The prosecutor had consented to withdraw the other charges, but not because he could not go on with them, as there were witnesses from London, Liverpool, and other places, but he had consented to reduce the charge to one under 40s., in order that it might come under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, hoping that the proceedings might act as a caution in future. After some consideration, the Bench consented, and prisoner was then charged with stealing $3\frac{1}{2}$ gross of gut hooks, value 8s. 9d., to which she pleaded guilty; and Mr. Cheston briefly appealed to the prosecutor to recommend the prisoner to mercy.

The Chairman said that the Bench regretted that, in the interests of the public, the prosecution had taken the course they had, for it was well known that the trade was encompassed with many difficulties. Goods of considerable value could be placed in a very small compass, and great reliance had to be placed in foremen, and checks used in other trades could not be carried out. The Bench felt that the responsibility had been thrown on their shoulders, and that it was necessary, in the public interest, to give the outside punishment which they were able to give under the Act—namely, three months' hard labour. If she had been sent to Worcester, prisoner would probably have been sentenced to two years' imprisonment. He hoped this case would be a caution to young people. The girl had lost her character, and set a shocking example in her position as forewoman; she no doubt had been treated with the greatest possible kindness by her employer.

[We understand that since stock-taking on the 1st of September, 1880, to October, 1881 (13 months), Messrs. S. Allcock and Co. are deficient in the special class of gut lines, known to the trade as "Refina" and "Drawn Gut" lines, value at wholesale list price £145 10s.. Since stock-taking, October 1st, 1881, to November 1st, 1881, they find deficient in stock 108 dozen, value £21. The above is only one class of lines and does not include other goods.]—*Redditch Indicator*.

BONES IN HEAD OF PERCH.

MR. J. HARRINGTON KEENE, in his interesting paper on the "Perch's Personal History," in *FISHING GAZETTE* of Nov. 12, states:—"It is affirmed that there are two round bones in the perch's head which are a remedy for 'stone,' where these two round bones are, however, I could never discover." I also find in his excellent work, "The Practical Fisherman," the following:—"Aldrovandus also praises it, and old doctors, with characteristic whimsicality, were used to prescribe two (imaginary) round bones from the perch's head, as a remedy for 'stone.'" Not knowing this gentleman's address I have forwarded to you two bones from my collection, taken from the perch's head. They are not particularly round, but there is not the slightest doubt but what these are the bones spoken of, and they are called "otoliths," "brain ivory," or "ear-bones." Hoping they will arrive safely,

FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

[We send the bones to Mr. Keene.—ED.]

WE are very pleased to learn that the well-known firm of Messrs. W. Sparkes, Hall and Co., of 308, Regent Street, bootmakers to the Royal Family, have been very successful in the introduction of the "Carmichael portable boot-tree." The British public have taken to it very kindly, and a large business has been done, not only at home but in India and the colonies. This is the result of a good idea put into practical shape, through the medium of a firm who always do things well. Those who know what it is to force their leg into a well shrunk wet boot after a day's fishing or shooting, can fully appreciate the blessing of this portable boot-tree—so easy to carry, so inestimable in its results. Any of our readers who have not seen it would do well to pay a visit to Messrs. Sparkes, Hall and Co.'s establishment.

There was a curious scene in the Ring after the Bretby Nursery. Sir John Astley was heard to cuss the American speculator, Mr. Walton, who had backed his colt Medicus without asking Sir John's permission. This Walton is evidently another complete angler, but it is scarcely gentle to accuse him of fishy practices.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-boxes, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My business in this State
Made me a looker-on."

SHAKESPEARE.

The Thames is now in the pink of colour for the most fastidious of anglers to exercise his specialty in, or ride the most rampant of hobbies thereon and therein. Roach are revelling in a mignonette tinted medium; chub are basking in a November sunshine unprecedented, and only asking, wide-mouthed, to be fed with wriggly tail of lob or luscious spinal cord. Perch are very wary, but jack are not equal to the enchantments and lure of their masters. At Pangbourne and Streatley a gentleman has had some grand chub and perch, and at Henley Mr. Elcomb, with Parrott, has taken some decent jack. At Hurley Messrs. Harrison, Lee, Lumley, and Henry, fishing from the Treats hostelry, the Bell, have had respectively 5 lb. of roach, 12 lb. of roach, 1 jack 5 lb., and 2 ditto 5 lb. and 6 lb. At Monkey Island a gentleman of the artful sort had 30 lb. of perch. At Maidenhead Sir R. Palmer has set up a claim to the entire and sole right of fishing from the bridge to Cliveden. In a test case this supposed right has been set aside before the magistrates on Tuesday, with eight guineas costs against the said "Sir Roger." Mr. Willey Wright was for the defendant, and wound up his remarks in this fashion: "I hope Sir R. Palmer will not set up again a claim which has no foundation in law or common sense. We shall fish, and our children's children will fish, in the Thames, as our fathers' fathers fished." Let every angler lay this unctio in his soul, and subscribe to its defence if occasion arise.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Richmond).

I have only two days to report. Saturday, with Mr. Brinkley, about 20 lb. roach; Sunday, with Mr. Aldridge, about the same weight. After reading *Bell's Life* on Saturday, and seeing Kit Brown and Henry Wheeler trying their best in that splendid piece of water above Petersham Ait with no success, I have made up mind to take to another job for several days. Most of the fish that I have reported have been taken near the Orleans Club-house, where it is almost impossible for any illegal fishing.—E. BROWN.

The rain of Tuesday night has coloured the water, but not too much as to put a stop to the fishing, and should we get no more by the time this is in print the river will be in splendid order, as the river is low now, and everything that could be wished for as regards the elements; it is an older head than mine that can remember such a November for fishing before, and with the exception of Friday, we have been without fog, even then it turned out a splendid afternoon, and well my patron knew it, as he caught 12 roach that scaled 10½ lb. I hope our up-river brother fishermen are doing well, for here yesterday there were not enough punts; this sounds well for November. I think some days whether it is not August; but when you look up to Richmond Hill, the trees that were full of leaf then is now bare. The takes of fish have been from 9 to 14 lb. per punt each day, and as follows are the times each fisherman has been out: G. Howard, 3 days; H. Howard, 4 days; C. Brown, 5 days; H. Wheeler, 4 days; E. Brown, 2 days; Job Brain, 5 days; Holland, 4 days; J. Bushnell, 4 days. There have been a few barbel caught this week, but they had not near the life in them as in the summer.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very thick; do well for roach in a day or two if it keeps fine. Prospects look bad, for this week at present. On Thursday, last week, after sending my report, took 6 dozen of gudgeon and some fine perch. On Sunday 4 dozen of roach. On Tuesday took one jack, weighing 14 lb., and some good roach and chub.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Halliford).

The water is now a little coloured, and in good order for bottom fishing. A lady and gentleman fishing with me on Saturday last caught one barbel, one bream, and about one dozen roach. Second day, Mr. Innis, fishing with me, caught one chub and 7 lb. roach. Third day, Mr. Hughes, fishing with me, caught three barbel and nine roach (ledgering), the three largest roach weighing 4 lb. 1 oz.—GEORGE ROSEWELL.

Thames (Walton).

Water in good order on Sunday, but variable since; heavy south-west winds—very rough—to-day rising. From the weather to-day and yesterday and the water rising, I should imagine that the fishing should be good; bream are biting.—HENRY H. WOOE.

Ancholm.

The long-continued genial weather of the present month is quite exceptional, even in the memory of the proverbial oldest inhabitant. But so far as this stream is concerned, it has not been productive of any very special results in the angling line. The reports which have from time to time come to hand have been of the most meagre description, and your correspondent has considerable difficulty in making up anything like an interesting set of notes. The few ponds in this neighbourhood have yielded equally poor results. Scarcely any respectable results have followed the flying visits made to them. Can it

be that the fishes, like human beings, have been so puzzled about the weather that their appetites have disappeared? I hope to be able to send better news next week.—THOMAS FORD.

Exe (Exeter).

The capture of pike in the river does not come up to the anticipations of the regular pike anglers. Though the weather is somewhat unsettled, the water is in prime condition, some splendid perch have been grassed, and the "daisies with a dorsal fin" have been observed in large numbers, and also of good size, making their way to the higher waters; and a promising season may be again looked for next year. There have also been good runs of salmon, both before and since the close time commenced, which also promises well for the spawning season; the late floods enabled many to get over the various weirs, and are seen several miles up the river on the spawning beds. The roach and rudd seem coming on better during the last day or two, but dace are very scarce. The estuary fishing has not been quite so plentiful lately, but the captured fish have been very fine, consisting of pollack, bass, bream, herrings, and sprats.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Lea (Ware).

There ought to be some good sport during the next few days; S.E. wind blowing. The water is nicely coloured, and in good condition. Some nice roach were taken last Sunday by the Brothers Chart and Jack Bell, from the Boom to the second telegraph post. Mr. Olford took a jack here this week weighing 4½ lb.; there are plenty, but they want getting.—FRANK LEEFE.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is in good fishing order, the wind south and mild. There have been some nice fish taken this week; Mr. Black caught two, they weighed 12 lb. On Saturday one gentleman caught one weighing 11 lb., and another gentleman two of 9 lb. On Sunday Mr. Woodey had some nice roach.—WM. COWELL.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The water here is thickly coloured and flows with a rapid current; if the rain keeps off until Sunday it will be fishable for roach and dace. Of the latter there have been some good catches the beginning of this week.—YE MEDWAY ANGLER.

Ouse.

Water to all appearance first-rate, but angling about the worst I have ever known it at this time of the year. The best I can mention this week are as under:—Nov. 16—Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, 7½ lb. roach; Mr. Holland, Newmarket, 7½ lb. roach; blowing a gale all day. Nov. 17—Messrs. W. C. Carr and F. S. Wykes, of Cambridge and London, 14 lb. roach; Mr. Rowton, Cambridge, 9 lb. roach. Nov. 18—Major Ferris and Captain Heley, of Ely, 10 lb. roach; Mr. Postans, Newmarket, 6 lb. roach; frost in the morning took them off feed. Nov. 21—Messrs. Smith, Cooté and Wilkinson, Cambridge, 15 lb. roach, &c.; Mr. W. C. Carr, Cambridge, 7½ lb. roach. Nov. 22nd—M. Fielden, Cambridge, 6½ lb. roach; Mr. Ascroft, Cambridge, five roach weighing 3 lb.; Mr. George Basingbourne, 6 lb. roach; Mr. Rowton, Cambridge, 6½ lb. roach. Nov. 23—Ten anglers out to-day, but though they all took fish, the best catch was made by Messrs. J. Cole and T. H. Edridge, St. John's Wood Piscatorialists, with 12 lb. roach, largest roach taken by Mr. W. Thurston, Cambridge, about 1 lb. not weighed.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Trent (Nottingham).

Although the weather has been very stormy here, and altogether unfit for outdoor sports, some of our rodsters will not be denied, more especially when they know the water is all right for chub and pike fishing, and to keep this class of anglers from the riverside would be a great mistake, because they know perfectly well that the weather just suits their little game. Now it happens that the weather stops most of the anglers, because they are afraid of catching a cold. I will venture to tell these that unless they go out at the proper time they will fail to do any good. This is, in my opinion, one of the secrets in angling neglect one favourable opportunity, and the chances are you will not get another for some time to come. This is the reason some of our rodsters take advantage of what they consider a good chance of catching a few fish. This sort of work has been done during the present week. A good number of pike have been captured, and also some fair baskets of chub. Scratching this time doing the best work, which was, no doubt, owing to the mildness of the weather. Worm fishing while the river remains so low will be at a discount, and the anglers cannot do better than go after the pike and chub.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Alrewas).

As far as this locality is concerned I cannot glean of any angling news the past week worth reporting, but few anglers have visited the river, and sport has been of the most limited character. On Saturday I had a day of pike fishing in private water, with the President of the Birmingham and Midland Piscatorial Association. I only succeeded in taking a few small fish, but had the pleasure of landing a brace of good ones for the President, weighing respectively 19 lb. and 11 lb., both fish were in first-class condition, and afforded capital sport. Messrs. Allday and S. Bennett out on the same day in private water in the neighbourhood of Stourport, met with fair luck, the fish taken did not run large. Mr. Allday having the misfortune of losing a regular scorcher by fastening himself round some sunken water lilies, broke his tackle, and escaped with his hooks. Mr. Allday relates a little anecdote which occurred to him whilst fishing, landing a jack about 5 lb., he observed by the distended stomach of the fish he had been sumptuously regaling only a short time before. On cutting the fish open, he discovered a live fish, which, on being taken from the pouch, and placed in the water, swam away, little, if any the worse for the confinement. I have never met with a similar case, although I have different times taken perch with small live fry in their mouths. The river to-night is not reported in good fishing order. A few hours' rain completely upsets all kind of calculation; it is next to useless to give an idea of the prospects as it is raining heavily, while I am writing this report.—JAMES GREGORY.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There has been some good angling since last week, after the fresh that I mentioned in my report had receded; the catches, however, have been principally made by bottom fishing, the water not being in order for fly. Ralph Colbeck, on the last day of the season, killed two nice salmon weighing 15½ and 17½ lb. respectively. He had fished on several days previously without success, so that his luck changed just at the right time. Weather to-day (Wednesday) stormy, and inclined for more rain.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

THE DETRACTORS OF OUR ART.

PHILOSOPHERS differ as to the best mode of treating one's enemies. While one section bids us leave the slanderous alone "to bite the file," and walk upright, in despite of their malicious attacks, another would have us refute and defend ourselves against every aspersion that affects our character, however slight. Which may be the better course is difficult to determine. There are men generous enough not to listen to, or believe, any statements impugning the honour or probity of another unless they personally possess proofs of the value of such assertions. Whether, however, it be the better policy of an individual to run a muck at every breath affecting his character must be left to the individual and relative circumstances. It is different with public men and communities, as it is so well known that no public man was ever permitted to raise his head above the surrounding crowd, than it became an object to be ignominiously pelted at; and thus "party" is formed, sides are taken, and his very enemies become the cause of his popularity. Communities have ever been the target against which few or many direct their shafts, either poisoned or blunted, and therefore the fraternity of anglers can scarcely have hoped to have gone scatheless. Yet how few are those who have thought it worth their while to put pen to paper and record their dissent to our cherished sport; the delight and solace of thousands. Indeed we can count our detractors on our fingers. Let us do so: there is Lord Byron (lame, and incapable of following a captive salmon for fifty yards), Dr. Johnson, the great lexicographer, who was pourtrayed by Sir Joshua Reynolds,—the engraving from which picture adorns the quarto edition of the Dictionary, and from which we learn that the Doctor was incapable of reading the manuscript he holds before his eyes without placing it close to his nose. Purbblind—what chance with a roach bite, or the rise of trout or grayling? Then follows Dean Swift, who, more in fun than in earnest, would raise a smile at our expense; and lastly, as far as I can recall the result of my reading, there is that writer of unquestionable amiability, Leigh Hunt, whom I know to have more than once, in company with Theodore Hook, Charles Kean the elder, and others, at the Swan, at Ditton, enjoyed a dish of Thames perch and gudgeons, caught by the angler, with as much gusto as the rest of the company.

But to my text; my purpose being to revive what this admirer of nicely-cooked perch and gudgeon, caught with a "hook and tortured worm," wrote in disparagement of the pursuit, the result of which, for the nonce, tickled his palate into praise and contentment. The essay will be found amongst his fugitive papers, but from whence I culled it at this moment I cannot recollect. It is entitled

"ANGLING.

"The anglers are a race of men who puzzle us. We do not mean for their patience, which is laudable, nor for the infinite non-success of some of them, which is desirable. Neither do we agree with the good old joke, attributed to Swift, that angling is always to be considered 'as a stick and a string, with a fly at one end and a fool at the other.' Nay, if he had books with him and a pleasant day, we can account for the joyousness of that prince of punters who, having been seen in the same spot one morning and evening, and asked whether he had had any success, said no, but in the course of the day he had had a 'glorious nibble.' But the anglers boast of the innocence of their pastime: yet it puts fellow-creatures to the torture. They pique themselves on their meditative faculties, and yet their only excuse is a want of thought. It is this that puzzles us. Old Isaac Walton, their patriarch, speaking of his inquisitorial abstractions on the banks of a river, says:—

'Here we may
Think and pray,
Before death
Stops our breath;
Other joys
Are but toys,
And to be lamented.'

So saying he 'stops the breath' of a trout by plucking him up into an element too thin to respire, with a hook and a tortured worm in his jaws.

'Other joys
Are but toys.'

If you ride, walk, or skate, or play at cricket, or at rackets, or enjoy a ball or a concert, it is 'to be lamented!' To put pleasure into the faces of half-a-dozen agreeable women, is a toy unworthy of the manliness of a worm-sticker. But to put a hook into the gills of a carp—there you attain the end of a reasonable being; there you surely show yourself truly a lord of the creation.

To plant your feet occasionally in the mud is also a pleasing step. So is cutting your ankles with weeds and stones.

'Other joys
Are but toys.'

The book of Isaac Walton is a delightful performance in some respects. It smells of the country air, and of the flowers in cottage windows. Its pictures of rural scenery, its simplicity, its snatches of old songs, are all good and refreshing; and his prodigious relish of a dressed fish would not be grudged him, if he had killed it a little more decently. He really seems to have a respect for a piece of salmon; to approach it like the grace, with his hat off. But what are we to think of a man who, in the midst of his tortures of other animals, is always valuing himself on his harmlessness; and who actually follows up one of his most complacent passages of this kind with an injunction to impale a certain worm twice upon the hook, because it is lively and might get off! All that can now be said of such extraordinary inconsistency is, that having been bred up in an opinion of the innocence of his amusement, and possessing a healthy power of exercising voluntary thoughts (so far as he had any), he must have dozed over the opposite side of the question, so as to become almost, perhaps quite, insensible to it. And angling indeed does seem the next thing to dreaming. It dispenses with locomotion, reconciles contradictions, and renders the very countenance null and void. A friend of ours, who is an admirer of Walton, was struck, just as we were, with the likeness of the old angler's face to a fish. It is hard, angular, and of no expression. It seems to have been subdued to what it worked in; to have become native to the watery element. One might have said to Walton, 'Oh flesh! how art thou fishified!' He looks like a pike dressed in broad cloth, instead of butter."

The above is only about a third of the paper from which I quote. As for the unsavoury conclusion Leigh Hunt draws from the portrait of Walton, it stands conspicuously alone amongst those of numbers of wise and good men who have given a decidedly opposite opinion. If, however, Leigh Hunt would have elected to be judged by the same test, I have only to refer to the title page of the "Indicator," published by Tegg, 1865, in which this writer appears like a malefactor after deservedly receiving sentence of death, and I admit is no more a resemblance of the really excellent original than a cow is like a race-horse.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE improvement I spoke of last week in the jack-fishing at the Welsh Harp continues, and a number of good fish have been had this week.

Apropos of jack, Mr. J. H. Stead (the "Cure") had last Sunday four nice fish and two or three good roach from the Thames at Wraybury, the lot weighing between 10 lb. and 11 lb.

Those bank fishermen who can wield the roach pole and are not frightened at a walk to and from the water, continue to get some good bags from the Hurley waters.

The shows of freshwater water fish one sees on the marble slabs of leading fishmongers often cast in the shade the little lots proudly exhibited at some of our best metropolitan clubs. On Monday morning I saw at a well-known establishment close to the General Post Office several jack, some of which would have weighed close upon 9 lb., a number of carp from about 4½ lb. to 7 lb. each, and one good tench. This (Wednesday) morning in Bond Street, at the establishment of an equally well-known scaly dealer, I saw exhibited, and I presume for sale, all alive, oh, and swimming about in a shallow tub of water a number of whacking tench and two large carp.

Where do these fish come from? Holland, I am told. Is that correct, Mr. Editor? and if so, some statistics as to the number annually imported into this country, if such could be obtained, would no doubt prove of interest, and indeed might be of use in the not far distant future?

From Chertsey, Haslett writes: "Things are somewhat quiet. I have had one chub, nine perch, and several jack, the last, however, did not run heavy. I am going to try again for them to-morrow, and I think I can find two or three good fish."

In a contemporary we read "that the Prince of Wales has consented to become the President of the "Norwich International Fisheries Exhibition of 1883." Surely our East Anglian friends are not going to have an exhibition at the same time as the projected one in London, and this last must be the one referred to by the piscatorial scribe in our contemporary's columns.

The committee of the Thames Rights Defence Association have had an important meeting, and some decisive steps to check riparian rapacity and protect public rights have been decided upon.

And while on the subject of so-called riparian rights, just a word to Mr. Bicknell, the secretary of the Bedford Angling Club, who, in his letter last week in answer to my remarks, manages entirely to ignore the most essential point thereof, and to otherwise be thoroughly inconsistent, I merely said that if his club had fishery rights, there was

a proper and an improper way of enforcing such. I questioned, and still do question, whether the means Mr. Bicknell and his satellites employed were either dignified or manly. I refer, of course, to his shouting offensive names across the water, which he admits, ("I believe I called them poachers"), and to the deliberate and well-sustained stoning—the latter can be called nothing else than outrageous—and I had really hoped Mr. Bicknell would have offered some explanation; but, alas, have since heard that instead of being an isolated case, it would seem to be a practice, as others are said to have been subjected to the same ordeal. Next we have Mr. Bicknell presuming "that I do not care much whether the fishing rights at the place in question belong exclusively to the Bedford Angling Club or not." There is not a single syllable in my letter to warrant Mr. Bicknell in presuming anything of the kind, and I carefully guarded twice over, as he admits, against giving any opinion one way or the other, as doing so was entirely outside my proposition, which, as I cannot too often repeat, was merely "which were proper and improper ways of enforcing alleged exclusive fishery rights."

Mr. Bicknell then goes on to say Mr. Mann has no right to give his friends and customers permission. Mr. Mann, on the other hand, positively asserts he has, and, what is more to the point, does. We, who are impartial, have at least a right to consider one assertion as good as the other until we have some conclusive proof to the contrary.

Referring Mr. Bicknell to Mr. Mann is not a mere pretext, it is a reality, and I still opine is the right course for my friends to adopt; and I see nothing cowardly, as Mr. Bicknell (who is evidently very fond of calling people ugly names) says, in their refusing to give names and addresses, which, they maintain, he has no right to ask.

Their case is clear; they argue thus:—"We have fished with the permission of the owner or renter of the land uninterfered with for many years, and still, having the said person's full authority, intend to continue doing so, whatever may be said to the contrary by a small set of monopolists, notwithstanding."

But, for the sake of argument, let us grant the club exclusive right to this comparatively little bit of water, the case stands thus:—Here are a number of persons who have secured a long stretch of water, in fact all the water worth fishing, from which they have practically excluded visitors and strangers, particularly the poorer ones, by refusing to issue day tickets and doubling the annual subscription in the case of non-residents—engaged in an attempt to oust a few unfortunate London working-men anglers from the one little corner left them in that neighbourhood, and by such means. When Mr. Bicknell was a good little boy at school—many years before he became a full-blown secretary—did he ever read the fable entitled "The Dog in the Manger"? If so, he seems to have forgotten the moral it contains.

The No. 1 West Central Association District visit to the Phoenix Angling Society took place on Tuesday evening. There was a capital muster, and some capital songs were sung, Messrs. Bentley and Robert Marshall occupying the chair and vice respectively. The next visit will be paid the Prince of Wales Angling Club, the Victory, Nuneham Street, Edgware Road, on Monday, 28th inst.

I had hoped to report some good sport from Eynsham, as I stated last week, but the Fates were against my friends, Messrs. Geen and Hobson.

Mr. Geen, who is a most patient but unsuccessful Thames trout angler, however, on Saturday last, hooked and landed a four pounder (about), which, needless to add, was immediately returned to the water, but strange to relate would not leave the vicinity of the swim for considerable time. Mr. Geen also got a nice perch scaling 2 lb. Poor Mr. Hobson, who was prevented on Friday at the last moment from going down with Mr. Geen, writes that on Saturday he left home at 9.15 a.m., travelled 60 miles by rail, walked five, had three hours fishing, caught one roach, returned to Oxford, rode 60 miles back, getting home at 7.30 p.m., and, not to be beaten, actually weighed his solitary specimen in at his club, the Hammersmith United. Truly anglers are persevering as well as patient men.

Mr. Hoole writes:—"The magnificent seal captured by Mr. Charles Grant has been splendidly set up by Mr. Gardner, of Oxford Street, and the Hammersmith United Angling Society have added it to their already numerous and valuable collection of trophies, which can be seen upon application at the Builders' Arms, Bridge Road, Hammersmith."

THE DESTRUCTION OF FISH IN THE WYCOMBE TROUT STREAM.

LAST Saturday week a general meeting of the members of the Wycombe Angling Association was held at the White Hart Hotel, to consult upon the steps to be adopted in view of the recent destruction of fish in the lower reaches by the bursting of a tank of bleach at the Rye Papermill. Mr. Francis Wheeler presided over a large meeting, including Colonel Cox, Mr. J. O. Griffiths, Q.C., Dr. Llewellyn Thomas, Messrs. V. Emanuel, F. Briden, W. Lovell, J. Rawson, W. J. Shone, W. Skull, W. H. Spicer, T. Stratford, J. Howland, J. Timberlake, J. Englefield, R. H. Plaistowe, R. Puttick, J. Abbott, W. F. Purdy, C. K. Poulter, J. Jones, J. R. Faulkner, J. Kibbels, O. Wright, E. E. Phillips, J. J. Bolding, W. Hudson, A. J. Thurlow, D. Ball, and T. H. Butler, with Mr. J. Thurlow, the hon. sec.

The Chairman said they were all aware of the cause which had brought them together. There was no doubt that the millowners were liable for what had occurred, and he hoped they would meet the Association in a liberal manner, so that any unpleasantness might be avoided. He believed that they deeply regretted the damage they had unwittingly caused.

The Secretary observed that the Association had sustained an irreparable loss. What he might fairly call a reach of water unrivalled in England was ruined for two or three years, and the labour of some years had been swept away in a moment. However it was no use crying over spilt milk; the thing was done, and what they had to consider was the course they would adopt. He had received a large number of letters from members and others expressing the greatest sympathy with the Association, and in several cases offering subscriptions towards re-stocking the stream. Among those read was one from Mr. Marston, Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE, who, although not a member of the Association, expressed the greatest regret at the disaster, and offered fifty brace of trout towards re-stocking the stream. Mr. Gilbey, of Wooburn House, wrote that he was very sorry for the destruction of the trout, and offered to give £5 towards any subscription for re-stocking. Mr. F. Hoblyn (London) sent a telegram offering a similar sum, and also to treble his subscription next year if the Association continued. General Hankey (London) wrote:—"From what I glean, I should imagine that the damage done to the Association water is simply irreparable, or almost so, and that it will take many long years, instead of 'a year or two' before you can repair such mischief, for 'fish of 6 lb.' are not grown in a day. Still I hope the Association will not be allowed to fall to the ground, and that with care and patience and the necessary funds, the Wycombe trout, which have not their equal in the length and breadth of England, may yet once more be seen of equal or superior size to any we have just lost." Letters were also received from Colonel Carington, M.P., Mr. Ffennell, editor of *Land and Water*, Mr. Man (London), Mr. Gould (London), Mr. F. Halford, Dr. Brooks (Henley), and R. F. Jackson (Marlow), and a telegram from the Gresham Angling Society, London. Colonel Birch Reynardson, in a sympathetic letter, mentioned that he had known a similar case in Hampshire about four years ago, when "all the trout were supposed to be killed; however, there are now more trout than ever, so I think the Association need not despair." Mr. Thurlow continued that he believed there was a desire on the part of the proprietors of the Rye mill to meet the matter. He had taken upon himself to make an appointment with them for Monday; and he would suggest the wisest course would be for the Association to appoint a deputation to meet them and endeavour to come to terms. The Association did not wish to be vindictive, although there was no doubt the millowners were legally responsible for heavy damages.

Mr. Emanuel proposed and Mr. Phillips seconded that a deputation be appointed as suggested.

Dr. Thomas remarked that according to the value per pound of dead trout on the slab, the fish destroyed were worth something like £100, and they could not get them alive for three or four times that price. He had come down from London prepared to offer five or ten guineas towards the prosecution of the firm, but if they were willing to meet the matter on fair terms he should say no more about it.

Mr. Rawson suggested that as in the circular calling the meeting it was stated that the members would have to decide whether the Association should continue to exist, a resolution upon that point should be first passed. He proposed that notwithstanding what had occurred the Association should continue its work. This was seconded by Mr. Puttick and carried unanimously. The proposition appointing the deputation was also agreed to, and Messrs. Emanuel, Wheeler, Englefield, Colonel Cox, and the Secretary were requested to act.

The next subject discussed was the powers to be given to the deputation. Various modes of compensation were mooted, £75 being the least sum mentioned, in addition to which it was thought Messrs. Saunders should give the Association members the right to fish in the stream just below their mill. This would allow the Association to offer its members 2½ continuous miles of fishing. Ultimately it was agreed to give the deputation full powers to arrange terms.

Some conversation then followed as to what steps should be taken towards re-stocking the stream. The Secretary said he had been looking round, and thought he knew where to lay his hand on perhaps 150 brace of Wycombe trout, but none of them very big. Perhaps under the circumstances some of the neighbouring gentry who had fish of this breed might help them. Lady Dashwood and Sir Samuel Wilson, the new occupant of Hughenden Manor, might perhaps, if the matter were properly represented to them, feel disposed to assist. One point on which he wished to consult the members was whether they should re-stock with anything besides Wycombe fish. On this point he read a letter from General Hankey, strongly urging the members not to allow the breed to become mixed—"For my part," he wrote, "I think it is suicidal policy to turn in any but Wycombe trout—you cannot improve upon your own perfect Wycombe breed." The members decided to adopt General Hankey's advice, and turn in nothing but Wycombe trout. Mr. Emanuel, on behalf of Dr. Thomas and himself, offered to hatch out ova from the Wycombe stream at their breeding-place, and return the fish so bred, and this offer was gratefully accepted. Mr. Emanuel undertaking that the fish should be kept distinct from other breeds. The decision to turn in only Wycombe fish necessitated the declining of Mr. Marston's offer, but a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to him for his kindness and sympathy.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Two excellent photographs, showing groups of the dead fish taken from the stream, were exhibited in the room, copies of which may be had from the artist, Mr. J. P. Starling, Wycombe.

The interview between the millowners and the deputation took place on Monday. Mr. Haines and Mr. Stickings, on behalf of the firm, promised to have the tanks removed from the stream at once, so as to prevent any possibility of repetition of the occurrence. The question of compensation was discussed, but was deferred in order that the two members of the firm present might consult an absent partner.

The Association had arranged to give a dinner to some of the men employed at the mills on the stream, with a view to excite an interest in the preservation of the fish; and, notwithstanding the unfortunate disaster referred to above, we understand that this came off at the White Hart on the following Tuesday.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE OLD RIVER—HOW TO GET THERE, AND HOW TO FISH IT FROM BANK OR PUNT.

By A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—Previous to commencing the subject of this letter, permit me to refer to your note appended to my last, in which you ask for the professional fishermen's assistance to carry out your proposal to cultivate pike, perch, &c.

I shall be glad to do anything I can, but it is so little as to be almost worthless, unless you will kindly value my anxious hope for the success of your project. I have just made application to my banker for a draw of five shillings; the reply was: "I will tell you what it is, father, what with the terrible waste of pens, ink and paper that goes on for the writing and re-writing of your letters, and now to ask for five shillings, as if money grew among the cabbages, it can only end badly; you will write us all into the workhouse yet." I am glad to inform you, sir, that we have split the difference, and I herewith send you thirty stamps. The wife wants to know what amount would be the result were every London angler to give half-a-crown? I have got over that little difficulty in figures, by not knowing how many there are who could and ought to do so.

Possibly many of you readers may think it a matter of little or no moment what a Thames fisherman's opinion may be on such a subject as the propagation of fish. I have opinions which are the fruits of careful thought and experience, and, at the risk of being thought presumptuous, I will state them. Such voracious and easily captured fish as pike and perch are becoming scarcer each year; and, unless efficient steps are taken in the immediate future, these two fish will become extinct in public waters within a radius of fifty miles of all large centres of population.

We must remember, while making our calculations, that the rising generation will be an educated one, and therefore we have a right to expect that the love of nature, and the craving for innocent health-giving sport, will be immensely on the increase. Within the past seven years, anglers have multiplied by a large figure, but their present number only faintly represents the multitude of the future. Our duty as men is as plain as A, B, C. We must be up and doing, and try to leave our waters as well stocked as we found them, or our followers will have just ground for saying that their predecessors were either stupid or selfish.

I shall come to your meeting, sir; I am sorry to say the wife has determined to come with me. Never mind, she's all right if I can prevent her starting on a speech.

The mile and a half of the river Thames known as the old river, or Fleet, cannot compare for beautiful landscapes or stirring historical associations with many another reach with which my calling has made me familiar, yet it may fairly boast of being an angler's paradise. Unfortunately, like many other good things, it is very difficult to get at. Should you be coming from London to fish it with the aid of a punt, you have the choice of three stations, all of which are more or less distant from your fishing, viz., Staines, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles; Egham, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and Datchet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. I am pleased to say that the bank angler can more easily get here. He, by travelling to Wraybury, has only to follow his train for about a mile and he will find himself landed on the banks, where he may roam up or down in search of a swim without fear of molestation, his greatest difficulty being to choose the best from among so many good ones.

The punt angler who has done the journey to the weir-head, without the services of a fisherman, will find himself in a difficulty as to shooting over; unless he be a perfect master of his punt he will do well to take my advice and not attempt to let her drop through the sluice-gate, as it is a most dangerous and unnecessary performance for an amateur to attempt. Unnecessary, because there is another way of getting over—by taking a little extra trouble—which is perfectly safe.

There are bushes projecting over the water on the left side. Let the punt gently down by them until you reach the last, then draw her nose to the bank, and on looking round you will see that her tail hangs ready to drop over. Have your tow-line in one hand, and with the other grip the bush in such a manner as shall assist you in springing to the bank; make the spring, let loose the line, and you will soon discover that there is just sufficient water to carry her over. Don't cause a check, as the speed will assist her to ride over all obstacles. When she is safe in deep water, and travelling down at a great speed, give line. Don't tug violently and break, or you will be in a terrible fix. Stop her gradually; she will soon answer to the strain; jump in, and you are afloat on the old river.

Having shown you the way to this paradise, into which neither of the two great enemies to anglers—steam launches and trailers—are permitted to enter, and which, from its tiring distance from a fishing station, is comparatively little fished, I hope you will give me your attention while I describe the haunts of each species of fish, and the best methods of catching them from the bank or the punt.

Should you pay your first visit during the spring or summer, don't move your punt from the spot where you first get into her until you have tried the boughs which are within throwing distance on your left. Cast a ledger out with a small round bullet, and let it roll under the first bough, then throw in a small ball of clay, with half a dozen worms cut in halves. I have done this scores of times, and I don't think it ever failed to bring a fish. Once I remember that

instead of the knock, knock, of the perch, as expected, the rod was almost tugged from the hand as the fish rushed out and up to the weir.

"At last I have a Thames trout," was the expressed hope of my customer. I looked for the somersault in the air which a good trout will always turn, but instead he fought stubbornly for the granite blocks that lay underneath the furious rush of the sluice. The only plan was at all hazards to lift his nose just a trifle, so that the weight of water might force him back from this dangerous spot; up he came, and we saw amidst the foam a monster barbel. For full ten minutes more he tried his hardest to regain his haunt; but it was not to be. That Monday night it weighed in London 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., and I am told that it is now as perfect a specimen as that clever man Cooper ever put behind a glass.

Work the eddy on your right with a paternoster, as this is the hunting ground, for minnows, of the numerous perch which head up in the spring.

You may with profit spend a day in this snug corner, with your eyes now and then diverted from your rod to the pictures around you. Nature has not done all that she is capable of, but it is a pretty scene, and you will not gaze upon it for long without a feeling stealing over you of "its all my own." The busy world comes not here, though close at hand; you have only to raise your eyes some six feet above your level to see boat after boat, with its gaily dressed occupants, pass noiselessly by—the waters drown every sound—and as they enter or emerge from the cut they have more the appearance of puppets in some grand show than that which we know them to be.

While here we ought to moor our punt in the centre, and with light cane rod, a Nottingham winch, fine running line, small piece of cork, two yards of gut, and a triangle hook, pay down a bleak or small dace, with the chance—very remote—of taking one of the proud old trout for which the scours immediately below are noted.

The boughs on our left are a continuation of those we fished at starting; try the three last for good roach, you will find a depth of 6 feet, with a straight, steady run.

The next half mile on this side is jack water, especially is it so in spring and summer; indeed, until the first heavy flood in autumn, by which they will be driven lower down to slacker water.

On our right, extending from within 100 yards of the weir, is a long row of withies, growing out from the undermined and wasting bank. Had we time, we would land, crawl to the edge, take a peep, and see how fully the chub appreciate the home which the rush in flood time has made for them. Here the fat and lazy, and the small and active, swim in and out amid the labyrinth of roots. Come, lovers of chub-fishing, come with the first hard frost, and bring your well-cleaned (not cooked) brains, and about 24 inches of pith, which will make twenty-four good coverings for your fine-gut triangle hook. Chop the brains small and use them with the greatest care; cast in about a thimbleful at first, and if that takes the direction your float will travel, throw in six times the quantity. Take 1 inch of pith and, with your hook concealed in the centre, drop it carefully over the side, and let your float gently down to the water, so as to give time for the bait to sink clear of your line. Always remember that for successful chub-fishing with this bait you must keep it off the bottom and well in front of your float; to effect this, slightly check the line as it draws from the winch; if there is no response to such kind attention in five minutes, move to the next swim, where, possibly, the ground-bait intended for the last has preceded you causing quite an eager commotion. Now is your time; keep cool, and you may get a couple of brace of the aforesaid fat and lazy ones.

Next we reach some broader, quieter eddies. Notice how easily they may be fished from the bank. A short time since I was passing this spot with two customers, while a bank angler was in the act of carefully lifting out a good roach; as the punt went slowly by they and I saw a little bit of paste put upon a hook, and immediately above it a very small ball of ground-bait. It was very gingerly lowered, and almost as soon as it could have reached the bottom the slightest of strikes denoted that there was a bite, and to judge by the top joint another good roach would soon be upon the grass. If my customers were correct it was Mr. L. Bonvoisin, of your paper, who so quickly taught us this little lesson in roach fishing.

The broad, shallow, sandy slack, fringed with short rushes, before us on our right is one of the spawning beds for roach; and about the third week in May it presents a curious spectacle. The mass of roach collected here causes the water to assume a dark slate tint, a shade of colour well known to the poacher, who has no need to approach too closely to see what is there; the net is drawn carefully round it, and the river is so much the poorer.

Let us hope, sir, that the day is not far distant when preservation societies will consider their work with a view of giving protection, not indiscriminately, but at such times and places as a study of fish shall readily point out.

On the left bank is a notice board proclaiming that unpardonable selfishness still survives—"Trespassers Beware." We need not trouble, it only refers to a small portion, where there are no bank swims.

Alongside is the splendid trout shallow known to all Thames fishermen. Last season I saw three good fish feeding at one and the same time, and for a moment we hoped that our bait would have been seized. Several times they fed, and each time our lure travelled down over them, with the usual result. I declare, were I not a professional, I should say that Thames trout-fishing is not worth the candle; most emphatically I say they are not worth, neither do they require, any expenditure of time or money for their propagation, both of which are sorely needed for other fish.

Up with the weight, let the punt drift with the rapid stream, and as she goes we may feel thankful that our evening's meal does not depend on a trout, to catch which it may take you longer than it shall to get seven years older.

As we round the bend there are some excellent swims, where the bank angler may come. I should bring an extra rod and use it with a ledger. Let it be a two ounce flat lead, that it may have a chance of remaining where you throw it, but there should be at least one yard of gut between this formidable piece of metal and the worm. The knowing Putney anglers will show you, if you meet them here, how they manage to take home such baskets of fish.

Try between the withy trees, slyly if the water is low and clear, but should you be fortunate enough to find it high and a little coloured, you may stand boldly forward. Your take will only be limited by the time and skill devoted to its capture; to the bank the fish must come for rest and food while such a water is running.

The last tree hangs more out over the river than the rest, and under it is the noted barbel swim, to fish which I have pushed my punt further than I can ever hope to do again.

The last time I came here I was early, yet too late. As we rounded the corner we saw that it was already occupied by a punt, in which there was a gentleman, a lady, and a boy, and as I sat down to assist with my customers to decide

what we were to do, I saw the gentleman strike a fish, and then ensued one of the grandest struggles I had seen for many a long day. Everything favoured the fish—a heavy stream was running, and if, with the aid of this he could only get fifteen short yards down stream, he would have no difficulty in regaining his liberty. There in the deep hole lies a tree, branches and all, as washed from a spot 500 yards up stream, where it toppled into the river. Many a good fish that could, and ought to, have been prevented, has done this little rush clean off the reel, much to the astonishment of sundry customers who were not too clever by half at barbel fishing.

To-day the battle is pretty equal. A score of times at least the fish came within a yard or two of home, to be got back to the punt bit by bit, and when he could no longer keep the bottom he rolled over and over on the surface in such a manner as would have broken any tackle had not line been given. Back it was coaxed again, and had I been in the punt it would have been near enough to have reached it with the net. The lady made an attempt, but it was too far off. The next time it came back she made another try and failed. The gentleman said something which I fancied caused her to lose confidence, and instead of keeping her net a little under water for the fish to come into it, she was holding it ready to drop when told. The gentleman gave the word, but instead of putting it under, she, with exhausted nerve, dropped it on his nose, and so ended the struggle between Mr., Mrs. and Master Phillips and a twelve pound barbel.—I am, &c.,

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

P.S.—Should any member of the Waltonian Angling Society read this, will he kindly inform Mr. Phillips that I have a few chub swims waiting for him or some other good hand?

[Many thanks for the subscription to our proposed society. We shall not forget that the first cash received for the purpose of propagating coarse fish came from "A Thames Fisherman."—ED.]

"A THAMES FISHERMAN'S" LETTERS.

SIR,—Surely our thanks are due to "A Thames Fisherman" for his graphic and interesting description of the river above Egham Weir. I have a slight knowledge of it and was able to follow every spot described, having fished them with my friend Mr. P. Geen. Unfortunately, I can quite agree with the writer that the perch are not so numerous as they were and that the big chub caught are few and far between, but there they no doubt are, as witness one lately taken by a member of the Hammersmith United Club, which weighed nearly 5 lb. The "Thames Fisherman's" letter, read while waiting in Richmond station, quite decided me to alter my plans for Saturday's fishing, and to visit again the old boughs; and I learn that on Sunday this portion of the river was more numerously attended than ever. These interesting and descriptive letters are what we want in the GAZETTE, for they cannot fail to familiarise the best portions of the river to the uninitiated angler, and it is to be hoped, Mr. Editor, there will be a continuance of them.

I do not think it was Mr. Hoole who fell into the weir on that cold winter's morning—it was Mr. P. Geen, who is also one of the best punters and swimmers on the river, and who has often told me the mishap was caused by his hearing the shouts of "somebody" who was telling him he was going out of his course.—I am, &c.,

LEDGER LEAD.

"A THAMES FISHERMAN."

SIR,—I have read with considerable surprise and pleasure the letters by a "A Thames Fisherman." Surprised at the ability displayed, and pleased to see such valuable information given to my brother anglers through your paper. I have fished the water between Bell Weir and Old Windsor, in the company of my oldest and most esteemed friend, Mr. P. Geen, for several seasons together, and many scores of good takes have reached the Hammersmith United Club from Haines Boughs.

I am prepared to endorse everything your correspondent, "A Thames Fisherman," says in respect to that locality, except those remarks referring to my "cold bath." The mistake is quite excusable, as I certainly was one of the two who attempted on that dark, bitter cold morning to shoot the old Bell Weir. I must say I was very much against the venture, but my friend had made up his mind to make the attempt (I never knew him to alter his mind when once it was made up).

It may be of some service to those too plucky piscatorialists to give them the particulars of what nearly terminated fatally for one of us; it makes me shudder when I think of it. It would have been a most lamentable thing for more than a few. The anglers would have lost one of their best friends, a wife the best of husbands, and children the best of fathers. We slept at the Green Man, Wraybury, on a Wednesday night about six (not sixteen) years ago, got up between five and six (it was pitch dark), unmoored our punt, and dropped down towards the Bell Weir, on our way to fish at Penton Hook. Could not make any one hear, although we bawled out "Look! look! look!" as loud as possible; so my friend said, "I shall not wait, Tommy. We will drop over the weir." I tried to persuade him against it, because it was too dark. It was no good; he had made up his mind to make the attempt. Up stream again, put the punt in a line for the shoot, was the work of a few moments. Some one on the weir shouted out something; it was impossible to hear what, for the roaring, rushing sound of the water was too great to hear one's self speak; but my companion tried to ease her while we listened to what was said. He, standing right at the end of the bow, and touching the bottom of the river with the pole, made the punt swerve, and before I had got the words "Look out! we are going to collide!" out of my mouth, bang she went, knocking me into the bottom of the punt, and my poor old friend, P. Geen, into the boiling water. Thank God, the punt went ahead, and got jammed between the piles, so that by the time P. G. came to the surface I was able to help him into the half-swamped punt, with the assistance of the unintentional cause of the accident, for I feel confident had it not been for his shouting we should have gone over all right. We are both convinced that "A Thames Fisherman" meant to give us good advice.

P. G. was not to be done out of his day's sport. We woke the people up at the Angler's Rest, and they were more than kind, doing all they possibly could to set matters right again. It was a treat to see P. G. toasting his clothes before a fire big enough to roast a bullock, rigged out in a pair of my trousers and my great coat. Those who know the two of us will know what a capital fit they were. I was a long time baling water out of the punt; when I had finished I looked into the drying-room to see how things were progressing. Behold P. G. getting into a flannel shirt, all scorched to pieces, as were most of his clothes, for his patience would not stand being taxed any longer. We got on board once more about ten o'clock, and sailed for Penton Hook, where we arrived without any further mishap, caught a lot of fish, and amused

our fellow-members with our day's adventures when we arrived home. I caught a very bad cold, and the "Knight of the Bath," was none the worse for the ducking.

Moral—never attempt to shoot weirs.—I am, &c.,

T. HOOLE.

P.S.—The weir was undergoing repair, and before we could recognise, in the confusion, who "A Thames Fisherman" was, there were five men helping us to get the punt off the piles. Of course we gave them as large a reward as possible, and if "A Thames Fisherman" will send his name and address to myself or Mr. P. Geen, he shall receive another token of our gratitude. I sincerely hope he will continue his letters, for he evidently knows a lot about his subject, and his hints will be highly appreciated by all who like to see their brother members, as well as themselves, get a dish of fish.

FISHING AT EYNESHAM.

SIR,—I regret exceedingly that the truth about the fishing at Eynesham should have proved so unpleasant to "Perch," and that I am still unable, even after his peculiarly inconsistent letter this week, to offer any further information; neither can I consent to be drawn into offering an opinion as to the public right to fish the water, not even "in the face of the other two letters written without bias" (of which I can detect slight signs in Mr. Oliver's letter). Which two letters are also quite free from the correct information, as will be seen on reference to the replies of Mr. Treadwell and Mr. Wall, in last week's GAZETTE. I must point out to Mr. Oliver that I have never said I paid "for simply being allowed to fish from a towpath"—the tickets permit fishing from both banks of the river; also that as my takes of fish are the only ones recorded in the GAZETTE as from Eynesham, I was quite justified in assuming that they had attracted his attention as named in his first letter. I should be much more in order in telling Mr. Oliver that he has no right to assume the Thames Rights Defence Association to be defunct because he does not happen to hear of its doings. No doubt "Perch" is a highly desirable and indispensable member of the club, which has the felicity of owning him among its members, but that gives him no right to treat with such undisguised contempt the correct information of those who have taken the trouble to reply to his inquiries.—I am, &c.,

ROBT. W. HOBDEN.

COARSE FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—I am instructed by the members of the Patricroft Social Anglers Society, to inform you that they highly approve your suggestions of the formation of a society for the cultivation of coarse fish, and that in the event of your succeeding in forming one, they will subscribe to its funds.

The distance is too great for the club to send a delegate to the proposed meeting, but they wish it and you every success, and hope that you will publish a report in your paper.—I am, &c.

W. R. M., Sec.

63, King Street, Manchester, November 18.

A GOOD JOKE.

SIR,—Our jocular mutual friend, the printer, makes me, in my last week's letter, talk of "my first touting season." It should, of course, have been "my first troutling season." There is, however, just this scintilla of truth, or of verisimilitude about that pleasant *lapsus typographæ*, that were I to begin to tout, my first attempt would certainly be to obtain a good day's troutling.—I am, &c.,

A. R. I. E. L.

London, Nov. 21.

ANOTHER JOKE.

TO THE PRINTER,

SIR,—In my note to one of the letters in last week's paper, you make me say that a Nottingham angler can work his spinning bait like a *goose* bait! I wrote *gorge* bait. Your compositor is again not far out, for, in some parts of the country, it used to be the custom to tie a fish-bait to a goose's leg, and then frighten the bird on to a lake containing jack; as the bird uses its leg in swimming, it imparts motion to the fish-bait very similar to the deadly, sink and draw of the gorge-bait style.—I am, &c.,

EDITOR F. G.

THE BIG PERCH.

SIR,—The question of the 10½ lb. perch. In reply to Mr. W. Gibson as to the weight of a perch from Dagenham Lake, viz., the one brought by Clapham, of 5 lb. 1 oz., wherein he says he remembers a skin having been sent by a local suffer.

Mr. Gregory wrote you, the skin of the 10½ lb. perch was sent to Mr. Cooper for preservation, whereby Mr. Gibson's statement is so far corroborated, bringing the skin sent by Mr. Reynolds and that seen by Mr. Gibson as identical.

But how great the discrepancy, when it is stated "that fish was not so large as the one from Dagenham." I took notes at the time I saw the fish, and, as I happen to have my note book by me, I will take out the leaf containing said notes, and enclose it in this. I am satisfied the fish has nothing to indicate a cross of the pike about it, but is a splendid specimen of a real magnificent perch. Any one who may see it would be well satisfied that it must have been of the weight stated, and that the 5 lb. 1 oz. fish from Dagenham is simply "nowhere" as being a match for it, in weight, at least.—I am, &c.,

Eliza Cottage, Chandos Road, Stratford, E.

P. F. DAVIS.

[The extract from Mr. D.'s note book runs:—"Perch, 10½ lb.; length, 27 inches. Killed ten years ago in Burton Broad, by Lord Hastings' coachman." We wish Mr. Davis would get this big perch up to town. We will pay carriage and get the question settled.—ED.]

SIR,—I cannot get over that big 10½ lb. perch. I have written twice to John Cooper, who—they say—stuffed the fish, but no reply yet. 5½ lb. is the largest perch I ever had, and Buckland never even saw a larger perch than the 4½ lb. fish in my dining-room. The talk about that Dagenham 7-pounder and the one of 9 lb. from the Serpentine is all nonsense. There was not a ½-pounder when the Serpentine was cleared out. Then, Whittlesea Mere, the biggest perch was hardly 3 lb., and I took great trouble to ascertain this when the lake was drained, the engineer being an old friend of mine.

I hope Mr. Keene will give us his experience.

An old taxidermist said to me the other day, "The real weight is about 3 lb., and it is no use trying to make it more; you know that as well as any man."

Some years ago, a London gentleman out with me got several fish over 2 lb.

and one of them was nearly a 3-pounder. During dinner my groom quietly slipped 10 oz. of lead into his stomach, and, of course, he then weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Well, the fish went to the club and was weighed, then to the taxidermist, who returned the lead, which I had back. "Well," said my friend, "I got the prize after all, and he was the best fish of the year, and I got it fairly—no troy weight for me."—I am, &c.,
ESOX LUCIUS.
[This big perch must be a sea-perch—this ends the marvel.—ED.]

VARNISHES, &c.

SIR,—Permit me to thank "Chemicus" for his ready information as to preparing a white varnish. I quite agree with him as to the obstacles thrown in the way of the amateur by Messrs. Gilowbowthur and Co., the courteous tackle makers, in his pursuit of that most pleasant pastime, making his own tackle, and the mysteries they seek wherewith to hedge around each simple operation.

I venture to think that if "Chemicus" would advertise the varnishes he speaks of they would, if an improvement, as he suggests, and sold at a reasonable profit, command a sale, and friends in any especial district would readily club together to procure it in such quantity as to make railway carriage preferable to post.—I am, &c.,
NEMO.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLER'S PRIDE ANGLING SOCIETY.

The trays of this club were well filled on Sunday with roach, Mr. H. Haines having 6 lb. Mr. J. Deeley, jun., $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. T. Marshall, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Mr. T. Fiddes, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; Messrs. J. Soar, F. Nash and J. Deeley, sen., also weighed in.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

Nov. 22.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The above club fished on Sunday last at Pangbourne for their fourth list of prizes. The first was won by Mr. Ayton, with 7 lb. 8 oz. of roach; second, by T. Mitchell, with 5 lb. of fish, a tench of 2 lb. 11 oz. being among his take; third, Mr. Owles. Mr. Allen, 6 lb. of roach, taken before the match commenced, other smaller takes from the members.—WM. ALLEN, sec.

Nov. 22.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The competition last Sunday was fished under difficulties: thick water and heavy showers. Mr. Anscombe took first prize with 5 lb. jack; Mr. Ash, 3 lb. jack; 3rd, Mr. Collins, one perch $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The annual meeting took place on Monday evening. The agenda was change of officers and other business. The society have fortunately again secured the services of Mr. Anscombe as hon. secretary; Mr. Gambling, chairman; and Mr. Upton, as treasurer. Wind south-west, and very strong since Sunday.—GROUND BAIT.

Nov. 26.

CITY OF LONDON.

Only two members weighed-in on the 20th, Mr. Mortimer, roach from the Rye House, and Mr. Castell roach from the Stort. Mr. Fowler's prize will be fished for on Sunday next.—CAS.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

This club held their meeting on Sunday last, when Messrs. Kolemman, Eydemann and Smart weighed-in fish from Shepperton, and Mr. Stead a fair show of dace from Richmond. There were two prizes offered to be fished for from the bank, between Richmond Bridge and Teddington Lock, by Messrs. Howard and E. Brown, both professional fishermen of this place. Mr. Howard's prize is a very elaborate box of all kinds of fishing implements, and Mr. E. Brown's is a rod, winch and 100 yards of line. We continue to add to our number, and are now over thirty.—W. H. PLATE, sec.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A good number of the members weighed-in last evening, but the takes again ran small. Messrs. G. Watson, jack, 6 lb. 4 oz.; Letch, roach, 3 lb. 3 oz.; Grey, roach, perch, &c., 2 lb. 5 oz.; Mead, roach, 1 lb. 12 oz.; Heelas, dace and gudgeon; Suich, perch; Harwood, roach and gudgeon; Wightman, roach; Scott, perch and gudgeon; Petrie, roach and chub; Raine, roach. On Wednesday, 16th, Mr. P. Banfield brought in a nice eel from the Rye House, weighing 2 lb. 7 oz.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

Nov. 21.

THE NEWARK PISCATORIALS.

At the weekly meeting of the above society, held on Tuesday evening, November 15, a very instructive and amusing lecture was given by Mr. J. W. Martin, "The Trent Otter," subject, "The Natural History, the Habits, and Characteristics of the Pike." The chair was occupied by Mr. Brooks, the president of the society, who, in a short and pithy speech, introduced the lecturer to the meeting. The lecture, which lasted an hour, was listened to with the greatest attention, the frequent laughter and applause testifying the approbation of the listeners. "The Trent Otter," in the course of his remarks, traced the history of our pike from the earliest recollections, explained from whence and wherefore he got his name, gave several laughable anecdotes about the weight pike are said to have attained, and about the ferocity and voracity of the jack, and also explained their wonderful powers of digestion, &c., &c. Indeed, it may be said that he treated the subject in an exhaustive manner. In proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Mr. Weaver, a member of the Newark Town Council, said that he had listened with a great deal of pleasure and profit to the very able lecture just delivered, and hoped that during the winter Mr. Martin would give them the pleasure of listening to another lecture on the natural history of some others of our fresh-water fish, a remark that met with general approval. Mr. Mawson seconded the proposition, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Martin, in his reply, expressed his willingness to do so, and thanked the members and their friends for the kind way in which they had received his remarks. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The return visit to the North-Western Angling Club, No. 1 District, took place on Monday, 14th inst., and was a great success, over 100 anglers being present to join in the harmony of the evening. On Mr. Osmon, the district officer, calling the roll, it was found that there were thirteen clubs represented, viz., Waltonians, Duke of Cornwall, Phoenix, Bostonians, Cambridge Friendly, Golden Barbel, Globe, Prince of Wales, Marylebone, Norfolk, Westbourne

Park, Little Independent, and City of London. Amongst those who distinguished themselves in rendering the songs of the evening were Mr. Leitch, with the "Flying Dutchman" and "The Vagabond," Mr. Stead, the well-known "Cure" and angler; Messrs. Warwick, Bob Marshall, Star, Roland, Jackson and Barr (on a miniature concertina and banjo), Kelsey, Aldis and others, all of whom met with great approval. Mr. Jules Harding in the chair, faced by Mr. Packman in the vice. Fortunately one of the members had been out, Mr. Kelsey, who brought a very nice show of roach and dace from the Thames, weighing in the aggregate 19 lb. 2 oz. During the week Messrs. Plumptre and Grindley had jack from the Harp; Messrs. Underwood, Stead and Harding, jack from the Thames; and Mr. Patchin, roach from Blunham.—F. HILL, sec.

PHENIX ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last Sunday the River Mole was like pea-soup, and not much fish was taken. Fifteen members competed for two prizes, but not enough fish being caught, the prizes will have to be fished for next Sunday. Mr. G. Bentley had a nice tray of roach, 9 lb. 11 oz.; Messrs. H. Parker, Crisp, Elbourn, Bartrip, Upton, Milton, Reed and Gray also contributing.—W. ELBURN, sec.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The final competition for the season was a contest for the best show of perch, and Monday last was selected as the day for the issue. The attendance at the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, on Monday last, was very numerous, both of members and visitors. There could not have been less than eighty gentlemen present; the large room was crowded to an overflow; tables had to be enlarged; and increased number of chairs. Mr. Thomas Gillatt, one of the oldest and most respected members of the club, presided on the occasion, and amongst the members present were Messrs. F. G. Pearce, James Lander, Henry Gray, Thomas Huggett, T. R. Sachs, W. H. Brougham, W. B. Adlington, C. P. Wheatstone, B. Perelli-Rocco, F. H. Lemann, Norman F. Harrison, J. Pattison, George Gillatt, G. Skinner, E. Foreman, J. Ross Faulkner, W. J. Wilkinson, David Goodger, &c. The visitors were principally members of the Friendly Anglers, who meet at the Albion Tavern, Albion Street, Hyde Park, who were present in return for a visit made by the members of the Piscatorial Society on the previous Wednesday. There were Messrs. W. Paine (treasurer), C. M. Le Good (hon. sec.), N. Henderson, H. A. Connerton, J. Wiltshire, H. E. Blockley, H. J. Welch, A. T. Davis, John Sachs, Jonathan Pennington, &c. Mr. Sachs, jun., who has been almost round the world during the last three years, was present, and received a hearty welcome from his old friends. He was looking remarkably well, and it was hoped he would soon occupy his old position as a member of the society, to which he expressed a hearty assent. And now, as regards the competition it was a decided failure in the number of fish allowed to be weighed-in, the minimum weight being 8 oz. A considerable number of fish had to be rejected, which when first taken must have turned the scale, as the smallest particle would have done in the club room. Mr. C. P. Wheatstone was the first competitor to put in an appearance, and brought up nine good-looking perch, but three had to be discarded, although, as it was remarked, half a sheet of note paper would have brought down the balance in favour of the fish. Mr. Shipway was the next to weigh-in, and two perch out of at least twenty were allowed to compete, although, in numerous instances, it was a fine point to decide. These two worthy competitors were the first to show, and according to their order of appearance they ranked in the result. The first prize, of three guineas, was awarded to Mr. C. P. Wheatstone, with six perch from Maple Durham, weighing 3 lb. 9 oz., the largest fish 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Mr. Shipway secured the second prize, of two guineas, with two perch, weighing 1 lb. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., the largest 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. from Maidenhead; and the additional prize of one guinea, liberally given by Mr. C. P. Wheatstone for the heaviest fish. The following fish were also weighed-in:—Mr. Thomas Huggett, one jack of 3 lb. 2 oz., and a perch of 8 oz.; Mr. F. H. Lemann, a jack of 3 lb. 10 oz., and a perch of 8 oz.; Mr. E. Green, a jack of 3 lb. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; Mr. Cross, a chub of 2 lb. 5 oz., and Mr. Grizell, a jack of 4 lb. 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. A very jovial evening was spent by the members and visitors, numerous complimentary toasts exchanged, and the usual votes of thanks accorded. A paper on "Jack Fishing" will be read by Mr. T. R. Sachs, on Monday evening next, and from the long practical experience of that gentleman in the science of angling, added to the fact that he is an accomplished angler, it is sure to attract a large attendance of members and friends.

QUEEN'S ANGLING SOCIETY.

Several members were out yesterday, 20th November, to compete for a fishing box, which was won by Mr. Hodges, with 11 lb. 7 oz. of roach from Weybridge, a very pretty show; in fact, the best individual show of the season. Messrs. Sanders and Pratt some dace from Hammersmith.—H. THURSGROVE.

ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society celebrated their removal from the Sir Robert Peel Inn, Caroline Street, to the Dolphin Inn, Unett Street, by holding their third annual dinner and distribution of prizes at the Dolphin Inn, the host, Mr. Stonier, providing an excellent repast, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a goodly number of members present. The usual loyal and other toasts having been proposed and heartily responded to, and the prizes having been presented to the members who were successful at the club contest which took place in the Kidderminster district some weeks ago, on fishing waters kindly selected by brother anglers in that district, Mr. J. Keeling, one of the gentlemen who acted as referee on that occasion, proposed the success of the St. George's Universal Angling Society, and in the course of his remarks testified to the pleasure his brother officials and himself felt in spending so enjoyable a day with the members at their contest, which was conducted in a most agreeable and satisfactory manner. On the motion of the chairman, Mr. James Letherington, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to those gentlemen who liberally presented various and valuable prizes to the society, and that the receipt of those prizes should be acknowledged in the FISHING GAZETTE. The secretary, Mr. A. Roberts, gave an account of the formation and progress of the society, which has been most successful, numbering at the present time about 100 members, and possessing private waters in the rivers Trent, Avon, and Blythe, and stated that the committee would be very glad if any gentlemen owners of fisheries who were disposed to assist angling societies in their efforts to preserve angling waters by renting them, or otherwise, would communicate with the society at their clubhouse if they have any fishing to let, the main object of the society being to provide good angling for the members, and devote the funds of the society to the preservation of waters and the furtherance of true angling. The best thanks of the society having been given to Mr. J. Keeling and Mr. Steward for their kindness in fulfilling the office of referees at all contests since the formation of the society, regret was

universally expressed at the absence of Mr. Steward, through leaving Birmingham for a foreign shore, and hoping that his career in his future home may be a happy and prosperous one. The toast of the FISHING GAZETTE met with a most hearty response, and hoping that we shall not be intruding on your space with this report, and asking you to kindly acknowledge the receipt of prizes from the following gentlemen:—Mr. John Keeling, fishing tackle manufacturer, Digbeth; Messrs. Warner Brothers, fishing tackle manufacturers, Broad Street, and Redditch; Mr. Reubin Heaton, fishing tackle manufacturer, Hospital Street; Mr. Whately, pocketbook manufacturer, Branstons Street; Mr. James Gregory, artificial bait manufacturer, Vyse Street; Mr. H. Jackson, fishing tackle manufacturer, Hockley Hill; Mr. James Dearn, fishing tackle manufacturer, Gosta Green; Mr. C. Steward, artificial bait manufacturer, Key Hill Drive; Mr. C. Brownhill, jeweller, Great Hampton Street; Mr. W. Caney, late treasurer, Pope Street; Mr. James Clabrough, gun manufacturer, Whitall Street; Mr. Samuel Probin, gun manufacturer; Mr. James Fisher, electro-plate manufacturer, Aston New Town.—A. ROBERTS, secretary.

Birmingham.

SURREY PISCATORIALS.

On the 23rd, Mr. Meadway had a capital show of roach and dace from the Colne, gross weight going over 9 lb. A meeting was held at the Society's headquarters, the St. Paul's, Westmoreland Road, Walworth, Mr. Meadway in the chair, to consider the memorial just issued by the Thames Angling Preservation Society. Among the different questions that were discussed was one in reference to the reducing the measure for perch, roach, and dace in the City waters—Would it be detrimental or not? Some of the members think that the above-named fish are quite small enough at the present size without making them smaller. This society would like to hear what the Reading Preservation Association are going to do on this question. This question will be brought on again on Wednesday next. Perhaps the R.P.A. will kindly forward their views by that time; by so doing they will oblige a great number of anglers, as this a question that needs discussing.—PIXIE.

TRAFALGAR ANGLING SOCIETY.

Members and friends of the above society are respectfully informed that the business of this society will be transacted at their old quarters, the George and Dragon, Greek Street, Soho, on and after Wednesday, November 23rd.—R. G.

UNITED BROTHERS.

Although several members were out on Sunday the 20th, only one arrived in time to weigh—J. Curran with roach from the Thames. The old members of the above society will fish a pegged-down match on Sunday the 27th, when I hope we shall have more members, ditto fish, than we had at our last outing. Then it was too cold, this time what will it be? Water to be named on Saturday night the 26th.—WILLIAM BELTON.

WALTONIANS.

Messrs. Malcom, Rolan, Good, jun., Greenfield, and Togwell weighed-in fish, but very small. Shows the order of the day.—A. J. MARRIOTT.

Nov. 20

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIALS.

After writing you yesterday I went down to West Drayton, Godfrey water, and had some sport among the roach, largest fish 17 oz. Two gentlemen had 8 lb. of chub, largest, 4 lb. 8 oz.—H. ADEAN.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON ANGLERS.

The delegates meeting of this association was held on Friday last, the 18th instant. There was a good attendance, twenty-nine societies being represented. On the chairman (Mr. Bonvoisin) taking his seat, the business was commenced without delay. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the hon. sec. announced the decision of the committee relative to the case of abuse of the privileges granted by the L. and S. W. Railway, referred to them for disposal. The committee, which met on the 4th inst., after a patient and thorough investigation of the whole affair, cancelled the tickets held by the defaulting parties. Since such meeting of the committee the hon. sec. had received a letter signed by fourteen members of the society to which the parties belonged, appealing against the decision of the committee, which he in due course placed before the meeting. Their delegates also made an earnest and eloquent appeal on behalf of their brother members for a reconsideration of the matter. The vice-chairman stated shortly to the meeting what took place before the committee, after which Mr. A. A. Dean proposed, and Mr. White seconded, "That the decision of the committee be upheld and confirmed," such proposition being carried unanimously. Several letters having been received from the secretary of the T.A.P.S. with reference to the payment of the reward granted by the association to Mr. Walters, late a keeper of the T.A.P.S., also from Mr. Geen, the president of the W.C.A., the same were laid before the meeting. After considerable discussion had taken place, the matter was left in the hands of Mr. Geen for settlement at his discretion, that gentleman representing the W.C.A. on the committee of the T.A.P.S. A question raised by the late secretary of the Queen's Angling Society, was after some remarks, referred to the committee. The Jovial Angling Society and the Brunswick Piscatorials were enrolled with the association, after which, as the time was somewhat late, the hon. sec. called the roll, the following societies being represented:—Acton and Ealing, Bostonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, Beresford, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, First Surrey, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, King's Cross United, Larkhall, Norfolk, North-Western, Prince of Wales, Peckham, Perseverance, Queen's, Royal George, St. John's, South London, South Belgravia, St. John's Wood, Trafalgar, United Brothers, United Marlboro' Brothers, Waltonians, Westbourne Park, Jovial and Brunswick Piscatorials. A vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair closed the business of the evening.—G. TREADWELL.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SALMON OF THE PACIFIC.

By DAVID S. JORDAN AND CHAS. H. GILBERT.

DURING the most of the present year, the writers have been engaged in the study of the fishes of the Pacific coast of the United States, in the interest of the U. S. Fish Commission and the U. S. Census Bureau. The following pages contain the principal facts ascertained concerning the salmon of the Pacific coast. It is condensed from our report to the U. S. Census Bureau, by permission of Professor Goode, assistant in charge of fishery investigations.

There are five species of salmon (*Oncorhynchus*) in the waters of

the North Pacific. We have at present no evidence of the existence of any more on either the American or the Asiatic side.

These species may be called the quinnat, or king salmon; the blue back salmon, or red-fish; the silver salmon, the dog salmon, and the hump-back salmon, or *Oncorhynchus chowicha, nerka, kisutch, keta*, and *gorbuscha*. All these species are now known to occur in the waters of Kamschatka as well as those of Alaska and Oregon.

As vernacular names of definite application, the following are on record:—

(a) Quinnat—Chowicha, king salmon, e'quinna, saw-quey, Chinook salmon, Columbia River salmon, Sacramento salmon, tyee salmon, Monterey salmon, deep-water salmon, spring salmon, ekulba ("ekewan") (fall run).

(b) Blue-back—krasnaya ryba, Alaska red fish, Idaho red fish, sukkegh, Frazer's river salmon, rascal, oo-chooy-ha.

(c) Silver salmon—kisutch, winter salmon, hoopid, skowitz, coho, bielaya ryba, o-o-wun.

(d) Dog salmon—kayko, lekai, ktawhy, qualoch, fall salmon, o-le-a-rah. The males of all the species in the fall are usually known as dog salmon, or fall salmon.

(e) Humpback—gorbuscha, haddo, hone, holia, lost salmon, Puget Sound salmon, dog salmon (of Alaska).

Of these species, the blueback predominates in Frazer's River, the silver salmon in Puget Sound, the quinnat in the Columbia and the Sacramento, and the silver salmon in most of the small streams along the coast. All the species have been seen by us in the Columbia and the Frazer's River; all but the blueback in the Sacramento, and all but the blueback in waters tributary to Puget Sound. Only the quinnat has been noticed south of San Francisco, and its range has been traced as far as Ventura River, which is the southernmost stream in California which is not muddy and alkaline at its mouth.

Of these species, the quinnat and blueback salmon habitually "run" in the spring, the others in the fall. The usual order of running in the rivers is as follows:—*Nerka, chowicha, kisutch, gorbuscha, keta*.

The economic value of the spring running salmon is far greater than that of the other species, because they can be captured in numbers when at their best, while the others are usually taken only after deterioration.

The habits of the salmon in the ocean are not easily studied. Quinnat and silver salmon of every size are taken with the seine at almost any season in Puget Sound. The quinnat takes the hook freely in Monterey Bay, both near the shore and at a distance of six or eight miles out. We have reason to believe that these two species do not necessarily seek great depths, but probably remain not very far from the mouth of the rivers in which they were spawned.

The blue-black and the dog salmon probably seek deeper water, as the former is seldom or never taken with the seine in the ocean, and the latter entered the Straits of Fuca at the spawning season.

The great majority of the quinnat salmon and nearly all the blue-back salmon enter the rivers in the spring. The run of both begins generally the last of March; it lasts, with various modifications and interruptions, until the actual spawning season in November; the time of running and the proportionate amount of each of the subordinate runs, varying with each different river. In general, the runs are slack in the summer, and increase with the first high water of Autumn. By the last of August only straggling blue-backs can be found in the lower course of any stream, but both in the Columbia and the Sacramento the quinnat runs in considerable numbers till October, at least. In the Sacramento the run is greatest in the fall, and more run in the summer than in spring. In the Sacramento and the smaller rivers southward, there is a winter run beginning in December.

The spring salmon ascend only those rivers which are fed by the melting snows from the mountains, and which have sufficient volume to send their waters well out to sea. Such rivers are the Sacramento, Rogue, Klamath, Columbia and Frazer's Rivers.

Those salmon which run in the spring are chiefly adults (supposed to be at least three years old). Their milt and spawn are no more developed than at the same time in others of the same species which will not enter the rivers until fall. It would appear that the contact with cold fresh water, when in the ocean, in some way caused them to turn towards it and to "run," before there is any special influence to that end exerted by the development of the organs of generation.

High water on any of these rivers in the spring is always followed by an increased run of salmon. The canners think, and this is probably true, that salmon which would not have run till later, are brought up by the contact with cold water. The cause of this effect of cold fresh water is not understood. We may call it an instinct of the salmon, which is another way of expressing our ignorance. In general, it seems to be true that in those rivers and during those years when the spring run is greatest, the fall run is least to be depended on.

As the season advances, smaller and younger salmon of these two species (quinnat and blue-back) enter the rivers to spawn, and in the fall these young specimens are very numerous. We have thus far failed to notice any gradations in size or appearance of these young fish by which their ages could be ascertained. It is, however, probable that some of both sexes reproduce at the age of one year. In Frazer's River, in the fall, quinnat male grilse of every size, from eight inches upward, were running, the milt fully developed, but usually not showing the hooked jaws and dark colours of the older males. Females less than eighteen inches in length were rare. All large and small, then in the river, of either sex, had the ovaries or milt well developed.

(To be continued.)

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1881.

LONDON ANGLERS AND COUNTRY WATERS.

IN our correspondence columns this week will be found a letter from a gentleman who complains of conduct on the part of London club and other anglers, which we must regret has been only too frequently complained of recently; we refer to the practice of fishing in preserved waters without the consent, and in defiance of the parties preserving it. We also print an account

from a Bedford paper, of a prosecution of two London anglers for jack fishing in a preserved water without permission. Now, much as we sympathise with the growing difficulty the thousands of London's working-men anglers experience in finding place to fish, we can only tell them that, unless they unite to put a stop to the illegal proceedings of some of their members they will most certainly find their difficulties increase tenfold. The number of anglers is increasing very fast; this increase is general all over the country; nearly every town of any importance has its angling clubs. Now, the anglers of London are finding that waters which they have been in the habit of fishing without let or hindrance are on all sides becoming closed to them, in the majority of cases in consequence of the formation of some local club. What is to be done? It will be perhaps easier to say first what is not to be done. In our opinion it is a suicidal policy to attempt to assert a right to fish, or to persist in fishing in defiance of notice or warning, unless it is perfectly certain that the parties giving such notice or warning are not entitled to do so, and the only way to prove this is by legal proceedings. To this it may be answered, How can a few poor anglers venture to go to law? probably with some wealthy club! If they cannot do so there is no help for them, and they must go elsewhere. If the country clubs would issue day tickets it would be a grand boon, but they cannot be forced to do so, and any attempt in this direction can only end in creating a worse feeling than already exists. Our correspondents who write hard words about the country clubs should remember that by doing so they are only helping to widen the gulf, and prevent all chance of concessions of any kind. We are writing in the true interests of London anglers; there can be no possible good in taking a sentimental view of the question, and talking of the selfishness of this or that club refusing to allow poor anglers to fish. Why should country clubs be expected to do from any sentimental feeling what London clubs, when they have the power, never do? We could name several London angling clubs which rent and preserve waters in the neighbourhood of London; do they permit outsiders to fish, either because they are poor, or for any other reason? Why, as a rule, even the members are not allowed to bring their own personal friends! and as for issuing day tickets, it is impossible, for this simple reason, that the day-ticket holders would be in an infinitely better position than the club members; who pay from two to twenty pounds a year; in fact, there could be no inducement to be a member, as it would be far cheaper to buy a day ticket on the often rare occasions that the individual could fish the water. If the water were preserved for pecuniary or philanthropic reasons, then the issue of a limited number of day tickets would, in many cases, be advisable. We think the sooner the London clubs accept the situation, and acknowledge they cannot force their way into preserved waters, and are merely making themselves ridiculous by putting forward sentimental grievances, the soon will they come to see that they must act for themselves, and get waters of their own. It must and will come to this if they want to get fishing at all; and every day of delay on their part means loss of water which might be had, and increasing cost of what remains. It is only this week we hear, on good authority, that the land owners and holders in the neighbourhood of Pulborough intend—if, indeed, they have not done so already—to put a stop to free fishing there. No one regrets this more than we do, and we sincerely trust the report is not correct. If it is a fact, we can only advise the hundreds of anglers who fish there not to make the matter another case of grievance and cause for calling names, if they do they will defeat any after-attempts to obtain concessions. This is a case affecting so many anglers in so many clubs, that we should strongly advise their taking it up in a temperate, quiet manner, and sending a deputation to learn the reason why the waters are to be closed to them in future, and endeavour to effect some compromise. If they talk about "selfishness" and "rights," they will most assuredly lose Pulborough as an angling resort.

The only hope we see for the future of London club anglers is, that they will take the bull by the horns, rent waters, and stock these for their own use. There are, as Mr. Jardine pointed out at a meeting of the Society of Arts some years ago, thousands of miles of rivers and canals, which can be utilised for angling preserves. At present they are looked after by nobody, and fished and poached to death. To rent portions of them of the canal or land owners is not only a possible, but an easy matter; other clubs are doing it fast. The expense for rent is a trifle, and we shall hope at our proposed meeting to discuss coarse-fish culture, to prove that the breeding of coarse fish is such an easy and simple matter that any club might do it. If to do what we propose is beyond the resources of some clubs singly, they surely could join together and do it. The great associations could easily procure funds for renting certain stretches of water, and could as easily recoup themselves by issuing day tickets. The Sheffield Association have long ago done this; it is high time London followed their example.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1883.

A MEETING of the General Committee of the above Exhibition was held on Friday, November 25th, at Fishmongers' Hall, when the following members were present:—

Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P., Vice-Chairman.
Marquis of Exeter.
Sir Alexander Galt.
Sir Phillip Cunliffe Owen.
Sir Andrew Lusk, Bart., Ald, M.P.
W. S. Shoobridge, Esq.
J. H. Fordham, Esq.
Deputy Bell.
H. L. A. B. C. Burdett-Coutts, Esq.

W. Oldham Chambers, Esq.
J. H. Crossman, Esq.
Captain Fell Woods.
Major Flood Page.
Francis Francis, Esq.
Jethro Hornblower, Esq.
Alfred Jardine, Esq.
John Pender, Esq., M.P.
Thomas Spreckley, Esq.
R. B. Marston, Esq.

The most important announcement connected with this meeting was that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has accepted the position of President of the Exhibition.

A resolution was passed at the meeting to ask His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon to accept the position of Chairman of the General Committee, and Edward Birkbeck, Esq., M.P. to be Chairman instead of Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee. Rough private proofs of the prospectus were placed before the committee and it was decided that, if possible, the prospectus should be completed and published early in January, a revised proof is in the meantime to be submitted to the committee for their suggestions and approval. H. W. Towse, Esq., the hon. secretary of the exhibition, read the minutes of the last meeting, and also most satisfactory letters from Earl Granville, and Earl Kimberly, promising aid to the exhibition by drawing the attention of foreign Governments and our Colonies to it. Another most important feature, is the formation of corresponding committees in all the important towns in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This is being proceeded with, and many promises of hearty support, and co-operation have already been received. We are glad to state that the best feeling exists between the committee of the forthcoming Edinburgh International Fisheries Exhibition, and the committee of the 1883 Great International Fisheries Exhibition of London.

THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1882.

WE have received the prospectus of this important exhibition, and are requested by the hon. secretaries to aid in making it generally known. We will refer our readers to the advertisement which will be found in another part of this paper for the very influential list of patrons.

The exhibition will open on the 12th of April next year, and it is under the presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who, as our readers are aware, is an enthusiastic angler. Intending exhibitors should note that no application for space will be received after the 1st of March. We trust English manufacturers of fishing tackle, nets, boats, piscicultural apparatus; fish passes, &c., will support this exhibition, it cannot fail to offer them exceptional advantages, because to most of them it will open up a new and important field for their enterprise. The Scotch anglers are a large and rich body, they do not need to come south for fishing, and consequently English fishing tackle—the best in the world—is not brought much to their notice. The mountain would not go to Mahomet, so Mahomet went to the mountain; Scotch anglers will not come to us for tackle, so those of us who are wise will seize this unique opportunity of cheaply and easily getting at them, and the same thing applies to the sea-fishing industries. We learn from that most interesting little work on the herring and the herring fishery, which has just been published by Mr. J. W. de Caux of Yarmouth, and which we shall notice shortly, that "The Scotch are now by far the greatest herring-fishers in the world; they possess the enormous number of 14,500 herring-boats, worked by some 50,000 men and boys." In the season of 1880 they caught herrings, which at wholesale price fetched, in round numbers, a million pounds sterling!

LOAN COLLECTIONS OF STUFFED FISH.

In a letter we have received from Mr. Archibald Young, one of the hon. secretaries of the exhibition and Commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries, that gentleman says, "I quite agree with you that the collections of stuffed fish were a prominent and attractive feature of the Norwich Exhibition, and I particularly remember Mr. Jardine's collection." Mr. Young hopes that the London clubs, and owners of private collections will send them to Edinburgh, and we know from other quarters that this is the general wish of our Scotch friends. We trust that the splendid collections of our club and other friends will be well represented in Edinburgh. As in the case of the Norwich Exhibition, all expenses will be paid

by the committee, and as regards risk, it is practically *nil*, as special "through" vans will be provided. Medals and money prizes for exhibits and essays will be awarded. In conclusion, we will only add that this Scotch exhibition promises to be a great success, and deserves the hearty support of all who are in anyway interested in fish and fishing. All particulars respecting charges for exhibits, for advertisements in the official catalogue (by the way, as example is better than precept, we may mention that we intend both to exhibit, and advertise in the catalogue), also all other information can be had of the honorary secretaries of the exhibition, at the Highland Society's Chambers, 3, George IV. Bridge, Edinburgh.

SOME NOTES ON ENGLISH COARSE FISH CULTURE.

No. I.

AFTER the departure of the Romans, and at the accession of the Anglo-Saxons, the stews were used for the storing of eels chiefly. Some historians suppose because Bede has told us this, and because it is stated that when St. Wilfrid and Augustine visited this land, the people only knew how to catch eels, that these were eels only in the stews or ponds of the land. True, it is that St. Wilfrid taught the inhabitants better how to capture other fishes, but I cannot but think that it is to the Romans we owe most of the fishes we angle for to-day. The idea seems to me feasible enough. The Romans were eminently enlightened on the subject of fish cultivation. This being so, it is reasonable to suppose that they knew how to carry fish long distances, *ergo*, they imported many of our coarse fish, if not some of the finer. It is clear anyway that they took great interest in this island, so marvelously rich in minerals; and it is almost incredible that, after building fish stews, they should be content with the mere produce of the wild waters of a wild coast.

Pennant has confessed to being unable to give a list of the fishes in existence between the commencement of the Saxon era and the Conquest, and other naturalists have tacitly done the same. There is indeed little chance of getting a complete catalogue, but a little investigation amongst the scant literature of that period, *par* example, Alfred the Great, will furnish us with the following: turbot, haddock, sturgeon, porpoise, whale, herring, plaice, flounders, skate, oysters, winkles, cockles, salmon, lamprey, and "all that swims in the river," which latter expression may be said to be rather too comprehensive. Laws on which those of the Plantagenets and the Tudors were based, were also in action for the preservation of such fishes as were deemed of value; in a word the Saxons were quite alive to the legacy bequeathed by the Roman hordes, and to the great natural advantages of the land they had acquired.

At the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, we find that the value of some of the ponds attached to the castles of "mylorde," were valued as highly as from 5s. to 12s. yearly which was, as nearly as possible, fourteen times the value of the best arable land, size for size. Of course, 5s. then represented a marvellous deal more than it does now, and it would be absurd to suppose that nothing better than eels contributed to so great a proportionate rateage. Indeed, as eel-pond charges were chiefly paid in kind, the idea is additionally dispersed. In fine, it may be safely believed that ponds and lakes—fish-culture generally, in fact—was thought greatly of by high and low.

The salmon, of course, came in for its share of attention by the legislature, but as general fish-culture is the subject now, I need not do more than recommend my readers to the many works bearing on the exclusive history of this interesting fish. Ponds and lakes, till the last century or two, furnished the means for breeding and encouraging the development of the "coarse" fishes, and as their number so greatly exceeds that of the so-called "game" fishes, it must be considered that when referring to pisciculture, I mean these only. At the same time it may be taken for granted as an historical fact that, in proportion to the solicitude and care bestowed on the formation of ponds and the culture of coarse fish, so the legislature provided for the more valuable salmonidæ. A glance at the authorities above-named will put this beyond doubt or cavil.

Up to the time of Edward III. but slow progress seems to have been made, compared with the rapid growth of interest in the welfare of fishes exhibited between that reign and the times of Henry VIII. More rigorous enactments than ever were enforced in the reign of the Bluff King Hal touching the fishponds to be found in the grounds of every "lord, knight, esquire, gentleman, and others of the king's subjects." (Vide 31 Henry VIII., c. 2.) The "Valor Ecclesiasticus," according to Mr. Hoare, set forth, even as did the Domesday Book, every lake connected with each religious house throughout the kingdom, with its value. Statute

after statute, showing the high esteem in which ponds were held because of their occupants, are to be found, down to 7 and 8 Geo. IV., sec. 15, when they made their last appearance.

If in this introduction to the theory and practice of fish-culture I have seemed to talk more of ponds and lakes than brooks and rivers, by taking a little thought the reader will see why I have done so. Fish culture must be begun, and, to a certain extent, entirely carried out in waters where complete command over them is in the hands of the operator—I mean, of course, artificial fish culture. By watching the regard a people cultivates for its lakes and other entirely controllable waters, a pretty accurate estimate may be formed of what it is doing for the culture of its fishes taken collectively.

There have been very many writers on the formation of fish-farms, or ponds, *et hoc genus*. Dalravus, bishop of Olmutz in Moravia, wrote a capital treatise, which he entitled *de piscinis*, and on it most of our English works on the subject have been modelled. Sir Henry Wotton, provost of Eton, writing to the Earl of Stafford (1628) says: "I did promise you when we were last many met together at Medleys a piece of rural philosophy: Dalravus, in his book *de piscinis*, which I now send you, having borrowed it from Mr. Hales, one of our bursers; and, therefore, when you have perused at full pleasure, I shall desire it again. One thing will appear, perchance, strange to you that a Bohemian gentleman therein named should, in one year, gather *duodecies sestertium* out of his ponds, which, resolved into our money, I take to be about six thousand pounds sterling: and that, for aught I conceive, only by carp and pike, for so I understand his *cyprinos* and his *lucios*. True it is that Bohemia and Moravia are the most Mediterranean countries of Christendom, and their farness from the sea hath taught them the skill of nurturing land fish to an incredible increase, insomuch that they will tell you that an acre of pool there is worth more than an acre of saffron in Austria."

I find that this work was translated in 1599 by G. Churchley, but copies of the work are exceedingly scarce.

Mr. Hoare, in his "Treatise on Fishponds," from whom I have before quoted to the advantage of my readers, gives a most interesting list of fishponds of ancient, and in some cases of present, celebrity in the county of Sussex. This county was pre-eminently the home of coarse-fish culture, and some of the items of information as to the stocking and general ordering of the lakes therein are both curious and interesting. At Arundel, it seems, for instance, that about the year 1430, John Fitzalan, the seventeenth earl of Arundel (better known as the "English Achilles"), artificially reared salmon [I don't think this means artificial spawning and milting] with such astounding success that he had salmon all the year round. It is presumable that he resorted to the process of caponising, or castration, which in the present day seems to be entirely lost sight of as a method whereby salmon may be made to fatten and grow in fresh water. I shall speak hereafter more particularly on this rather important operation. Excerpts are given from the fisherman's book, which go to show with what personal care by subsequent owners of Arundel Castle the culture of the fishes was pursued.

In addition to lengthened particulars as to the ponds of Arundel Mr. Hoare gives information respecting ranges of fish stewes and lakes at Oldpark, Bosham, Oakwood House, Forntington, Goodwood, Hendon Hall, Stanstead House, Staughton, West Dean House, near Chichester Cowdray Lodge, Sheffield Place, Chichester, (of this place Daniel, "Rural Sports," mentions that in 1793 there were taken in a pond near Sheffield Place over 2000 carp, the largest weighing 18 lb. and the smallest $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Truly, a miraculous draft of fishes! At another part of the pond, says the same authority, two carp, weighing 32 lb. were taken out after residing in it for 16 years, thus proving their growth to have been at the rate of a pound yearly). Panham Park, Burton Park, Barlavington, Blackdean House, Shillinglee Park, Strood Park, Slinford Offington, Muntham Court, Sandgate Lodge, Highden, Knepp Castle, Shipley, Amberley Castle, Castle Goring, Markley Warbleton, Shermanbury Park, Denne House, Horsham, Nuthurst Lodge, Deer's Wood, Ifield, Eridge Castle, Cuckfield Place, Petworth, Warham Court, Rusher Priory, Nyton Park, Aldingbourne, Bolney Lodge, Stanmere Park, Lewes, Buxted Park, Hicksted Place, Twineham, Bayham Abbey, Thernfield Park, Saxonbury Lodge, Searles, Fletching Court Lodge, Lamberhurst (of which Sir Joseph Banks says: "A pond of thirty acres near Lamberhurst, originally stocked with twenty carps or tench to the acre, but which, when drawn, did not produce more than fourteen, owing to four pikes, yielded in nine years carp from 10 lb. to 12 lb. a brace, and tench from 7 lb. to 8 lb."); Hurstmonceux Castle, Gotham (of "wise men" notoriety), The Rectory, Horsted Keynes, and Uppark South Hunting. I have recapitulated all the names of places on which Mr. Hoare expatiates, as proof of the many localities wherein famous ponds in former times have

existed, and been systematically cared for; which are probably now for the most part neglected, either entirely or partially.

The cause of the decline of interest in fish-culture—especially of coarse fish—is not easily discoverable. Gastronomical prejudices have, of course, cropped up, and the cause of these seems also hidden in obscurity. It may be urged by some that flesh meals are more in vogue than in earlier times, but this does not seem quite true in the face of the undeniable cheapness of meat as compared with the estimated value of fish. In Henry VIII.'s time, we are told that a very small pickerel was worth more than a fat capon, and a pike was considered worth twice as much a house lamb in February. One reason why this fish, for example, is not considered of value now, probably, is the fact that from want of proper cultivation through generations, its flavour has greatly deteriorated. The same may be said of the carp, and, indeed, all other freshwater fish. Even the trout, taken from a mountain tarn, where it has been uncultivated and continually breeding in and in, from the beginning of the world, is neither fit to compare with "flesh, fowl, nor good red herring," being more like a lump of cooked blotting paper, than the most delicious pink freshwater fish in creation barring the salmon.

By giving a little care and attention, and a little initial foresight and preparation, to the meanest spring of water, it may be made the manufactory of food alike nutritious and of palatable flavour. It will, of course, take long years to improve the race of fishes we have so foolishly, as a nation, allowed to deteriorate; but it should be the aim of every water owner in a water-locked land to improve the natural resources at his hand. The Germans understand the matter much better than ourselves, and they not only derive larger revenues from water than from land, but their breeds of fish of certain species are superlatively superior to ours.

ELSTREE RESERVOIR, HERTS.

By LEO BONVOISIN.

ELSTREE and Boreham Wood Station, on the Midland Railway, is 11 miles from St. Pancras. Ordinary third-class fare each way by all trains, 1s.; reduced third-class return fare to holders of anglers' privilege cards, 1s. 3d., from Moorgate Street a few halfpence more; average time of journey about 35 minutes. There is a very good service of trains on week days, and a fairly early train from St. Pancras on Sunday morning (7.30.) returning the same day from Elstree at 9.5 p.m., and arriving at St. Pancras at 9.45 p.m. Elstree proper is about a mile or a mile and a half from the station, the road lies mostly up an incline, and in summer is exceedingly pretty. Anglers walking over from the station will do well to look out for a broad railed footpath across the fields. Some distance from the station on the left, as by taking this they will save a considerable bit of stiffish road.

Of Elstree village it need only be said that it is a very pretty little place of some 500 to 600 inhabitants, and is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the smart and thriving town of Watford. Of accommodation there seems plenty at ordinary times; though, as I found on a recent occasion, it is, when the fish are reported on, during the summer, sometimes sorely taxed to meet the rush of London piscators. I can recommend the Artichoke Inn, where I had a clean little room and bed for the modest sum of 1s.; there is also the Green Dragon, host Hicks, where the charges are equally moderate—this is the London clubmen's rendezvous. Here there is a regular dormitory, containing several double beds for their use. Of this room once this summer, on a week day—or, to be more correct—on a night in the middle of the week (Saturday night is, of course, the big night down here) I was the sole occupant. The light of the moon was streaming in, and whether the effect of an extra strong cup of tea, wondering what sport on the morrow, or the fact that I had gone to bed some three hours earlier than I should have done in London, or all three combined, "Gentle sleep would not weigh mine eyelids down, nor steep my senses in forgetfulness." I lay there tossing and thinking—wooing the "drowsy god" in, I fear, anything but the right manner to ensure success. Gradually a kind of waking nightmare seem to steal over me, in which those beds played a leading part. White and empty, in the cold moonlight they seemed weird and uncanny, and when, determined to shut them out, I resolutely closed my eyes, fancy played me another trick, for it filled them with familiar forms, and several well-known voices sounded in my ears with startling distinctness—voices, two or three of them, alas! long since—but, stop a bit, this sort of thing won't do at all; sentiment is not my forte, though I admire it in others. All my previous jottings for the F. G. have been of a purely practical kind, and, as I stated last week, I have particular reasons for making this little article essentially so. I will therefore merely add, anent my sleeplessness in this dormitory, where, like Robinson Crusoe, I was "monarch of all I surveyed," and enjoyed it

even less—that I did as nine out of ten other anglers would have done, jumped out of bed, slipped on an article or two of clothing, opened the window, letting in the cool night air, and, leaning out, lit my pipe; that after a short dose of this pleasant, and, needless to say, unfailing remedy, I shut the window, went to roost again, and slept like a top till just before daybreak. Cheap and good accommodation can also, I believe, be had at the Plough Inn, while for those who aspire to hotel comforts and charges, there is the Red Lion. Of this last, I have, however, no personal knowledge. Now for the water itself and the fish in it. Elstree Reservoir is not more than half the size of its big brother at Hendon, but much more uniformly deep, and conveys to the eye the impression of being situated in a deeper hollow. Its immediate surroundings are also far more picturesque, and it boasts, when the water is not exceedingly low (as it is this year), of a very pretty little island with two or three tall trees growing upon it, whose waving branches are in summer reflected in the still, deep waters beneath, as only still, deep water can reflect. The *encadrement* of the lake itself consists of the greenest of green meads, hedgerows, steep banks, and of a wood; this last just now (October) doubly beautiful in all the colouring of autumn—colouring in which there is no chaos, no shock to our artistic susceptibilities, though it includes every shade, from the deepest vandyke, or the warmest sienna, to the faintest tinge of yellow; great patches of reddish brown and golden yellow foliage, the early pride of the almost past summer, standing out in bold relief against the still bright greenery of some later or hardier vegetation.

What contrasts, yet what wonderful blendings in details; what apparent confusion in the *ensemble*; what harmony. Here again, as everywhere else, is the hand of the Great Master plainly visible. Here can the weary toiler, removed from all the influences of conflicting dogmas, the warring interests of rival sects, and the too often narrow views of modern religious teachers, commune with nature's God through nature. She will preach the eloquent sermon, while eye, ear—aye, every sense—will take in her sweet truths, reflecting them undimmed upon the soul's retina; and if the impression of this worship "in the temple not made by hands," does not prove more lasting and beneficial than— Well, I admit this is not practical in the sense I spoke of just now, and really I won't offend again.

(To be continued.)

READINGS IN ANGLING CLUBS.

IT is only right to mention that the Piscatorial Society, which holds its meetings every Monday evening in the club room, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, was the first angling society to institute the readings of papers, in relation to piscatorial subjects, at the weekly meetings; but from some cause or other they have for sometime relapsed, until revived again on the occasion of the club competition on Monday, the 31st of October, when Mr. W. B. Adlington contributed a very excellent and appropriate paper on "Chub Fishing." There was, however, no notice given of this revival, or I should certainly have made a point to have been present on the occasion, and been privileged to hear, what I have since heard was a very able treatise on the subject; and that I should certainly expect it to have been in the hands of so capital and practical an angler as Mr. W. B. Adlington, who, from a suggestion which has been made in the *FISHING GAZETTE*, will doubtless favour the members of that old society with another paper at an early date. I had the pleasure of attending the weekly meeting of the Gresham Angling Society on Thursday evening in last week at the City of London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, to hear a paper on "The Science of Angling" from the able pen of Mr. J. P. Wheeldon. There was a very large attendance on the occasion, the chair being well occupied by Mr. S. C. Harding, supported on his right by Mr. Thomas Crumplen, the energetic honorary secretary, and on his left by Mr. S. C. Bentley, a most valuable member of the committee. There were also present in the vicinity of the chair, Messrs. Alfred Jardine, H. J. Alfred, B. F. Slater, Edwin Frost, Carter Millbourn, H. Towse, W. H. Brougham, Dr. Brunton, Dr. Lloyd, &c. After the transaction of the formal business of the evening, and the nomination of three new members, making over 200 in number, the Chairman called upon Mr. J. P. Wheeldon to read an essay on the "Science of Angling," and on that gentlemen responding to the invitation he was received with hearty applause. It would be difficult to give even an outline of the paper which commenced by chalking out some of the earliest histories of the art of angling, and following up the subject to the present time, interspersing his thoughts with some brilliant illustrations of fish and fishing, evidencing great aptitude in making word-pictures, and giving most finished descriptions of scenic beauty, surrounding the swims of certain species of fish, which would make many a lover of the rod wish it was a reality, and himself the angler. His hearty support to the day, as the only available one, to

hundreds and thousands of anglers, called forth great expressions of satisfaction from all parts of the room. It is needless to add that the worthy essayist fully maintained the title of his essay and indisputably proved that angling in the present day was indeed a science, and when he had finished and resumed his seat it was the signal for a general expression of satisfaction, which must have been very gratifying to Mr. Wheeldon's feelings. The Chairman then invited any of the members to enter into discussion on the paper which had just been read, but from what followed it would appear very few questions for discussion arose out of it, as the subject had been so perfectly and completely treated by Mr. Wheeldon. The principal discussion arose out of remarks made by subsequent speakers—Dr. Brunton, Messrs. Alfred Jardine, H. Jervis Alfred, Edwin Frost, Thomas Crumplen, W. H. Brougham, S. C. Harding, and others taking part in the same. A very hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, who, in reply, said he should always be glad to contribute his quota to promote the interests of the Gresham Anglers. In the absence of Mr. Field, who had been obliged to leave the room before the discussion was completed, Mr. Thomas Crumplen referred to the movement of giving a suitable testimonial to Mr. Bonvoisin, and in appealing to the members of the Gresham Angling Society to give it their best support, invited them to contribute something that evening towards it. A liberal collection was then made. In the course of the evening Mr. Thomas Crumplen announced the committee had made the most satisfactory arrangements for a portion of the River Lea as a private fishery for the members of the society, and in this they had received most valuable assistance from Mr. R. Ghurney. The announcement gave great satisfaction to those present, and a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Ghurney for his kind help in the matter, who, being present, expressed the pleasure he always felt in doing what he could for the benefit of his brother anglers. The meeting, having commenced at the reasonable hour of seven o'clock, the business element was concluded by a quarter past nine o'clock, giving those who lived at a distance the opportunity to get home in good time—an example which it would be well for other clubs to imitate, and which would be greatly conducive to their welfare. As soon as the business was over, the chairman announced that his duties were concluded, and the remainder of the evening would be spent in harmony, under the presidency of Mr. T. W. Aveling, the vocal portion being opened by Mr. Alfred Jardine. So much for the merits and success of the Gresham Anglers. And now, referring again to the Piscatorial Society, I have to regret my inability to be present at the reading of Mr. Sach's paper on "Jack Fishing," which took place on Monday evening last. I had long pledged myself to be present in another place in my own neighbourhood to hear a clerical friend of mine deliver an essay on "Superstition in Science," but as that had nothing to do with angling I shall not further refer to it. There can be no doubt as to the readings in angling clubs becoming successful if they are made popular and are not too frequent. Musical evenings or smoking concerts, as they are termed, make an occasional change; and last Thursday, at the Gresham Angling Society the evening was to be devoted to piscatorial minstrelsy, in which I have no doubt some of our musical piscators would shine in good old angling ditties. The Larkhall Angling Society, under the directorship of Mr. G. F. Spencer, its worthy president, has for some time been conspicuous in the musical element, and the club has greatly prospered under it. B.

BIG MINNOWS—FINE GRAYLING—DORSAI. FIN AND LIMIT OF SIZE IN GRAYLING—THE "THAMES FISHERMAN"—COARSE FISH CULTURE.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

WHILST fishing for roach in the Birmingham Canal, near Berkhamstead, recently, I was much annoyed by minnows, of which I took fourteen, one after the other. They were without exception the largest I have ever saw in one sample, and measured as follows: $3\frac{3}{8}$ inch, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, $3\frac{3}{8}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, and 3. I think this may be fairly chronicled as a remarkable catch.

Not long since, I happened to call in at Mr. Price's, tackle maker, of Seymour Street, Euston Square, and was shown the remarkably handsome fresh caught grayling of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. At some time in its history previous to capture, it had had its upper lip torn away probably through great impetuosity on the part of the angler. The rich full cucumber aroma characteristic of the fish still remained.

By the bye, can any one fix the limit of size in the grayling?

And yet another question: for what purpose is the dorsal fin so large?

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I have read with considerable amusement, and, indeed, instruction, the letters signed a "Thames Fisherman." Having been a Thames fisherman myself, and coming as I do from an ancestry of fisherman devoted to that river the remarks I am about to make will probably not be deemed presumptuous. First, as to the letter entitled, "The great Curse of our Calling," in which your correspondent inveighs in no measure terms against customers who "deliberately set about making him drunk" or his boy. His complaint would certainly be a remarkably proper one if it were founded on anything more than isolated instances, which, with all sympathy to our "Thames Fisherman," I assert do not occur but once or twice per year in any fisherman's career, unless, of course, Thames anglers have altered in a wonderful manner. The real fault is with your Thames fisherman, not with the customer, in the majority of cases. The customer is only too glad to make his fisherman as comfortable as he can; and I can, from observation and a very considerable experience of attending gentleman out for a day's fishing distinctly say that your correspondent has put an imaginary grievance into charmingly terse prose—indicating that he himself is an exception to the majority of his *confreres*—able to handle the pen as well as punt pole.

* * * * *

For consider who are many of the Thames fishermen of to-day, and I say it without wishing to hurt anybody's feelings. Are they, as of old, derived from a stock of riverside denizens, born, as it were, almost on the old river? With the exception of a few, I answer, decidedly not. The new race is derived from the class of the ordinary labourer or workman whose fondness for the *dolce* far outweighs his desire for the *utile*, and for whom the comparatively easy occupation of a puntsman knowing his business has peculiar charms. Such a Thames fisherman—and I appeal to every Thames angler if there are not plenty such—loves his beer and 'baccy with an affection which, if it were in any supposititious case denied him by his customer, would materially militate against the chance of sport. Surely a man has a free will in the matter, and there is no more excuse for a Thames fisherman getting drunk than for any other man; less, indeed, considering the danger in which he would often place himself and his customers were he intoxicated. As for the harrowing details concerning your correspondent's son, I wholly deprecate the practice of sending out a boy to do a man's work. A "Thames Fisherman" should keep his weak-minded boy at home or pick out the "True Gentleman" type of customer, of whom he speaks so eloquently for his son's guidance.

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And about that letter of yours, Mr. Thames Fisherman, on the stretch of water between Bell Weir and Old Windsor Lock. I am afraid you are much more given to queer complaints than to practical description. I have tried very hard to find out the exact whereabouts of some of the pitches referred to in your letter. Surely there are landmarks by which you know the precise spots; why not give them, and earn the thanks of strangers? I'm sure I never found the "mile of magnificent chub water" between Ankerwyke and Old Windsor, though I lived a long time in the neighbourhood; and where is the good barbel swim near the "road from Staines to Old Windsor"?—very vague this. Really if "A Thames Fisherman" hadn't declared himself as such, from internal evidences I should have doubted that he was a professional. As it is, to my mind, and I say it without a particle of ill-feeling, your correspondent has shown us how utterly unlike a professional Thames fisherman he can think and write. Can he, therefore, be representative?

* * * * *

Coarse fish culture has been a hobby horse of mine, since I began to think about fishing matters at all, and I am delighted to find that attention has been drawn to it. In earlier times the nobles of this land were far more assiduous than they are at present, and the monastic institutions yet more strongly encouraged the preservation and culture of coarse fish. The Domesday Book sets the price—and in many cases it was four or five times that of the land—on the fish ponds, and penalties for poaching, &c., were imposed in the reign of Henry II. with great rigour.

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Sussex seems to have possessed the most famous fish ponds of England. I have a list with particulars, chiefly of archaeological value only, of thirty-five estates in which famous fish ponds were established and revenues drawn therefrom. The following is an extract from a letter of Henry Seldd, Queen Elizabeth's fishmonger, to Sir William More, of Loseby, concerning some carp he wished to buy. These are his terms, "Scantlinge XIIIJ inches, XV and XVI inches being well fyshed, I will give your

worship XIIId. a pece one w^t another, and above XV inches XIVd. a pece to XVII and XVIII inches, and for above XVIII inches, XVIII a pece." Not a very bad price this for carp.

* * * * *

But really, Mr. Marston, I don't see why a German should be imported for the business. Surely there are plenty of Englishmen of sound practical knowledge of the habits, &c., of coarse fish without sending for a foreigner. I could engage to name several who would and could give the best man from Germany information on coarse fishes or the salmonidæ.

[Shall be much obliged if you will give the names, Mr. K. Mind, we want a man who has had actual experience of *coarse* fish culture, which is quite different from trout and salmon culture. If there are any such who would be content with very moderate pay, we need hardly say we would give them the preference over any foreigner.—ED.]

IMPORTANT MEETING AT MAIDENHEAD.

A CONFERENCE of representatives from the Windsor and Eton, the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray, the Marlow, and the Reading, Thames Angling Preservation Societies took place at Skindles' Hotel, Maidenhead Bridge, on Monday afternoon last. There were present from Windsor, Mr. A. Stevenson; from Maidenhead, Messrs. T. B. Sharpe, A. A. Wood, C. E. Jolland, and W. G. Day; from Marlow, Major Carson, Messrs. J. F. Jackson and W. C. Faulkner; and from Reading, Messrs. A. C. Butler, W. Ferguson, and F. Brown. Messrs. Thomas Spreckley and W. H. Brougham attended the meeting by invitation to answer any questions, and expressed themselves fully pledged to the memorial adopted by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, which was supported by all the angling clubs of London. Mr. T. B. Sharpe was unanimously voted into the chair, and Mr. A. C. Butler undertook the post of corresponding secretary. The first question discussed was as to the sizes of fish, and the following was the unanimous result:—Trout, 15 inches; jack, 18 inches; barbel, 13 inches; chub, 12 inches; bream, 9 inches; carp, 12 inches; tench, 12 inches; perch, 8 inches; roach, 7 inches; dace and rudd, 6 inches; and gudgeon, 4 inches. The difference being of increased sizes of trout, chub, carp, tench, and perch, compared with the T.A.P.S. memorial. Then came the measurement of fish, the extreme length being adopted. It was also agreed to increase the fence season for jack to July 31. The recommendation of a 20-feet bait net for fishermen, by licence, was cordially approved. A discussion arose as to a proper fence season for trout, respecting which the Thames Conservators were anxious to get the opinion of this conference. It was, therefore, unanimously agreed to keep to somewhere about the present period, and agreed to be from September 1 to March 31. The meeting strongly recommended, if it could be done, to give the magistrates power to imprison poachers without the option of a fine. It was also resolved that as so many of the members of each of the associations were London anglers, a most favourable expression of opinion from this meeting should be given to that portion of the T.A.P.S. memorial in reference to the abolition of netting as low down as Kew Bridge. It was agreed in the proposed new bye-laws—those obtained by the T.A.P.S. in reference to night lines and snatching—should be adopted for the Upper Thames. The question then cropped up as to the desirability of propagating trout for the whole of the Upper Thames, the same as Mr. James Forbes and the T.A.P.S. are doing for the lower portion, and a committee was appointed to consider the same, and to report the result at a meeting to be held on the Tuesday preceding Christmas-day. The committee thus appointed consisted of the Rev. C. C. James, Capt. Cunningham, and W. A. Stevenson, of the Windsor Association; Messrs. T. B. Sharpe, C. E. Jolland, and W. G. Day, of the Maidenhead Association; Major Carson, Messrs. J. F. Jackson and W. C. Faulkner, of the Marlow Association; and Messrs. A. C. Butler, W. Ferguson, and F. Brown, of the Reading Association. Major Carson strongly urged the advantage that would accrue to the protection of the Upper Thames if an association could be established at Henley, and offered, on the part of the Marlow Association, to give every assistance in promoting it. A very cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. T. B. Sharpe for presiding on the occasion, and the general remark at the close was that it had been a very practical and business-like meeting.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing purposes stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the Press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"Now 'tis the winter of our discontent."—SHAKESPEARE.

It is mid-mud, instead of Mid-Thames; just now down in the valleys of Berks and Bucks, so, Othello-like, my occupation's gone, and I am left lamenting; but it will not be for long, I opine, as there are already indications of the beginning of the end, as the water is now "mending," and without further juice will drop as rapidly as it rose. Fishing with any degree of success is out of the question, but the enthusiasts, by dint of careful manipulation, and using the wriggly tail of a lob, might entice a few roach from out the pea-soup element, especially if a quiet corner or eddy is come-at-able. I have not one item of interest to report from the past week's doings, in fact there have been no doings. Eels have been running fairly, and those people fortunate enough to own bucks have reaped a welcome harvest; one proprietor getting nearly 5 cwt. on a dark night, and another, at Magpie, getting some capital long ones, and, what is most unusual, a splendid jack going 18 lb. in the pink of condition. This fish was certainly too good to return into the flooded river, with the every chance of its getting on to the meadows and being swept up by the rapacious netters, so it went the way of many a fish, and disappeared down the capacious throat of a Black Boy. Thursday evening: rain has ceased this afternoon, but the river is again mending, not its ways, but its bulk, so good bye to fishing prospects for some days to come.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very thick and a flood. No fishing for a few days, but the water is going down fast. Prospects at present look better, and if it keeps fine will do well for roach by Sunday, and for jack and perch about Tuesday.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is bank high, with a fast running stream, and water thick. There has not been much doing since my last report. There has been a lot of anglers down, considering the state of the weather. I have been out four times myself, but with little success, and have only caught eleven fish in the time. Brain Howard, Mansell, have also been out, but met with very little success. It will only take a few fine days to get the river in order again, and some bream should be caught then, as the fish always drop down in flooded water.—J. BUSHNELL.

Thames (Walton).

The water was in fair condition, until the 26th, and the weather fine, but as it has been for the last month, when there has been a chance of fishing there have been no anglers. The river has overflowed its banks, and the water is the colour of pea-soup, with a large quantity of drift wood and rubbish floating down. Water falling, wind dropped, and weather very fine. Should the water continue to fall at the rate it is now doing there is every prospect of some good perch-fishing at the end of this week. Nothing done since my last report. Rosewell was out on the 23rd, with a gentleman, fishing for jack, but never had a bite, and the same thing occurred on the 27th, when George Howe was out with two gentlemen trying for perch. I learn that at Halliford, Shepperton, and Chertsey, the water and the fishing are in the same state as here. I saw a seagull the day before yesterday, and yesterday a large flock of plovers were over on the meadows opposite.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Thames (Windsor).

A flood is now coming down the Thames, all low-lying land is submerged, and only in very few places can angling be carried on, and, as the water is as thick as soup, nothing but worm will be of any good. It is just what was required, and debris in quantity is coming down, it; I expect in a few days it will be much higher, as rain is falling heavily whilst I write. I hear a great Northern Diver was taken with rod and line by an angler at Virginia Water near here, on Tuesday last.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholm.

The furious storm of Saturday last seems to have had the effect of driving the local anglers from the water side, and of so serving the fish as to put them off the feed. I have not heard of a single respectable dish being caught during the past week, and it is useless to report the capture of sprats. I have as yet been unable to induce the commissioners to invest any of the profits derived from the sale of tickets in the purchase of other varieties of fish. The black bass, perch, pike, carp, tench, &c., might all be introduced here with benefit to fishermen, and profit to the owners of the water. There is a lack of local enterprise, so far as piscatorial matters are concerned. Owing to mild weather the eels have fed unusually late this season. There is a good stock of these in the South Kelsey Mill Dam in private occupation of E. Walker, Esq.—THOMAS FORD.

(Dove).

The weather has again been very mild all the week. On Tuesday night I thought we were going to have a change to frost, which would bring the pike and grayling on the feed, but no—the summer of St. Martin is not yet over, and the best basket of grayling I can hear of being captured this week is one of only 5½ brace. These fell victims to the needle fly, below Mayfield. The furnace-fly has also accounted for a few brace of fish, but they were not particularly brilliant samples. Pike still continue very inert, lying like logs on the water, and utterly refusing to feed. Owing to the very swollen condition of the river all the week anglers after coarse fish have not had much sport. A few chub and

roach have been taken, together with a catch of barbel near Uttoxeter, but this is about all. We had more rain on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, and the river threatens to become higher than ever.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

The terrible gales we have had lately, especially on Saturday and Sunday, have been very destructive, and angling in the Exe district has been very limited, the wind being so high, and the river being very high also, and the water being much discoloured by the frequent heavy rains being the whole cause. The river is fast lowering, and if the wind and rain holds up the remainder of the week (the river) will again be in fine condition. The takes of pike like last week have not been numerous, single fish for the day's sport being recorded from various stations, and those of no great size, 5½ lb. being the heaviest. Perch and roach fishing is proceeding with vigour, and some good creels have been made, and many of the local anglers have been busy among the rudd, which are now getting very game, and afford good sport, especially with good clean milk bread paste. The herring fishery in the Estuary improving, but most other kinds nil, the sea being too rough to venture.—FRANK GOSDEN, Exeter.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Sea Fishing: There has been some very good catches of fish when the boats could get out to drift for them. Saturday and Sunday it blew a heavy gale from the S.W., so that no boats could venture out, in fact, men had as much as they could do assisting the vessels from driving out of the harbour, as the heavy run parted the ropes and chains. Monday, weather changed, all boats out, and after a few hours' drift they returned to harbour with very good catches of herrings, hake, and whiting. A few boats went out hooking, one of them was successful in securing two fine cod, weighing about 24 lb. each, and one ling, about 20 lb. Tuesday, wind blowing strong from S.E., however, a few boats went out, and brought in altogether about 30 maize of herrings. Wednesday, weather very bad; but the fishermen anxious to make hay while the sun shone put to sea, and were very well paid for their labour, each boat had from 2 to 3 maize, which sold readily at 1 per maize. Thursday morning wind from N.W., boats coming in with very good catches. There is fine sport to be had with ground lines about the fishing rocks, also some good sport with rod and lines from the pier.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is getting in good order now, it has been very thick these last few days, and no sport. The wind south-east. On Thursday the 24th, Mr. Woolmore bagged three chub, they weighed 12 lb. the three.—WILLIAM COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

Water very thick, but if we have no more rain it will be right for Sunday. Wind S.W. Mr. Haw, "the native butcher," has had three fine takes this week from the Boom to the ditch.—VON LEEFE.

Medway (Tonbridge).

It will be of no use fishing this river for another eight or ten days to come, as we have had a great flood. If we get no more rain by then there will be some good fishing with a light ledger.—J. E.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water the colour of mud and very high. No change or next to none for some days, but, if the frosts hold off, I hope to see some good roaching in about a week. There have only been two or three anglers out. The following are the results:—November 25, Mr. Slater, Littleport, fishing in a pouring rain, got 5½ lb. roach, perch, and dace in about two hours before the water came down thick; November 28, Mr. George, Bassingbourne, came down and determined to fish, though the water was very thick. He got nine good fish, going nearly 5 lb. the lot. November 30, Messrs. P. and H. Holland, Newmarket, 7½ lb. roach and dace. These small catches were only had by sticking very close to it.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Thorney Broad (West Drayton).

The floods have now disappeared, and left the waters in first-rate order for angling, there has been very little done during the past week. The following are takes that have come under my notice. Mr. W. Hawkins, 4 roach over 1 lb.; Mr. Bowls, 3 roach (this gentleman had a fine chub last week, nearly 5 lb.); Mr. Walters, 4 roach; there is every prospect of good fishing this week, anglers should take advantage of the present state of the water.—E. GODFREY.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in high flood all the week; bank full, and in some places all over the meadows; and so nothing whatever has been done in the way of sport. To-night it is gradually going down, but is still very high and discoloured; but it has been raining very heavily most of to-day, so in all probability by Sunday the river will be again bank full, and angling quite out of the question. Indeed, as far as my observations go, the prospects are in favour of a very heavy flood by the end of the week. These last few weeks I have had the pleasure of using some spinning lines made by the Manchester Cotton Twine Spinning Company, 51, Corporation Street, Manchester, and I consider them to be remarkably good lines, possessing some remarkable good qualities, so requisite in a good spinning line. Their durability is one of their special features; they resist the action of the water much better than a silk line; they are very strong, and, what is very important in spinning from the reel, they are very fine. I consider their No. 7 line to be the best undressed line for rough work that I have used, very strong and not too thick, while the No. 5 is a fine line; and for spinning, where long distances is required to be thrown, is the very best an angler could use. A friend of mine some time ago bought a plaited line, that cost double the money that these lines from Manchester do, and, after using it twice, the action of the water caused it to become as rotten as tow; all that had been in the water had to be broken off, for it was not strong enough to kill a half-pound roach. Now a Manchester line that I have, I have used it very hard at least a score of times and the end is now as good as ever it was. The courteous secretary of the company tells me the great secret in making these treble cable lines, is to have each twist to agree in each strand. If there is one turn more in one of the strands than the others, it will not work correctly, but their twist is all regulated by pinion wheels, so it is impossible for them to vary. Pike spinners that require a good line should write to the company. I have no doubt samples will be sent to any address. I am sure that anglers using them will not be disappointed, as they combine strength, durability, and fineness to a remarkable degree.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

Although the river has been overflowing its banks during the last few days, the water has not come down too much discoloured for bottom fishing with either worms or maggots, but, strange to say, with a first-class water and as good as could be expected for this time of the year, most of our best anglers have returned at night defeated, not being able to get any of the fish well on the feed. This sort of thing somewhat surprised me, because I knew for certain some of them had operated on two or three of the best lengths we have on the Trent; and when I am told that a couple of noted anglers fished two days and only caught the same number of fish, namely, a brace of roach between them, I cannot understand, when at the time everything appeared in their favour. One or two of our rodsters, however, in the early part of the week, before the recent fresh came on, succeeded in capturing some good baskets of pike and chub. Most of the former were taken with livebait, but one gentleman took a brace of nice jack, averaging 6 lb. each, out of a backwater with a spinning bait, which, although it came off once, is, to my thinking, the wrong thing to do in any of the winter months. The water is still running at a great height, but is in good condition for bottom fishing with worms, which out to be successfully employed during the next few days in places of course suitable for winter fishing, namely slow swims, where the bottom is sandy.—W. BAILEY.

Tweed and Teviot.

Salmon anglers had a most miserable time of it last week, as both rivers were in flood more or less, and only three days have the disciples of old Izaak been able to enjoy their favourite sport. On Monday the river had subsided to a fishable level, and good sport was got. On Floors lower water, M. A. Steel, Kelso, killed seven good fish, five salmon and a couple of grilse—the weights being 28 lb., 25½ lb., 22 lb., 20 lb., 20 lb., 10 lb., and 8 lb.; on Birgham Dub, Mr. A. Denison, London, killed one salmon of 23½ lb. weight; on the Hendersyde under water, Mr. T. Taylor, of Chipchase Castle, killed three salmon and one grilse; on the upper Hendersyde water, Mr. R. Griffith killed one salmon; while on Sprouston dub, Mr. Hadden killed a couple of salmon and one grilse, on the Ednam House water, Mr. Moffat, Edenhall, killed three salmon, 27 lb., 22 lb., and 18 lb., respectively. On the same day, on Floors upper water, Mr. James Elliot, Galalaw, killed two salmon—each about 23 lb.; Mr. Gardner also had one of 23 lb. from the same water. On the Teviot the same day, Mr. Elliot, of Samieston, killed one salmon of 19 lb. Both rivers again came away between Monday night and Tuesday morning, and, of course, put a stop to angling for a couple of days, the flood being fully three feet. These floods, which have been very frequent this season, have enabled thousands of fish to get to the upper reaches and spawning grounds, where they are being illegally taken off the spawning “redds” and from the shallows and pools by poachers by means of gaffs, rakes, and other illegal implements. On Thursday the waters were not in first-class condition, nevertheless many anglers were out, and a few were rewarded for their perseverance. Mr. Taylor, Chipchase Castle, killed four salmon on the lower water at Hendersyde. On Birgham dub, Mr. A. Denison, London, killed a couple—15 lb. and 23 lb. respectively. On the Ednam House water, Provost Todd, Peebles, killed one of 18 lb. and ran a grilse. On Floors lower water, Dr. Mackenzie had a successful day, killing five salmon, which turned the scale as follows—29 lb., 25 lb., 20 lb., 18 lb., and 14 lb. On Sprouston, the Hon. John Bright and Mr. James Brunles, C.E., London, fished the lower dub water, but got nothing. On Floors upper water, Mr. Clapham, of Broomhouse, killed four salmon—20 lb., 18 lb., 12 lb., and 9 lb. respectively; and Mr. Digby Cayley, on Rutherford water, killed seven fish, all about 23 lb. On the lower stretches fair good sport has also been got. On Learmonth water, Major Macpherson got one fish, 20 lb.; and Mr. Irvine, at Tweed Mill, one of 23 lb. On the Wellington cast, at Coldstream, Mr. Rutherford got one of 23 lb.; and Mr. Irvine, on the same water, one of 28 lb. Mr. Laing, on Birgham water, killed four fish—17 lb., 16½ lb., 8 lb., and 9 lb. respectively; Sir J. Marjoribanks, on Lees water, one of 14 lb.; and on the same water, Captain Spencer, two—7 lb. and 27 lb.; and in Learmonth water, Major Collingwood killed a brace—17 lb. and 18 lb. respectively; Major Macalpine, two salmon; and Captain Pemberton, one salmon. Mr. James Scott, at Wellington cast, got one of 16 lb.; and Mr. Irvine, at Tweed Mill could, got one of 20 lb. This is all that has been done, both rivers again being in flood. On Sunday the Tweedometer at Kelso Bridge registered a flood of fully seven feet, and as the angling season closes on Wednesday, the fishing for salmon may practically be said to be over, as the waters will not subside enough so as to allow of angling before the legal time for plying rod and line expires for the year 1881.—*Edinburgh Courier*.

Whitadder.

During the past few weeks anglers on this river have landed and also detected large numbers of sea trout affected by the fungus which in recent years has been so prevalent amongst salmon in the Tweed. It is considered that fully one-half of the fish are diseased, and many are lying dead in the river. Some have been taken out with parts of the nose eaten away, and when cut up they emit a most offensive smell. The fish appear to have come into the river with the fungus upon them, as new run fish have been taken in a diseased condition, and many of them are so enfeebled by it as to be unable to ascend the weirs, and consequently congregate in pools and die. It is feared that, in addition to the incalculable havoc which these Norwegian trouts commit in the river in the devouring of fresh-water trout, they have also infected the latter with the disease. One day lately an angler on the Whitadder landed a yellow trout weighing 4 lb., and on examination it was found to be seriously affected by the fungus.—*Scotsman*.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Last Saturday morning, we had a most beautiful woodland water on the Derwent, until we had another very heavy storm of rain and hail in the afternoon, which quite disturbed both rivers again on Sunday and Monday. The bottom-fishers did well in the morning part, with both worms and maggots; and some fine baskets of fish were landed; one gentleman having seven brace of nice grayling, besides a good quantity of roach, dace and three perch, every fish being killed with the little cockspur worm, in the sandy-bottom swims, close to the rough streams, and were killed in the Derwent below Cromford, both on Tuesday and Wednesday. Some good baskets have been made off both the Darley Dale Club water and the Whatstandwell length, chiefly with stream fishing in the Nottingham style. This kind of fishing is a very deadly way for taking large grayling at this time of the year. The weather up to to-day (Thursday) has been more like summer than winter, when a very great deal of rain fell from the south, which has disturbed both rivers again. We have had no fly-fishing this week worth recording, as both rivers have been too high and only in condition for successful grayling fly-fishing. If no more rain falls, it will take the Derwent till the latter end of next week, over the

higher lengths, and the Wye till Tuesday before there is even a chance of fly-fishing. Weather very unsettled. The bottom fishers ought to do well in the Derwent next week.—G. J. EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

There has been no angling worthy of mention in this district since Saturday, when a tremendous gale of wind and rain accompanied by thunder and lightning swept over the valley of the Yore and Wharfe, causing both rivers to come down in flood. Previous to that, I heard of a gentleman from Stockton-on-Tees, killing a nice dish of grayling at Tanfield, using a small red worm as a bait. Nothing has been done with fly for some time, what we require now is a touch of frost, and a few bright days, the grayling would then rise freely to the fly.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

PROSECUTION OF LONDON ANGLERS FOR POACHING.**BIGGLESWADE DIVISION PETTY SESSIONS.**

Wednesday, Nov. 23.

Present: Sir John Burgoyne (in the chair), and Mr. C. S. Lindsell, with the Clerk, Mr. T. J. Hooper.

POACHING BY LONDONERS.

Albert Flanagan, Hampstead, and Arthur Sergeant, Kentish Town, were charged with unlawfully taking fish from a stream at Morhanger on Nov. 13.

James Clark, gamekeeper, stated that on Sunday morning he saw two men fishing in the river Ivel, and in the act of landing a pike. Mr. Browning held the fishing in that water. Flanagan gave him his address civilly, but Sergeant gave him a false address and used abusive language.

Defendants said they were under the impression that the water was open to the public. They were sorry to find that they had trespassed, and promised not to repeat the offence. Sergeant made several statements about the keeper, which the latter denied.

Flanagan was fined 20s. or fourteen days, and Sergeant 40s. or one month's hard labour. Sergeant said he should go to gaol.

CAUCASIAN FISH.

On the steamer which took me from Taman to Kertch was a cargo of fish for the Kertch Bazaar, caught in the lake between Taman and Tumerük. They were for the most part carp—huge fellows, weighing from 25 to 30 lb.; and one of the fishermen told me that they were frequently caught up to 40 lb. There were sturgeon from the north of the Kuban said to be caught in snares, something after the fashion of our ordinary rabbit-snares, as they routed with their noses, pig-like, at the bottom of the stream. There were, too, the hideous “Tom” (Tilurus), the largest, I believe, of Caucasian fresh-water fish. This whiskered fiend plays the part of the pike in the Caucasian lakes, and feeds on all other fish. The ugliness of the “Tom” has led the inventive mind of the Russian moujik to create all sorts of legends regarding this fish, such as his laying hold of the limbs of horses and cattle, as they crossed the fords near which he was lying, and even of his seizing and thereby drowning a man under similar circumstances. They tell, too, of his growing to vast proportions. One Russian colonel, whose home is in the Red Forest, claiming and being commonly reported to have shot one with his rifle while basking in the Kuban river, where it passes through the Crasnoi Lais, which weighed over 200 lb. I fear this sounds very much like fisherman's weight.—“Sport in the Crimea and Caucasus,” by Clive P. Wolley, F.R.G.S.

SALMON DISEASE IN THE EARN.—The fungoid disease which recently appeared among salmon in the river Earn has now spread to an unusual extent, and large numbers of dead fish are daily found lying along its bank. Strong healthy fish are now and again seen, but the numbers of others affected is very large, and many are in such a weak state that though touched with a piece of stick from the bank will hardly move, while some, which at other times would readily clear the dykes and barriers, fall helplessly back into the shallow waters. The dead salmon have in several instances been carefully examined by experienced anglers, who, however, cannot arrive at any definite conclusion as to the cause of the disease. It may still be interesting to state that in consequences of the low state of the river during the past two seasons, the fish were huddled together at its mouth, not being able to ascend to the spawning beds on the upper reaches, except in limited numbers, and many are therefore of opinion that the disease has originated from the fish not enjoying their natural period in fresh water. The malady, it is believed, is being further developed owing to the present overstocked state of the river, which is swarming with fish to an extent seldom or even seen before. The theory advanced by a few anglers that the disease is caused by artificial manures being washed into the river during the late heavy rains will hardly bear investigation, as less of these materials have lately been used for agricultural purposes than in former wet seasons when no disease was observable. The origin of the disease, it will thus be seen, is far from being traced, and on that account no remedy can be applied to the evil till some scientific authority or other has solved the problem of its cause.—*Scotsman*.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CLUB ANGLER.—We must refer you to the letters of "A Thames Fisherman" for information about the Old River.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—It was with considerable satisfaction that I perused your suggestions at the dinner of the recent FISHING GAZETTE tournament, respecting the artificial propagation of our national coarse fish, or, to follow the designation of our continental confreres, the summer spawners.

But, sir, I must admit that it is with feelings of disappointment I notice the comparative apathy among your correspondents, with but one or two exceptions, on this important subject. I had hoped to have seen your valuable suggestions taken up by some of our friends in the provinces, who have a substantial interest (or ought to have) in the success of the movement. Surely there cannot be a doubt in their minds as to the expediency of the line of action you advocate. I think, sir, we have both of us seen, and unfortunately too often, many of our lovely rivers and streams entirely depleted of fish life—a life that brings food to the people as well as sport to the angler—then, in the light of national economy, there ought not to be a doubt as to the immediate action of the pisciculturist, by whose aid the water courses in question can be restocked.

Perhaps others may feel that the artificial propagation of our coarse fishes is not practicable, but I would assure them there is no more difficulty in artificially raising the fecundated ova of the roach, the perch, the pike, the bream, &c., than there is with the salmon or the trout. It has been my pleasure to study the systems adopted in the German and French schools of pisciculture, and to enjoy an interchange of correspondence with the leading culturists of these nations, as well as with America, and have already commenced practical operations to carry the same into effect. The position it was my privilege to occupy at the recent Fisheries Exhibition, at Norwich, taught me many useful lessons, one of the most important being the very unsatisfactory condition, as a nation, we hold, regarding the science of pisciculture in comparison with the noble works of other countries. It therefore behoves us to take action in order that this may be remedied in the future, so that when the great International Exhibition of 1883 is held, our hands may be strengthened, our minds improved, and we may be enabled to hold our own among the scientists of the world in this particular department. It has been said that in unity there is strength. I would, therefore, strongly support your suggestion as to the formation of an association, but let its objects embrace the extension of the knowledge of fish-culture in all its branches, it might then assist in restocking our depleted rivers with good fishes.

Such an association, if formed, would be enabled to advise district conservators, fishing associations, &c., in all matters of a practical character. Before making grants of young fry, preliminary investigations should be made as to the natural food of the waters in question, the rearing of aquatic plants, and any improvements to the spawning grounds, if considered desirable. I need hardly remind you, sir, that entire rivers are liable to be depopulated, and valuable species of fish lost, through the growth of some pernicious weed, or other cause detrimental to the fish indigenous to the waters. If observations were made in the temperatures of the rivers, the association would be enabled with far greater certainty, having these statistics before them, to advise as to the breeding grounds and habits of the fish with reference thereto. Meetings of the members would periodically be held, papers read and discussed, and a general advancement made in the science. I regret having to differ from your views as to the exclusion of salmonidæ from the hatcheries, but the association would require assistance from all classes interested in fish-culture, and, as we know, there are many noblemen and gentlemen that hatch off large quantities of anadromous fish, that I fear would not be induced to join the ranks if salmon and trout were excluded from the operations of the society. It must be admitted that we have in this country thousands of acres of inland waters that would, under skilful cultivation, insure a food supply for our nation, rich and productive in the extreme, and may the day not be far distant when our depopulated rivers, streams, and water-courses teem with life for the nourishment of our fellow creatures. We should, therefore, with no half-heartedness, look the question in the face, but consider how we can contribute to the amelioration of mankind by assisting to feed our cities with a wholesome and plentiful food. The field of usefulness open to the society is very extensive, and it would be difficult to calculate the immense benefits to the nation that must arise if the society's organisation is complete and founded on broad, national principles, and which can be made not only self-supporting, but even lucrative in character.

Why should not we be as successful in deep-sea pisciculture as our Transatlantic brethren, who find no difficulty in artificially hatching the ova of sea-fish. It may be of interest to some of your readers to know that through the kindness of the Great Eastern Railway Company, in granting me the use of the sea water from their depositing tanks, I hope this winter to be enabled to make some experiments in hatching the eggs of the cod-fish, and am promised by several smack owners assistance in bringing the live fish to harbour for the purpose of being "stripped." I am now perfecting some hatching boxes which require special care in their construction on account of the specific gravity of the ova being so much lighter than that of water. The eggs being now adherent in their formation, every care must be exercised to prevent their clogging, the water therefore cannot be too pure for the experiments.

In studying the submarine works of the Great Architect of the universe would it not redound to our national credit to be able to tell, with some amount of accuracy, the nature of the spawning beds of our trawl and drift fishes, of their ova, of their embryo, of their food, of their spawning beds and habits generally; and after having unravelled some of the mysteries of nature, then, for the benefit of humanity, bring into practice the results of our labours. To the association whose claims on the public sympathy you have so nobly advocated would I delegate the grand work before us that in the social economy of our nation would play a part all conspicuous for its good, so that in after years may the pisciculturist be indeed denominated a "Benefactor populi."—I am, &c.,

W. OLDHAM CHAMBERS.

Lowestoft, November 21.

COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you would kindly send me the name and address of "A Thames Fisherman," whose recent letters to the FISHING GAZETTE have been so full of interest.

I am very glad to see you are setting on foot a movement for the culture of coarse fish—it is sadly wanted—and shall be happy to attend the proposed meeting.—I am, &c.,

ARTHUR KING.

ro, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, Nov. 26.
[It is not our custom to give the addresses of our correspondents, but "A Thames Fisherman" is sure to see this letter, and can give his address if he thinks it desirable to do so.—ED.]

SIR,—There can be no doubt at all as to the desirability of coarse-fish culture. The available fishing ponds near the centres of industry in England are steadily year by year decreasing in productiveness, and if the sport is to be numerically increased as time goes, as in recent years, something must be done for their recuperation. It is really idle to assert that the rod has little or no influence over the prolificacy of a fishing water. In the very nature of things, where tons and tons of fish are annually taken by fair fishing, and no corresponding increase is added, there must be a falling off. And it is a fact that there is no yearly increase at all corresponding to the decimation caused by angling. Increased navigation and the (of late years, especially) violent floods have destroyed the chance of reproduction in many fishes by washing away the ova. Pike and perch especially suffer, and not only from the evils mentioned. All the cyprinidæ, including the leuciscini, are spawn-eaters. Roach are especially voracious, and as they are, in respect of the insect world, omnivorous, they, by their superior agility and spawn-eating propensities, are amongst the worst enemies of the perch and pike and trout fishermen. Naturally, however, these fish do not eat fry. If, therefore, fry can be turned in at intervals, and in large quantities, in suitable localities, the good to the coarse-fish angler would become incalculable.

The *modus operandi* of coarse-fish artificial impregnation is, however but, ill understood, though there are no difficulties of an insuperable nature in the way. Of course such experienced and intelligent operators as Mr. Oldham Chambers are not numerous, and it is quite necessary that if an association formed for the cultivation of coarse fish be expected to prosper and produce good fruit there should be properly skilled labour. As a rule, the transport of the eggs of most coarse fishes is almost impossible, unless they be in a far advanced state of incubation; but the parent fishes might be sent anywhere, and with safety, when it is considered they present indications of speedy spawning.

If every angler subscribed his mite, however small, I am sure the funds for the purpose of founding such a very desirable institution would be ample. With the editor's permission I hope to give my more elaborated ideas on this subject elsewhere.—I am, &c.,

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

PRESERVED WATERS ON THE OUSE.—PRESERVATION OF THE RIVERS AT PULBOROUGH.

SIR,—I see that you have inserted a notice relative to the preserved waters at Watford in the last number of your excellent and widely-circulated FISHING GAZETTE.

I am sure you would confer a very great benefit on some two thousand members of fishing clubs if you would kindly state in your next number that the fishing in the Ouse, in the parishes of Paxton, Diddington, and the two Offords, is now closed and preserved strictly.

Notice boards have been put up, and the keepers have received orders to obtain the address of the persons fishing and trespassing on the above portion of the river Ouse. The riparian owners are Lord E. Gordon, Arthur Thornhill, Esq., and Geo. Jismy, Esq., and the owners of Buckden Mills, and John Linton, Esq. Information, also, that the use of a path by men, boys and horses, for the purpose of barge navigation does not give the public a right to fish from such a path, would be very useful, and that the fishing rights of the above lords of the manors and riparian owners are clear and unquestionable. I wish to save members of fishing clubs the annoyance and expense of useless journeys—or the useless expense of litigation. I believe that the fishing also from Buckden Mills to Brampton is also closed.

I have also heard it stated, on indisputable authority, that the fishing in the vicinity of Pulborough Sussex, is now closed. There is no public path by the rivers there; and I just leave to the imagination of your readers the feelings of the land holders and land owners in that neighbourhood at the arrival at Pulborough station last summer of, upon one occasion, 300 anglers, and upon another occasion 500 anglers by special train!—I am, &c.,

ARMIGEE.

[We hope it is not correct that the Pulborough waters are to be closed to London club anglers. If so, it is another finger pointing to what we suggested last week—viz., that the London angling clubs will be compelled to rent waters of their own, and stock them too. There are thousands of miles of canal and other waters which can easily be utilised, and which before long must be so utilised. If London waits much longer, more wide-awake provincial towns will secure the fishing, as is being done now.—ED.]

BEDFORD ANGLING CLUB.

SIR,—I must decline any further controversy in your columns with L. B., more especially as I note from your article on poaching by anglers in other waters that you understand the position of this matter. If L. B. feels a desire to test the rights at Clapham, he has simply to fish there, and give his correct name and address to either of our keepers. I promise him a better opportunity to dispute the deed of grant to this club than by making complaints in the FISHING GAZETTE.

L. B.'s further statements as to the exclusion of visitors and strangers from this club show an utter ignorance of facts.—I am, &c.,

E. BICKNELL,

Hon. Sec. Bedford Angling Club.

Ashburnham Road, Bedford, Nov. 28.

CLUB ANGLERS AND PRESERVED WATERS AT WATFORD, AND A WORD ABOUT THE BEDFORD CLUB.

SIR,—I have no more sympathy with anglers who persist in fishing at places where they are not entitled to fish, than I have with anglers who do their utmost to preserve the fishing for a privileged few; but your correspondent who writes under the above heading has made a suggestion which is hardly practicable. He advises the London clubs, instead of spending so much on prizes, to hire water of their own. I ask him, Where is suitable water, within reasonable distance of London or the railway station you journey to, to be obtained? Take

it that all proprietors of eligible waters were willing to let, and clubs were willing to rent, not one club in ten would be able to obtain an eligible piece of water. Then, as in the Bedford Club cited by your correspondent, selfishness steps in, and those who get the waters do preserve with a vengeance. There are some pieces of water, that, should a club be possessed of, there may be some excuse for preserving it entirely to themselves; but I fail to see how any excuse can be found for the Bedford Club refusing to grant day tickets to any but members' friends, or generally to make the endeavour to keep the fishing entirely to themselves. The temperate letter of your correspondent on the Watford matter, affords a lesson to Mr. Bicknell, the secretary of the Bedford Club. This gentleman severely criticises the notes of L. B. in your journal, who had charged Mr. Bicknell with acting in an undignified manner in asserting the rights of the society of which he (Mr. Bicknell) is secretary. I think the admissions of Mr. Bicknell in your issue of that week, go to show that L. B. was in the right. What would Mr. Bicknell and the members of the Bedford Angling Society say, were some other gentleman, or body of gentlemen, to attempt to overbid them for the whole or any part of their water? If it is a mere question of money, any one would have a right to do so.

Now, I should be sorry to be a fomentor of strife, so I make an earnest appeal to the Bedford Club—not on behalf of London working-men anglers altogether, because they trouble Bedford very little; but on behalf of all anglers, wherever they live, whether rich or poor, members of clubs or not—to do their best to promote angling among all classes, by making their water as free as they possibly can. Make a charge, because the water must be efficiently watched; but not a prohibitory charge. Favour, if you can, the poorer class of working men and lads, so that, instead of becoming poachers or sympathisers with poachers, they may become your most zealous watchers and river keepers. Why not endeavour to share with others the immense benefits, physical and moral, that attend upon the angler? Would it not become you more than selfishly keeping all the pleasure to yourselves? You have a fine stretch of water that fair angling can never appreciably injure, or I should not make this appeal. Put away the spirit of selfishness, and extend the hand of friendship to all true and honest anglers. Remember two things: that those who live farthest from the water are most intense in their love of the sport, and that selfishness is a double-edged sword.—I am, &c.,

A. J. MARRIOTT.

Member of the Waltonians, London.

BONES IN HEAD OF PERCH.

SIR,—I am very much obliged to Mr. Frank Gosden for his specimens of "brain-ivory" from the head of the perch. I must look a little more carefully for these bones myself. I recollect Mr. Buckland wrote a very interesting article in *Land and Water* on the subject of brain-ivory some year or two ago. Has Mr. G. seen it? If not, I will look it up and send the number to him.

THE BIG PERCH.

"*Esox Lucius*" asks me for my experience anent the size of perch. I think it has been given very sufficiently already. I never saw a perch (*perca fluviatilis*) over 4 lb., and I am morally certain that the 10½ lb. gentleman which has exercised our minds so much was a sea perch—a totally different animal. For goodness sake, Mr. Davies, don't let this chimera of a fish haunt me in my dreams any longer. Do take our Editor's suggestion and send it up to the office of the paper.—I am, &c.,

J. H. KEENE.

[Will Mr. Keene please return the chub jaw he had for inspection, the owner wants it?—ED.]

TACKLE LOST AT EEL-PIE ISLAND.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following:—

Fishing at Eel-pie Island, Twickenham, on Sunday, I left my rod, bag, and one top joint. As others were fishing, they possibly picked them up, not knowing to whom they belonged.—I am, &c.,

W. HOWELL,

Cornwall House, Acton.

Member of Acton and Ealing Angling Society.

TACKLE FOUND.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following words:—

FOUND!

On Sunday last, while travelling from Cheshunt, a bag of fishing tackle, which also contains a Pulborough and Amberley ticket, signed by Mr. Thomas Howe. The owner can have it by giving a description of the contents to the landlord of the address below.—I am, &c.,

W. EYLES.

Bull and Bell, Ropemaker Street, Finsbury.

"WHY ARE THE ANGLERS SO SHY OF CARP?"

SIR,—This is a most excellent question you ask, Mr. Editor. I do not mean with regard to taking them, but with regard to dressing them. You say, "By the way, carp are good eating if properly cooked, and that Her Majesty the Queen eats them frequently." I quite coincide with your remark, and must say that carp, dressed as the Jews only can, in my opinion, dress them, are delicious; but then the expense of doing so is too great for the class of folk by whom these fish are most plentifully taken. There are many ways of dressing these fish, by numerous authors, but most of them wind up by stating that the stock in which it is stewed is the best portion. Here is one method given by Couch, vol. iv., page 7, in which the fish is not wholly thrown away. "Good stock and port wine, to disguise its native taste, and overcome its soft watery inanity." If any of your correspondents could give us a simple and cheap mode of dressing the same, it would be a great boon to many of the poorer classes here, where many carp are bred, but cared little for by anglers, except for preserving. I like them very gently stewed, in small fillets, in but little liquor, and eat them as eels, which they nearest resemble, with parsley, butter, and various sauces, and vinegar.—I am, &c.,

FRANK GOSDEN,

Exeter.

FOOT'S CRAY NOTES.

SIR,—Enclosed is a copy of a letter received from Loch Lomond—very satisfactory, so far as it goes.—I am, &c.,

CHAS. C. CAPEL.

Cray Fishery, Foot's Cray, Kent.

(A COPY.)

"Rossdhu, Luss, Dumbartonshire,

"Nov. 15, 1881.

"DEAR SIR,—I regret extremely that you should have come so far for nothing. I gave the watchers strict orders to let me know when trout were

seen in sufficient numbers in the streams; and I let you know at once when they did. From what you tell me, I will take means to ascertain if the watchers have not been doing their duty, but I have confidence in the men. I am not able now to look after matters as I once did; but I have seen these pools black with trout at the spawning season.

"Again expressing my regret at your disappointment.

"I am,

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

"WILLIAM COLQUHOUN."

ELSTREE RESERVOIR.

SIR,—Could you let me know, through your paper, the fare to Elstree Reservoir, also the prices per day for jack and roach fishing?—I am, &c.,

JACK TRACE.

[The distance is only a few miles. We do not know the fare. Bottom-fishing tickets 1s., and jack 2s. 6d. per day, we think.—ED.]

CLUB REPORTS.

AMICABLE BROTHERS.

The society was saved from a blank by Mr. J. Robinson, sen., weighing-in roach and dace from the river Stort, which won him a prize, and finished the 28th season of the society, which has been remarkable for the scarcity of fish weighed-in, although some of the veteran anglers of the club have tried their utmost to get them. Some of them have been out on several occasions, and have only got a fish or two, when in former years they have got a score of pounds at a time. The annual supper will take place in the club room on Monday, December 12th, and the distribution of prizes to take place on the following Wednesday. All members who have kindly promised prizes, and have not sent them in, will oblige by forwarding them as soon as possible.—J. WORLEDGE.

Nov. 29.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since the last meeting I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of ros. 6d. annual subscription from H. Brockwell, and a handsome painting by Greville Fennell, Esq., presented by that gentleman towards the funds of the society. Last year he very generously presented a pair of paintings, which realised a very substantial item in our income. See annual report published in the *FISHING GAZETTE* of September 3rd last.—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Nov. 30.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION.

The third anniversary dinner took place at the head-quarters, Victoria Hotel, Queen's Road, about sixty took of a capital dinner. The chairman of the evening, Thomas Stanton Hillman, Esq., a large landowner on the river Ouse. He complimented the society as to its respectability, and will be pleased to meet them on his land at any time. Mr. Gandling spoke as to the secretary and accounts, the secretary, Mr. Anscombe, returned thanks. The "Visitor's" was given by Mr. Power, and Frank W. Smeed, of the Metropolitan Anglers, responded, and spoke in high terms of the Brighton Angling Society, such kindness he never had before met with. The singing by Mr. Keats, Bennett, Power, and Sharp was up to the mark, accompanied by the society's own band. No fishing, ail flooded.—GROUNDBAIT.

BRUNSWICK.

This newly formed society met on Wednesday evening at host Keeble's Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, S.E. At the conclusion of the business the health of the visitors was proposed, coupled with the name of Mr. Gardner, of the South Belgravia, who most ably responded. There were some capital songs rendered by Messrs. Keeble, Booth, Gardner, Jamieson, Booth, Morris, &c., the latter being given in Welsh. After spending a very pleasant evening the proceedings concluded with "*Auld Langsyne*."—*ESOX LUCIUS*.

November 30.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Three of our members visited Amberley on Sunday, but returned without a fish. Several others fished the Lea, only one, Mr. Mortimer, weighing in a handful of roach from St. Margaret's, saving the club from a blank, and winning a half-guinea prize, given by Mr. Fowler. He also took an eel about half pound, with gentles rather unusual at this time of the year.—CAS.

GOOD INTENT SOCIETY.

The members of this club finished their months' competition last Sunday, the result of the winners being in rotation; Smart, Richards, Horms, Cox, Haines, Maybury, Bell, Murphy, Baker, Robinson, Bates, G. Robinson, &c. Our worthy treasurer, Mr. Roberts, has given his usual surloin of beef to the members to be fished for, the winner to have a handsome silver plated goblet given him all pegged-down to be fished for on the 11th inst. at Boxmoor. Ten other prizes to be added.—R. MURPHY.

December 1, 1881.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on the 24th ult. (the largest angling association in the metropolis) proved the greatest gathering of the season, for their fine room at the City of London Tavern in Bishopsgate Street, was crowded to overflowing. The great attraction of the evening was a contribution, by Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, of *Bell's Life*, on the science of angling, and which proved to be an eloquent and lucid exposition of the charms and beauties of the gentle craft, cleverly interspersed with many original thoughts on the scientific aspect of angling, such as could only come from one so fully versed in all its lore and mystery. It is hoped Mr. Wheeldon will consent to the publication of his essay, which will assuredly form not the least valuable feature in the society's transactions for the year. A spirited debate followed the reading of the paper, in which Dr. Brunton, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Frost, Mr. Crumplen, Mr. S. C. Harding, and others took part, and the proceedings closed with an exceptionally hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wheeldon, and also to Mr. S. C. Harding, who occupied the chair. It was announced that the society had secured the water known as the small river Lea, near Waltham, for the exclusive use of its members, the necessary plank-

bridges, notice-boards, &c., being now in the course of erection. To-morrow the society has a special musical evening, when the old Waltonian music will be revived; Mr. Harding, Mr. Winterbottom, Mr. Reynoldson, and other members having kindly volunteered their services.

This society had a musical evening on Thursday last, which was very largely attended, Mr. T. Crumpley, their hon. secretary, taking the chair by special request. The old Waltonian airs, with other ancient angling ditties, were splendidly rendered and greatly appreciated by the overflowing audience which had assembled. Mr. Reynolds gave an artistic performance on the flute (encored), admirably accompanied by Mr. Winterbottom, Mr. Francis Austin, Mr. Harding, Mr. Young, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Neville, Mr. Parker, Mr. Aveling. Mr. Harding and other members also sang, recitations being given by Mr. S. C. Harding and Captain Crossley, which were greatly appreciated. The "Old Waltonian," and other angling airs, were greatly admired, and it was clear, by general opinion and the applause so freely given, that the grand old compositions that stirred the soul of "Father Izaak," and gave, to some slight extent, vitality to his immortal work, were far in advance of many modern airs dealing with similar topics. The meeting, which was very successful (saying nothing for the Gresham), terminated, after very hearty thanks to the chairman, with the National Anthem. Nearly all the representative men of the angling world were present.

ISAAK WALTON.

The half-yearly distribution of special prizes took place on Wednesday, Nov. 30th, 1881. To celebrate the event, the members indulged in a supper, which was put on the table by our host in a very first-class manner. After the supper the prizes were presented by the president, Mr. G. P. Rolt, to the successful competitors, after which the members and friends spent the remainder of the evening in harmony. There were some capital songs sung by the President, Major Twohey, G. Edwards, J. Bye, B. Crook, A. Soar, J. Wyatt, G. Riches, H. Butt, G. Manning and J. Ashton. On the same evening Mr. J. W. Morgan had a splendid show of fish, the particulars of which were as follows:—1 Chub, 4 lb. 1 oz.; 1 ditto, 3 lb. 1 oz.; 1 ditto, 2 lb. 1 oz.; 1 ditto, 1 lb. 4 oz.; 1 roach, 1 lb. 3 oz.; 1 ditto, 1 lb.; 1 ditto, 15 oz.; 2 ditto, 1 lb.; 2 dace, 15½ oz.; 1 perch, 7 oz.; total weight, 15 lb. 15½ oz. Three special prizes, given by Messrs. H. Butt, B. Crook and W. Clarke, will be fished for on Dec. 11th, all fish to weigh; members to choose their own fishing water; no competitor to leave London before 5 a.m. on the day of the competition.

Dec. 1.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

The 29th half-yearly supper of the North-Western Angling Club took place on Thursday 29th inst. Chairman, Mr. Leo Bonvoisin, vice-chairman, Mr. W. Aldis. Letters of apology were read from Messrs. Marsden, P. Geen, T. Hood, and T. Morgan. The worthy host, Mr. Wetenhall, provided a very sumptuous repast, consisting of everything in season, and which was done ample justice to. The toasts of the evening were:—"The Queen and Royal Family"; "W.C.A.L. and P.A.," replied to by Mr. Marshall; "The Club," responded to by the secretary, who gave a brief account of the receipts and expenditure of the past half-year, and informed the members, much to their satisfaction, that the club would commence the new half-year with £30 in hand; "The Treasurer," responded to by Mr. Wetenhall, who afterwards distributed the prizes that had been won during the past half-year—jack prizes being taken by Messrs. Grinaley, Hilier, and Underwood: roach prizes being taken by Messrs. Stead, Patchin, and Foreman; perch prize by Mr. Wynn; "All fish," Messrs. Stead, Smart, Underwood, and Marshall; Gross weight, Messrs. Aldis, W. Roxbee, Grinaley, Lancaster jun., A. F. Smith, Greenwood, Billinger, and Wynn; Dace prize, Mr. Harris. The value of the prizes varied in value from 10s. 6d. to 30s. After the distribution, about forty-five prizes were offered for the ensuing half-year, and a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman and vice.—F. HILL, sec.

Nov. 28.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on Sunday last, but met with little sport, owing to the severe weather. Messrs. Lucy, jun., and Burke, weighing roach and dace from the Thames. The first half yearly supper will take place on Monday next, December 5, at 8.30.—THOS. WM. LUCY.

ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA.

We had nearly the whole of our members out on Sunday last, but there was not a single fish taken. We fish for eight prizes on Sunday next at Burnt Mill, (peg down), namely:—A silver watch, a gold ring, two pair of pictures, forty-two pieces of china, a looking glass, a silver cup, and a dinner service.—E. DYMOND, sec.

SECOND SURREY PISCATORS.

During the time the wind and rain prevailed on Sunday evening last I sought refuge in the headquarters of the above society, held at the Queen's Head, in Brandon Street, Lock's Fields, Walworth. There were a few members present, and several of them bore evidence of having weathered the storm during the day, in fact, they had been courting "Father Thames," but to no purpose. "The Ancient Pater" was in the power of "King Boreas," and so they had to return to their cosy headquarters, where, preferring the ale indoors to the hail outside, they enjoyed themselves. This is a working man's club, and has not been established a great while, but with a few more good working members it will soon be able to hold its own with other societies in the neighbourhood. Mr. S. Houghton, the landlord, is a great lover of the rod, and has been for years, and I dare say he is well known among "Ye ancient members" of the Hoxton Brothers, he having been the landlord of the house in which that society first say light, and he has now in his possession the first book used by that society for the names and subscriptions of the members. There is a vast difference in the size of the book used for the same purpose by Mr. R. Ghurney at the present time. Gentlemen desirous of joining this society can do so by applying to the secretary on Sunday or Wednesday evenings, between 9 and 11. This society is enrolled on the Central Association's Books.—PIXIE.

November 30.

SIR HUGH MYDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only three of the members ventured out on the 26th ult., the last day of the roach competition for a silver lever watch. The above-mentioned members went to the Upper Thames and found the water over the bank and running

into the meadows, with a continual downpour of rain and blowing half a gale. The idea of getting fish was out of the question. Still, we tried some of the eddies where we could reach them, but without success; so we gave it up, hoping for better luck next time. Mr. T. B. Duncan proved the winner with 21 lb. of roach.—J. CABORN, sec.

UNITED BROTHERS' SOCIETY.

The competition among the old members that I gave notice of last week was postponed, as we did not think the weather or water was exactly the thing. Should the weather hold fine til Sunday, the whole of the members of the above society will fish a pegged-down match for a series of handsome prizes given by members. Water to be decided on next Saturday night the 3rd of December.—WILLIAM BELTON.

December 1, 1881.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

A competition took place on the 29th at Rye House among eleven of the members of this society for the following prizes: 1st, a set of tankards, given by Mr. South; 2nd, a box of cigars, a pipe, and ½ lb. of tobacco, given by Mr. W. Taylor; 3rd, half-dozen bottles of wine, given by Mr. Blake. The result is as follows: Mr. Fieullade landed the first prize with one fish, Mr. Piolaine the second with one fish, and Mr. C. Beale the third with one fish. The next competition will take place on December 18th for the following prizes: Box of cigars, given by Mr. Towers; 10s. 6d. by Mr. Delahaye, and two gallons of gin by a member—the winner of the gin to have it before Christmas.—PIXIE.

Dec. 1.

THE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a very large attendance of members and visitors at the Club Room, Ashley's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Monday evening last. Dr. Brunton occupied the chair, and as soon as the ordinary business was over, called upon Mr. T. R. Sachs to read his paper on "Jack and Jack-fishing." Mr. Sachs, on rising, was received with great applause, and after giving the Latin name of the fish, proceeded to state the reasons of the name of jack, and why it was called a pike. He then exhibited "the Union Jack," of 24 lb., which had been unitedly caught by the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe and himself, and afterwards described the different kinds and styles of fishing. He considered spinning as the most scientific way, strongly deprecating the use of the dead gorge, and then showed flights of hooks and traces, including the dead gorge, with hooks so arranged as to fly out when seized by a pike. He then touched on their spawning time, voracity, etc., thereby concluding a most interesting paper, which was frequently applauded. A discussion then followed, in which Messrs. W. B. Adlington, James Pattison, David Goodger, Thomas Huggett, and others took part. Dr. Brunton exhibited a nice take of grayling, caught with the fly at Winchester. The largest fish weighed 2 lb. Votes of thanks were heartily given to Mr. T. R. Sachs and the chairman. Mr. Edwin Sachs will read the next paper on Monday, the 12th December, having the title of "Reminiscences of the Eastern Archipelago," illustrated with specimens of fishing tackle and other curiosities which he has collected together from his late voyage extending over a period of three years.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

I AM right glad to see our editor most heartily endorsing in last week's number of the FISHING GAZETTE my remarks about the advisability of the London clubs joining to rent, preserve, and stock waters in the neighbourhood of London. It is indeed an old favourite idea of mine, and one to which I have repeatedly given expression, both in speaking and writing. Take a good map of London and its immediate neighbouring counties—say within a radius of from 30 to 40 miles. Now try to count the scores of miles of rivers, canals, streams, reservoirs, ponds, &c., such a circle would take in, nearly all capable of sustaining an almost practically unlimited amount of fish life.

If only as a trial, the whole of the clubmen of London, whose numbers (at least those affiliated to the Central Association) we will put down at 5000, would unite, and subscribe say 2s. 6d. a year, or a fraction over a halfpenny a week, it would give a sum of £625, more than enough to rent, restock where necessary, half-a-dozen separate fisheries, and to pay a competent person entirely employed in looking after each. Of course, I am prepared to hear it objected that many of the waters I speak of have been so ill-treated that it would be a doubtful privilege to be allowed to fish them; but to those who know what the abolition of netting, trimmering, night-lining, and all unfair practices, the strict enforcing of a close time, scientific restocking, and, if absolutely necessary, a whole season's rest—to those, I say, who know the value of these, combined with the wonderful prolificness of the fish themselves, such objections will have little, if any, weight.

I have made up the above estimate roughly, and being desirous of not devoting too much space in these notes to any one subject at the expense of others, have made my remarks as brief as possible; but I feel that the matter is one of vital importance to the club anglers, and one which I sincerely hope my brother rodsters will, with the permission of the editor, express their opinion freely upon in the columns of the FISHING GAZETTE, the only paper devoted entirely to angling interests.

The 29th half-yearly supper of the North-Western Angling Club took place on Thursday evening, 24th ult., 50 members and friends sitting down to do justice to the capital catering of host Wetenhall.

Mr. L. Bonvoisin occupied the chair, Mr. W. Aldis facing him in the vice. For further particulars see the indefatigable secretary's report in present number.

From Hurley a few good roach have been had, and one piscator captured, ledgering with a lob worm, two fine eels (6 lb. 5 oz.).

The West Central Association No. 1 District visit was paid to the Prince of Wales Angling Society on Monday evening, Mr. Lee in the chair, Mr. Pearce in the vice. It was a complete success, thirteen clubs being numerously represented, and the spacious room crowded. Due notice will be given of the next visit.

The next monthly meeting of the United London Anglers Central Committee will take place on Monday next at the Bald-Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan in the chair.

Our old friend *Punch* this week contains some capital rhyming lines anent the Thames Rights Defence Association's recent victory at Maidenhead, in which Sir Roger Palmer came off second best.

The patient angler is above all a contemplative man, and he does not, or, at least, he should not, exclusively indulge in this pleasant habit merely when the fish are off the feed, or he has eaten all his grub up, or the tobacco is all smoked, or the beer is—but no. Let us take it for granted that the bump of pensiveness and meditation is, as it should be in every true disciple of Izaak Walton, fairly developed. What, I say, must be the feelings of such on entering any London angling club-room, or, better still, a room where, as recently at the Grecian Theatre, the Westminster Aquarium, or the Norwich Exhibition, the walls are covered with specimen of preserved fish. Each defunct scaly one generally rejoicing in sundry shining coats of varnish seemingly swimming about in space within the narrow limits of his glass-fronted hutch, each hutch the exact counterpart of the other—black with gold edging, glass sides, glass front; wooden back, top and bottom; inside back painted some shade of grey or lavender; bottom, sand or fine gravel, with three or four—generally three—tufts of grass; stiff and spiky these last, putting one in mind of nothing so much as the bayonets or the piled arms of a squad of infantry. Well, I am of opinion the aforesaid anglers would vote that the time had arrived when enterprising taxidermists should seriously try and introduce something “new” in the way of making our piscatorial trophies beautiful for ever, an opinion to which I think the readers of the *GAZETTE* will add—“So say all of us.”

Haslett, of Chertsey, writes me this (Thursday) morning:—I was out Mr. Allen last Saturday, and we espied the jack-float one of my customers had lost the previous week. We seized the float and end of line, but the strain was too great, and the fish, which was still on, succeeded in breaking the gimp. It was a good jack, and had been on nearly a week. On Saturday we could not fish, though we started to, the water rose so fast and came down so thick. It is now, however, improving, and by Sunday, if we have no rain, it will be right for big roach ledgering, with a chance for bream as well. I can put you on the track of a good jack or two, if you have gimp strong enough to hold him—for my part, I hate gimp. Fishing with Mr. Allen the other day, lost three good fish through the gimp breaking; I much prefer good gut.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SALMON OF THE PACIFIC.

By DAVID S. JORDAN AND CHAS. H. GILBERT.

(Continued from page 548.)

LITTLE blue-backs of every size down to 6 inches are also found in the Upper Columbia in the fall, with their organs of generation fully developed. Nineteen-twentieths of these young fish are males, and some of them have the hooked jaws and red colour of the old males.

The average weight of the quinnat in the Columbia, in the spring, is 22 lb.; in the Sacramento about 16 lb. Individuals weighing from 40 to 60 lb. are frequently found in both rivers, and some as high as 80 lb. are reported. It is questioned whether these large fishes are: (a) Those which, of the same age, have grown more rapidly; (b) those which are older but have, for some reason, failed to spawn; or (c) those who have survived one or more spawning seasons.

All of these origins may be possible in individual cases; we are, however, of the opinion that the majority of these large fish are those which have hitherto run in the fall and so may have survived the spawning season previous.

Those fish which enter the rivers in the spring, continue their ascent

until death or the spawning season overtakes them. Probably none of them ever return to the ocean, and a large proportion fail to spawn. They are known to ascend the Sacramento as far as the base of Mount Shasta, or to its extreme head-waters, about four hundred miles. In the Columbia they are known to ascend as far as the Bitter Root mountains, and as far as the Spokane Falls, and their extreme limit is not known. This is a distance of six to eight hundred miles.

At these great distances, when the fish have reached the spawning grounds, besides the usual changes of the breeding season, their bodies are covered with bruises, on which patches of white fungus develop. The fins become mutilated, their eyes are often injured or destroyed; parasitic worms gather in their gills, they become extremely emaciated, their flesh becomes white from the loss of the oil, and as soon as the spawning act is accomplished, and sometimes before, all of them die. The ascent of the Cascades and the Dalles probably causes the injury or death of a great many salmon.

When the salmon enter the river they refuse bait, and their stomachs are always found empty and contracted. In the rivers they do not feed, and when they reach the spawning grounds their stomachs, pyloric cæca and all, are said to be no larger than one's finger. They will sometimes take the fly, or a hook baited with salmon roe, in the clear waters of the upper tributaries, but there is no other evidence known to us that they feed when there. Only the quinnat and blue-back (then called red fish) have been found in the fall at any great distance from the sea.

The spawning season is probably about the same for all the species. It varies for all in different rivers and in different parts of the same river, and doubtless extends from July to December.

The manner of spawning is probably similar for all the species, but we have no data for any except the quinnat. In this species the fish pair off, with tail and snout, excavates a broad, shallow “nest” in the gravelly bed of the stream, in rapid water, at a depth of 1 to 4 feet, the female deposits her eggs in it, and after the exclusion of the milt they cover them with stones and gravel. They then float down the stream tail foremost. A great majority of them die. In the head-waters of the large streams all die, unquestionably. In the small streams, and near the sea, an unknown percentage probably survive. The young hatch in about sixty days, and most of them return to the ocean during the high water or the spring.

The salmon of all kinds in the spring are silvery, spotted, or not according to the species, and with the mouth about equally symmetrical in both sexes.

As the spawning season approaches the female loses her silvery colour, becomes more slimy, the scales on the back partly sink into the skin, and flesh changes from salmon red and becomes variously paler, from the loss of the oil; the degree of paleness varying much with individuals and inhabitants of different rivers.

In the lower Sacramento the flesh of the quinnat in either spring or fall is rarely pale. In the Columbia, a few with pale flesh are sometimes taken in spring, and a good many in the fall. In Frazer's River the fall run of the quinnat is nearly worthless for canning purposes, because so many are white meated. In the spring very few are white meated, but the number increases toward fall, when there is every variation, some having red streaks running through them, others being red towards the head, and pale towards the tail. The red and pale ones cannot be distinguished externally, and the colour is dependent neither on age nor sex. There is said to be no difference in the taste, but there is no market for canned salmon not of the conventional orange colour.

THE CARRIAGE OF FISH.—Mr. J. L. Sayer, of Lower Thames Street, publishes a copy of a sale account which he returned to a consigner. It was in respect of twenty-eight boxes of good herrings sent from Oban, which fetched 10s. per box—£14. The expenses were as follows:—Use of boxes, £1 8s.; carriage (2 tons 16 cwt.), £11 11s. 2d.; porterage, &c., £1 8s.; commission 13s. 10d.; total, £15 1s.; that is, the expenses were £1 1s. more than the fish brought. Mr. Sayer says:—“It is no wonder than fisherman complain of the price they get returned to them. The sooner the railway companies carry fish at about the same as they do potatoes, the better for the public. From Scotland they bring potatoes for 30s. per ton, but for sprats and herrings they charge 74s. per ton. The public can see who stops the fish from coming to London.”—*City Press*.

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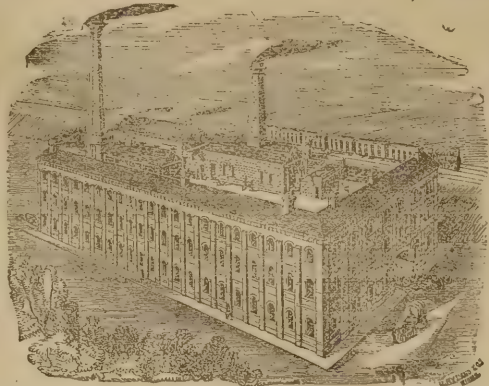
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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1881.

PIKE AND JACK.*

THE distinction between the two appellations is that a jack becomes a pike when it weighs 3 or 4 lb. In ancient angling books and in heraldry, the pike is also called a luce, and

* A paper read by T. R. Sachs, on November 28, 1881, at the rooms of the Piscatorial Society, Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

the younger species pickrells. I have never been able to gather why the former name has been disused for the comparatively modern one of jack. The most artistic and killing way is spinning for these fish. Among my friends, I note Mr. James Forbes, of Chertsey, Mr. Edward Lukyn, of Sunbury, Mr. Robert Barker and Mr. Lemann, of the P.S. as being accomplished in the art; and there is no doubt that a neat and dexterous hand will cover more water and catch more fish than by other modes of angling, providing there are not too many weeds in the way; in that case, it is better to use a pike fly, a bunch of feathers to imitate a wild duckling, with some triangle hooks attached. With such an imitation I have seen large pike caught, the method being to use a double-handed trout or grilse rod from a boat, casting in all directions among the weeds, and moving the fly as a flapper would swim. Of spinning flights of hooks, I prefer the Francis, and a four triangle with a return hook to keep the bent tail in proper position. I have also found it advantageous to slip on an extra triangle at the tail after the flight has been baited, it is more killing; most artificial baits have a triangle at the tail end, for that reason. Of spinning leads I prefer the *Field*, as, from the shape, it prevents the line from kinking; another excellent lead is the FISHING GAZETTE lead, which having a spring fastening, enables it to be attached to the line, and detached without trouble or delay. Of artificial baits I prefer the American spoon with a red tassel. There is also another effective Gregory bait, the "Clipper," a fish with a red tassel at the tail, the tail of the bait being cleverly bent for spinning. There is also a secret spring bait in my possession which is in the shape of a fish and the hooks only fly out when seized by the fish. I regret I cannot persuade Mr. Gregory to undertake the making of similar spinning baits. The interior being rather complicated, they cannot be made for an angler's price. The first time I used a Francis flight of hooks, was at Godfrey's, Thorney Broad, West Drayton, a few years back. Having paid my shilling for permission to angle, and bought some gudgeons, I fortunately hooked a good fish, which ran into the weeds, and, as these were rather thick, I broke my much-used line, in the endeavour to withdraw the pike. Very vexed, I then put up a float and live bait, and soon had a run, my float vanishing among the weeds; in the end, as I could not extricate my tackle, I broke again some foot or so above the float, and, to add to my mortification, my property was bobbing about in all directions. Being anxious to secure the fish, I removed all the weak portion of my reel line, and secured another unbaited Francis on to it, with the intention of catching the runaway float and line with the fish thereon, when some gentlemen passed me, two of whom were members of the P.S., and going to dine at the house. I promised to follow, and stopped the boy, who was carrying the empty refreshment basket, telling him of my mishap and promising a shilling to stay and assist me. At the second cast I caught the line, and hooked the float, and, by gentle handling, I gradually got Pikey out on to the shallows, the boy, having removed his shoes and stockings, going in and fetching him out, with my first Francis flight hanging out of his jaws, which he brought to me, with the exclamation, "What a baby!" On taking the fish to the house, and placing same on the dining-table, much surprise was expressed. It was weighed there and then with a Salter's balance, and was 9½ lb., Mr. Godfrey remarking that such a fish had not been caught in his waters for 30 years past. I went on spinning again in the afternoon, and caught several jack. At last, Godfrey came to me and said, "I think, sir, you have had enough for your shilling. I don't know who you are, but I don't want gentlemen like you to come catching all the jack out of the river." He was told afterwards who I was—an hon. sec. of the P.S.—and apologised. I had the specimen cased by Cooper, and, after a time, made Godfrey happy by presenting it to him. It now ornaments his dining-room, and, in return, he has made me a life member of his fishing at Thorney Broad. I know several waters where snap fishing or live-baiting is of little use. There is the Stour at Wimborne. I have taken over a hundred pounds in weight of pike there in two days by spinning; I tried live bait, but it was slow work; my largest was 18 lb., I gave this fish to my friend, and our family doctor, whose wife told me that her cook had sliced it à la codfish, and salted the pieces, which being broiled for breakfast were delicious. There is a famous water well known to Messrs. Goodger, Pratt, Lemann, R. Barker, self and others. Mr. Goodger is clever with snap-tackle, and holds his own with any other angler in this style of fishing. He has brought many a fine pike to grass, and does not eschew this or any other scientific amusement he so well understands. Mr. R. Barker brought a sackful of pike from this water a few years since, all caught spinning. Mr. Pratt, Mr. Lemann and I, fished the same water, Mr. Lemann with a Gregory bait from the bank, Mr. Pratt and I, from a boat. We had grand sport that day, our largest 20 lb., 18 lb. and 15 lb. One day I took our late friend H. L. Rolfe to another

water, and here is his own account of same as it appeared in print at the time:—

(From *Land and Water*, February 1875.)

"THE UNION JACK!"

Allow me to relate an incident that happened to me last week, with a dear friend of mine, Mr. T. R. Sachs, about thirty miles from town. I shall not say where it was, as my old friend Francis Francis has given me the tip. "Keep good fishing to yourself." "Once say where you have been and your friend will have a bushel basket full of letters asking permission." We had very fair sport up to 4 p.m., the largest fish scaling 10½ lb., the total weight nearly 60 lb. I was about to give in, but my companion, who is an ardent fisherman, said, "We have still half-an-hour to the good; have another try old fellow!" "Very well," was my reply; "Hand me a bait." I was much amused when he handed me a thing as long as your finger. "What is the use of that with my tackle?" "It is all we have left," my friend said. "If you give me three I'll have a bit of fun to wind up with. I was fishing with a live bait snap, the tackle consists of two triangles and one single hook. I put three small roach, one on each triangle and one on the single hook, hooking them all under the back fin. I dangled them in the water to see how they looked; it was quite charming to watch their antics. I felt sure that if Alderman Pike was in the neighbourhood he could not refuse such a dainty dish. A slight cast of twenty yards, and flop went the lot into the water, and then out of sight went my float. "You've a run," exclaimed my friend. "All right," I replied, "let the beggar go; I must light my pipe and have a drop of whiskey; if he takes the lot of my hooks he must be a whacker." A minute after my friend had just put on a new bait, and made a cast within ten yards of me. He instantly had a run; he struck his fish, and, by the bend of his rod, I saw he was a whopper. Now comes the fun. I was too interested in the result of his capture to think of my own. His fish was running across my line, so I raised my rod to let him pass under it. After a very masterly piece of rodmanship he managed to bring him near the boat. At the first glance I had of him, I said, "It is a twenty pounder; be careful, give him the butt, but do not be too hard upon him." How the beggar ploughed through the water, making it spray up from the line, and the music of the reel was beautiful. All of a sudden, after one of his maddening rushes, I found my rod nearly overboard. I seized it and tautened my line, thinking my fish had felt the hooks and made way. Now, my brother anglers! laugh at the fun. As I struck my fish, my float bobbed up near my friend's. Of course I began to bully him to keep clear of me, and he returned the compliment with, "You know I've a good fish on, get out of my way." Out of courtesy, I bore hard on my fish, but the devil a bit could I separate them. No, they were like the Siamese twins. At last the murder came out. Master Johnny neared the boat, and, to our great surprise, we found we had both hooked the same fish! He had taken my bait first, and actually gorged my snap tackle. Then he took my friend's who struck him in the upper part of the mouth. It took but a minute to land him, a beauty of 24 lb. My kind friend Frank Buckland has cast it for me, and I intend to paint and keep it in my studio as a memento of as jolly a day's sport as ever I had in all my life.—H. L. ROLFE.

I must add to that narrative, that the late Mr. Buckland took two casts of the pike. Mr. Rolfe painted one. It was placed in a glazed case, as our 35 lb. one is. We took it down and presented same to the proprietor of the lake; had another day's fishing and a choice eatable present in return to take home with us. The fish weighed 23½ lb., and allowing half a pound for waste. The case is labelled 24 lb. Another member of the P.S. had the good luck to catch a pike near Maidstone, weighing 35 lb., and another from the Colne of 34½ lb. These fish were at the Norwich Fishery Exhibition, and labelled 36 lb. and 37 lb. each, thus putting on 3½ lb. for waste, which is rather questionable. The present Duke of Wellington uses a live bait without injuring the fish. The bait is secured into a light kind of harness, on which is a loose triangle of hooks, this enables the fish to swim about freely. I think if the fishing-tackle makers were to make such live bait tackle they would have a good sale.

[Most certainly they would. If Mr. Sachs will get us a sample, we will get some house to make and sell it, if it is effective.—Ed.]

Trolling with dead bait is the ancient way of catching pike, and, on a cold day, the walking and throwing exercise tends to keep you warm. I remember an instance at the River Wey, near Weybridge. Self and friend were jack-fishing. I went first with a live bait, there being too many obstructions for spinning; my friend followed with a dead gorge. He soon had a run, and landed a pike of 16 lb., remarking that he preferred some one to go first with a live bait, as it stirred the pike up to take his gorge. In the same water I once saw a pike caught on an eel line. The eel had swallowed the hook, and pike had swallowed the eel; but the eel, not liking his new quarters, popped out again through the pike's gills. So both were dragged out together. Once, in the same water, I was fishing for perch with a small gudgeon, a small jack took my bait, and, as I was lifting it out of the stream, he wriggled off and fell in again. At the same time, my bait fell after him, when the little fellow seized the gudgeon and bolted. Another time, one of my daughters was fishing with me at Streat-

ley, and hooked a pike of 8 lb. with snap tackle. After some play, she brought him near the punt, when the fish extended his jaws so wide, and eyed her so ferociously, that she called out "Oh, my!" dropped her rod in fright, and the fish got off. However, we caught him again the next day. Paternostering for pike requires some skill, and is occasionally more productive than other modes of fishing in deep waters. I remember being out with the late Charles Keene, of Weybridge, and had the luck to catch eight in succession with a three single hook paternoster. I then had hold of a nine-pounder, and he was most curiously hooked in the top of his head. When close to the punt, and the net placed under the fish, he gave a last struggle, broke through the rotten mesh and got away, my puntsman, with great disgust, throwing the landing-net after him. In deep waters, I found a leger very useful; and, with a threadled bait, very attractive for large pike; but none of these are so scientific as spinning.

Mr. Patterson, son, and self, returned on Saturday last from a celebrated lake, where pike of 20 lb. and 30 lb. are known to be. We fished for two and a half days, with the expectation of placing some fine specimens on the table this evening, but the tempestuous and wet weather caused the water to thicken so much as to prevent much success. We kept at work all the time, and I never experienced such a dose of wet and wind before. In pike-fishing, it is all luck who gets the largest, for frequently the inexperienced angler gets the best fish, while the acknowledged artist in the art is least rewarded.

Patience, however, forsakes him not, his motto being "Persevere and Win."

FISH CULTURE IN AMERICA.

REPORT OF THE MINNESOTA FISH COMMISSIONERS.

THE following extracts are from the report of Messrs. Daniel Cameron, William W. Sweeney and Robert Ormsby Sweeney fish commissioners to the State of Minnesota, to the Governor, for the years 1879 and 1880. [When shall we have such an interesting report of similar proceedings in this country?—ED. FISHING GAZETTE.]

As the season of 1878 drew to a close we found ourselves embarrassed with our riches, for our hatching house was full to overflowing with eggs and young fish still carrying the sac, and those just beginning to eat. To relieve the crowding in the troughs, as the little fellows of the California fry began to feed heartily, and to give them the benefit of more and larger water, we allowed them to pass out into the pond immediately in front of the hatchery.

The weather continued pleasant and very favourable, and the salmon to grow and flourish as they had done in previous seasons when turned out; but on January 1, 1879, there came a change. The mercury fell to 20° below zero, and on the second to 25° below. This sudden and extreme cold seemed to chill and benumb them so that they did not take their feed well, and great numbers perished from its effects. However, as the weather moderated, a majority of them seemed to recuperate, and we thought we were safe in hoping they had passed all danger; but we were destined to be disappointed, for on February 13, the mercury again fell to 20° below zero, on the 14th to 22° below, 15th to 10° below, and on the 16th it had moderated to 12° below zero. The effect of all this severe and continued cold upon the young fish was disastrous in the extreme. They died by the thousands, and although we took many of them back into the hatchery, the shock was too great, and we were compelled to witness the fruits of all our great labour and care daily diminishing, without being able to arrest the mortality.

Of the survivors who withstood the terrible ordeal of cold, and yet appeared to be remarkably vigorous and healthy fish, we were able to distribute, by actual count, into the different waters of the state, forty-one thousand.

Of the land-locked salmon fry hatched from the sixty-five thousand eggs received from the United States Fish Commission from Grand Lake stream, we were enabled to raise and distribute fifty-three thousand, five hundred vigorous and healthy fish.

Of the salmon trout eggs bought of Dr. Pratt, Elgin, Illinois, we raised and distributed into our different lakes nineteen thousand six hundred and fifty; and of the white-fish eggs purchased of the same gentleman, which we held until they began hatching and then introduced into the waters to the numbers of two hundred thousand; we also made the endeavour to keep some of the fry of the white-fish in the hatchery and teach them to take artificial food, as our friend, Supt. Walsher, of the Wisconsin commission, succeeded in doing; but, notwithstanding all care and precaution, at the end of ten or twelve weeks, none survived.

We are still hoping to raise the young fry from our native "wall

eyed pike" for distribution, but up to this time we have not successfully accomplished it. In the last days of April and beginning of May, the pike in the ponds were spawning, being nearly through by the fourth. We watched the manner of spawning, which is to throw the eggs, scattering them over and so completely covering the bottom of the pond that it looked as if sowed with white mustard seed, the eggs being but little larger and same colour. We had placed brush in the ponds in the same manner as in the perch ponds, but the pike avoided the sticks and branches, preferring to throw their spawn upon the clean sand without any care or nesting.

Superintendent Watkins took some of the spawn from the females, which is delivered readily and free, in the same manner as the brook trout, fertilising it with milt from the males, without any difficulty. The fertilised eggs were put into the troughs in the hatchery, but in less than a week all died. All the eggs in the pond also ceased to develop, and in a little while perished; the only assignable reason seems to be the coldness of the spring water. We have planted one hundred and seventy "wall-eyed pike," averaging three pounds each, in our lakes, among others Lake Minnetonka, where, singular to relate, this fish has never heretofore been known.

Our pond of perch keep healthy and vigorous, and use the brush-wood branches about which they wrap their spawn in wreaths and festoons, like cobwebs in dusty corners. Some of the mother-fish appeared to watch anxiously for the safety of their eggs, for they linger about them for hours, motionless, and seem to be on guard for days after it is demonstrated to us the eggs cannot hatch. The temperature for perch eggs evidently must be much higher.

The brook trout at both Red Wing and Willowbrook have been healthy and prolific, and from them we have raised and distributed two hundred and sixty-one thousand by actual count. Besides these, many thousands were washed out in the stream at Red Wing by the severe storm or tornado of June 9. All the lower part of the premises were flooded, badly damaged, and ponds and fish were swept away. The same thing happened, but to a less disastrous extent, last summer (1878). Again on July 3 another storm severely injured the premises at Red Wing, nor did we entirely escape the effects of the storm at Willowbrook. The high, sandy bluff back of the ponds where the C., M. and St. P. R. R. Co. were excavating was so washed by the tempest that an avalanche or land slide of hundreds of cubic yards plunged down, and pressing against the soft and springy earth between the foot of the bluff and the ponds, caused it to burst through one of them, snapping and twisting eight inch square timbers like straw.

Fortunately the loss of fish was but few in number, as follows: Seventeen "wall-eyed pike," two pickerel and one Lake Superior trout. Although the number was small, the fish were the largest specimens we had in the ponds and attracted much attention by their graceful movements, size and beauty.

The damage done by this accident took several weeks and much labour to repair and make all secure as possible against such dangers in the future. All that terrible night Superintendent Watkins and his assistants worked at the ponds, clearing the screens and sluices, preventing their damming up and washing around the bulkheads, otherwise the mischief might have been more disastrous. After surveying the washed-out roads, gulleys, and general devastation everywhere about the country, we felt very thankful that the damage was no greater.

There was another heavy storm on July 10, but no harm done at Willowbrook. On December 26, another occurrence of a rather curious kind will complete the chapter of 1879's happenings. The superintendent, in order to get water of a low temperature for the white-fish eggs, was intending to use an iron siphon pipe to draw from one of the coldest ponds for the jars where the eggs were to be placed, and for this purpose had caused a trench to be dug in the sandy embankments on the lower side of the ponds in which to bury the pipes. As darkness came on the digging was stopped when within a foot of the water level of the pond, intending to continue the excavation and lay the pipe next morning, but had not calculated what the frost might do in the night, and was more than a little surprised to find in the morning that the earth had frozen and arched up into a bridge two feet thick and under which was washed a gully through the sandy bank nearly wide and deep enough to drive a cart. The water and fish from three ponds had escaped; the gates in the sluices being old, were unable to withstand the enormous pressure of the water behind them when the frost emptied the first one. By this break we lost about two thousand Lake Superior trout and about twelve hundred brook trout yearlings. Some of the latter which remained in the stream we afterwards recovered.

During the year we have made several valuable and essential improvements to the efficiency of the hatchery and ponds.

The advisability of bringing more water into the ponds being

apparent to the commissioners, they sought and got, through the courtesy of James Stinson, Esq., permission to bring water through a flume twelve hundred feet long, from a spring stream upon his land, which lies adjacent to the hatchery. The additional volume of water is very, apparently, beneficial in keeping the ponds entirely free from ice, even in the coldest weather, as well as affording a supply of insect food for the small fry just beginning to feed naturally, as well as the larger fish. Some protection to the grand spring being found necessary to keep out leaves and dirt as well as to prevent accidents, we have built a low, wide, spreading roof, summer-house fashion, over it, with a high board guard or curb, also seats where visitors can sit in the cool shadow, a pleasant resting place which gives much satisfaction to the hundreds of visitors who every month examine the establishment. After considering the cost of buying sour milk for food, and the expense of keeping cows, it was determined to purchase two cows, which has proved to be an economical investment.

We have also built an inexpensive shed or addition to the shed or stable. The most pretentious improvement, however, is a low frame building for workshop, feed kitchen and waiting room. It is 15 by 30, and cost 150 dols. It is immediately opposite and a few yards only from the hatching house, so that the men can readily warm themselves when they find it necessary, when chilled working in the hatchery in winter time.

We secured by purchase from the Baytown Trout Brook Company two hundred and forty-nine pounds of young, healthy brook trout, deeming it advisable, as the price was very reasonable. From the lot we secured fifty thousand spawn, almost an equivalent to our purchase money.

Early in February we received a communication from our neighbouring fish commissioner of Iowa, and much esteemed friend, Hon. B. F. Shaw, inviting us to join in calling a convention of Western fish culturists and commissioners, for consultation and consideration of the Western interests of fish matters generally. We agreed cordially with Mr. Shaw as to the importance of the Western interests, and his object of having them looked after. The result was that we were fortunate enough to get Hon. Fred Mather, Assistant United States Fish Commissioner, interested, as he always is in anything pertaining to fish culture, and a call was issued. The meeting was held in Chicago, at the Palmer House, and was attended by many gentlemen from different states, all interested in fish hatching and fish catching.

An association was formed called The Central Fish-Cultural Association. Many interesting and instructive papers were read and discussions had during the two days the association was in session. Among the papers read was one by the chairman of the Minnesota commission in the shape of a brief, but earnest, plea for the systematic attempt at least of stocking our Western rivers with fish by the United States Commission. With a trusting hand we launched this little waif upon the tide of opportunity, hoping some happy breeze of luck or favour would waft it swiftly to the consummation wished. The association is to meet annually, and much good is anticipated will result to our Western fish cultural interests therefrom.

At the beginning of the season of 1880 we again found our hatchway swarming with life. Every available inch of room in the troughs and boxes were filled either with eggs or fry, and as the weather was cold and rigorous, and remembering the effects of exposing young fry to the extreme temperature of our severe winter weather, we kept them in the troughs, intending to hold them as long as possible before turning them into the ponds.

The white-fish eggs that we have heretofore manipulated seemed to hatch too rapidly for our season. Naturally the eggs lie in the cold water of the lakes all winter, hatching in the spring-time when the ice melts, and microscopic insect life awakens to feed them. But, in spring water, at the lowest temperature we can get it from the ponds, it is so much warmer than the lake water, that the period of gestation is greatly shortened, and the precocious white-fish are hatched long before any indications of spring are apparent, and we are necessitated to plant the fry under the ice which may be from two to four feet thick. To make the hatching of the young white-fish conform to the season and appear as they naturally should in the early days when the sun's warmth brings forth the animalculæ in abundance and upon which they are thought to feed at first (when older their sustenance is much more substantial), we have been placing the well developed eggs into the lakes, scattering them as nearly as possible over such localities of bottom and depth as the fish themselves in their native waters would select.

We have asked the counsel of the eminent ichthyologist and esteemed friend, Dr. Sterling, of Ohio, who assures us it has been done successfully within his observation, and we have reason to believe it will prove as successful in Minnesota as in Ohio. A number of small dead white-fish have been found on the shores

of lakes where we have planted them. The largest specimen we have seen was six inches in length, showing that they have made good progress, and are growing.

There have recently appeared in Lake Elmo some small white-fish, one of which we have in alcohol. But curious enough, none have been put into that lake by the commissioners. The nearest water where they have been placed is White Bear Lake, about five miles away. There are several small lakes intervening, however; and it is conjectured there is a subterranean communication between, and which is apparently, at least, demonstrated by a well that has been dugged a mile or so from Lake Elmo towards White Bear, and under which runs a deep and rapid stream toward the former.

Further, the conformation of the earth's surface between the lakes, shows that at some remote time there has been a continuous body of water stretching from one to the other.

Diligent inquiry fails to find any one who has until recently seen such fish in the lakes where now they are very abundant. So we are quite willing to claim them as planted white-fish until other-ways accounted for.

In the beginning of February some of the California salmon began to show something wrong with them and began to die in the pond rapidly where we had put some of them to ease the crowded troughs, and to give others room, we constructed two large tanks inside the hatching house, three feet deep, three feet wide, and twelve feet long, into which were transferred many others from the still greatly crowded troughs. February 17 Superintendent Watkins reports: "California salmon have been acting badly for two weeks, and a great many outside, and to-day they begin to go in the hatching house. Think the trouble outside is from cold, and inside from overcrowding." "March 2: Nearly all the salmon dead; am satisfied the trouble was all from overcrowding. The gills seemed to be affected and muddy water kills them almost instantly."

Of the survivors we distributed about twenty-five thousand, and have still on hand fifty thousand good healthy fish for next year's distribution.

We have been able to distribute brook trout into the streams throughout the southern part of the state, where lakes are few or none, very liberally, also in the middle and to some of the upper portion of the state where the trout have never been known to be before. We have most encouraging reports of their doing well wherever placed, and of their attaining considerable growth.

This year we hear of parties from Minneapolis who have enjoyed good fishing in the Vermilion river and neighbouring streams.

We hope eventually to so stock the streams in Dakota county that citizens from both St. Paul and Minneapolis can, without losing but a few hours from business, drive out and enjoy the pleasure of casting a fly and hooking a trout at the same time, in season.

We have not known of any one catching, or at least identifying, the land-stocked salmon; the difference in appearance not being so striking as to impress one other than perfectly familiar with both kinds, and it is quite possible some of those seen and caught are of this variety.

The lake trout, of which we have been planting for the last two years, are doing finely in the ponds at Willowbrook; and although we have not heard of any being caught in the lakes, he is such a hardy and audacious fellow we think he will undoubtedly thrive.

We had a very large one at Willowbrook, presented us by Mrs. Rubbles, of McGregor. In the same pond were two large pickerel; it was a sight to be enjoyed to see the wholesome awe with which the pickerel regarded the least movement of the trout. Whenever the trout moved or seemed to have his attention directed toward the pickerel (although the same size, about twenty-five inches long) they would dart around the pond with incredible rapidity and unaffected terror. We never saw the trout give chase, but he had a bold look which undoubtedly shook the little courage of the pickerels and put them to flight.

From the 2000 eggs of the Californian mountain trout (*salmo iridea*), sent to us by the United States Fish Commission; we have now about 1200 vigorous troutlets, and from their hardy and lively appearance think they will make a valuable addition to our streams.

We have a lot of one hundred half breed, or hybrids, by fertilising the brook trout spawn with California salmon milt; the result is the most beautiful and active fish. They are all large and vigorous, and their wondrous quickness and astonishing leaps in the air as they dart flashing about when food is thrown to them, startles as well as delights the spectator. If they will fight for life with the anglers as they do with each other for the scattered morsels of food, they will prove *par excellence* the sportsman's fish.

As was hoped for and suggested last year at the meeting of the

Central Fish-Cultural Association, the United States Commissioner Baird has directed attention to a systematic plan of stocking the Mississippi river with salmon. The immediate details and prosecution are in the hands of Major T. B. Fergusson, his able assistant. After inquiries for eligible places on the Mississippi and its tributaries, Major Fergusson, sent two of his experts to examine and select the most suitable site from the number recommended to their notice. After examining many beautiful and excellent places, we were much gratified by the decision that Willowbrook, our state hatchery, was by far the best place they had seen. They immediately began preparations to handle the eggs, which were soon to arrive from California. It was a pleasure to us to aid and assist and facilitate the preparations of Messrs. Ellis and Sauerhoff, and soon we enjoyed the sight of nearly a million of young salmon fry in vigorous development in the various troughs at Willowbrook. The troughs in use and constructed by the United States Commission are in the open air and unsheltered from the intense cold which has been so unexpected and continuous from early fall this season. It was impossible to give them room inside the hatching house this year, but next we hope to have a shelter to protect them more from the cold. Important duties called Messrs. Sauerhoff and Ellis away, and we have undertaken to put the fish into the Mississippi and a tributary of St. Croix as Major Fergusson desires, thus liberating as soon as practicable within our borders nearly a million of these fish. Let us trust and hope this is but the beginning of what will be a grand and successful work that will benefit the whole valley of the Father of Waters.

Another good thing has come to us this year, and for which we have been trying for several seasons past. We have at last received a lot of small carp. The much talked of and highly esteemed German carp, reached us through the courtesy of Professor Baird and Major Fergusson in the beginning of October. There were 507 of them, and we have upon the orders of United States Commissioner Baird, already distributed 120 of them to applicants in our own and other states. There is such a demand for these fish that we shall have to deal them out very sparingly until we can have breeders of our own, and then, of course, the distribution will be more liberal when we have plenty of the fry. It must be understood the carp are not to be put into ponds with other fish, not even minnows, as they are utterly defenceless, and it is simply a waste of time and carp to attempt to introduce them into lakes where other fish are already, but when put into shallow, weedy lakes, where no other fish abide, they do well, and multiply abundantly.

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED IN 1879.

Brook trout	261,000
California salmon	41,000
Land-locked salmon	53,500
Lake Superior trout	19,650
White fish	200,000
Wall-eyed pike	170
	575,320

TOTAL DISTRIBUTED IN 1880.

Brook trout	222,000
California salmon	23,400
Land-locked salmon	18,000
Lake Superior trout	29,800
White-fish	200,000
Wall-eyed pike	64
German carp	120
California salmon, for United States Commissioner	200,000

Total distribution in two years . . . 1,288,704

FISH ON HAND AT STATE HATCHERY, WILLOW BROOK.

Breeding trout (<i>salmo fontinalis</i>)	10,000
Troutlets (<i>salmo fontinalis</i>)	5,000
Calis, mountain trout (<i>S. iridia</i>)	1,900
California salmon and brook trout, hybrids	100
Land-locked salmon (Schoodic salmon)	100
Lake Superior trout (<i>S. Nymacush</i>)	5,000
Wall-eyed pike	200
Yellow perch	300
German carp	387
California salmon, yearlings, for distribution coming year	50,000
	72,987

To accommodate the large number of fish we have in the ponds at Willowbrook, we have re-arranged the divisions so as to make the water flow from side to side, back and forth through each separate pond, so that every part of them is moved by the current, preventing dead water and its evil effects. The whole series of ponds, particularly where the breeders are kept, have been so im-

proved at considerable expenditure of lumber, time and labour, but the great advantages of this change are very obvious. We have, by making an extension to the hatching house, increased its capacity very greatly, so that there will be less danger of overcrowding in the future.

We have also built a large and suitable pond for our German carp, and in which we hope to see them make themselves at home and increase and multiply rapidly, for the demand for them is wonderful, and the praises bestowed upon their excellence is but little short of extravagant.

There is great complaint by many citizens against obstructing dams which prevent the going up of fish in the streams, so that those living above such obstructions are entirely deprived of their right and pleasure of catching fish. The millers and dam owners seem determined not to construct fishways until they are compelled so to do. They take no heed of notices sent by the commissioners, and as the law now stands, it seems to be easily evaded, and it also calls upon the Fish Commissioners to do a great deal of work, burdensome at any time, and under any circumstances would involve great personal labour and expense of time and money, but in the absence of any provision to pay for such duties, it is hardly to be expected they will be performed. The law may and should be so changed that the county attorneys should bring suit when necessary, upon complaint of any one, instead of the Fish Commissioners.

Should such a bill reach you for your approval, I hope your signature will not be withheld, for something needs to be done that will allay the growing dissatisfaction of those interested."

NOTES FROM THE RIVER-SIDE.

THE EFFECTS OF A FLOOD.

THE subsidence of a flood at this time of the year brings the perch on the feed, and finds them in their holes and suitable eddies. There is, to my notion, no prettier fishing than that of angling for perch, and if, as one of the oldest Thames fishermen said last week, there is plenty of them in the river, in spite of the cry which has been raised on their scarcity, the anglers will soon be amongst them. It is remarkable how rapidly the river rose after the rainfall. In a very little time the indicators registered an increase of five feet—covering the towing-paths and making immense pools of the adjacent meadows. I often think on these occasions the sight of water, when standing on the top of Chertsey Bridge, is a most extraordinary one; and then one's mind begins to revert on the probable migration of the fish out of the natural bounds of the river, proved and strengthened as that idea is by the shoals of roach seen priming in the waters beyond. I once remarked to the venerable George Hone, of Walton-on-Thames, "What about the monster jack, whose home is in the Sale?" and this remark was made when the floods were out. He replied, "God knows, he may be miles away, but he'll come back again;" and if it is true that the same fish was there only a short time ago, his reply was a correct one. It is not unnatural that the fish, with an extended range of water, should roam from their common haunts, and the great fear in these cases is that, unless they are looked after, the smaller fish may be left in shallow land, where the water still remains, for some time after the flood has subsided. And here comes in the work of the various preservation societies, to drag and recover the stray fish. Hence it is we find in the different annual reports the quantities that have been recovered from such places and out of the ditches as well. Here are the figures of the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray Thames Angling Association last year: "134 jack, 109 perch, and 453 roach, exclusive of chub and tench," and in the "Blue Book" of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in one place alone "something like six thousand." At the time I am writing the water has made a good turn, but is much out of condition. The water is still lying in the meadows, and the professional fishermen are hopeful of getting amongst the fish shortly. The roach anglers, and especially those who plod on the shore, will be the first to make a score, as, in clouded water, the fish will range beside the banks. All jack anglers have for some time been waiting for a run of water before wetting their lines in the Thames, and it is now hoped some of them will be on the move and catch fish to their hearts' content. I met a friend in St. Paul's Churchyard last week, and, chatting about fishing in private waters, he said, "When the jack are on the feed, give me Old Father Thames for sport," and I believe he is right. My friend, Mr. Sachs, appears to believe in spinning as the legitimate method of catching jack, and he is not far wrong. In private waters, the practice of live baiting is the common one. The friend I have just been referring to told me he was out fishing in some private water, using this ordinary and killing bait without any result, when he determined on getting into the boat to try the effect of a quiet

spin, and the result was, he got plenty of good fish, which perfectly astonished the keeper, who had previously told him all the anglers that had been lately had gone away with empty creels, and he had come to the conclusion the lake had been literally fished out. It is now a matter of speculation as to when the next flood will come, and whether angling will be interrupted by a series of floods this winter. The season of Christmas will soon be here, when both anglers and fishermen are hoping to be on the river—the former for the purposes of sport, and the latter not only to give sport, but to enable them to provide for seasonable necessities, whether in the shape of a Christmas entertainment or to raise the means for paying their quarter's rents, both of which are necessary for that especial period of the year. It is a great drawback to the Thames fishermen, when their best weeks' fishing comes, and when their best patrons support them, to be prevented, by the continuance of floods, from fishing. And yet it is no uncommon thing at this time of the year. In the month of November there is always a great desire for a flood, to bring on both jack and perch fishing; but, unfortunately, it is not unfrequently the case, when the flood has come and done its work, just as the water has got into splendid condition, and angling engagements are thick and three deep—telegrams flying in all directions for stated days—another flood creeps in, and for weeks the river is suffering from frequent runs of water. But let me not discourage either the angler or the fisherman—for I feel just as much for one as I do for the other—so it may be just the reverse this season. We may have some good Christmas fishing; and I hope there will be, with all my heart.

HOTEL CHARGES.

In reference to a paragraph written some months ago, under the above heading, some one has foolishly sent an anonymous letter to Mr. G. H. Thurston, of the Chertsey Bridge Hotel, indicating his house as the one referred to. Mr. Thurston has invited me to inspect his books at that time, and I have pleasure in stating his charges, while bearing no comparison to the total mentioned in that paragraph, *are most moderate*. I have always been assured that Mr. Thurston has studiously catered for his brother anglers, and is deserving of their support. It is a pity that persons should lend their hands to write under the cloak of an anonymous term, for, to my notion, nothing is more objectionable. B.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

IN consequence of Mr. R. B. Marston having become a member of the Publishing Firm of Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, the "FISHING GAZETTE" has been transferred to and is now the property of the Firm. Mr. R. B. Marston will continue to edit it, and it may be mentioned that during the two years that he has had the management of it the sale has increased by two thousand copies. Under the auspices of the Firm the increase will doubtless be even more rapid.

PUBLISHING OFFICE: 12 and 13, FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C.

EAST ANGLIAN PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday evening last, at the club house (the Great Eastern Wine Vaults). There was a thin attendance of members, and a vote of censure was passed upon those gentlemen who had failed to put in an appearance since prize fishing had ceased.

Upon the motion of Mr. William Hinsbey, and seconded by Mr. George Cubitt, it was unanimously resolved:—"That all members who are in arrears of payment of subscriptions shall at the next general meeting pay such arrears, and failing this, be expelled the club, such notice to be given them ten days prior to the meeting by the secretary."

Mr. Springfield also suggested that no other members be admitted until after the next general meeting. This suggestion to be laid before the Committee at their next meeting, with a view to limiting the number of members belonging to the club.

The Secretary also announced that owing to the members not responding to the wish of the last meeting, the Annual Dinner had been a failure.—ALFRED PALMER, hon. sec.

St. Stephen's Gate.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by him the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean line, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

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THE ILLUSTRATED DOUBLE CHRISTMAS NUMBER

OF THE

"Fishing Gazette"

WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY, DEC. 17.

will contain, among other special features, the

PRIZE ESSAY

By Sir JAMES R. G. MAITLAND, Bart., on

THE SALMON DISEASE,

ITS CAUSES, NATURE, AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES,

Which won the £10 prize given by the Editor of the FISHING GAZETTE for the best Essay on the subject at the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition.

**In consequence this number will have a large additional sale amongst the Scotch Nobility and Proprietors of Salmon Fisheries, and a large additional number will be printed.

This Number will also be sent to about 600 Fishing Tackle Makers, Boat Makers, &c., &c., as well as to 200 Newspapers for notice, and to many other influential quarters.

Advertisements to appear in this Number must reach the Office by 6 o'clock p.m. on WEDNESDAY, December 14, addressed to

THE MANAGER,

"Fishing Gazette,"

12 and 13, FETTER LANE, E.C.

RIVER REPORTS.

Thames (Goring).

Water now very high and thick. No fishing for some time to come. The prospects look bad for this week. It will take three or four days to get the water in good order for jack and perch. Water will be in good order for roach about Monday, if it keeps fine. Nothing has been done here this week, no one having been out.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston.)

The river has risen and got thick to-day. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, last week, it was good for all-round fishing. Prospects at present rising; should no more rain come, good for Saturday and Sunday. I have been out twice—one day from ten till two: two jack, best about 6 lb., next 4 lb., and a few nice perch; to-day: run three jack, broke twice. John has been getting some dace, but no bream. You can see plenty priming all round the punt. The bank-fishers have got some fine roach with the worm, and a private boat got a nice lot of fine roach. Saw two fine trout close on shore, to shun the stream.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The heavy rain that fell on Tuesday night has coloured the water again, and it has risen a foot. The river was in capital order on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, when there were a few punts out, and some very good bream were taken by Mr. Brain and myself; Messrs. Mansell and Wheeler have also been out. Should we get no more rain by Sunday the river will be in capital condition again.

Thames (Twickenham).

Wind, south-west; a little frost this evening, but the weather has been quite like summer for some time past. We have not been doing much since I last wrote, through the heavy land water, but I am pleased to say we have commenced again. Yesterday and to-day also we have got some fine roach and dace, averaging about six dozen to each punt; and, should the rain keep off, we shall expect to have some large takes by the time this is in print, as the water will have run off, and the fish ought to be found in abundance.—ALFRED PERRIN.

N.B.—I beg to inform members of fishing clubs that my reduced charges have commenced, and shall be pleased to communicate with any members in reference to the same.

Thames (Walton).

Water still high, and, after last night's heavy rains, likely to rise. Still thick, and running out very fast. Not very good prospects of fishing, except perchance some perch or jack. South-west to west winds; occasional rains. No fishing whatever, and no one been down to try.—HENRY G. WOOD.

Ancholme.

Owing to the continuance of the exceptionally fine weather, an improvement has taken place in the angling. The waters are all that the most particular can desire. The fish are taking very kindly to the worm, but no large pike, that I am aware of, have been as yet secured, though a few runs have been had. The commissioners might make a good thing of the angling if they would only cater with spirit for support. The introduction of other varieties of fish is sadly needed. £50 was, I think taken last season from Sheffield anglers alone, and it is only fair that a portion of the profits should be spent in adding to the stock. Carp, tench, blass bass, &c., would thrive here, and add considerably to the sport. At present, our stock fish is the bream, whose edible properties are at a discount.—THOMAS FOX.

Dove.

There is little to report this week. Grayling will hardly look at the fly. A few have been caught with the maggot and cockspur on the bottom, but that is all. The weather alone is the cause. There are thousands of fish in the river, but they will not rise while the atmosphere continues as it is now—more like June than December. I may mention, as illustrating the present mildness of the elements, that a blackcap warbler was shot on Monday last at Norton, in Derbyshire. This is one of our summer migratory birds. Messrs. Foster, of Ashbourne, informs me that a few pike have during the last day or two fallen victims to the Colorado and Excelsior artificial baits, but grayling have been almost entirely conspicuous by their absence from the angler's basket. The Dove has been running high all the week, and is so at the time of writing (Thursday), but should there be no more rain it should be in good order for coarse-fishing by Saturday.—THE SPODGER.

Exe (Exeter).

It cannot always be expected to report good sport every week, and this week the elements have again been against us, and to-day when it was expected, after the beautiful sunset and the splendid view we had of the moon's eclipse, that those few who intended to try for pike would have had a good time of it; but, alas, it was a wet one, and no mistake, for it came pelting down, and all those who intended to venture felt loath to leave the comfortable hearth to wander by the waterside for a very possible empty creel; but nothing venture nothing have. So a few started, and after a few hours' toiling and finding the water began to trickle down their necks and even into their boots, they made for more comfortable quarters, there to remain until Boreas and Pluvius had had their revenge satisfied, which at the present seems very unsatisfactory. The river is exceedingly high and very dirty, and no doubt will remain so during the next few days, even supposing it should clear up forthwith. The takes during the week have been of the most meagre description, and very few pike have been taken since my last. The roach fishermen up stream have done pretty well, and many have been of good size (over 3 lb.). Carp are seen in large quantities in the canal, and very fine they are, but very cunning, and excite great interest in this locality. Salmon and trout are numerous, and no doubt will be greatly helped, by the heavy freshets we are having, in reaching in considerable numbers the upper waters, although they are not required by many so far up, they preferring trout-fishing to salmon at any time. Herring are exceedingly fine at Exmouth and moderately plentiful. Crabs abound and are both good and cheap, but they are from Cornwall, and are chiefly females.—FRANK GOSDEN.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

There have been no heavy takes of fish to report this week. On Friday the weather was a little finer than it had been for some days, so that all boats were out, and their catches varied from three maize down to half maize. One boat brought in a fine cod that was caught in the nets while drifting. Saturday's catches of fish were near the same as Friday's. It is probable their catches would have been more, but owing to the sudden change of the weather they had to get their nets in as quick as possible and make their way towards the port. Soon after they got in it blew a gale from the S.W. On Sunday evening a few boats were out. The best boat brought in four maize; others came in with two maize, and on Monday, bad weather; only two or three boats out; their catches were very slack. On Tuesday several boats went out to drive for the low water. While they were out the wind began to freshen, until it blew a gale. After an hour and a half's beating to windward they managed to get in the roads and bring up. One of the little crafts split her mainsail, and it was with great difficulty the crew brought her in. Wednesday, weather very bad; blowing very strong from W.N.W., with a heavy sea; boats unable to go out. Thursday morning, one boat out. They got 400 herrings. Evening, several boats gone out, as the wind has moderated a great deal. There have been three fine conger caught from off the jetty with hand lines.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

The water is very thick, and it is not fit for fishing now; it will be by Sunday if there is no more rain. The wind is south-west. On Sunday, Mr. Decoster took a nice chub, 3 lb., and some roach.—WM. COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

Since last Sunday we have had some very heavy rains, in consequence of which the water has not been fishable until to-day. It has fined down nicely. Very hard frost last night, and continuing. Wind S.W. There should be some good bags on Sunday next. Some very nice roach were taken last Sunday at the Boom, also some very good dace, but I have heard of nothing since, excepting three jack.—VON LEEFE.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The rain of Monday somewhat stirred the water up again, but it is now going down nicely, and in the absence of rain will be in condition for angling by Sunday. No doubt jack will be on the feed, and roach may be secured with a well scoured worm. Those who prefer the sport should try the back streams for chub and dace.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water very uncertain—one hour a nice colour, but as soon as the rush of water comes down it goes thick, so that we cannot get above two or three hours' fishing per day. There might be some good fishing with a light ledger, but no one seems to care about turning out. The following are the best catches:—

December 2: Mr. Hy. Lee, Cambridge, 10 lb. roach; Mr. Wm. Purchas, 8 lb. roach, in four hours. December 4: had a turn myself with light ledger for about two hours, got nine roach and one dace, going 5½ lb. the lot. December 5: Mr. Slatter, Littleport, 9 lb. roach and perch.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Thorney Broad (West Drayton).

The water is at present thick, but, if we get no more rain, the water will be all right by the end of the week, when there is every prospect of getting some good takes of roach, chub, jack, &c. Mr. W. Browning, 1 chub 2½ lb., and 2 fine trout, which he returned to the water. Mr. W. Hawkins, 1 jack 4 lb. 9 oz. on roach tackle. Mr. S. Browning, 1 chub 2 lb. 9 oz. Two gentlemen on Wednesday had a few roach.—E. GODFREY.

Trent (Alrewas).

The river has been unfishable the greater part of the last fortnight, and anglers have met with but poor success. A few good chub were taken on Monday, three of them weighing 9 lb.; the same anglers also getting a few roach with, I believe, worms for bait. The river has been too much discoloured for pike fishing, and our anglers have only been doing but little in the reservoirs and lakes. Mr. Robert Mann had a nice brace of fish from Earlswood on Tuesday, but the majority out on the same day met with no satisfactory results as regards either quantity or quality. I start early in the morning to join a friend at Wolverhampton, to fish the "reputed" best water in the Midlands; the result, satisfactory or otherwise, I will report next week. River to-day again rising, and much discoloured from the heavy rain which fell in the Midlands on Tuesday, and angling in the river is at a standstill.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Nottingham).

The water in the early part of the week was in capital order for bottom fishing; but some of our anglers have been somewhat puzzled to know why the fish would not feed, and the rodsters in all the best lengths on the Trent have failed to do any good. I will venture to give them a hint or two, at this time of the year, when the weather is always expected to be uncertain as regards fishing with a rod. The best thing I can recommend is that anglers should carry a small thermometer in their pockets and by occasionally dropping it in the water they would soon discover the cause why the fish would not bite. This sort of thing is a frequent occurrence during the winter months, and it only wants carefully watching and there is not a doubt that the anglers who are fond of winter fishing would get on much better. To commence fishing when the temperature is low, to my thinking, is a mistake, because the fish are then perhaps in nearly a torpid state, and will refuse to take any bait, however tempting it may be. Then, towards the middle of the day, your small thermometer will tell you what to do; it is simply a waste of time to attempt to capture fish when there is no possible chance of persuading them to feed. These few hints I give for our brother anglers on the Trent, who have, as I have stated above, failed in some of the best waters to do any good. Pike fishing in some of our best waters has not been good, though one of fifteen pounds was taken at Weston with a live bait. The keeper says he is satisfied there are plenty of all sorts of fish in his water but most of the anglers seem to have no idea how to capture them; my reply was that I thought keepers ought to be practical anglers themselves, so that they might be able to give instructions to visitors. The water at the time of writing has now fined to something like the form for chub and pike fishing, and the weather being cold and nights frosty, the anglers cannot do better than go after these two fish.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been high and discoloured most of the week, although not in very bad trim for a little worm-fishing. To-day an extra foot or so of water came down, but did not alter the colour much. To-night the river is rather high, and a bit of colour in it, but it is mending fast, and in a few more days will be in fairish condition for most kinds of winter fishing. We have had a few frosty nights, which should soon set the jack and chub on the feed. A few roach, &c., have been had these last few days with cockspur worms for bait, but not in very large quantities. The water was not in bad condition for worm-fishing, but somehow or other the fish would not feed. When the weather is at all frosty, and the water clear, I don't care for worms as a bait. I have done better, under those circumstances, with a bit of white paste. If the present favourable condition of things should continue, I think anglers who have a few gentles will find them to be the best bait for roach and dace. A handful or two of bread and bran, mixed together as a ground bait, will be about the best plan to adopt. The best swim for roach and dace just now would be a quiet, slow swim, about five or six feet deep, and a sandy bottom. Pike and chub fishers will have to wait a few days before they can hope to meet with much success in the main river; the weather is so very changeable that it is difficult to tell what will be the best plan to adopt, but anglers should come prepared for anything.

THURSDAY NIGHT.—Prospects pretty favourable, all things considered.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

Since my last report there have been some dishes of fish killed with the bottom on most parts of the Derwent; with both maggots and small cockspur and brandling worms, the maggots killing the greater quantity of coarse fish, such as roach, dace and a few small-sized chub, and the worms doing the most execution amongst both grayling and perch. On Thursday morning we had a sharp frost, which has brought both grayling and pike better on the feed, as I have just seen a basket of 7 brace of good-sized grayling that have been killed off of the Darley Dale water, below Darley Bridge, with small brandlings for bait. There has been very little done on the Wye during the past week with the fly, owing to the river being very high and out of condition for fly-fishing. If we only get some good, sharp, frosty nights and fine weather, we ought to have some first-class grayling fly-fishing up to Christmas on the Wye, as we have a good quantity of grayling in the Wye and in the Chatsworth fishery this season. The killing flies for both rivers are furnace and dyed hackle flies; these fine flies will kill grayling on any river where they abound, up to Christmas, weather and water permitting.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Yore (Yorkshire).

Everything during the past week has been in favour of the grayling fishermen, who have had what our American cousins usually designate "a fine time." Some excellent dishes have been caught with both fly and worm, the best that has come under my notice being 12 brace of grayling, 8½ lb., taken on Monday, by R. Colbeck, of Tanfield. The weather is remarkably open for the time of year, and there seems to be every prospect of our having a green Christmas.—FRANCIS M. WILBRAN.

THE EEL SETS ON THE NORFOLK RIVERS.

WE are glad to find that the view which we and Mr. G. C. Davies took respecting the alleged damage done by the eel-sets is fully borne out by the investigations of the committee. The following extract is from the *Norwich Argus*:—

"It has been demonstrated beyond doubt that eel-sets do not catch other fish, and that they do not prevent any members of the finny tribe from reaching the Broads at time of a 'salt.' It will be recollected that Mr. G. C. Davies stood alone in his view of the matter but in order to test the whole thing a committee were appointed to make inquiry, comprising Mr. Davies, Mr. Chamberlin, and Mr. Greene. The first-mentioned gentleman spent a night among the eel-sets, saw them taken up, and only discovered two or three ruffes among the eels. On returning to Horning Ferry, a number of other owners of eel-sets were there to meet him and show their produce of the night's work. There were no other fish but eels. As supplementing this conclusive evidence, the sales accounts of the fishermen have been produced, and show that only eels were sold. It is worthy of note that the nets, which were said to have stopped fish from going to the Broads, had all been swept away by the strong ebb tide of Saturday night, so that they could not have caused the results said to have been witnessed on the following Monday. Eel-sets are not the enemy of the angler; on the contrary, they are his friend, for they catch the greatest destroyer of the spawn of other fish known, and were it not that nets were used a great diminution would soon be found in the angler's sport. Eels go with the stream, and nets are useless at flood-tides, so they cannot obstruct fish in going to the Broads. We are glad that the matter has been cleared up, but we think great credit is due to Mr. Davies for the courage and patience he has displayed, and perhaps some day he will publish his experience, not only on this question, but also with regard to the devouring capacity of eels in respect of the spawn of other fish.

We think it might be well for the preservation societies to keep an eye on the produce of the eel-sets during the spawning season, it is during the march, if one may use the expression, of the great armies of fish to the spawning beds, that the nets *might* do damage by hindering them.

ANGLERS' RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS.

WE beg to draw the special attention of our readers to the letter from Mr. Francis Francis, which appears in our correspondence columns, and also to the advertisement of the Thames Rights Defence Association, which also appears in our columns this week. We shall be most happy to acknowledge any contributions to the funds of this important Society; an angler who does not support it ought never to have any sport when fishing the Thames, and we hope he will not.

There is a similar movement on foot at Nottingham for the protection of anglers' rights; we give a condensed report, from the *Nottingham Guardian*, of a great meeting of Nottingham club anglers.

Our motto, in defending our rights, must be "*suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.*"

On December 6 a large meeting of the members of the different angling associations in Nottingham was held at the Assembly Rooms, Low Pavement, for the purpose of taking into consideration the right of the anglers residing in Nottingham to fish in the Trent. M. H. Coxon (president of the Anglers' Association) occupied the chair, and was supported by Councillor Hugh Browne, Mr. B. H. Cockayne, solicitor; Mr. W. Bailey, Mr. J. Jackson, Mr. S. Cook, Mr. Clarke (secretary), Mr. H. Benson and Mr. Barnes. The Chairman remarked that they were met to consider an important subject connected with the rights of the fishermen of that town. That meeting had more particularly been called in consequence of the conviction of two anglers, named Collishaw and Walker, by the magistrates at the Shire Hall. Notice of appeal was given against the conviction, and it expired upon the 17th inst. As they were no doubt aware, the defendants in the case were fishing from a punt in the Wilford Fishery, and it became a question as to whether such fishery was private or belonged in part to the burgesses of Nottingham. He might say that the association believed that they had a strong case as against the lord of the manor, Mr. Markham Clifton, and if the case was taken to the Court of Queen's Bench they would have substantial support from several quarters. He read a communication which he had received from Mr. W. Bailey, stating that he had fished during the last 30 or 40 years in the Trent between Clifton Grove and Trent Bridge, including the part in which the Collishaw and Walker were angling, on both sides of the river, without being interfered with. In conclusion, the chairman remarked that it was for that meeting to say what action should be pursued in the matter. (Applause.) Mr. Collishaw, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Roper briefly addressed the meeting, each stating that for a number of years they had fished in the particular part of the river at the spot where Collishaw and Walker were caught angling, and afterwards prosecuted, without any molestation until recently. Mr. B. H. Cockayne followed, and read a voluntary letter which he received from Mr. Hugh Brown, bearing upon the matter, which they had assembled to discuss. In the communication Mr. Brown quoted the opinion of Mr. Patchitt (the county magistrates' clerk), which he expressed in a case in which several years ago some persons were prosecuted for fishing against the Trent Baths, and came on for hearing before the county magistrates, Mr. Patchitt stating that the right of fishing had been exercised by the public from time immemorial. Mr. Brown also mentioned another case in which a keeper and his son were convicted for assaulting a fisherman and taking away his fish in the same locality, and he certainly thought that the conviction in the recent case would be quashed if it was taken to the Court of Queen's Bench. Mr. Cockayne also referred to the action of Mr.

Cropper in the matter, and read a report of the proceedings touching upon the subject when it was brought forward by Mr. Cropper at the meeting of the town council in October. Mr. Cockayne, continuing, remarked that he has been authorised by Councillor Worth to express his sympathy with the association, and the pleasure which it would give him to render them any assistance. He had also conversed with many influential gentlemen who were willing to give their support, and wished the question to be fought out. (Hear, hear.) He had represented the matter to the Town Clerk as one affecting the inhabitants of the town, but he could not see his way to take it up in the interests of the public, and it therefore remained to them to carry it to the end, which he was informed was the intention of the executive. He had taken the opinion of counsel, and believing they had really a good case, he hoped the members of the Angling Association would give Collishaw their support in carrying the matter to an end. (Applause.) Councillor H. Browne, who in the meantime had entered the room and was well received, next addressed the meeting, remarking that he supposed he was addressing anglers, who, until about twenty years ago, fished where they pleased up and down the Trent, but since that time the results of proceedings before the magistrates had been that whereas once they had the Trent as their river, at the present time they could hardly cast a line anywhere in it. Twenty-five years ago it was an open question whether the public might not have rights of fishery in any river navigable or not. Lord Campbell, he thought not quite rightly, with a view to Magna Charta, held that the public would not have a right in a river not navigable. Then there came another distinction. There was an allusion in one case that where the public had a right of fishery the river must not only be navigable but tidal. Let them remember that it was only an allusion, but when the Commissioners for salmon with regard to the river Ribble afterwards met they prepared an elaborate judgment and took up the chance word tidal, and said the public should not go any further than the tide went, therefore it was not to be wondered at that the landowners, with that decision in their favour, acted upon it and said, "The public have no right; it all belongs to us." This was natural on the one side, but on the other they had a long series of cases beginning with Magna Charta and continuing down to latter judgments, especially that of Lord Cockburn, that the tide had nothing to do with the question. If that question had not been decided disputes would constantly have arisen as to how far the tide came up, and where their right of fishing began. There was every reason for contending against the decision, which was considered as settled by the Salmon Conservators, and acting upon Lord Cockburn's suggestion. He advised them to proceed with the present case and defend any other which might be brought by any landowner. Then as to the method of doing it. Let them apply to the Fishing Associations which had been formed at London, Sheffield and Worcester, and other places, for assistance, and not be divided in the matter. The town had an active Corporation, and he (Mr. Browne) was proud to be the chairman of the Public Rights Committee, but they must have them at their backs; and if he felt that it was a question of two shillings, as in the question which he had cited, he would give up representing them. Let them have a decided expression of opinion in the matter. He was willing—and he spoke on behalf of the bulk of the members of the Corporation—to take the matter up, provided they were supported and urged on. They ought to be united in the question, call upon other Corporations to assist them, and appeal to Parliament, and finally have the matter settled. (Applause.) Mr. Wilkinson followed, and proposed "That a public subscription as a defence fund should be immediately started in such a manner as the Executive thought fit, and prosecute the appeal to its final issue." He remarked that all they had to do was to collect as large a sum as possible, and if any amount was wanting in the end it had been guaranteed. (Applause.) The meeting afterwards concluded with votes of thanks to Mr. Browne, Mr. Cockayne, and the Chairman and officers connected with the Association.

HORTON'S CREEK.

No. II.

WHEN writing of this forest-grown closely matted, Horton's Creek, as a sample of an American forest trout-stream, we did not imagine that in a few months its waters would run out unchafed and unweaved, without anything to dam its progress until it emptied into the Pine Lake; but the demands of commerce were awaking the echoes of this quiet valley. This forest growth of timber was wanted; the axe of the woodman was already ringing in the forest glades; along this stream were clumps of hemlock whose bark was wanted in the tanneries of Milwaukee and Chicago; whose branches and trunks would cut up to make ties for the iron road to enable the screaming horse to push his way across the treeless prairies of the far west, and to the savannahs of the south; thus bringing to our pushing city, the wealth of cotton from the sunny south and the golden grain from the great west to this immense granary of the world. The trees must come down and the bark be stripped; this could be easily transported in waggons to the lake, but the hemlock ties must be floated down stream. To do this the creek must be chopped out and cleared of the thousands of fallen trees and brush. This was an undertaking; but a few of the red sons of the forest—of the tribes of the Chippewas and Ottawas, rejoicing in such names as, Nah-a-quom, O-gagh-me-ga-do, Louis Wim-a-gonce, Peter Skip-er-gosh, James Wash-er-ghe-dic—contracted to clear the creek sufficient to float down the ties and posts.

One of these Indians would jump into a dug out (canoe), and get out into mid-stream; he would chop out a log, fasten a rope to it and throw it to his companions to haul up. With some pulling and tugging they got them on to the banks of the creek. Just fancy a band of labourers working, with such names as these; how would an English foreman twist his mouth to give any one of them orders? But these Indians, working almost by signs, silently chopped out this creek until the last log was moved, and the work progressed sufficiently to run the ties already in the river mixed up

into a big jamb. Such was the state of this famous trout stream when we reached the place in mid-July; but trout were on the feed, and running a log jamb only added spice to the fishing; so we determined to take the fishing skiff, haul it up through the riffles, and do some fishing above the log bridge. So, putting on our long boots, we took the line across our shoulder and waded in to tow the boat. Phew! but it was hot work! We tilt the beam at 175 lb., yet the surging of the boat in the rapid current brought us up standing, and often forced us down stream again; but sticking at it overcomes the greatest difficulties, so we at last pulled our boat into the quiet waters above the bridge and began fishing; the river is full of ties, and we must force our way through them. Trout were there in plenty; we just drop a line into a small space in the ties, instantly we feel the jerk, and a slight turn of the wrist hooks a fine fellow—this just whets the appetite as we drop him into our fish well, but we cannot stay here. A half-mile of logs are moving, and unless we want to get hemmed in and carried down stream, we must pitch into some hard work. Plying pole and boat-hook we scramble through the water, sometimes on logs, sometimes along the river edge at every available opening, until at last we reach open water. Here we pause for a breathing spell.

Our intention has been to explore this stream. There had come to us in past summers strange stories of this noisy brook: that in its upper reaches it widened out into small glassy lake-like openings; that little creeks and springs came tumbling into it so cold that you could scarcely keep the water in your mouth; that up near the head were springs away down in deep holes, and the water rippled on the surface, like the boiling of a pot, from these many springs; that in these spring-holes trout lay by the hundred, and no one could induce them to bite, neither fly, worm, fin, or bait of any kind. We therefore determined to explore this creek, and see for ourselves the truth of these vague reports of the Indians. We had a hard day's work before us, but both of us were fishermen, and vigorous enough for anything; so to work we went. Whoever said there was no trout in this brook knew nothing of it, for no sooner did our boat strike a log than away went two or three. As I paddled or poled along up stream, my friend Alonzo would occasionally drop a line into a likely-looking hole, then out came a good-sized trout. We passed on, over sand bars, across which the bottom of our boat rubbed; another moment we would be over a deep hole out of which trout scurried; these holes seemed to have no bottom, the black peaty mud giving way to our pole for six or eight feet. Along up through green vistas of alder and spruces until the creek narrows and islands form on its surface, springs of cold water came tumbling in; we jump ashore and push up into the forest a hundred yards or so and find small trout in these little creeks in good numbers. We push on until we reach the pools; there are three of them, large holes deep and dark, where the bubbling waters have washed out the soft earth; on the surface you can see the water as it rises, breaking into ripples. Looking down into them the bottom seems covered with dark forms, which we can imagine are trout. Elated and jubilant we put our best bait on small hooks; we gently sink them, they turn to it for a moment, but there is no responsive jerk. They sink down to the bottom again. We try the best flies in our well-stocked book; the same result. The brightest worm, the handsomest fin, and that most killing of all baits—the trout's gizzard; but all with the same results. We determined to wait until the sun was sinking and the shadows fell over these pools; but we waited in vain. No trout could we take. To see what quantity of trout were in the pools my friend drove his rod down into the holes. His startling cry, "Just look at them; there must be hundreds of them." What a sight! We question if ever such a sight will come to our eyes again. They were going in all directions. But what a nuisance—not one of them would bite.

The shadows are deepening. We have already stayed too long, and have a long way to go, and through a jamb of ties that may take hours to get through. So, hastily skimming over the shallow portions of the stream, we make for deeper water and for the trout. My friend is an expert in handling these peculiar boats, so he generously gives me the bow while he takes the boat hook. As we strike the current I drop into the holes on either side me, while we drift along, and once in a while strike and bring in a nice one; sometimes bringing a big fellow around for him to lift into the boat, while he evidently enjoys seeing me catch them.

A sharp push for the ties, some hard pulling and tugging enables us to break up the jamb and make a rush for the bridge. We pull our boat up on the bank and tramp for home just as they were lighting the lamps and were wondering what had become of us. We were tired and hungry, for we had eaten nothing for thirteen hours. While the family were examining our basket of trout, we ate supper. Another year will bring great changes in this creek. Though the trees and brush had been cut out they

did not stay so—the stormy winds, the heavy snows, the vernal equinox, had all done their work, and done it well. The trees are again lying across the creek, and will soon dam up its waters. The havoc of one winter's storm will fell so many trees, that it is difficult and expensive to clear them out; if they are left alone they form a splendid hiding-place for the trout. As we last saw it, the condition was hopeful, and we expect to enjoy many days of fine trouting on this "beau ideal" of an angler's trout-stream.

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Chicago, U.S.A., November, 1881.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the United London Anglers' Central Committee was held at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, on Monday evening last, under the presidency of Mr. Samuel Morgan. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary, Mr. R. Ghurney, laid on the table some important letters from the authorities of the London and North-Western, and the Midland Railways, the gist of which was that as a further guarantee against the misuse of privilege cards by persons travelling to stations to which cheap tickets are issued, they would not in future be issued unless the angler also produced, at time of booking, his fishing tackle. The last-named company also suggesting that a clause to that effect should in future be embodied among the instructions printed on the back of each privilege card. This fact cannot be too widely known; as such knowledge will, no doubt, prevent much annoyance to anglers who have been in the habit of keeping their rods, &c., at some favourite and frequently fished resort. I may state *en passant*, that the case of these last had been duly laid before the companies previous to their arriving at this final decision, so there is nothing for it but to comply with good grace to what they deem a precaution necessary to protect their interest.

The next matter brought forward was the reading, passing, and distribution of the half-yearly balance sheet, from May 2nd to Nov. 7th. Among the principal items of interest, I note that there have been four new societies enrolled, that the total number of privilege tickets issued is 1168. The cash balance in bank and in hand amounting to £112 1s. Among the items of "Expenditure" are the following connected with the "River Lea Department," which every lover of Old Isaac's sedgy river—nay, every true angler—will say is money well spent, "Watching river, fence months, £8 19s. 9½d. Police constables, 12 nights each at Waltham and Tottenham, £6 3s. 6d. (I believe the water was drawn down during this time). Successful prosecutions at Stratford, Waltham, and Ware, £6 7s. Reward to constables, Ware and Waltham, £2 2s. Police constable watching river at St. Margaret's and Clapton, £1 10s., total £25 2s. 3d.

A proposition was also made and carried, that the secretary do again write to Mr. Seton, respectfully requesting, agreeably to a promise made last season, he would sanction this association again netting the East London Waterworks at Tottenham, with a view of enriching the public portions of the river Lea with the fish so procured.

Mr. Murphy then made some remarks about the necessity of secretaries of angling societies guarding against enrolling members who had left other clubs as defaulters.

The subject of London angling clubs renting suitable waters for the use of their members was then brought forward by Mr. Theobald, of the Great Northern Brothers, who referred to the recent correspondence in the FISHING GAZETTE. As it was somewhat late in the evening, this gentleman, upon the suggestion of Mr. L. Bonvoisin,—who said this was perhaps the most important subject ever brought on for discussion in that room, and one which would have his hearty sympathy and support—agreed to give notice of motion, and to have it thoroughly ventilated on the next monthly meeting night. After transacting the routine business, Mr. Ghurney called the roll, the meeting terminating with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman.

On Sunday week, fishing one of the ballast holes at Staines, commonly known as "Staines Gulleys," in a perfect hurricane of rain and wind, Mr. Defour, of the Savoy Brothers Angling Society, managed to capture a handsome carp (6 lb.), which has been duly forwarded to Mr. Cooper to be done justice to.

On Wednesday evening next, 14th, a special complimentary visit will be paid to the King's Cross United Angling Society, Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. Mr. L. Bonvoisin has promised to take the chair. The house is barely five minutes' walk from the Metropolitan Railway Station, and handy for both busses and trains, so piscators from all quarters will have no excuse for not mustering in goodly number. Possibly, if a little bird that has whispered to me speaks true, this may be the first public opportunity of communicating to the London anglers the eagerly hoped for extension of a great boon—but I must not anticipate.

At the recent half-yearly supper of the North-Western Angling Club, a handsome white cane German-silver-mounted roach rod, with a suitable inscription, was presented to Mr. Robert Marshall in recognition of the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of chairman during the past twelve months.

At an important special meeting of the Committee of the Thames Rights' Defence Association, held at Messrs. Crump and Son's offices, 26, Philpot Lane, E.C., on Monday morning last, it was decided that appeals to all interested should be inserted in the form

of an advertisement in the sporting, daily, and a number of country papers in those counties through which the Thames flows, asking for funds to continue defending, and, if necessary, asserting the public rights to the free use of the river. Other important steps concerning the immediate future action of the Association were also discussed and decided upon.

On Monday evening, after the Central Committee meeting a gentleman asked me whether two of the Committee's Lea bailiffs, who had recently, in the execution of their duty, overhauled his basket to satisfy themselves whether his fish were undersized or not, were justified in appropriating the contents of a flask of whisky, which they could scarcely have mistaken for an undersized fish. As he was a consenting—or at least a non-protesting—party and they had a long walk before them, and it was a cold day, it didn't so much matter. "Only, on another occasion," added he, "they might claim it as one of the rights of bailiffship—then how should he act?" Well, I referred him to head-bailiff Ghurney, who is an authority—I don't mean on I. whisky—but on bailiffship, its responsibilities, and privileges.

I alluded some time since to the Chairman of the Richmond Piscatorial Society having been seen at Holroyd's, selecting a rod which, I understood, was for presentation to a prince. The presentation came off this week; and I am breaking no confidence in saying that it was a present from one Royal head to another; in fact, it was from the ruler of the T. A. P. S. to the ruler of the W. C. A. L. and P. A. S., and if they are not kings amongst men—at least angling men—I don't know who are! This fine specimen of the tackle maker's skill, was a barbel rod; and when readers learn it was mounted in solid silver, they may rest satisfied that the acumen and skill of the chairman of the R. P. S. was well rewarded by the way in which his order was executed. All good fellows will rejoice at the kindness of Mr. Spreckley, who could mark his sense for a good day's barrelling with such a trophy; and that our old friend and fellow-worker, Mr. Geen, will appreciate and value the gift—not for its silver mounts and ivory stops—but for the kindness of one who has endeared himself to every "Thames Angler."

THE THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—May I venture to inform the public—at least, those few millions of it which are interested in preserving the rights of the people from wholesale annexation and plunder—that, however public-spirited the chairman, treasurer, secretary, solicitor, and council of an association may be, there is a point at which their public spirit begins to fail them, and that is when the public won't put their hands in their pockets and subscribe sixpence to assist the expenses incurred in their own behalf. We give our time and our trouble and thought freely, without any pay or any prospect of pay; nay, we even subscribe according to our fortunes out of the fullness or otherwise of our purses. Is it too much to ask those who do nothing at all, and who don't give a minute to this matter, to send us any trifle of superfluous cash which they may be able to afford? When I started this association, it was on the promise of considerable support from the outside. Many people promised us handsome subscriptions if such an association was started. It was started, and when these persons were applied to fully half of them never responded. One gentleman, who nobly promised us fifty or a hundred pounds, never even answered any of our applications. Should my eloquence move him now, may I say how very pleased our treasurer, Mr. W. A. Crump, of 10, Philpot Lane, or our secretary, Mr. J. M. R. Francis, of 11, Old Jewry Chambers, City, would be to receive a cheque upon any prominent London or provincial bankers for that pleasant three figures, or other like documents for lesser sums from other parties. If this is to be carried to a conclusion, we must have money, and much money; for I am told that the riparians are ready to spend large sums to effect their purpose of shutting up the Thames. It will be a long and toilsome job for us, but this we don't shrink from a bit. For my own part, I am fond of a good fight, and am never so happy as when I am in hot water; but then, on the other hand, I am never so unhappy as when my banker's account grows smaller by degrees and beautifully less. So, to all whom it may concern, please weigh-in without loss of time.

FRANCIS FRANCIS, chairman.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.—Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain, having completed their fifth year of joint management of this popular entertainment, have renewed their tenancy of St. George's Hall, Langham Place, for a term of years. Great improvements have been made during the autumn; the stage has been rebuilt and lowered, a green-room provided for the artists, and the arrangements before and behind the scenes have been improved. The performance comprises the operetta *Ages Ago*, written by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and composed by Mr. Frederic Clay, who has rewritten portions of the music, and added an entirely new duet for the tenor and soprano. The cast includes Miss Edith Brandon, Miss Fanny Holland, Messrs. Alfred Reed and Corney Grain, and Mr. North Home, who will make his first appearance as a member of this company.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40, Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invite Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies seen or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE LARGE DORSAL FIN OF THE GRAYLING.

SIR,—With regard to the enquiry of Mr. J. Harrington Keene as to the purpose of the large dorsal fin of the grayling, possibly its development may be explained in the following manner:—A lateral compression of the body, in conjunction with a lengthening of the vertical and a shortening of the longitudinal axis, we find in fishes moving comparatively slowly through the water and able to remain, as it were, suspended in it.

If a lengthening of the dorsal fin of a fish is a substituted compression of the body and lengthening of the vertical axis, the convenience of such a lengthening is obvious in a mid-water feeder, and the presence of such a dorsal fin shows the habits of the fish. And if the vertical length is made up half of body and half of fin, it may account for the movements of the grayling not being, perhaps, properly described as comparatively slow.—I am, &c. H. M. P.

LISTS OF FLIES.

SIR,—Allow me through your columns sincerely to thank Mr. Balderston for his kind response to my request to him to publish his tables of results of flies, which I have perused with much interest and pleasure, and to assure him that I should have expressed my thanks before now, but have been weekly awaiting his promised tables of Comparative Results, intending to have thanked him for both together.

I hope we may yet have them; and if you, Mr. Editor, can find space, I can answer for a number of your subscribers in this locality that they will not find Mr. B.'s remarks too voluminous, as he seems to fear.

From your footnote to Mr. B.'s tables, Mr. Editor, I conclude you do not incline to Pennell's theory of flies; but I observe, nevertheless, that in Mr. B.'s tables, Pennell's flies outdistance many standard patterns, notably the Palmer. I admit, however, that the data in their case are scanty compared with the others, indicating that for Mr. B. their "selective attraction," as he happily phrases it, is but low.

I am led to make the above remarks from having made my best bag of this season with Pennell's green and brown, in gin-clear water in July, beating, moreover, an older hand than myself, who was using a selection of ordinary flies. It seems to me, therefore, that the system, if not infallible, does not quite deserve the ridicule bestowed on it in some quarters. I should be greatly interested to hear Mr. B.'s opinion, or your own.—I am, &c., W. T. S.

FISHING AT DORKING.—A QUERY FOR MR. JARDINE.

SIR,—I have from time to time gleaned so many valuable hints from your excellent paper, and have so often noticed the kindly way in which questions on fishing matters have been answered by your correspondents, that I venture to ask a question or two. Is there any fishing to be had in the river Mole, at or within a reasonable distance of Dorking? What kind of fish are to be found there? May I ask one other question—are not all the largest pike female fish? I believe the males are always much smaller. Certainly in the spawning season, from all I have observed, and from what I can gather from others, the males are often not half the size of the females. If this is so, it accords well with a law which appears to be very general amongst birds and butterflies, and other scaly-winged insects. Perhaps, sir, if my question on this matter, is not outside the range of subjects discussed in your pages, and if it is not already settled beyond dispute, you will kindly allow it to appear.—I am, &c., 33, Harley Street, W., Cavendish Square. ARTHUR HENSMAN.

[There is good fishing at Dorking, and permission or day tickets can, we believe, be had of some of the millers. Perhaps some reader who knows the locality will kindly give us details.—ED.]

READINGS IN ANGLING CLUBS.

SIR,—An excellent article under this heading appears in your issue of Saturday last, but to one passage I must certainly take exception, because it conveys an erroneous impression to the mind.

It is stated that the Piscatorial Society was the first angling society to introduce the reading of papers at their weekly meetings, which readings relapsed for a time, but have lately been revived. Will our friend B. give us the date and subject of the last paper read before that society previous to his so-called revival?—which latter, by the way, was the act of an individual member, not that of the society, as he seems to think. So far as my information goes (I am open to correction), no paper, in the proper sense of the term, had been read before that society for the last twenty years, and it was only after the Gresham introduced the reading of papers at their meetings that the Piscatorials made an effort again. So long as this is fairly understood, I do not complain; but it is not clear from his article that this was so, and I think B. might have stated the fact.

Most admirable papers have also been read before the Manchester Society for some time past, and to them the credit is due of doing steadily what should never have been neglected by the metropolitan body.

I ask you, sir, to admit these comments in no spirit of rivalry, save that honest and wholesome rivalry which consists in doing our utmost for the common cause; but I am jealous of the fair fame of the Gresham, which, I trust, will yet lead the way in further reforms and innovations, to which it may not be policy at present to refer.—I am, &c., T. CRUMPLEN.

11, Albert Street, Regent's Park, N.W., Dec. 6, 1881.

THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION, 1883.

SIR,—In your paper of October 13th, I noticed the announcement of the great International Exhibition and the list of names of the presidents, etc., and among them the names of two of the M.P.'s for my county of Cornwall. But what I wish, Mr. Editor, is to draw your attention, and, through the medium of your powerful paper, that of the general public, to the state of some of our otherwise beautiful rivers, which are polluted and made barren by the refuse sent into them by the mines. Nothing can live in them, fish or fowl. Some of them literally stink as they roll heavily along, laden with the thousands upon thousands of tons of stuff, saturated with arsenic and copper, liberated from the tin in the burning houses; others are loaded with the slimes of copper and lead,

and at flood times they overflow, and then woe to the beautiful grass in the meadows—nothing will grow again, where that takes place, for years, and nothing lives in it.

Now, Mr. Editor, I would suggest that a prize or prizes be offered, at the Exhibition, for the best practical essay and the means to be adopted, and proved there and then, to prevent the mischief, or to purify the water before leaving the mines, or before it enters the leats or feeders of the rivers. If the Exhibition accomplished this only it would, in my mind, be a great success. I should say that the prize should not be of less value than 200 guineas. I don't see much use in showing a lot of fine things to capture fish with, if there is nothing, scarcely, shown how to cultivate and preserve them from all their enemies—birds, beasts, or reptiles, and the filth that is wantonly thrown into the rivers of our county. If it is worth while for the Wycombe Association to make such stir about their little bit of water, it surely must be a national affair when miles upon miles of the rivers in Cornwall are daily polluted in the manner they are. It always seems to me a hard case that a landowner, on granting a sett, perhaps at the head of a river, should be able to do so, and not consult any of the landowners further down the stream, who will be sure to feel the baneful effects, nor help to make up any losses thereby, or scarce anything. Take a case. South Caradon mine, one of the richest copper mines in Cornwall, is situated at nearly the head of the river Seaton, which empties itself into the sea about two miles to the eastward of the Looe, and which, some years ago, swarmed with trout and grilse, and was a noted salmon-spawning river, but now there is not one in all its length of fourteen miles. I believe the mine just sends a few men one day in a year, in another lord's right, to repair it; but the party that work the mine never, to my knowledge, have contributed a penny, although, by the published reports, they have received more than forty thousand pounds in dues from that mine. Is it not monstrous, Mr. Editor? Why I, as a private person, if I were to throw any deleterious matter in a river, I should be called to account for it. There are many other rivers in Cornwall as bad, if not worse—the Loyhner, for instance, I think is worse if anything. Commissioners have been down, and I don't know what, but they have done nothing that is practical. What we want is something practical, something that will clean the water. I could write you more about our rivers, but my space is at an end, and, perhaps, your patience.—I am, &c., A CORNISH ANGLER.

EARTH WORMS.

SIR,—I am extremely obliged to your correspondent, Frank Gosden, Esq., of Exeter, for his remarks on my letter in reference to earth worms; but since I wrote I have experimented on some 3 dozen "lobs" and "cockspurs" and from the dilapidated appearance these tail ends now present, I decidedly incline to your opinion that they do not regain their original forms, though we are distinctly told by one or two celebrated naturalists that such is the case. In Goldsmith's "Animated Nature," vol. 2, pp. 561 and 561r, he says: "Spalanzani and others have tried several experiments upon the earth worm, many of which succeeded; every earthworm, however, did not retain the vivacious principle with the same obstinacy; some, when cut in two, were entirely destroyed; others survived only in the nobler part, and while the head was living, the tail entirely perished. But what was most surprising of all, in some, particularly the red-headed earth worm, both extremities survived the operation; the head produced a tail, with the anus, the intestines, the annular muscle, and the prickly beards; the tail part, on the other hand, was seen to shoot forth the nobler organs, and in less than the space of three months sent forth a head, a heart, with all the apparatus and organs of generation." From close observation, I am in a position to say that not a single tail end succeeded in penetrating the mould in which they were placed; under these circumstances how could they possibly obtain nourishment sufficient to enable them to perform the astounding feat mentioned above? Hoping to see something more conclusive in your much looked for review.—I am, &c., MARK ANTONY.

Dec. 5.

THE PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

SIR,—Your proposal to form a society for the propagation of coarse fish is one of the grandest that has been mooted for the benefit of anglers during the last few years.

One thing I sincerely trust you will do, and that is, eschew the cultivation of either salmon or trout, or any of those aristocratic fishes which require a good deal of expense to capture, and for which club anglers do not care to angle whilst there is a prospect of being able to obtain a goodly basket of lubberly, bream, or shiny roach. Some will say: "But if you make trout, &c., more common in our rivers and streams, it will repay for people of tightened means to try for them." I do not think it will. Working men, who have not too much money, would rather secure a 20 lb. bag of perch or roach, than throw a fantastic fly all day for one or two small trout. The tackle for fly-fishing is also too expensive to be freely indulged in. You want a rod or two of perfect make, lines of the very best, and a countless hoard of costly flies. I hope, therefore, this will be exclusively a "Coarse Fish Cultivation Society"; at any rate at the commencement, until its funds have reached a considerable amount and the society has taken root and stands firm on its basis.

I cannot agree with those who would exclude the carp from being cultivated, for, although he's wary and exceeding cunning, yet he does afford great sport when once hooked, and makes a courageous tussle for existence; therefore, carp, by all means.

Another matter of great interest and curiosity will be the introduction of black bass; and, if they are not too bellicose in their nature in attacking such good-natured fish as roach, &c., no doubt they will be welcomed by the angling public.

Also, sir, respecting that 'ere German manager; it is very gratifying to learn you acquiesce in Mr. Keene's hope that a man be found, who can do the work, in this country. We shall like him all the better. Please don't forget to give us a long warning of the coming meeting which you propose to hold, and then no doubt you'll see a mighty array of rod holders.

And, now, sir, will you let us know whether it is intended to float this enterprise by opening a subscription list, or by enrolling members, who will have the option of withdrawing fry and ova to the amount of their subscription?

If all anglers assist in as ready-hearted a manner as "A Thames Fisherman,"—whose intelligent letters, by the way, are very well worth reading—by sending their contribution, however small, and by shaking off all lethargy and indifference—thereby showing a little public spirit, for which many of them are, unfortunately, not characterised—there is no reason why the society should not have an income of £1000 a year.—I am, &c., HENRY GREENWAY.

The Firs, Cricklewood, Dec. 5, 1881.

LOST TACKLE ON EEL-PIE ISLAND.

SIR,—On behalf of Mr. Anderson, sole proprietor of the Eel-pie Island, I beg to say there was no person fishing from his island when this tackle was lost; but there were several persons fishing from the adjoining island, which is the property of Mr. Grant-Duff, M.P.—I am, &c., ALFRED PERRIN.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' PRIDE.

The members of the above club fished for three valuable prizes at Boxmoor on Sunday last, given respectively by Mr. Clarke, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Haines with the following result:—T. Fiddes, 1st; F. Nash, 2nd; H. Scutt, 3rd. H. Mallett, D. Dodson, W. Hayes, and W. Ferry weighing in the order named. All members are requested to attend on Wednesday next to select a place to fish for the Christmas prizes.—T. MARSHALL, sec.

December 6.

BEDFORD ANGLING CLUB.

I do not wish to press further controversy on Mr. Bicknell, but, in justice to myself, beg once more to state that I never gave an opinion as to the legality or otherwise of fishing from Mr. Mann's fields at Clapham. Mr. Bicknell is very inconsistent in suggesting to me, that, because I have been the means of making public the calling of ugly names and stoning business, the advisability of my going down and getting summoned. He knows as well as I do that any person desirous of thoroughly testing the case would in all probability have to appeal against the local magistrate's decision, and to get the case transferred, and finally decided, to a superior court, necessitating the expenditure of a large sum of money and the loss of much valuable time, which the comparatively limited interest felt in this particular water by the London anglers would scarcely justify. Concerning the closing paragraph of Mr. Bicknell's letter to the effect that my statements as to the exclusion of visitors and strangers from this club show an utter ignorance of facts, I feel sure Mr. B. will, if he refers to my original notes, find that I did not quite say that; but that the refusal to issue day tickets, upon payment, to well-conducted anglers and the charging of double annual subscriptions to non-residents, must practically have the effect of excluding visitors and strangers, particularly the poorer ones, is self-evident.—LEO. BONVOISIN.

Dec. 8.

BERMONDSEY BROTHERS.

The Bermondsey Brothers had their half-yearly supper on Tuesday night, the 6th inst., at their club-house, Alscot Arms, Alscot Road, Bermondsey, about fifty sat down to supper. Mr. W. F. Herbert in the chair. Mr. W. Mills, vice. First toast, proposed by Mr. Penington, "Prosperity to the Bermondsey Brothers Angling Club," with health of the secretary and officers, Mr. W. Allen seconded. After a few songs Mr. Frost proposed the second toast, "Prosperity to the London Angling Central Committee," with health of Mr. Ghurney and officers. Mr. Allen, as delegate, responded for that association. Mrs. Benningfield, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Mitchell sang some excellent songs in capital style. Mr. Hulse then proposed the health of the worthy host, Mr. Sargent. Mr. Sargent replied in a very felicitous speech. The rest of the evening was enlivened by songs and recitations from members and friends. A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman, and to Mr. Benningfield, who presided at the piano, concluded a very enjoyable evening.—WILLIAM ALLEN, sec.

Dec. 7, 1881.

BRIGHTON ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

Some of the members went to Berwick during the week, but the water was in a very bad state for fishing. Mr. Flating took four bream, the others did not do much, the largest bream weighed 3 lb., and were brought home alive, and are to be seen in the Brighton Aquarium, the other rivers are all flooded, and if any more rain it will not fine down by Christmas. The installation of new officers for the year 1882 took place on Monday last.—GROUND BAIT.

THE BRUNSWICK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The business meetings of this society take place on Wednesday evenings, at eight o'clock, at the Brunswick Arms, Brunswick Street, Stamford Street, S.E., not on Thursdays, as has been erroneously published, and on Sundays, at the same time, for the purposes of weighing-in fish, etc. Last Sunday, Mr. Wm. Booth weighed-in dace from the Thames. On Wednesday last, after the enrollment of some new members, it was proposed, seconded, and carried that a vote of congratulation be recorded to our brother member and pianist, Mr. Wm. Allsop, on his narrow escape from death, being knocked down by a cab. After which, Messrs. Allsop and Chrysilian presiding at the piano, some good songs were given by Messrs. W. Worth, W. Booth, Moore, Chrysilian, Reynolds, Keeble, Dent, etc.; duets by Messrs. Walker and Keeble, concluding with "Auld Lang Syne."—ESOX LUCIUS.

CADOGAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Wednesday week, a splendid show of fish from the Colne, by Messrs. Goodger and Pike. Mr. Goodger, with 10½ lb. of roach, several of them going 1 lb. each; 3 lb. of fine dace, the largest 9 oz.; 2 lb. of perch; also one jack, 6 lb. 8 oz., in first-rate condition. Mr. Pike, 8 lb. 12 oz. of roach, the largest going 1½ lb.; 5 lb. of fine dace, the largest 7 oz.; and 2½ lb. of perch, the largest 14 oz. The total weight of fish shown being nearly 39 lb. All members are requested to attend on Thursday next, to arrange prizes, &c.—W. R.

CONVIVIAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

Only a few members were out on Sunday but there was a very fine show of roach, perch and dace, and one fine jack, weighing five pounds, from the Lea. Our half-yearly dinner will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 13.—W. EYLES.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

The Duke of Cornwall anglers were saved a blank on Sunday by Messrs. Aldridge and Flanagan, the former with a very nice jack scaling 6 lb., and the latter with roach. The third half yearly supper and distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday, and was a great success. Mr. J. Robinson was in the chair, and Mr. Hillman in the vice. A very pleasant evening was spent, in the course of which a goodly number of prizes were promised for the rest of the season.—J. HECKFORD.

EDMONTON AND TOTTENHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The scarcity of fish in this club is as noticeable as the rest of the clubs, nothing having been done for some time past, with the exception of two or three pretty good jack of about 7 lb., Mr. Jones showing a very pretty fish of 9 lb., on Sunday last. We go out for prizes next Sunday; roving commission given by Mr. Holdsworth Lowin Chambers. A very exciting contest is taking place between Mr. Jones and Mr. Lowin for a new guinea hat for the largest jake of jack.—G. STEPHENS.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society met as usual on Thursday, and passed a very enjoyable evening, although the attendance was not so large as on many former occasions. The chair was ably occupied by Dr. Defreiz. The hon. secretary stated that all the arrangements connected with the water rented by the society were now complete, and some prizes over and above those named in the society's list, would be fished for on January 2nd next. Mr. Bryant had taken a jack there on Saturday last of 3½ lb., and the secretary some fair-sized roach, but the latter were returned to the water. A jack of 17 lb., taken by Mr. Ellis, from the Lea, had been weighed-in during the week. On Thursday next the meeting will only be of a formal character, strictly limited to matters of business, but on Thursday the 23rd inst., there will be a general discussion, chiefly on jack tackle, several distinguished anglers having undertaken to bring their tackle by way of illustration. Dr. Brunton presented the society with an excellent water-colour drawing of two roach, beautifully rendered by a lady artist, for which himself and the painter were very cordially thanked. Dr. Brunton mentioned incidentally that the roach depicted were in the possession of the Piscatorial Society, and suggested that this would indicate the harmony that should prevail between two such important societies, both having the same end in view, a remark that was strongly endorsed by Mr. Crumplen, and heartily applauded by the assembly. Messrs. H. W. Towse (secretary, International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883), J. Callaghan, H. Day and W. F. Jones were balloted for and elected. A number of new candidates were proposed, some of them eminent in the angling world, notably Mr. W. B. Adlington, who was present and warmly welcomed. Mr. Crumplen's paper on the "Causes of the Diminution of Fish in the River Thames," was distributed to the members, and Mr. Bentley's on "Pain in Fishes" will shortly appear. The proceedings closed with a very cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Defreiz for presiding on the occasion.

HAMPSTEAD ANGLING SOCIETY.

The members of this society fished at Bourne End on Sunday for the following prizes:—A fishing rod given by Mr. Dillon, fishing-tackle maker, Victoria Road, K.T., three money prizes by the club, and one by Mr. George Henry, member. As they were all for gross weight, the prizes were all won, though the takcs were not much. The rod was won by Mr. C. Messenger, the others by Mr. Woodward, W. Messenger, Chiel, and Hawker. The two men prosecuted at Biggleswade last week for poaching, are not members of our club, though they live this way.—J. H. HAYWARD, Sec.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

There were very few fish on the trays on Sunday last, although several members were out. Mr. G. Bliss had some good roach from the Thames, and Mr. T. Ward had a show of very handsome dace from the Lea. I also wish to remind the members that there are three special prizes on Sunday next to be completed for.

Dec. 8.

JOVIAL ANGLERS.

On the 4th inst., the competition for the box for fishing implements presented by Mr. H. Howard, fisherman, took place, Mr. Steade proving the winner with 3 lb. 12 oz.; Mr. Clarke being next, with 1 lb. 14 oz.; Mr. Jeffrey next, with 1 lb. 2 oz., all dace. Messrs. Newell, Greene, Kollmann, Marsham, Bugelar, also took part, but the fish proved very shy. On Sunday week, the 20th inst., there will be a competition for a new rod, 100 yards of line, and winch, presented by Mr. E. Brown, for bank anglers belonging to the club, to be fished for anywhere between Richmond Bridge and Oxford.—H. W. PLATT.

Dec. 5.

KINGS CROSS UNITED ANGLING SOCIETY.

A complimentary visit will take place at the club house of the above society, the Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, King's Cross, on Wednesday next, the 14th inst. Mr. Bonvoisin has consented to preside on the occasion. The members have been doing their utmost to persuade some of the scaly denizens of the various metropolitan waters to change their quarters, but up to the present their well-meant efforts have not met with much reward.—G. TREADWELL, sec.

Dec. 8.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

Last week we were only saved from a blank with a small take of roach by Mr. Humphreys; and this week we give you particulars as under:—Mr. Grey, a pretty show of roach and dace, 5½ lb.; Mr. Scott, a nice roach, 1 lb.; Mr. Petrie, roach, dace and gudgeon; Mr. Hurwood, perch. We have a series of prizes in had to be fished for and to be distributed to the winners before Christmas.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

NORTH-WESTERN ANGLING CLUB.

Our shows for the past week have not been great. Mr. Grindley, jack from the Welsh Harp; Messrs. Marshall, Stead and, Weaver, roach and dace from the Thames; and Mr. Patching, roach from Boxmoor.—F. HILL, sec.

NORWICH PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The Walnut Tree Shades, Norwich, was the scene of one of the most successful and brilliant gatherings of the "wielders of the rod" which has ever taken place in the eastern counties, when, on Thursday evening last, the members of the above society, with their friends, assembled to celebrate their annual dinner. The enlargement of the society's club-room has now supplied the only want which hitherto existed in this fine old city house—long a rendezvous for the Norfolk disciples of old Isaak—that of the means of accommodating an assembly on so large a scale. We have before us a copy of the programme—a handsomely displayed piece of work by a local firm—and observe that the chair was occupied by Charles Daniels, Esq., president of the society. This gentleman was faced by the Rev. W. H. Matthews, B.D., chairman of the society. There were also present Mr. Alderman Newman, Mr. Councillor Matthews, Mr. Thirkettle (Members of School Board); Mr. W. G. Capon, hon. secretary; and Messrs. Edwards, Earl, Butler, Turner, Thompson, Chadwick, Midland, Olivant, Day, W. Page, G. Cubitt, Sim, Harvey, Loveday, Otty, Hart, Skinner, Knight, Cubitt, Greenfield, Wright,

Holmes, G. Daniels, Roberts, Parker, Howitt, Wills, Waythe, Brown, Bassingthwaite, Youngs, Murrell, Hinsby, McWright, Gill, Provart, Whorton, Mace, Williams, H. C. Townshend, F. F. Bradly, R. Bradly, Geo. Corbyn, etc., etc., the four last gentlemen acting as stewards, and adding much to the success of the dinner. The toast list, besides the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, embraced those of the "Corporation of Norwich," responded to by Mr. Alderman Newman, Mr. Councillor Matthews, and ex-Councillor Thirkettle; the "Yare and Bure Preservation Societies," which met with able respondents in Messrs. Provart and Howitt; the "Norwich Piscatorial Society," replied to in eloquent terms by the popular hon. secretary, Mr. W. G. Capon; "the Visitors," to which Messrs. Geo. Daniels and Midland suitably responded, etc., etc. The evening's proceedings were much enhanced by admirably rendered songs and recitations by Messrs. F. J. Knight, F. F. Bradly, Midland, G. Corbyn, J. D. Turner, etc., and some nice selections by the band of the Norwich Philharmonic Club. The National Anthem, played by the band, brought to a close what will be a pleasant reminiscence for a long time to come to many of the Norwich anglers.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The first-half-yearly supper of the above society took place on Monday last, when over thirty members and their friends sat down to a most substantial repast provided by the treasurer, Mr. T. Morris. Mr. Obbard in the chair; Mr. Bartlett, vice. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman distributed the prizes to the various winners, amongst whom were Messrs. Neagus (2), Lucy, jun. (2), J. Drew (2); J. Longman, S. Gorsuch, and several others were recipients of one prize each. After the above distribution, the chairman announced several valuable prizes for the remainder of the season. The rest of the evening was spent in some excellent harmony, and the songs by Messrs. Gorsuch, Roberts, Obbard, Ormond, and others, aided by Mr. Gorsuch, sen., on the violin, and the recitations by Mr. Bartlett, called forth ecstasies. Amongst the friends we noticed Mr. F. Williams, Great Queen Street; Mr. Rimer, secretary to the Buckland Angling Society, Mr. Bostle-mann, treasurer of the Reform, &c. The trays were not overburdened this week with fish, Mr. Neagus saving the society from a blank, with roach from the Stort.—T. W. LUCY, sec.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

We had a pegged down match, on Sunday last, at Burnt Mill, but I am sorry the roach were off the feed. Mr. Morton took the first; Mr. Atkinson, second; Mr. E. Dymond, third; Mr. H. Hussy, jun., fourth; Mr. W. High, fifth; Mr. E. Brockett, sixth; Mr. E. Hewett, seventh; and the best of the prizes were not taken. Our Monday concerts are proving a great success.—E. DYMOND, sec., pro tem.

PECKHAM BROTHERS.

On the 4th I visited this society, which is held at Mr. Reid's, the Prince Albert, East Surrey Grove, Peckham. It has been established about two years, and is in a flourishing condition. The accommodations here are very comfortable. In addition to the club-room, they have a billiard-room and a comfortable parlour for visitors and general conversation. It was here I met Mr. W. Matthews, the secretary, who informed me that a few of the members were out. "Will you stop a short time?" "Yes," I replied, and I sat down close to an elderly gentleman who evidently was barred from going out fishing through an accident to his left hand, which was in a sling. In the course of conversation I learned that Mr. Wood (I think that was the gentleman's name) was an old friend of Mr. G. Arnold, or, as he was better known in the prime days of Mr. W. Matthews, of silver trout fame, "The General." "Do you know him?" Considering that he was the party that I first fished Brentford Canal with, over 20 years ago—myself and a friend walking from Oxford Street to Brentford overnight for that purpose—and also being with him at the creation of "the silver trout hole" at Sunbury by Mr. Clarke, who commemorated it by putting myself and about a dozen more in the river, I stated that I thought I might claim a slight knowledge of "The General," and also of Mr. Antony. "Well, now, I should like to see both of them; but they do not go far from home now, I suppose? If you see them at any time give them my respects, will you." At this moment Mr. Page and a brother member arrived from Shepperton. The former had a jack about 3 lb., and the latter had the misfortune to have a breakaway with a stump of a tree, brick wall—it was impossible to say which, but it was with something larger than a bleak. Speaking of bleak, Mr. Matthews showed me two that he had caught with a hook at Ditton seven weeks ago. He gave them to Mr. Birch, of the Wellington, in Camden Grove, who has kept them in a globe ever since. They are as frisky now as ever they were, taking flies as soon as they are put in the water. Now, considering that bleak are such delicate fish when hooked, I consider that they are a novelty to live all that time in confinement and the heat of a public-house. What do

you think, brother readers? I also had a pleasant chat with Mr. Carter, a gentleman who belonged to the North-Western some ten years ago—one whom Time had treated kindly, but left his mark with that which makes old age honourable. We chatted about R. Lealand, sen. and jun., J. Harding, Salmon, Job, and other members of that society, of whom Mr. S. M., or "Plummet," stated "that they knew the Welsh Harp as well as a cabman knew the Strand." Time brought the Act of Parliament into force, and also an end to as pleasant an evening as it has been my lot to spend for some time.—PRIXE.

Dec. 6.

PRINCE OF WALES ANGLING SOCIETY. IMPORTANT NOTICE.

By the kind permission of Mr. Osmond, the visiting officer of No. 1. district of the West Central Association of London and Provincial Angling Societies, a complimentary visit will be paid to the Princess of Wales Angling Society, at their club house, the Prince of Wales, Great Barlow Street, High Street, Marylebone, W., on Thursday evening next, Dec. 15th, at nine o'clock when it is hoped a good muster will rally round, and give this young society a jolly good bumper. Those who attend will be highly amused, as several great favourites have promised their services.—F. ROBSON, sec.

ROYAL PISCATORIALS.

There was a very nice show of jack exhibited in this society on the 4th, about 50 lb. falling to the credit of Mr. T. Hughes, the largest fish turning the scale at 10 lb. and the smallest 7 lb.—PRIXE.

Dec. 6.

UNITED BROTHERS.

The members of the above society fished a pegged-down match at Chertsey on Sunday the 4th, but not one fish was taken among the whole lot. The old members will fish their postponed match on Sunday next, the 11th, weather and water permitting.—WILLIAM BELTON.

Dec. 6th, 1881.

WEST CENTRAL ANGLING SOCIETY.

The second quarterly match this season took place on Sunday last, Dec. 4, at Taplow, the following members being the winners:—Mr. T. Wood, 1st; Mr. W. White, 2nd; Mr. F. Beard, 3rd; Mr. W. Wilcockson, 4th; Mr. Wood and Mr. White being nearly a dead heat. The weights were small, as is generally the case in matches, but all the prizes were won. The monthly prize for January is a handsome writing desk for the largest jack, given by Mr. Summers.—R. I. BEARD, jun., sec.

December 5,

CONVICTION FOR TAKING UNDERSIZED FISH FROM THE RIVER LEA.

At the Magistrates' Court, Ware, on Tuesday, December 6, Henry Trees was summoned by R. Ghurney, fishery bailiff, of the River Lea Conservancy, under Clause II., Section T. of the Fishery Bye-Laws for unlawfully taking a fish from the river undersize, to wit, a pike or jack 8½ ins. G. Corble, Esq., clerk to the Lea Conservancy, attended to prosecute. Mr. High and G. Stevens, fishery bailiffs, gave evidence that on Sunday, November 20, they were on duty at St. Margaret's, they found the defendant on the garden of the Lock, in possession of a pike, measuring 8½ inches, they demanded his address. Mr. High had cautioned him some time months previous. The magistrates considered the case clearly proved, and fined the defendant 10s. and costs.—R. GHURNEY.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaits, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

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NOTICE.

WANTED by Mr. David Slater, Fishing Rod Manufacturer, Newark-on-Trent, the man G. Pattison, who called on him some little time since. The said G. Pattison is requested to communicate with Mr. D. Slater, with the view of giving him employment.

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Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1881.

CHRISTMAS ON THE THAMES.

CHRISTMAS time is generally regarded by jack and perch-anglers as the best period of the season for fishing, and many a piscator selects it as a time set apart specially by him for angling purposes, yet it scarcely appears right to leave the festivities of home to spend Christmas on the river. But, it may be, that many of those that do it, have not the home influences to attract them to their own firesides; no large family connections, and no absolute "keeping" of Christmas maintained.

Then one can understand the practice of their favourite sport at such a time, and enjoying the Christmas with perhaps a fisherman and his family for whom he has a friendly regard. I have been in that position myself, and therefore I can speak practically on the subject. My home was like an ordinary home at such a time, because one's friends lived at a very great distance. Besides, I was a single man with no prospects of a matrimonial alliance, as I had not up to that time thought of marriage—my brother had that issue before him, and went away at Christmas to discuss his turkey or goose with his young lady; my mother and sister preferred a quiet Christmas to themselves, and there was no objection to my going from home to have two or three days' Thames fishing, and spending the Christmas nights at the comfortable fireside of my old fisherman, which I did right merrily. The snug little cottage was on the river's bank, and near to the best jack-fishing ground on the Thames. At that time the railway communication was not so close as it is now. Anglers were about one where there are fifty now; and the number of fishermen was nothing nearly so great, and more of the type of the old school. I have spent many a happy Christmas on the river, and bagged many a good fish at that particular season. On the edge of the deep close to the fisherman's cottage, I have picked out many a handsome perch, and my memory has the glorious recollection of many a good day. It is fair to assume, then, that whilst others are nobly enjoying themselves with their wives and families at home, there are those who, from peculiar circumstances, can enjoy the holiday just as well on the Thames. I am a married man now, and would not leave my family at Christmas for all the fishing in the world, even if I had a chance to equal my friend Mr. Jardine, in the capture of a much larger pike than he possesses. I expect the professional fisherman is rather pleased than otherwise if he has the chance of piloting a good-hearted customer on Christmas Day, as it may enable him, when the day's fishing is over, to have the wherewith to provide more bountifully for his family at home, or, as it used to be in my case, to supply the best and prime portions of the evening spread. If the angler, on the one hand, is in full enjoyment of the day, and, on the other hand, it is his good pleasure to make the fisherman's home happy afterwards, it must indeed, be doubly gratifying to his feelings. It was so in my case, and we did not retire to rest very early at night. I think it used to be the small hours of the morning. Twenty-five years has been marked by strange alterations, such as time will naturally make—the freshness of youth and almost boyhood was then visible—but now it has got into the sere and yellow leaf; yet one may hope in the possession of the same feelings and the same desire to make people happy. The river at Christmas has now another generation upon it—the fisherman I used to go out with is still alive, and his boys of twenty-five years ago are men in the same profession, with homes of their own. The anglers are, for the greater part, new people, for nearly all of the old ones of my recollection have wetted their last line, or given up fishing nearly altogether; and increased railway accommodation has so augmented the number of anglers the river is not like it used to be for the quiet enjoyment of Christmas on the river. I am, perhaps, one of the oldest contributors to the FISHING GAZETTE, and therefore, at this particular time, it will be no presumption on my part to wish all its readers a very happy and joyous Christmas. If I have unwittingly offended any one, in correspondence or otherwise, I must ask their forgiveness—I certainly have had no desire to be unfriendly with any one; and, with the close of another year, I hope all will be forgotten, and we shall commence the new year, if spared, with "peace and good will." I cannot, however, conclude without sincerely wishing the new proprietors of the FISHING GAZETTE a happy and prosperous future and tendering my heartfelt thanks to Mr. R. B. Marston for all his kindness and courtesy in the past. B.

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING IN THE DOVE.

By R. B. MARSTON.

(Continued from page 514)

THE proper way to fish the water of the Dove which one gets the privilege of fishing free by staying at Mr. Prince's hotel, the Izaak Walton, is to walk down from the hotel to the road, go through the gate just above the bridge, and, keeping well away from the water, cross the meadow to the point where the Dove and Mainfold join. Then get into the water and carefully fish every feeding place of trout, or grayling swim. The rod I generally use now for fishing "up-stream" is one which I bought a year or two ago of Mudford, of Tiverton. It cost only a guinea, and is one of the best rods I ever used. Length eleven feet, in three joints; the butt is ash, the second joint greenheart, and the top lancewood. It tapers gradually from the point where the rod is grasped just above the winch, is too stiff to have the least double action about it, and yet has the springiness of steel.

For hard work there is no rod like a stiff one, it will throw as well or better than a limber one in a calm or with the wind, and against the wind is the only rod that will throw at all. In my opinion, a well made hickory or greenheart rod, with ash butt, and lancewood or jungle-cane top, is greatly to be preferred to the finest and most expensive split-cane rod. Blue mahoe wood is recommended by some rod makers, but it, like the glued-up cane rod has a great want of pluck and backbone. If cane is used at all, it should be whole, and of that almost solid kind used in making Thames trout spinning rods. The line I prefer is a fine hard eight-plait silk, waterproofed; or the American braided silk line, as made by Messrs. Carswell, of Glasgow. In consequence of inferior imitations these braided line have got a bad name, but if you can get the real thing, with the waterproofing on it properly dried and seasoned, you will be satisfied. The Manchester Cotton Spinning Company are, I am glad to say, now making silk lines, and I trust they will continue to do so. Silk is unquestionably by far the best material of which a line can be made; cotton is too light a material, and requires the very greatest care to prevent its rotting. A new "dressed" cotton line seems heavy and solid, but this is simply because it is covered with the india-rubber dressing; when this wears off, the line becomes light and limp and most vexatious to throw with. This is not the case with silk. If you take a hard-plaited undressed silk line and soak it, it shrinks and gets stiffer, and will cast with a refreshing straightness and spring; if you dress it with a good smooth waterproofing these most desirable advantages are enhanced. Some anglers use a line of plaited horsehair, or horsehair and silk plaited together, but these ancient affairs are rapidly going out of fashion, just as the hair cast is now only used by prejudiced anglers who find all manner of fancied advantages in it. I have tried every kind of line, and am certain that the best for trout fishing is an eight-plait smoothly waterproofed silk, not quite so thick as an ordinary hair pin, and of a sombre colour. I prefer them of even size throughout, and confine the taper to the gut cast. The gut-cast I make thus: length three yards; the first half of lengths of fine round whole gut, each strand becoming finer; to the finest of these I fasten a yard and a half of gossamer drawn gut, which may be obtained, in lengths of three yards, for the very small price of eightpence, of Mr. Bulmer, 62, Wandsworth Road, London. Before I saw Mr. Bulmer's advertisement in the GAZETTE I frequently paid a shilling and eighteenpence for lines not so fine. The best colour to dye a gut line is a pale smoky blue, and Mr. Bulmer gets this tint very nicely. Drawn gut is more expensive than whole gut, because it very soon wears out, and the only advantage it has is the inestimable one of superior fineness. The best way to fasten your gut-cast to the winch-line is to keep a piece of fairly stout gut spliced on to the end of the winch-line, and knot your casting-line to it with the water knot—the knot usually used for fastening gut strands together. I never use loops on the gut line, and the two dropper flies are secured in that best and neatest way, viz., by making a double knot at the end of the three-inch gut of the dropper, and passing it between a "water knot" before it is pulled tight. There is no danger with this plan, provided the angler does not leave ends on the water knots to pull open to change his flies; drawn gut will not stand this—I simply cut the gut close to the knot on each side of the dropper, tie a fresh knot, and so change my flies. When one has to pay ten or twenty pounds on the expenses of a fishing trip, it is very false economy to waste time unnecessarily for the sake of saving a few inches of gut. I have seen anglers waste half an hour or more in trying to recover a gut-cast from some unapproachable branch, perhaps when the fish were rising well all round; it is only excusable when the fish are not feeding, and even then the recovered collar is never trustworthy—the process of getting it down generally frays it or strains the knots. If I get fast I give a gentle pull in the direction of least resistance; if this is ineffectual I pull hard straight from the hand, to avoid straining the rod, and rig up a fresh collar. I can always trust my winch line not to break before the gut does, but it would never do to submit a hair or a hair and silk winch-line to such a test. The best winch for fly-fishing is one made of ebonite or bronzed brass, with a *silent* slight check action just sufficient to prevent overrunning. A loud-clicking check-winch is an abomination—you might just as well take an alarm with you to warn anglers that you are just ahead of them, and that if they want to fish undisturbed water they had better cross the hill and get ahead of you. I have no objection to other anglers using them. There is no objection to a multiplying winch if you once get a good one. I have used one old favourite for nearly fifteen years, and never yet lost a fish from any fault on its part; but the difficulty is to get a good one, mine was given to me by an angler who had read in some book that the writer's advice to all who had multipliers was to "give them away!" But a multiplier is unnecessary if you have a deep narrow plain winch with plenty of line on it, it will then wind-in sufficiently fast for most emergencies. Having thus, for the benefit of beginners in fly-fishing, described

what I have from long experience in every kind of trout stream found to be the most generally useful rod and tackle, I will now endeavour to describe what I have found the best way of using them on a small trout and grayling stream, and I call any stream small which can, like this upper portion of Dove, be easily waded across every now and then.

Entering the smaller stream, then, as described in a previous article, under the natural bower of branches, we come at once on a very pretty pool, divided by a clump of trees forming a little island in the centre. The stream on the right side is not of much account when the water is low, but its sister on the left is the very model of a trout cover. After rushing in impetuously from the long stream above, the water rests a little here, and eddies gently under the steep bank in a small semicircular bay formed by floods out of the soft earth. There must be trout here, in such a splendid feeding-place, with dead and living root cover in abundance. The eyes search carefully the clear still water, and suddenly become riveted to one spot; there, within two yards of you, is the monarch of the pool! a lusty, lazy three-quarter pounder, quietly sailing about, now rising gently to examine some floating speck, now resting almost motionless; he is absolutely looking at you, and you feel that he is already making up his mind to bolt like a dart into his cover. But no, the friendly bush screens you, and when he turns you gently stoop down and draw back to prepare for the battle and lay your plans for his capture. To throw your flies over him, would be just as effective as throwing your hat; the only chance is to get your flies well into the stream above him, and so manoeuvre them that one shall come within a foot of him. Letting out just sufficient line, you throw down stream, and hold the rod-point under water to soak the gut well; then, watching how the leaves and bits of stick work down, with the lightest jerk you lift the flies from the water, and with a quick wrist-motion, with the spring of the rod only, you send them to the desired spot, so that nothing but the gut collar and the top joint of the rod are to be seen by our unsuspecting friend. The flies fall into the current, the rod-point is moved gently to the left, and your little yellow dun—the middle fly—is sailing straight towards the quarry. In another second the rod-point is instinctively forced back and the tackle strained almost to the breaking point in your endeavour to turn his first rush, which, as you had rightly calculated, is to the roots deep down under the head of the little island. Checked within a foot of home! But not an instant must be lost, and before he has done shaking himself and showing you his lovely golden sides and white belly, you put on all you dare and force him with the current down the pool and down the next stream and out into the Manifold. Once out of his own pool he is all at sea and getting too exhausted to look for cover—a few faint rushes, and the little landing net is slipped deep into the water and brought up under him. After breaking his neck—for 'tis cruel work to let such a noble fellow gasp his life out—you splash through to the bank, light a pipe, and rest a bit. There is more sport in killing a trout out of a difficult place like this, with trees all over and round you and roots on every side, than in killing one twice the size in an open pool or stream. Before creeling him, you take a long grass stalk, bend it into a loop, pass it down his throat, give it a turn, and, generally speaking, if he has been dining recently, you will get plenty of evidence as to the nature of his repast; and your *post mortem* examination gives you the clue to the killing shade of fly.

The water above this pool is shallow stream, and except at dusk, when the fish drop down or run up from their holts to feed, it is useless to fish it. Passing this, then, we come to the corner of the field where the river makes a sharp right-angle turn round another island. Getting down from the high bank you step from a ledge of almost solid gravel as far as you can into the stream, and wade over to the middle, where there is an old tree stump stuck fast and directly under which the water rapidly deepens. I always caught or rose a fish at the end of the left-hand stream, and from the nature of the place you are compelled to throw down stream. The feeding place is in the slack water under the bushes on your left, and at the end of the straight run where the stream has silted the gravel up into a shallow and then gently ripples over it into a blue-looking narrow channel. I got into a nice fix here, for, after hooking a fish, in my excitement I forgot the deep drop just under me, and found I was going down over my fishing-boots. I instinctively leaned forward and grasped the tree stump, but the foothold was gradually giving way, and a snag caught under my waistcoat and regularly hung me up, with one hand engaged with the rod and the other grasping the stump. I soon found the water rising to within an inch of the top of my waders. There was nothing for it but to place the rod between two boughs and get free, which, after some minutes' desperate exertion, I managed to do. As I expected—the fish was gone. If I am not tiring my readers, I must reserve the rest of the lovely pools and streams for another article.

(To be continued.)



THE AVON AT FORDINGBRIDGE.



IBRESLEY.



THE AVON AT RINGWOOD (EVENING).

"AUTUMNAL LEAVES." *

"EVERYBODY knows Mr. Heath's fascinating books about ferns and forests," says one of our author's reviewers; and hence it will be needless for us to do more than indicate the especial features of the handsome new volume now before us. But first let us say that several of Mr. Heath's illustrations (with three of which we have been favoured for reproduction in this number of the FISHING GAZETTE) as well as part of the forest itinerary described in "Autumnal Leaves" have an especial interest (as we shall presently show) for our angling readers.

The especial object—the *raison d'être*—of "Autumnal Leaves" is suggested by its title. The exquisitely beautiful tinting of dying foliage—the "blossoming," as it has been very appropriately called, of autumn—has often been admired; but never before, so far as we know, has any writer attempted to, as Mr. Heath phrases it, "stereotype the beautiful but transient features of the season of autumn." Such a work, however, is a fitting task for the writer of "Sylvan Spring" and "The Fern World;" and here, in twelve exquisitely coloured plates, we have figures—which, in the best and most successful sense, are "nature-printed," and which look like natural leaves gummed on to paper—of more than 250 autumnal leaves and leaflets. Then there are some very beautiful page and vignette drawings, eighteen in all, by Mr. Frederick G. Short, of New Forest scenery, together with a series of initial-letter leaf designs by the author accompanying the second portion of the volume. The cover is also designed by the author, and the book—most tastefully and beautifully bound by Burn and Co.—is very novel and striking—autumn leaves, life-size, being printed upon it in colours. Altogether, then, it will be seen that Mr. Heath's newest volume is one of the handsomest books of the season, and is just the sort of book that an angler, who must, by instinct and training, be a lover of nature, would wish to present as a gift to his fiancée or sister, or, if he be married, with "other fish to fry," to his wife or daughters.

But for anglers there will be in "Autumnal Leaves," as we have said, an especial attraction, not merely in the author's descriptions, but in his illustrations of the River Avon. For your genuine angler there is always a fascination even in the sight of a river, and perhaps the next best thing to the actual water is a pretty picture of water. In "Autumnal Leaves" we have a description of the Avon Valley from Ringwood, by way of Ibbsley, to Fordingbridge. One of the little pictures, "On the Avon at Ringwood (evening)," is very pretty. Ringwood is the headquarters of Avon anglers. One can almost hear the splash of the trout as they (we are sure) are competing with the depicted swifts for the Avon flies, which are skimming the quiet surface of the stream. Here the river has the peculiarity in winter of forming ground ice. But it is its autumn aspect we are looking at and thinking of now, and the "Shades of Evening" remind one of the eels which ordinarily "bite" better then than during the daytime. There is, however, a day roving and feeding eel in the Avon, called the "Sniggle" (*Anguilla mediostrois*), which differs from its more common congener (*acutirostris*) in its slender form, and elongated under jaw as well as in the "day-feeding" peculiarity aforesaid.

Anglers, we are sure, will look with pleasure at the little vignette we reproduce of Ibbsley, on the Avon, up stream from Ringwood. We must not stop to quote Mr. Heath's sketch (though our readers would, we think, like it), from Ibbsley Bridge, of the river the water meadows, and the weir; but surely, if we may trust—and we honestly can—his descriptions, this little village ought to be a veritable paradise for the angler. Says Mr. Heath:—"The prettily-thatched cottages of this charming little village straggle picturesquely along the roadway on the same side as the church, their yellow-washed brick walls being almost hidden by ivy and other trailers, whilst the little front gardens, bordered by wooden railings, are bright with coloured blossoms—yellow and pink, and scarlet and crimson—windows peeping out from the deep cosy shelter of their amply-sufficient eaves. Near the hedge stand three enormous elms, which crown a sloping grassy bank that leads down to the water's edge."

Eels must have been very abundant in the Avon in William the Conqueror's day, for we learn from Domesday Book that the mills in the Avon valley paid rent in eels as well as in money. Ibbsley (Tibeslei) Mill, for instance, paid ten shillings in money and 700 eels as rent; Burgate (Borgate) ten shillings and 1000 eels; and Charford (Cerdeford) fifteen shillings and 1250 eels.

Going on up the Avon, we come to Fordingbridge, of the river at which place we also reproduce one of Mr. Heath's enticing pictures. Trout, grayling, pike, perch, roach and carp, are to be caught in the Avon at Fordingbridge, and though the fishing is all, or nearly all, preserved, permission can occasionally be obtained from Sir E. Halse and Mr. Coventry, the landowners.

* "Autumnal Leaves." By FRANCIS GEORGE HEATH. Author of "Sylvan Spring," "The Fern World," &c. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington.

We strongly advise Avon anglers to take Mr. Heath's book with them, and follow at the due time and season his up-stream itinerary, from Ringwood to Fordingbridge, along the Avon Valley; or, if they would like to buy it and give it to sweetheart or friend, they may be assured that they would find some difficulty in obtaining a handsomer or more elegant gift in the book way.

ESSAY ON THE SALMON DISEASE.

ITS NATURE, CAUSES, AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES.

By SIR JAMES R. GIBSON-MAITLAND, Bart., Craigend, Stirling.

[We have now the pleasure to present our readers with a copy of the Essay on the Salmon Disease, which won the FISHING GAZETTE Prize of £10 at the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich. The jurors spoke very highly indeed of this Essay, and we are very glad to have been the means of bringing out such useful knowledge on so important a subject. The idea of giving a prize arose in conversation with the late Frank Buckland, and he was to have assisted us in the matter, but his illness and death prevented it.—ED.]

THE nature of the disease which has recently prevailed among the salmon in the Tweed, Eden, and other rivers in England and Scotland, its causes, and possible remedies, will, I think, be best discussed by taking the Report of Messrs. Buckland, Walpole, and Young, and examining what is therein set forth, and supplying, so far as possible, the missing links from my own personal experience, chiefly obtained in carrying out extensive experiments with migratory and non-migratory salmonidæ.

The Parliamentary inquiry concerning the salmon disease was carried out at a considerable expense to the country, but the information elicited forms a very tangled web; and before a clear view of the facts now known can be obtained, the great mass of the evidence, consisting as it does of personal opinions and hearsay, must be thrown on one side.

The Commissioners have drawn up a short report, detailing the chief points brought before them, and regretting they were unable to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the cause or remedy.

Some of their conclusions, as we shall subsequently show, are controvertible; others can be admitted only with grave qualifications; so that they have furnished a very slight basis on which to formulate a theory.

The mass of evidence appended to the Report, and on which the latter is grounded, is of very unequal value. The range of observation, as well as the time bestowed on the research, has varied greatly among the different witnesses. The testimony of persons unaccustomed to habits of scientific thought is liable to be coloured by conclusions they have already formed on insufficient foundation; their evidence of facts may be valid, but their deductions are always unsound. Others, again, who are competent investigators, are in some cases biassed by preconceived and favourite theories which they are unwilling to abandon.

Great care is thus necessitated in the rejection as well as in the selection of portions of the evidence. No theory yet advanced, either of the disease itself or of its epidemical outbreak, is sufficient to meet all the known co-existent conditions of its appearance, and I shall in this essay try to lay a foundation of observed fact on which a theory may be built that will harmonise the diversified and seemingly contradictory circumstances under which the disease presents itself.

It is evident that no essay which merely embodies the substance of the Report can afford any satisfactory treatment of the subject; nor would a digest of the results of popular observations and letters to the daily press since the publication of the Report be of service. They are so frequently inadequate in detail, and misleading in tendency, that they serve too often only farther to increase the obscurity surrounding the question.

Any contribution to prove of real value, must be added by those who, with ample opportunities of thorough investigation, can bring a previous scientific education and devote much time to the investigation. We propose—

- I. Briefly to describe the appearance of the disease.
- II. To summarise the invariable conditions under which it appears.
- III. To examine the various statements promulgated.
- IV. To state our own views on the cause of the outbreak, based on our own experience, and to endeavour to show that they account for the phenomena.
- V. And finally to suggest remedies.

I. DIAGNOSIS.

The appearance of the disease when epidemic is chiefly remarkable for patches of fungus, *Saprolegnia ferox*, but there are

earlier symptoms in isolated cases which seem to have escaped the Commission, as I cannot find any mention of them in the evidence.

The first indication we have in the beginning of the season when in handling a, to all appearance, healthy fish is, that the scales feel dry and harsh to the touch; there is, in fact, an absence of the usual slime. The next symptom is, in the case of a male fish, on its being held up by the gills some liquefied milt in a very watery state flows from the fish; then the indurated spot, sometimes discoloured, appears between the pectoral fins; ulceration of the mouth and gill cover is frequently present, and a dark congested spot involves one or more of the gills; the fungus sometimes precedes, sometimes follows the ulceration of the mouth and gill covers; the fish frequently becomes blind, and in many cases show symptoms of acute suffering; the breathing becomes more rapid, and during the later stages of the disease spasmodic movements of the operculum are noted. I have found respiration as rapid as 104 per minute, and a spasmodic movement occurring once in thirty respirations twelve hours before death. The application of bay salt seems to occasion great pain; the fish, when not too weak, lies between the stream and the pool. Female fish, unless egg-bound, are seldom attacked with fungus at the beginning of the season.

II. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT APPEARS.

The only successful method I have yet discovered to produce the salmon disease is as follows:—

Take a few hundred large male fish, confine them in a deep pond where they have no opportunity of shedding their milt, starve them for a couple of months, when about two-thirds will die of salmon disease.

Take an equal number of hen fish, treat them in the same way, and the loss will probably be under 1 per cent. From this I think we may safely assume that the salmon disease can exist, and originate independently of the fungus, which in many of the sporadic cases is undoubtedly an aftergrowth.

Saprolegnia ferax is one of those fungi which propagate either by seed or cells. The cell is in diameter many times larger than the seed, and is probably always present at all times in all water; but there is this difference between the two modes of propagation—the cell is much more particular as to the soil on which it can root than the infinitesimal seed. Wherever there is dead fish matter in water, the fungus is sure to grow, but unless some scrape or sore form a suitable nidus, I very much doubt if it would grow from the cell on the back of a living fish.

It is probable that the oospores are fertilised by the actual penetration of the male spore, and in this fertilisation the secret of the epidemic probably lies. I mean, I consider the zoospore the cause of epidemic, the resting-spore the cause of the aftergrowth in the sporadic form of the disease, and the probable source of the centres of infection from which the epidemic spreads. The highest authorities consider the resting spores of the fungus are equally present in pure and in impure water; but my own experience is, that they do not germinate with equal facility in all water. Many fungi other than the *Saprolegnia ferax* hover banefully round salmon life from the egg to the grave.

First, the *algæ* and common *Saprolegnia* which attack the live egg; then the byssus, with a dead ovum as a *point d'appui*, piercing all surrounding eggs with its sharp-pointed hair-like threads; then the mucus destroying the fins of the hapless alevin; then the green frog-spittle netting the young fry by hundreds when the pools are low in summer; and, lastly, the salmon disease, with its long tail of commissions and reports. Well might Mr. Livingstone Stone say there was no word in the fish-breeders' vocabulary so connected with loss and devastation, there is nothing so insidious as fungus.

The local conditions under which fish are affected are very diversified, and we must not suppose that, because certain rivers are scheduled by the Commissioners as infected and others are stated in the evidence to be free, the disease has not existed from all time, and does not exist now, in all salmon rivers. This very season I have netted and destroyed salmon with the *Saprolegnia ferax* in one of our rivers whose watershed nestles a chain of the finest lochs in Scotland, and which, according to the evidence of the report of the Commission, has hitherto been free from disease.

I do not attach much weight to any theory based on the absence of disease in some rivers, and the presence of it in others; all we can feel certain of is that there are many where it has not assumed an epidemic form.

There is, however no satisfactory evidence of *Saprolegnia ferax* being found in other than fresh water; but it seems to affect the waters of America equally with Europe.

I think we may conclude with the Commission that the disease

has always existed, and has occasionally before now been epidemic.

III. STATEMENTS AND THEORIES.

We will now consider several statements made in the Report in the order of their occurrence:—

"The salmon affected by the disease bears a very different aspect from a fish unaffected by it."

We deny the universality of this assertion. The disease occurs in two forms, one self-originating and individual, the other external and epidemic. The statement is only accurate when applied to the latter, and even as regards the epidemic disease, the description following, commencing, "The scales are covered more or less by patches of fungus," on p. 5, down to "suffocation," line fourteen, p. 6, is not sufficiently precise, considering the twenty or thirty diseases of, and causes of death to, the *Salmonidæ* well-known to pisciculturists.

Mr. Livingstone Stone, in his "Domesticated Trout," gives twenty-three, which I will enumerate and explain where necessary.

1. Fungus on the egg (not byssus).—Its effect is to suck out the vitality of the embryo, and cause the production of a sickly fish.

2. Partial suffocation of the embryo.—This is generally the effect of sediment in the water, and it is in this way pollution causes the least seen and the greatest injury to our salmon stock.

3. Strangulation in hatching.

4. Blue swelling of the yolk sac.—Generally the result of want of vitality in the alevin.

5. Deformity at birth.—Caused by sediment clogging the shell.

6. Fungus on surface of the body.

7. Constitutional weakness.—Principally due to imperfect impregnation of the eggs. The vitality or energy of the milt is impaired if the cock-fish be kept an unusual time off the spawning-redds.

As constitutional weakness would undoubtedly form a predisposing cause to the salmon disease, I here mention two experiments.

First Experiment.—On the 24th November, 1879, about two ounces of milt was taken from a salmon early in the afternoon, being expressed into a glass jar which was kept uncorked all night in the watcher's cottage, and brought to me next morning with a crumpled piece of paper roughly stuffed in its mouth. The temperature of the air in the morning being below 20° Fahr., the cold had thickened the milt, and, before I could use it, it was thawed out with spring water. I then hybridised some trout eggs with the following result: An embryo formed in about 80 per cent., of the eggs; in 10 per cent. the formation stopped after the appearance of the embryotic line: the rest eyed, but in 20 per cent. the system of the yolk sac circulation failed to develop, the blood appearing in red patches, and in some cases the black eye spots were replaced by red dots. Out of the remaining 50 per cent., one-third died in the act or shortly after hatching. And I have now, sixteen months after the experiment, barely 10 per cent. of dwarf hybrids.

As I have been perfectly successful in all former experiments in hybridisation, the result is clearly due to the vitality of the milt having been impaired.

Second Experiment.—This one, though not in itself so important, has a more direct bearing on the question at issue. On the 14th of December, 1880, I had occasion to strip two lots of fish of different ages. The ova in both cases was just ripe, but the older males had shed a portion of their milt; the eggs were kept separate, and eyed in different hatching-houses. The impregnation obtained with the milt of the younger males was almost perfect, the loss being less than 7 per thousand; but with the older males, although the actual percentage of impregnation was probably as good, or nearly as good, fully 7 per cent. ceased to develop between the formation of the embryotic line and the formation of the second ring of the pupil of the eye. The obvious deduction being, that the vitality of the produce of fish kept long off their spawning redds is seriously impaired, for the number of delicate embryos that survive must bear a direct ratio to those of the same lot that prematurely succumb.

8. Emaciation.—This, in the case of young fry, is probably caused by the absence of suitable food suspended in the water, and is only the result of Mr. Livingstone Stone's next heading.

9. Starvation.

The next six causes of death are all of them closely connected with one or other of the external symptoms of the salmon disease.

10. Ulcers on the head.

11. Animal parasites.—Of these I only know three which attack externally. One shaped like a small worm about 1-80th

of an inch in length and 1-200th of an inch in diameter. Fungus generally grows over the surface infected by these parasites. There is also a small circular parasite which attacks young fish, but does not cause a fungoid growth. A third is described by Stone as having the appearance of small bunches of a jelly-like matter. This may possibly be a fungus. Salt is a cure for these three. I have also noticed several internal parasites, especially in trout from Loch Ard, a small lake on the borders of Perthshire, draining into the Forth.

12. Fin disease.—Generally caused in the first instance by injury to the fin. Fungus freely grows on this. In very young fry the pectoral and dorsal are usually affected.

13. Black ophthalmia.—This disease is common, but not contagious. It attacks all ages.

14. Irritation of the optic nerve.—Probably caused by strong light and absence of shade.

15. Inflammation of the gills.—Most common with *Salmo Fontinalis*. Deep water is probably the only remedy.

16. Black gill fever.—Supposed by some pisciculturists to be contagious; it is very rapid and very fatal.

17. Fatty degeneration of the vitals.

18. Spotted rash.—I never had an opportunity of observing either of the above diseases.

19. Strangulation by food.

20. Cannibalism.

21. Over-heating.—I do not think the temperature of water ever rises in Great Britain too high for *Salmonidæ*.

22. Suffocation.—This is possible in summer in an overcrowded pool, but I do not think it likely to occur unless the free oxygen in the water be diminished by pollution.

23. Paralysis.—I have never known this attack other than very young fry.

In addition to the above may be enumerated the diseases incident to the spawning season:—

1. Induration of the neck of the ovary.

2. Penetration of water into the ovary.—This renders the eggs incapable of fertilisation, and frequently causes inflammation.

3. Retention of milt.—This is always accompanied by inflammation of the milt sac. It is fatal, the fish frequently dying even before getting fungussy.

4. The sporadic salmon disease.

5. The epidemic disease *Saprolegnia ferax*.

Besides the above, many fish die from the effect of accident, hook, or spear, which would in most instances become covered with fungus before death. It thus becomes absolutely necessary to distinguish carefully the precise evidence regarding fish undoubtedly infected with the disease, from the loose statements of a number of fungussy fish being in the water.

Returning to our Report, we find on page 6 "the internal viscera of diseased fish do not in general materially differ from the internal viscera of undiseased fish in a similar stage of existence, though in some cases the livers of diseased fish are pale, and break down easily under the finger."

This may be admitted where the disease is epidemic, but where it is sporadic and self-originating must be denied *in toto*, as, besides the induration between the pectoral fins as before mentioned, the liver is scisted, blotched, discoloured, and frequently congested in parts.

As regards the symptoms affecting live fish, I have watched a number of cases, from the fish first appearing loggy and out of sorts, to death, from two to eight days afterwards.

In a sporadic case the first suspicion of the disease is raised by the position of the fish, and the particular part of the water it betakes itself to. Instead of lying in a pool when not on the spawning redd, the fish seeks a deep steady current, from which I infer the blood to be deficiently oxygenised.

In from one to four days blotches of fungus appear, and the movement of the gills becomes more rapid. If the fish is now taken out and exposed to a solution of salt and water it will exhibit signs of the most acute agony, writhing and dashing itself against the sides of the tub. Similar symptoms exhibit themselves on the fish being rubbed with salt and returned to the pool. The fish generally dies after this treatment, and the fungus always.

In the epidemic form the fungus itself forms the first symptom. As spring advances the disease runs its course with much greater rapidity. I have known a fish die within forty-eight hours of the first attack. The fish turned belly upwards six hours before death, and the inspirations rose to 104 per minute. One of the spots to the side showed red flesh, but I was unable to ascertain whether from an ulcer or from the flesh having been rubbed off. In some of my water the disease became epidemic several times in 1879, but in each case the epidemic disappeared, *i.e.*, no fresh case was seen, after the application of a few hundredweight of bay salt, and some fish slightest affected actually recovered.

The above experiments were conducted with large trout. I have frequently known fungus on the fins, quite distinct from the salmon disease.

I do not agree with Mr. Erasmus Wilson's statement, that the parts most affected were those most distant from the centre of circulation. I freely admit that the fins are a more favourable ground to cultivate fungus upon than the skin of the fish, but a spot is almost always present above and slightly behind the pectoral fin.

It is not generally known that many *algæ* are, up to a certain stage of growth, absolutely harmless to fish life in water, and it becomes an important point for inquiry under what condition fungi becomes dangerous: and I think Mr. J. P. Moore has covered the ground of this inquiry, perhaps unintentionally (see extract of the Report, page 9, line thirty-eight):—"Either zoospores or resting spores germinate, though the latter are undoubtedly intended to play the principal part and serve to carry over the specie from one season to another. The disease is known as *Saprolegnia ferax*. Wherever there are wounds, or whenever the circulation is weak from any cause, and the nutrition consequently slow, the attack is most likely to begin."

Very true for the sporadic cases; now for the epidemic. Zoospores and resting spores both germinate, but the former has an immense numeric superiority over the latter, and that alone would seem to make it more likely to be the cause of the disease in its epidemic form. The zoospore, moreover, is bisexual; the germination of its seed depends upon the penetration of an impregnation by the male spore. It requires, before it can fructify, direct contact with one of the most fragile and delicate substances in nature; and I believe the action of the bay salt in the last-mentioned experiment was to destroy the fertilising power of the male spore, for the salt must have borne an almost homœopathic proportion to the vast quantity of water in which it was diluted, and it is natural to suppose that the most delicate factor of the disease was the first, if not the only one, to succumb to its influence.

Personally, I believe that although the club-shaped egg-spores are continually developing, the conditions—aquatic, atmospheric, thermal, and solar—under which these fungus eggs are generally fertilised, are rare indeed; and that when favourable conditions of water, air, heat, and light co-exist, an epidemic, of greater or less severity, will always appear in every water where the sporadic form of the disease exists in a sufficient degree to form centres of infection.

I will now consider the addendum to the Report of the salmon disease by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, which is signed by Mr. Buckland alone, and not by the other two Commissioners. Under eight heads he classes the causes to which the disease and its spread have been attributed in the evidence received by the Commission.

1. POLLUTIONS.

Although the salmon disease appears unconnected with pollution, yet its effect is to render unsuitable the lower spawning beds, and probably to weaken the embryo and fry in many portions of the river.

2. LOWNESS OF WATER, &c.

Lowness of water caused by excessive land drainage is a factor, in so far as, in some seasons, it will keep the fish longer off their spawning beds; and the older cock-fish, which seem more susceptible to the disease than any other, will, especially if weakened by having to remain long in fresh water before they shed their milt, become very liable to disease, and this applies in a less degree to the Forth district, although mitigated by the water sent down from Loch Vennachar.

3. EFFECTS OF FROST AND SNOW.

Frost and snow undoubtedly predispose to disease by causing the retention of the fish in the lower waters.

4. OVERSTOCKING.

The evidence of overstocking seems to be confined to the south-west of Scotland, and I am afraid was only put forward in the mistaken interests of the net fishers. The statement at the end of this paragraph, page 20:—"In confirmation of the fact that overcrowding of fish will produce fungus growth, it is important to note that (as all breeders of salmon by artificial means know only too well), when the young salmonidæ have attained a certain growth, if they are too crowded in the hatching troughs, they at first breathe with difficulty, and ultimately die, with the gills propped widely open by a growth of fungus."

I do not know what is considered overcrowding by all breeders of salmon, but I do know that twenty thousand fry can be kept in a box 6 feet by 9 inches by 1 foot 7 inches for three months and a half after hatching, with an average temperature of the

water of 45° Fahr., its depth being five inches, and the quantity of water passed through being two gallons per minute.

Fry die from dirt and from starvation, but not from overcrowding. Of course, the secret lies in so large a quantity of fish preventing any dirt lying at the bottom of the box and fouling the water.

5. OBSTRUCTION BY WEIRS.

This favours both forms of the disease—sporadic, by keeping the males off the spawning redds; epidemic, by collecting the lean and ill-favoured kelts, so that they can hardly by any means escape infection if it exists at all.

6. DEAD FISH.

Dead and dying fish tend to spread the disease in an obvious manner, and should of course be removed.

7. INJURIES INFLICTED BY FIGHTING OR BY ANGLERS.

These would subject the fish to the ordinary action of the resting spores of the *Saprolegnia ferax*, but could in no case be said to form an epidemic.

8. BIRDS.

[Crows and rooks eat freely of diseased fish, but I do not think any danger need be anticipated from this source.

IV. STATEMENT OF MY OWN VIEWS.

The result of my own experience of the disease is, that it appears in a twofold character. One, isolated and of no commercial importance, present more or less every season in every spawning stream. The other, of serious importance, uncertain in its extent, widespread in some waters, officially unknown in others; probably the murrain among fish frequently mentioned by old Scotch writers.

The principal thing in common to the two forms being the *Saprolegnia ferax*, a fungus, a-sexual, and bi-sexual, and whose malignity may possibly be measured by its mode of propagation.

We find in nature the proportion of unfertilised eggs in salmonidæ to be very great, and it is probable that the fertilisation of a complicated fungus like the *Saprolegnia ferax* is, under ordinary circumstances, infinitesimally small.

I therefore unhesitatingly attribute the late outbreak of the salmon disease to the co-existence of a large number of sporadic cases with the subtle conditions favourable to the bi-sexual propagation of the *Saprolegnia ferax*.

V. THE REMEDIES.

The remedies to be suggested are obvious. They are few, simple, and sufficient; they require no great expense; but I am afraid, in the eyes of our salmon legislators, they have one great and grievous drawback, containing as they do the virtual admission that our much vaunted salmon legislation, which has stripped the upper proprietors of their rights and of privileges exercised from time immemorial, is in a great measure responsible for the late virulent outbreak of the salmon disease. I admit it has multiplied stake-nets on shore, and has added bag-nets to stake-nets, until the gravid salmon which escapes these engines is debarred from entering even the brackish water of the estuary; until the finest part of the spawning season is already far advanced, and any impediment—be it caused by frost and snow or by weir and low water—finds the male fish overpressed by a vital fluid they cannot discharge to the zoosperms, to which the very slightest admixture of water is death; while every day of delay weakens the muscles and emaciates the fish, the re-absorbing power of the glands becomes less, and the milt passes from the consistency of butter to cream, and from cream to milk, and from milk to an abominable watery white fluid, incapable of supporting life.

The zoosperms die and decompose; the induration between the pectoral fins commences; the mouth ulcer follows; and the dry skin, itself a suitable nidus for fungus; blotch after blotch appears, and here and there a bleeding sore on the operculum; the gills congest, and the breathing becomes rapid; and the fish, if not long ere this a prey to the poachers' gaff or the landing net of the river watcher, lies on its back spasmodically breathing its last in any still pool where the current of the stream may have cast it. It has died, but its work of destruction is not over. The egg-spores thrown up by its fungus sides burst, filling the water with myriads of active spores, capable of generating on any living surface within the water, and with resting spores, endowed with such vitality that neither heat nor cold prevent their germinating wherever a wound or sore presents a suitable ground for their fatal mycellium.

The first remedy I would suggest is, to forbid by law any bag-net to be added to a stake-net; I see no reason why both should not be legal separately, though I much fear, until our

rivers are barren of salmon, it will be difficult to persuade the Legislature that together they are destructive to the food of the country, and prevent what is now the luxury of the rich becoming the common sustenance of the poor.* I would empower Fishery Boards to legalise the capture of all kelts, especially male kelts, after an early date, always having in view the probability of the kelts reaching the tidal water before they have eaten their heads off in the matter of smolts.

The second remedy I would suggest, and it is a very efficacious one, is to empower Boards to obtain loans for the purpose of spawning and artificially hatching the ova of any large quantity of salmon which may be detained from reaching their natural redds by caulds in conjunction with the lowness of the water. The spawned fish would turn seawards, and be for a much shorter time under the range of infection.

Obstructions in the sea should be reduced, that salmon are not made later year by year; obstructions in the river should be utilised to increase the stock of salmon and decrease the number of days foul fish are in fresh water.

THE POTOSI CIGARS.

A SAMPLE-BOX of Potosi cigars, made from tobacco grown at Potosi, St. Thomas, has been sent us by Messrs. Gaspard, Bell and Co., agents for the manufacturers, Messrs Thompson and Weitzmann, of Kingston, Jamaica. At first we did not quite take to the somewhat peculiar flavour of Jamaica tobacco, which is quite distinct from that of the Havannah or the Manilla tobacco. Perhaps we were unfortunate enough to get hold of the wretched Dutch tobacco which has been sold in this country as Jamaica tobacco. However that may be, certain it is that the cigars manufactured by Messrs. Thompson and Weitzmann are vastly superior; indeed, at the price, they are the best cigars in the market. We do not say they equal in flavour the best Havannah, but one hardly expects that at the price—while they are in every way better than the ordinary foreign cigar sold at the same price. The flavour grows on one gradually, and we think any smoker who gets a genuine Potosi will acknowledge he cannot get an equally good cigar of any other kind at the price.

THE INFLUENCE OF ARTIFICIAL CULTURE ON THE SPAWNING-TIME OF TROUT.

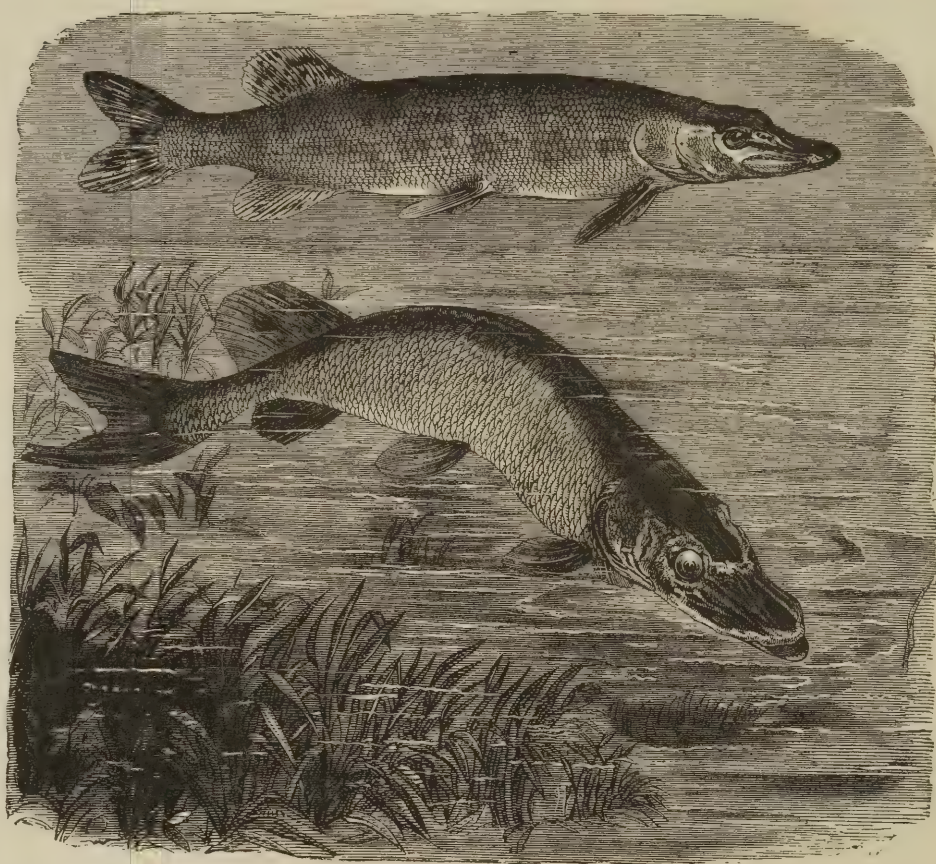
IN that capital little paper, the *German Fishing Gazette*, we see a communication from Herr Müller-Tschischdorf, which deserves general notice. Mr. M. is one of the foremost pisciculturists in Germany. Here is a translation of what he says:—

"This year the spawning of the trout in my brooks here (in Silesia) has occupied fully five weeks. It becomes more apparent year by year that the artificial culture has brought about a change. Before I began putting in artificially bred young trout, the spawning time was divided into two periods: part of the fish spawned generally at the beginning of October, occupying from 9 to 10 days; then the rest spawned, earlier or later according to the temperature. If frost set in early, they soon spawned; but if the weather continued mild, the spawning occupied a long time. The first to spawn were brighter in colour, and had more of a reddish tint; while the others were darker, and the white parts appeared blacker.† Now we find the fish come up to spawn in one body, and this last season, again every day for five weeks fish could be seen on the spawning-beds. A consequence of this has been that fish which spawned last have used the same spawning-beds as those which spawned earlier. That the spawn first deposited is thus lost, there can be no doubt; this, however, cannot be avoided. On the whole, this change is advantageous; for if, during the first period of the former spawning time, a flood occurred, then as a rule all the eggs were lost. The eggs of the second period were open to a like fate. Now, if we get a flood in the first part of the five weeks, it only carries part of the eggs away, and as soon as the flood subsides other trout come up and spawn."

* It ought to be mentioned that the late Mr. Buckland, and Mr. Archibald Young, in their report of 1871 on the effect of recent legislation on the Salmon Fisheries in Scotland, make the following recommendation with regard to fixed nets on page 34 of the Report:—7th. That no stake or bag nets should be allowed within half a mile of the mouth of any river, and that in certain cases they should be removed to a distance of two miles; that no fixed engines should be permitted between the mouths of rivers that fall into the sea close together; that some restriction should be put upon the number of stake and bag nets along a certain stretch of coast; that the junction of stake and bag nets should be prohibited; that the present position and number of fixed engines should be officially registered; and that no further additions to their number should be allowed."

† This sounds like a bull, but any one who has seen trout out of condition will know it is perfectly correct—the whites appear as though sprinkled with black specks.—ED. F. G.

SEE NOTICE OF CASSELL'S "NATURAL HISTORY."

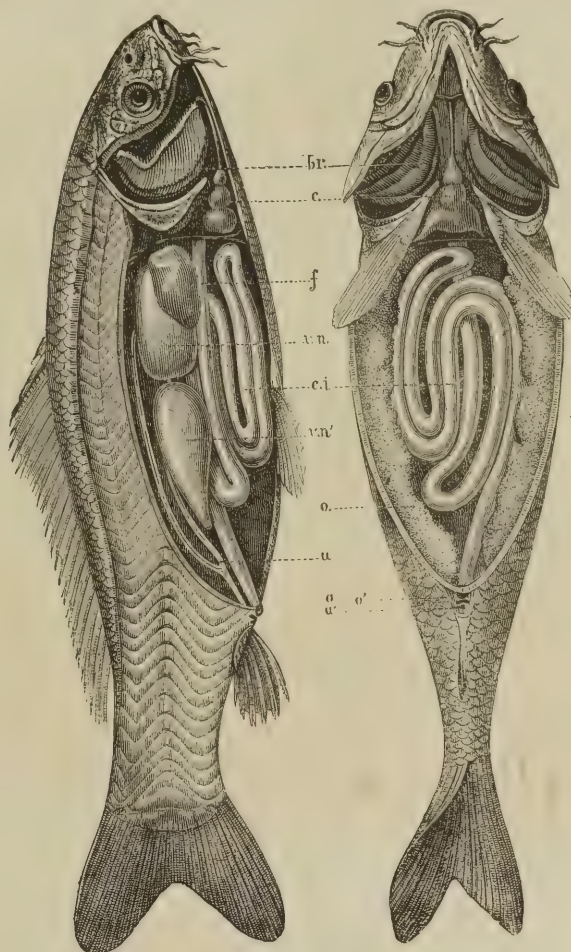


THE COMMON PIKE.



THE ROACH.

SEE NOTICE OF CASSELL'S "NATURAL HISTORY."



INTERNAL ANATOMY OF THE CARP.

br, branchiæ, or gills; *c*, heart; *f*, liver; *vn*, *vn'*, swimming bladder; *ci*, intestinal canal; *o*, ovaries; *u*, urethra; *a*, anus; *o'*, oviduct.



THE CRUCIAN CARP.

A SPLENDID BOOK ON FISHES.

OF the preceding volumes in this magnificent work on natural history, we have spoken very highly. We have now the pleasure to introduce to our readers the fifth volume, from which the publishers have lent us a few specimens of the very fine and very numerous illustrations. The first part of this volume is devoted to Fishes, and is by Professor H. G. Seeley, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. Then follow divisions devoted to the *Invertebrata* (animals without backbones), with an introduction by the Editor; the *Mollusca*, by H. Woodward, F.R.S., &c. (octopus, squid, cuttlefish, nautilus, shell-fish of all kinds, snails, oyster); the *Tunicata*, by H. Woodward ("sea squirts," and other ascidians); the *Molluscoida*, by Agnes Crane (the mantle-breathing bivalves, *Branchiopoda*, and the moss animals, *Bryozoa*). The *Insecta*, with introduction by W. S. Dallas, F.R.S.; divided into the *Coleoptera*, by H. W. Bates, F.L.S. (beetles), and the *Hymenoptera*, by W. S. Dallas, F.L.S. (wasps, bees, ants, &c.)

The section on fishes, by Professor Seeley, will naturally be of most interest to anglers. It comprises about 150 pages, and has some 100 illustrations of fishes, most of them being exceptionally good. As a work of reference on fishes, this part will be found invaluable to students, and the general reader cannot fail to find much matter of great interest respecting the piscine inhabitants of the world's fresh and salt water. We confess we are a little disappointed that in a scientific description like this of the life and habits of fish, very scanty notice is taken of the important question of the various spawning times, the nature of the spawn, whether adhesive or non-adhesive; the places preferred by various fish for its deposit, &c. There are also some palpable errors; for instance, of the grayling, it states that "it reaches a length of ten inches." We have caught them nearly twice this length. Of the pike it is gravely recorded that "this fish is well known to travel over land, and annual migrations of the fish have been recorded. They come in the spring in great shoals out of the Isle of Ely into the River Cam." Some old college chum must have been making fun of Professor Seeley. We cannot help thinking the Professor must have meant to refer to the eel, though even in the case of this snake-like fish, there is no really trustworthy evidence that it travels over land. Elvers, or young eels, will swarm up a wet floodgate to get to the water above; but we have always considered the stories of eels leaving the water in search of frogs and slugs, and bean and pea fields, as unauthenticated. If you catch an eel, and let him go free on the grass he will make very fair progression away from you, but a pike simply flops about and gasps, like any other "fish out of water." Here is another statement that will amuse our pike-fishing friends: "The pike often sleeps, or remains in an unconscious state, in quiet parts of rivers. When thus dozing, it may be taken with a kind of noose"! fortunately, poachers can also be taken before a magistrate. It is ungracious, perhaps, to take notice of such little slips as these, which will, doubtless, be corrected in a second edition. As a whole, Professor Seeley's work is well and most carefully done, and we think if Messrs. Cassell were to issue his "Pisces" as a separate work, with a few corrections, it would, with its attractive illustrations, have a large sale. A good index should be added. With regard to the illustrations we give from the work, they will speak for themselves, we think. The only fault we can find is that in the picture of the pike the artist has made the skin marks of the lower of the two fish too much to resemble large scales. On a future occasion we shall hope to quote some of Professor Seeley's curious and interesting facts relating to the natural history of the rarer sea fish, the wonderful sea-horse, the walking or climbing fish, the sea scorpion, the sea devil, the octopus, the squirter, &c.

The sections devoted to the molluscs, shell-fish, insects, beetles, wasps, bees, &c., are particularly well done. It would be difficult to find a volume of more permanent value than this, and as a present it could not fail to be acceptable to any one who is a follower of old Izaak. How he would have revelled in such a book.

THE SPORTSMAN'S EXHIBITION.

We have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the approaching Sportsman's Exhibition, which will be held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, in February next. On our outer sheet will be found a detailed list of the Patrons and classification of the Exhibition. It will be seen that it comprises the names of the leading aristocracy and gentry of the United Kingdom, and we trust we are committing no breach of confidence in stating that it is confidently anticipated that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will accept the post of President and Patron. Under such auspices, and with such an excellent prospectus, we have no doubt that this Exhibition will be an unqualified success.

A YULE-TIDE FRAGMENT.

A YARN IN THE HIGHLANDS.

BY THE "TRENT OTTER."

"A PENNY for your thoughts!" The abruptness of this remark startled me from the midst of a deep reverie; and I glanced at my companion, who had been sitting on the opposite side of the fireplace. He was just then drawing up his long limbs that had been stretched across the hearth; and had seized the poker, preparatory to giving the fire a vicious thrust or two by way of emphasis to his remark. The speaker, a fine-looking man in the very prime of life, and your humble servant, were on a visit to an old friend of his, in the land of cakes, heather, and glorious sport, bonnie Scotland; and on this particular night we were seated in a small but comfortably furnished room, that had been assigned to us as our sitting-room and private sanctum during our stay. On a sideboard, by the window, three or four fishing-rods stood, while on the table in the centre of the apartment, tackle, and the various appliances peculiar to a jack-fisherman, were scattered, plainly showing the chief object of the visit. We had been repairing and arranging some of the said tackle, in readiness for the morrow, and were then gazing dreamily into the fire, watching the fantastic shapes conjured up in the fitful flames, and indulging in a fit of deep abstraction, when, "A penny for your thoughts, old man!" suddenly startled me. "Well," I answered, "I don't know whether the penny would be a very profitable investment or not, if laid out in the article just asked for; but I am sadly afraid it would be a dead loss to the purchaser. However, I was thinking that the sport of these last two days was hardly good enough, considering what we had expected; and as we have only two more days to stop, unless something else turns up, it will be a grievous disappointment. I cannot help thinking that, that old sinner, Archie MacTavish, has been leading us astray. I believe he knows very well where there are some good fish, only he takes us in an opposite direction, and then pretends to be so sorry, because we cannot get hold of a good one or two." "Well, to tell you the truth," answered my companion, "my thoughts were running in the same direction; eight fish in two days, and the biggest not quite 6 lb. Tell you what, old man, we shall have to try and get the blind side of Mr. Archibald MacTavish; but how? that is the question we shall have to consider, and that quickly." This said Archie MacTavish was the keeper on the estate owned by the friend of my companion, and was a fine sturdy old Highlander—tall, and broadly built, still strong and active, though his hair was silvered with the frosts of nearly threescore winters; in fact, to look at, he was a grand picture of a Scotch keeper. But he had one very serious drawback, as a sort of a set-off to his looks; he was a gruff, surly old piece of goods, whose rugged face never relaxed into a smile. Up to then, although we cracked our best jokes, and told our queerest tales, he looked upon us with no degree of favour. Indeed, only about an hour or so before, I had overheard him, in a sort of confidential communication to one of the house-servants, describe us as a couple of Sassenach fellows, who had no business catching his pike; whatever he might mean by that outlandish Scotch term I do not know. It boots not state the exact locale where we were having our sport. I should very much like to mention the place, and give a description of the surrounding scenery, but I am forbidden to name it; and so it is enough to say that the mansion is situated in the midst of a scene of natural beauty, within easy walk of a grand river and loch; and the estate itself is dotted over with some splendid sheets of water, connected with each other by a small stream. We were given to understand before coming that we could get any quantity of live baits; but the keeper said he had tried, but could get none for either love or money, and his master, on turning us over into his hands, gave him the injunction that he was to find us the very best sport he could, an order which, up to then, he had totally disregarded. On stepping out with him that morning, a proposition that we should go in the opposite direction to the one taken the previous morning, was instantly negatived by that surly old retainer, with the remark, "that it was nae gude gangin' that way, for we shoed catch naething but poonders"—a remark tendered in the very broadest of Scotch; and he forthwith strode off, and we had nothing else to do but to follow him, and trust to our own experience, and the result was, as my friend has said, eight small fish in two days. And now, I think, my readers have got at the bottom of our very serious meditations, which were giving us just then some little difficulty to get over satisfactorily. At last my friend sprang to his feet, and the light of a sudden inspiration shone in his eyes, as he exclaimed, "I have it! the simplest thing in the world, the only wonder is that I did not think of it before; give me my portmanteau," from an inner recess of which article he produced two glass bottles marked "whiskey." "This is the stuff," he added, "to smoothe the way up here in the

north. Let's make a real strong whiskey toddy, and get that gruff old block of ice up here, and see if we cannot thaw him a bit." The necessary articles were soon forthcoming from the kitchen, and a grand bowl of punch was soon steaming on the table. While my friend was giving it the finishing stroke, in the shape of a good stirring, I went in search of Archie. I soon found and inveigled him up into our sanctum on the pretence of looking at some grand salmon flies. The toddy was introduced there and then, and under its influence the rough old Celt gradually thawed, and in a short time we became the best friends imaginable, and passed some hours in roaring style, finishing up about two in the morning with "Auld Lang Syne;" and the end of it was, that after we had once got him to come out of his shell, he became the very king of good fellows, and gave us some fine sport the next day. For on stepping out the next morning he had two or three dozen fine live baits in a big can, which he informed us he had been able to procure after a lot of trouble after our previous day's sport, a remark which, it is hardly necessary for me to say, we did not believe, although we did not tell him so. Some grand bits of jack-water we fished that day, and at night, when we went home, we carried with us a dozen fine fish, one brace of which together bumped the scale at something considerably over 40 lb. A grand bag of pike and a day's sport that only falls to the lot of ordinary mortals about once in a lifetime in these degenerating days, to say nothing of the splendid scenery and the bracing weather we had enjoyed. Although it was the day before Christmas Eve, and so far up in the north, there had not been sufficient frost to bind the pools with an icy chain, but just enough to sharpen the appetites of the pike, and make them take a bait as though they meant it, even then, so late in the year. The scenery of the surrounding country was grand, and I wished I could have been there in the very height of its autumnal beauty, and seen it in all its glory, with its long stretches of wavy moorland covered with dark green heather, spotted with purple bells, and the tall bracken, whose feathery arms swayed slowly to and fro in the heather-scented breeze; whilst here and there a hillock, under which nestled a stretch of green sward, inviting the sportsman to rest awhile and eat his mid-day lunch, and admire the blended landscape of colour, all growing brown and golden under the burning gaze of the autumn sun; while far away, on the one hand, he could just see the valley with its river and lochs, Scotland's glory and Scotland's pride; while, on the other hand, almost hidden by the horizon, were the rugged summits and fir-clad slopes of the Highland line. A beautiful picture, but alas, a fancy one; for rude Boreas, with its winter storms, had changed the scene, swept the purple bells from the heather—the trees stood up gaunt and leafless, like ghostly sentinels, and the landscape was covered with a light mantle of snow. Changed it was, but beautiful still, even in its winter garb; but ah! how I should like to see it in the glory I have just now faintly tried to portray. And the water! could an angler, cooped up for weeks in our modern Babylon with nothing to see but seemingly endless rows of bricks and mortar, and nothing to hear but the ceaseless roll of wheels, be suddenly transported to its banks, and listen to the silvery music of the little stream as it so pleasantly ripples along, pausing every now and then for a quiet swirl under some big bush or round the trunk of some fallen tree, pausing for a moment, and then to skip away with a laugh and a dance over some brilliant shallows till it is lost in the broader expanse of a large pool with its deep and quiet waters; to reappear again further on, to ripple along, and again get lost in another of those pools for which that estate is so famous—could our London working-man angler see this, a sweet contentment would steal over his piscatorial soul, for it is a very angler's Paradise. But hold, I shall soon be treading on forbidden ground, and giving a clue to the locality; and so I will only say that, in the whole course of my piscatorial wanderings, I never saw a series of jack-waters to beat them. And then, what historical associations do these Scotch localities call to mind, for after we had left our kind host, and had paused for a few minutes in our journey south, under the very shadow of Ben Lomond, and looked at the quiet scene down the glen and across the waters of that famous loch, and up to the summit of that giant mountain. I could not help saying to my companion, "Can this be the place of which the poet wrote:—

"Proudly our pibroch has thrilled through Glen Awe,
And Bannochur's groans to our slogan replied;
Glen Luss and Rosdhu are smoking in ruin,
And the pride of Loch Lomond lies dead by her side."

(I have quoted from memory, and I am not sure about the spelling.) But this is a sad digression. And now to our fishing. As we had had such splendid sport the day before, we did not care the next morning whether we went out or not. But after breakfast, Archie informed us that there was one grand pike pool we had not tried, and so we determined to have an hour or two in it. As we were going, we noticed a change in the weather.

The sky became overcast, and we had only just got settled to our fishing, and landed a brace of good jack, when it began to snow heavily. We stuck to it for another hour or so, and landed another brace of jack, but nothing so big as on the previous day; and then we determined to make tracks for home, and spend the intervening hours of our stay by examining our host's splendid collection of trophies of the chase, and other natural curiosities, which he had collected, during a long life, from many climes.

"Christmas Eve," said our host, with a sigh, as we sat, an hour or two after the events just narrated, in one of the grand old rooms of that mansion. "'Tis many a long year, and many a Christmas day has come and gone, since accident led my wandering footsteps to this locality, to live here, and, I hope, to die here. I suppose," added the old man, "it is hardly necessary for me to tell you that all these trophies, specimens of stuffed animals and fish, and other curiosities, that you see hung around and scattered about the room, have each and all a special history, the relating of which would occupy many hours. This"—and he pointed to a long scar that extended from his temple to his chin—"was done by that brute, when alive," and he indicated a glass case that contained the head of a magnificent Bengal tiger. "You see that fish,"—and as he spoke he pointed to a case containing a splendid specimen of a preserved pike—"I value that case above anything in the house, for that fish brought me my fortune and my bonny wife. Nearly fifty years have flown away since that fish swam free in its native lake, and I, a man young and strong, with knapsack on back and staff in hand, tramped this way, on pleasure bent. Ah! I shall never forget my first impressions on standing outside yonder by the old fir-trees, and looking at the beautiful scenes that spread on every hand, a living panorama. Through the foliage of the trees I could see this mansion, and the expanse of waters that glittered in the August sunshine, while away on the right thin spirals of blue smoke rose slowly into the air from a cluster of thatched stone cottages that formed the village from which this house takes its name; while, in a light boat, floating dreamily along on the bosom of the sheet of water to the left of the house, sat a young girl in a very pensive attitude. All this I saw, and it formed a picture that I have never forgotten; but suddenly the little boat struck against some hidden object, and the next moment its occupant was in the water struggling for dear life: to dash up, to fling off my knapsack and coat, and plunge in, was but the work of a few seconds, and in another few seconds I brought the dripping damsel safe to shore. This was the beginning of a friendship that soon ripened into love; and from that date I was happy, wandering about where I liked with my rod, with none to say me nay. In the lake, from which I had rescued my future bride, lived a big pike, that up to then had baffled all attempts to capture him. When I learned the existence of this gentleman, I determined to have him if he existed. For a long time I was unsuccessful. My most enticing baits were taken time after time, and every time I went home I was met with the remark, "Have you got him?" A peal of silvery laughter from my fair tormentor always followed the shake of the head with which I answered the query. One day she made a rash bet, so very confident had she become that the big pike was not to be taken; for, in answer to a query of mine: "What will you bet me that I don't catch him in a fortnight?" she said, "I will stake my life against half-a-dozen of the best kid gloves, so confident am I that you will never catch him." "Done," said I, and sealed the bargain in a moment. From that very hour, I felt that that fish was my standing disgrace, and spared no pains in order to circumvent him. It matters not the exact methods I tried, but it will suffice to say, that in a week from the date of the bet, during a very favourable afternoon, I hooked him, and, after a very anxious half-hour or so, succeeded in landing him, and bore him home in triumph. You should have seen the girl's look of blank amazement when I proudly exhibited him and claimed my bet; he weighed thirty-two pounds; and there he is. I might tell you," added the old laird, "that the young lady's father was a widower, and she was his only child; and one of his ancestors had mortgaged the estate to a fearful extent. During his lifetime he had by strict economy paid all off but one debt of five thousand pounds. And, as I had a considerable sum lying idle, as soon as his daughter and I were engaged I insisted on paying it off and clearing the estate. I am an Englishman, but I promised my father-in-law to take his name, and at his death carry on the old traditions of the family, and become a Highland Laird; but alas!" added the old laird, in a sorrowful voice, as he wiped away a tear, that trickled slowly down his furrowed cheek, "I am the last of the race; my gentle wife has, these many years, been laid at rest in the family vault. And my son, our only boy, he was ambitious, and longed for the life of a soldier, and now he lies under the shadow of that grim old Russian fortress, Sebastopol, and a cross marks the spot where he and thousands of his countrymen fought and fell. And as for me, I feel that my time is drawing near; long since I have passed the

allotted span of life, those three score years and ten that are meted out to the strongest of us; and now I only wait for the call to join my loved ones." Such was the yarn we heard that Christmas Eve, from the lips of that old Highland laird; but time, that waits for no man, now reminded us that, if we wished to catch the express, we must bid our kind host good-bye, for the carriage had come round. And, the best of our spoil packed away with our tackle and ourselves, we were soon on the road to the station, and in another hour or so were speeding south as fast as the iron monster could take us, leaving behind some good friends, and taking with us some pleasant recollections of glorious sport and beautiful scenes in the Scotch Highlands. And the last that I saw and heard of my friend, as I left the train, and left him to go on a little further, was his jolly face out of the carriage window, and his resonant voice, as he shouted out a sort of a parting benediction: "Remember, the next time you are in difficulties with a Scotch keeper, don't forget the whiskey."

A CHEAP ROACH ROD.

MR. H. BOOTH, fishing-tackle maker of 88, Prospect Street, Hull, has sent us one of his five-joint bamboo roach-rods, twelve feet in length, with upright rings, winch fittings, &c. He tells us that his advertisement in the GAZETTE has procured him customers for this rod from all parts of the country, some anglers, having bought one, have written for others for friends. It is well worth the money; a strong light useful rod, exactly suited for roach-fishing or general bottom fishing. Mr. Booth gives a good bag with it, and sends it carriage free and strongly packed to any part of the country for four shillings and eight pence. It would be a capital Christmas present for a young disciple of Izaak. We can recommend it, as being all it pretends to be.

ANOTHER USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

Messrs Eyre and Spottiswoode have sent us their "Landseer" colour-box, No. 304. We forget the exact price of this, but it is rs. 3d. or rs. 6d., and is by far the best paint-box in the market for the money. It contains, in a neat tin box, twelve "moist" colours, a tube of Chinese white, a tube of sepia, and three brushes; it would be cheap at five shillings.

CONVICTION FOR POACHING AT OXFORD.

JAMES BEESLEY, waterman, was summoned for illegal fishing, on the 20th ult., during prohibited hours, and he was further charged with taking fish under the proper size. Mr. J. J. Bickerton appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Dudley for the defence. Sergeant Keene said he was on duty in Hythe Bridge Street at four o'clock on the morning of the 26th November, and saw the defendant with two other men, in a punt. They landed at the defendant's house in the Fisher Row. He immediately went to them; but when he got near they rushed away, and defendant ran into his house and bolted the door. The boat was wet, and there was a quantity of grass in it. He searched the punt, and found some fish alive in the well, and one outside. There were also some stones with a hole through them, and he believed they were used for fish nets. He found nine jack, two chub, sixteen roach, and two barbel, but he did not know the size of them. The defendant came out of his house and asked him what authority he had to search the punt, and the witness said he considered he had an authority, as a constable, to search it, when defendant came in at that time in the morning. Cross-examined: The punt might have come from Wolvercote. He could not tell how long the fish had been out of the river. William Venables, water bailiff, said he saw the fish that were taken on this occasion, at the police station. He measured them, and found one jack 11 inches and one 9 inches long, and a barbel 9 inches. He saw the stones, and they would be used to put on a net to keep it to the ground. Cross-examined: He had kept fish in punts for several days, and it was a common practice among fishermen. The small fish might have been used for stocking ponds. By the Bench: It was not usual for punts to return at four o'clock in the morning. There was no doubt that the fish were taken in a flue net, and that was illegal in the Thames. The magistrates retired, and, on their return, the Mayor said that taking into consideration the circumstances of the case, they thought the charge had been proved, and the defendant would be fined 40s., and 8s. costs, in each case.

WANTED, by the 'TRENT OTTER,' a situation as Keeper to a private fishery, or as Water Bailiff to a Board of Conservators, or a Fishery District; the former preferred; for further particulars apply to the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE."

A SPECIAL Morning Performance of the Spectacular Fairy Opera, "Black Crook," and the Grand Ballets will be given at the Alhambra, on Boxing-day, Monday, December 26th. It is announced that this is the only Morning Performance that can be given of the "Black Crook."

NORFOLK.

WITHIN two weeks of Christmas, much to our delight, we are once again in the midst of good roach and dace fishing. Apparently a touch from the magic wand of some wizard, and here we are, surrounded by as good baskets of roach as ever we set eyes on in the height of the season. And to-day, as I write, may be seen trudging off, as if for dear life, anglers, with as much eagerness as if it were July or August. Thanks to the glorious weather, we anglers may yet finish up the year in proper style.

I have this week seen no fewer than ten different catches of pike, perch, roach and dace. Of the former, I saw some very nice fish, taken by Mr. R. Palmer and E. F. Holley, Esq. (of the E.A.P.S.), at Boston Ponds, and they informed me that the waters were literally alive with fish, but so overgrown with weeds that it was impossible to work it fairly.

Through the kindness of George Kinder, Esq., of Bowthorpe Hall, I myself fished his private waters, and was rewarded by nine handsome jack, the largest weighing 8½ lb. My friend of the E.A.P.S. again visited Homersfield, on the Waveney, and was again lucky in securing a heavy creel of fine perch. Splendid sport, he assured me, he had, and I could quite endorse his remarks, as I think they are as game as any perch hereabouts. As to roach, I had the pleasure of seeing 200, which were taken in a few hours last Sunday by a gentleman from Norwich, near the "Walpole Reed Bushes," between Buckenham and Brundall; and also another lot, taken on Saturday, by E. F. Holley, Esq., near the spot at Brundall which is now being put in order for the great fishing station.

The prettiest lot, certainly, were a dish of roach and dace, which were taken by Mr. Howard, of New Catton, on the River Wensum, at the back of the New Mills, the roach averaging upwards of ½ lb. each, and the dace were every one as large as an ordinary-sized white herring. Quite a picture was this lot, and decidedly a credit to the catcher. The back river is a difficult river to fish, and one must be well acquainted with its waters to ensure any amount of sport. Friend Howard has promised me a day with him before long, and I shall be most happy to embrace the opportunity.

A deal of controversy has been going on relative to eel sets on the Bure, Ant, &c.; but, I am happy to say, we have no cause to bother ourselves about the matter with respect to the River Yare, for not a single net is to be found from Norwich to Yarmouth. The last one, which was down somewhere between Reedham and Yarmouth, having been removed within the last few weeks.

At the recent meeting of the committee of Y.P.S., held at the Bell Hotel, a committee was appointed to inquire into the matter, consisting of Mr. C. G. Davies, Mr. A. J. N. Chamberlin, and Mr. C. J. Greene. Mr. Davies, who at the meeting, stood alone in supporting the eel-catchers, passed an entire night amongst the eel-sets, saw them hauled, but failed to discover any other fish than eels, with the exception of a few ruffs.

Inspecting the eel-sets which were put down the same night at Horning Ferry, not a solitary fish had found its way into them, only those for which they were intended. From this it may be clearly gathered that eel-sets are not the enemies the angler has taken them to be; but, on the contrary, from the showing of Mr. Davies, who is no mean authority, they are more friends, as eels are known to destroy more spawn than any other fish that swims. Mr. Davies is to be congratulated upon the pains he has taken in order to bring the matter to a satisfactory issue.

The dinner of the Norwich Piscatorial Society was held on Thursday evening last, a report of which will be found elsewhere.

The new fishing and boating station at Brundall is being rapidly pushed forward, and will, if the weather permits, be finished by the commencement of next season. I hear that, in addition to this, another piece of land has been purchased adjacent to it for the purpose of forming gun-clubs similar to those held at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, and other such places. ANGLER.

[We hear some big jack have been taken recently at Higham Sound—one of 22 lbs.; how they were taken we did not hear.—ED.]

STRANGE BUT TRUE.—It was the depth of winter. We were travelling in a railway carriage, she was a splendid woman, and had such a pretty little foot, "Rub my foot," said she, pushing her dainty little well-booted foot right out before me, "it won't dirty your hands, it is Young's Sable." "Who is Young's Sable?" said I. "Why! blacking, of course." Young's Sable Blacking requires no brushing, it may be applied with the bare hand, does not stain the hands or clothing, and gives an instantaneous polish equal to patent leather." And I did rub her foot. And I always use Young's Sable Blacking, so does my wife, so do my fourteen children, and the mother of those children is that very lady who travelled with me on that bitter winter day.

ROACH-FISHING IN THE WARWICKSHIRE AVON.

ON a lovely Saturday morning in August I made arrangement to go for three days to Bidford, a very pretty village on the banks of the Avon, to try my hand at my favourite pastime, roach-fishing. Having booked by the 6.40 train from Birmingham I arrived at Salford Priors, the nearest station to Bidford, at 8.30; and after an extremely pleasant walk of about a mile and a quarter I arrived at my destination. After looking about for apartments for some time I was recommended to stay at the Pleasure Boat Inn, kept by a very respectable lady, Mrs. Hendley; and I must confess that during my sojourn at her establishment she did all in her power to make me comfortable. Having refreshed the inner man, I shouldered my rod and basket, and on leaving the Inn I turned to the right, went a short distance up the village, walked over the bridge which crosses the Avon at this point; passing through the gate I took up my stand at the end of the osier-bed, opposite the back of the Boat Inn. The swim at this part of the river is a very good one, being about 7 feet deep, and a very gentle current. After plumbing the depth, I threw in some ground bait, bran and bread, and commenced fishing close on the bottom with my favourite bait, paste. After one or two swims down I managed to get the fish together, and perceiving a slight bite I struck and found myself fast in a good fish, which, after a good fight, I landed, and which proved to be a roach of a pound weight, and fishing on, with varying success, I managed to land several more good fish, all roach.

Throwing in some ground bait, I commenced fishing with paste, and after trying this bait for some time and finding they would not look at it, I then tried stewed wheat, and the first swim down succeeded in hooking a splendid fish, which, after a deal of careful play on a very fine horse-hair line, I safely landed, and which proved to be a roach in magnificent condition—weight, 1 lb. 10½ oz. After catching a few more roach in the same swim, I tried another pitch in a bend of the river just above, and, fishing over the water-lilies, which here are very numerous, I succeeded in adding a few more fish to my bag. I then went back to the Boat Inn and had my tea, and in the evening I went as far as the “Long Swim” in a boat kindly lent me for the occasion, and, having caught a few small roach, my second day’s angling came to a pleasant termination. On the Monday morning, I was out of bed very early, and having gathered my fishing tackle and baits into the basket, and throwing my rod and gear over my shoulder and defying the elements—for it was pouring in torrents with rain—I went down the village until I came to a passage which runs by the side of the gasworks. Having traversed this, I came out at the bottom of the gardens got over the stile, and walking down the meadow about a hundred yards, I commenced fishing at half-past three in a very steady swim this side of the long osier-bed and here I succeeded in getting a splendid lot of roach, many of them weighing from ½ to ¾ lb. each, the baits were paste and stewed wheat.

Lovers of perch-fishing should try the basin at the other end of the osiers near to the old lock, as one Saturday evening, about four years ago, I caught a splendid lot of perch in this hole close to the side, when the roach were dead off the feed; there are also a few small pike in the basin. After gathering up my fishing paraphernalia, I went a little lower down the same meadow and commenced to fish the swim opposite a part of the river known as the “Sweep’s Hole.” In this spot I took four roach that averaged a pound each, besides a quantity of small fish. I then went a short distance lower down, and fished two swims opposite the long osier-bed, from which I obtained some capital roach. Darkness coming on, I wended my way back to the village, having thoroughly enjoyed my first day’s sport. On the morning of the second day (Sunday) I commenced fishing at four o’clock, at a part of the river known to the natives as the Long Swim, which is situated at the bottom of the third meadow from the bridge, and on the same side of the river as the swims I fished on Saturday, and with Marl Cliff, an old-fashioned little village at the back. Here I caught one bream weighing 2 lb., and several very fine roach, including one that turned the scale at a fraction over a pound. Bait—stewed wheat as paste—did not seem to suit the palates of the finny tribe this morning. I then went to breakfast, and after partaking of that meal, I wended my way through the village, round by the church, and across the fields by a public path, to a nice quiet spot on the river, situated just above the mill at Graage, about a mile from Bidford.

I then went lower down the river, until I nearly came to the end of the osier-bed, then stooping down, I passed through a small gap in the osiers, and found myself in a very nice spot; indeed, there being a piece of ground about two yards square upon which I could stand, and in front of me was a splendid stretch of the Avon about six or seven feet deep, just the place to find good roach at this time of year. After ground-baiting, I placed a small piece of paste on my hook, and about the third swim down, I succeeded in hooking a decent fish, which, when landed, proved to be a roach of half a pound. After fishing for some time with the results of a very decent lot of fish, I quietly strolled back to the Inn, and partook of a hearty breakfast. Having satisfied my hunger, and thoroughly dried my overcoat, I again shouldered my basket, passed over the bridge, and commenced fishing in the Avon, opposite Day’s Mansion, and having caught a few roach, I then started for the “long swim,” from which I got a few good fish. Still wandering down the river, I tried another pitch, a very quiet little spot in the next meadow opposite the gate on the other side of the water, from this swim I took sixteen roach with stewed wheat; all of the fish were from three to four ounces each. The fish having gone off the feed at this place, I wended my way under the Cleeve Hills, and having passed through a most lovely walk, one portion being a complete bower of trees, I came out at Cleeve Mill, and crossing the narrow foot bridge, which here spans the weir, I went down the

meadows on the opposite side of the river, and on a small piece of land which projects I placed my basket, and sitting down commenced to fish my last swim for that day. After trying for some time with paste, and to no purpose, I then tried wheat, but that not getting the fish into the creel, I next tried the cockspur worm, and with that bait I succeeded in getting a capital lot of roach, and also a very few nice perch. I then packed up my traps, and strolled up the fields to the Bell, at Salford Priors, and having had a crust of bread and cheese, washed down by a bottle of Bass’s bitter, I had a quiet chat to the charming hostess until the train was nearly due.

THE WANERING ANGLER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

THE OLD RIVER—HOW TO GET THERE, AND HOW TO FISH IT FROM BANK OR PUNT.

BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—In my letter under this heading I only succeeded in describing to you the first half mile of this splendid reach of fishing water. If you will kindly fancy yourself on board once more, I will try to take you over the remaining mile.

Possibly, Mr. Editor, I may some day have the pleasure of actually seeing you step into my punt, and as we—your readers—have recently been informed that Mrs. Editor occasionally accompanies you and I takes her part in the enjoyment of angling, I shall hope to see her with you. I can just fancy myself handing her in. Handing the ladies in and out is one of our old customs and privileges for which I am a great stickler; and I think I ought, I am not so slippery shod or fingered as you London gents; I have my semi-sea legs on, and my hands are water-roughed and sure of grip. You may not know it, sir, but so long as Mrs. Editor does me the honour to remain in my punt, I am the responsible party—your chief duty will be to see you do not miss a bite; you must trust me to pay her all those little attentions necessary for her comfort, and to enable her to whack you by ever so many fish. The ladies—bless them—know all this by intuition. It is only a short time since I had a young married couple out with me jack-fishing; the husband got a run, hooked a fish, and before I could get the net out he lifted a four-pounder bang in betwixt and between the lady’s legs, where it commenced to flop over and over with the triangle hooks hanging from its mouth. There was a scream, a jump, and I think just a trifle of fainting; at any rate, she fell over. Which way, did you ask? Why, the way ninety-nine out of every hundred would; towards the captain, to be sure, the man most unlikely to be knocked overboard with the shock. Bring Mrs. Editor with you, sir; but don’t pull your jack out as that young man did, or I will not be answerable for the consequences.

Immediately after leaving Mr., Mrs. and Master Phillips’s barbel swim, we shall reach the high perpendicular bank which has withstood, as best it could, the headlong rush of the angry floods for longer than my memory serves. The winter’s frosts following fast upon the autumn rains have materially assisted the determined and almost successful efforts of the river to get at the railway. A few more years and the small portion of meadow still intervening will have disappeared from Bucks and been carried over to the Berks side, there to aid in the formation of an island, which already rears its head sufficiently to act as a breakwater, much to the satisfaction of a number of jack and perch which make the tail and inner side their home. No doubt this filching habit of Father Thames is not quite so satisfactory to the loser of the land as to the shoals of fish which are thereby fed and provided with new haunts. The increasing twirling and twisting, moving and removing, and the shoals, deeps, rapids, and lay-byes thereby formed, is just what Nature intended Thames fish to enjoy. Make as many deeps by the aid of dredging machines as you may, and as soon as the dredging ceases the fish will desert them for one of Nature’s making; straighten the river, shear and concrete its banks, fill in the lay-byes, and each and all of those works will most assuredly hasten on the day when the artificial propagation of fish shall become imperative, and when men more enterprising and energetic will be chosen to fill the places of those who are now merely playing at fish preservation. I say this, Mr. Editor, with the respect which is due to a few gentlemen who are noble exceptions to the rule, and who deserve our lasting thanks, for labouring to do their best according to their lights and the means placed at their disposal. Were the truth told—why may it not?—the anglers are the men directly responsible. Where are their hundred and fifty societies? Where their amalgamated associations? Indeed, where are the ten thousand London anglers? Are they, or are they not, the constituency which our preservation societies represent?

I have stated that this is the best one-and-a-half mile’s fishing the Thames can boast of; I would add that it requires more protection than any other; and now let me challenge any man to say that he knows, of his own knowledge, that it has been visited by a river-keeper during the past twelve months. Have the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, who profess to preserve this water, a single river-keeper in their employ? Some one, no doubt, will say “Yes, so-and-so is paid five or ten pounds per annum.” Take it from me, all you whom it may concern, that it would be better that such moneys had never been subscribed. I don’t doubt, for one moment, but that the gentlemen who form the working committee of this society are

actuated with the best intentions; but good intentions are a poor return for hard cash. Poaching goes on here, but who remembers a poacher being captured? Let me be just, I remember seeing one caught, and I think it worth your trouble to read how it was done. It happened about ten years since, at this season of the year, on a Sunday morning. I was making for my punt which I had left the previous night. As I travelled up I noticed two bank-anglers walking in front; they suddenly stopped and hid themselves behind a bush, in such a manner as left no doubt in my mind they were watching some one. Behind a tree close in their rear I pulled up to wait for the explanation. Round the corner came a punt, and lying at full length along the well, with head and shoulders hanging down level with the water, was H—, a notorious thief and poacher. First a jack and then a barbel was cleverly snared, and afterwards two more jack were snatched in. Just then the punt caught the stream and travelled too fast for his work. He rose, took the pole, and pushed her into the ditch close to the spot where the two anglers were secreted. They waited until he came on land, and then one of them stood directly in front of him, and asked, "What sport?" The wary poacher smelt a rat, and, as he answered, "Not a fish," he drew from his pocket a quart glass bottle, which he firmly gripped by the neck. "I saw you take several, and in an illegal manner," came, in a stern firm voice, from the man who barred the road. The poacher, with an oath, threatened that he would dash his brains out, if he did not stand aside, and with this he made a step forward with his arm uplifted, and the bottle reached within an inch of his opponent's nose. "For God's sake, Geen, let him alone, he will do you a mischief, come away," was the advice of Angler No. 2. One step backwards went the plucky little fellow, and I thought it was all over. I was mistaken. He only wanted to free his mouth and nostrils from the too close vicinity of the aforesaid bottle, that he might be able to say, "Page, stand by, but don't interfere, unless I call for help;" and then he said to H—, from whom his eye had not wandered, "Will you or will you not hand me over the fish and snare?" The answer was another series of oaths, and that he would see him—first; and, at the same time, he advanced a step, and the bottle once again touched his opponent, who never moved a muscle. H— appeared stupefied at such passive yet successful resistance. Here was a man, scarcely more than half his own weight, who had not as yet condescended to raise his hands to ward off the threatened blows. It was inexplicable to me, until I noticed the self-satisfied gleam of the proud eye. I then felt that there was no need of assistance, the bully had most assuredly fallen in with a trained boxer. After this slight hesitation, H— seized the man with his disengaged hand, and fairly forced him round out of his way; in doing so, he had to partially turn himself, and, as one of his legs was about to pass over the other, lo! they both flew from under him, and he was sprawling on his back. Quick as lightning No. 2 angler seized the bottle, and as he hurled it into the river became a changed man. Up to this time he had been dodging round and round the combatants with a bundle of rods, in such a manner as left a doubt in my mind as to whether he fancied he was forming a ring, or was merely on the look out for a favourable opportunity to charge in aid of his comrade. Now, he had dropped the rods, and was rubbing his hands in delightful anticipation of what would follow. In an instant H— was upon his legs again, and as I saw his ferocious bloodthirsty look, I made a step or two forward in my fear lest he had armed himself from his pocket, with a worse and more cowardly weapon than a bottle. No, it was with clenched fist that he made an attempt at a running blow; but its oncoming had been seen by the intended victim, and cleverly the brute's impetuosity was utilised to bring him once more violently to the ground. He rose, and blindly rushed at, and closed with, his man, but he was soon to discover that he could not strive at close quarters. Vainly he attempted to thrust his antagonist to arm's length with his left that he might strike with his right, but each and every struggle tended to perfect the grip of his lithesome wrestling opponent. Once I saw the little fellow weigh him and let him gently back upon his legs, as I have seen professional wrestlers do. He was evidently satisfied, for almost instantly H— was turning a summersault, and as he came down on his back upon the frozen ground the wrestler fell on him with a dull, squashy thud, which plainly said it's all over. I was due at my punt, and as I made a slight circuit to avoid the three men I saw H—, lamb-like, submitting to have his poaching pockets rifled of the barbel and jack. Had H— confined his attention to fish I don't think he would have gone to jail. Possibly the encounter I have described disgusted him—at any rate he took a fancy for fowl, and was discovered early one morning by an inquisitive constable with a full sack. On being questioned as to its contents, he said it was firewood, and on an inspection being made the constable was satisfied. The sack was shouldered and off he walked, and clean off he would have got, had not one of the ten dead ducks which were at the bottom given a most unmistakable quack, quack.

The shallow round the high bank will be sure to afford sport to the summer chub-fisher who knows how to work. I have taken numbers by throwing in a handful of soaked bread, which on reaching the water will break up and swirl round in the little eddies formed by the sandy clay lumps which have fallen from the bank. The bread will put the fish on the alert for the more substantial piece which should follow the hook. The pollard at the bottom, which is growing out a little above the ordinary level of the river, hangs over a capital bank swim. Slide down some eight feet, and you will be landed on a miniature platform with a good seat formed by the roots of the tree, there is just sufficient space to stow your lumber, do away with two or three joints of your long rod and you will then be able to catch fish of all kinds directly under your feet. Don't be in a hurry to leave this spot; sit quietly, smoke a pipe, look well about, and, tell me, did

you ever fish a snugger, prettier swim in all your life; don't sleep, for at any moment the frightened fish may return and walk off with your tackle.

I have stated that the tail and inner side of the island is the home of a number of jack and perch. I may, without fear of exaggeration, say that the quiet water extending from this spot to the next bend—about 400 yards—is the best piece of public jack-water within twenty miles of here, and has without doubt produced more large fish than any other.

Had I space I would tell you something of the monsters that have been taken, and a little about a brace that will some day be caught, I hope, fairly, with the hook, and not by that poaching one-arm man's crook.

There are a number good bank swims on each side between this and the ditch, where the water flows gently enough for the laziest of roach, and where the most fastidious of Lea or Thames fishermen may suit themselves.

I must say a word or two about the tricks that are played with the said ditch. As I am writing, the river is rushing by in full flood, and by the time this is in print more probably it will have slightly subsided, and the fish that have headed up the ditch will be at the mercy of a set of vagabonds, the ringleader of which is the one-arm man; they will most assuredly lay their flue net first across the mouth, and having gone up some distance, will, with a long pole, drive the fish down into it. The net will then be refixed higher up, and another length will be similarly treated. Should they be as successful as on many previous occasions, a two-bushel bag will be required for the perch alone. What say you to this, sir? Are the W. and E. P. S. preserving this reach of water?—another pen broken; bother the poachers and preservation societies.

Its seldom that elms consent to have their roots washed by Father Thames; the clump before us on our left has done so for many scores of years and cast its grateful shade in summer, and welcome shelter in winter, over the fortunate anglers who have fished the two pitches known as the Elms Swim. If there be amongst the readers of this letter a brother working man who is undecided where to travel for his to-morrow's hoped-for sport, let him straightway make arrangements with his mate to come here. No matter that the water be high, I promise dry foothold and a quiet corner for the floats. Don't forget your worms, as you may fairly expect a few good perch with your day's take. Are you afraid of ghosts? if so, don't come, for as sure as spirits are permitted to revisit the scenes which they loved faithfully while in the flesh, so surely will old Mortimer's spirit hover about these trees. A few months since you might have had the pleasure of meeting the most extraordinary enthusiast that ever lived. Here he fished in his prime, a tall stalwart man; twenty years made no difference in him, he continued to fish his favourite swims with the best of tackle; another twenty years passed and the hale hearty man still did the journey from Putney to Wraybury for a day's fishing. Why need I speak of the journey? it was nothing to him at sixty, he said nothing of it ten years later, but some of us who knew and respected him fancied his tackle not so fine and his rod not so long and taper as it used to be. Another ten years saw him a constant visitor in all weathers; the last time I saw the grand old man of eighty years was as he stood close by here up to his knees in snow, anxiously watching the float, which I had noticed grew larger year by year. Yes, old Mortimer is dead, and the Elms Swim is "To be Let."

Now, sir, for the fly rod—I am told you have one which you wield most gracefully. Before us are the rapid shallows that reach past Captain Gill's park; what a grand day you would have if only a few of the many trout should condescend to rise at your fly? they won't, so you must be content with the chub and dace, any number of which you may deceive on a propitious day in July or August. It is rumoured that the T.A.P.S. intend to keep a sharp eye on the fly-fishers next season, so mind your sizes, sir. There are a few second-rate swims in the park, and two others of the same description in the osier-bed below. On the opposite side is the meadow adjoining Old Windsor Lock, where several good bank swims can be found, but I would advise anglers not to visit them in winter, as a flush of water makes them unfishable. Stretching across the river, just above the lock, is the foundation of the old weir; should you desire to take a barbel in July—they are scarcely worth taking then—bait well with greaves twelve yards up stream, about two-thirds of the way across, and you will soon be amongst them; most probably you will find your take varied with other fish. The deep hole at the back of the lock I have written of in a previous letter.

I must now thank you for giving me so much space for my rough-and-ready description of the Old River, or Fleet.

May I trespass on your kindness, while I answer one who claims to be a brother professional, Mr. J. Harrington Keene?

I am gratified to learn that he has derived considerable amusement, combined with instruction, by the perusal of my letters. In reference to the one headed "The Great Curse of our Calling," he says:—"His complaint would certainly be a remarkably proper one if it were founded on anything more than isolated instances. I assert they do not occur more than once or twice per year." Let me ask J. H. K. how many times per year it must occur before my complaint becomes a proper one? Twice, I say, is more than sufficient. Immediately after admitting that it occurs once or twice per year, he writes:—"Your correspondent has put an imaginary grievance into charmingly terse prose." What consistency, to be sure, from a trained critic.

Of my letter, "Bell Weir to Old Windsor Lock," he complains that he has tried hard and cannot find some of the pitches, and he asks, "Where is the good barbel swim near the road from Staines to Old

Windsor? Very vague this." I admit that is vague, but I deny it to be my description, which was as follows:—"We must not forget the second good barbel swim as we pass the sharp turn in the river, where, at flood time, it rushes against and over the road from Staines to Old Windsor." As this is the only spot where the river and road actually meet until we get to the Bells, I thought the description sufficient; but if you will grant me the same space per swim as you granted J. H. K. to describe the bones in a perch's head, I will be more particular.

I desire to thank him for his courtesy in refraining from criticising my last letter until I had completed the stretch of water. I know that he is entitled to speak with considerable authority of the old river, as here the greater portion of his brief—very brief—existence as a professional fisherman was passed. He may be as severe as he likes with my writings, and I shall have no cause of complaint, so long as he may be consistent, and refrains from the worst of critics' faults, and the least to be excused, that of misquoting.

Come, brother Keene, be as candid as you are clever—with the pen, not the pole—and admit that, as a professional fisherman, you never wore the varnish off that new pine punt you purchased, and

"When—are—you—coming—to—bed—father?" That's the wife, sir, so good night.—I am, &c., A THAMES FISHERMAN.

MESSRS. THORNHILL'S NOVELTIES.

MESSRS. THORNHILL and CO. have got a magician on their premises. There is an immense iron room, with a big trap-door on the top. When the firm want to bring out a novelty, the partners put their heads together, and, shortly afterwards, an order is sent forth that certain articles of furniture, or use, or ornament, are to be delivered up to the magician. Then may be witnessed a curious scene (but only by those who are privileged to stand in their nightshirts on the roof of the house at exactly 1 a.m. every new noonday). Desks, garden chairs, ladders, cockatoos, umbrellas, seals, cats, toll-gates, ships—in fact, everything that can be got hold of—is thrown down the iron trap-door. As soon as the last one disappears, the trap-door is shut, and then commences the most awful row ever heard by mortal ears; and the Christmas "waits" are not a patch on it. The magician is at his work, and by twelve the next day the "Novelties" are ready. A little trap-door in the bottom of the cage is opened, and, first, a miniature toll-gate appears, beautifully made, with lamp, house, and bar, the whole forming a most elegant smoking companion. The cumbersome garden-chair has been transformed into a most dainty penholder, the ladder into a pipe-rack, the seal into a claret jug, and so on. A few of Messrs. T. and Co.'s novelties will be found in their advertisement in our columns. We say a few, because, if we are not quite correct in our account of their manufacture, we must explain that it comes of examining Messrs. T. and Co.'s new catalogue at dead of night in our editorial den. Perfect silence reigned for a short interval—the printers' "devils" and their masters were having tea. We looked at the hundreds of illustrations, trying to trace back each charming "idea" to its cause; each novelty to its origin; then commenced a fearful din. The whole building began to tremble, iron-shod feet clattered up and down iron-faced stairs; under us, over us, all around us, was the steady grind of the printing presses, the monotonous noise of machinery in motion; we gradually got into a dazed state. Bang goes the door, in rushes a "devil." "Please can we have the rest of the 'copy'?" This reminds us we have to write a notice of Messrs. Thornhill's "Presents." We can only say as we did last year, and as the *World*, *Field*, *Queen*, and all other papers say, go to Thornhill and Co. if you want something really new and really good. You can suit your purse as to price, and choose from many hundreds of articles from a shilling to hundreds of pounds in value.

At our suggestion Messrs. Thornhill have brought out a cheap edition (at 15s.), of "The Fishing Gazette Knife," which they call at the *Marston Knife*. Having designed it, we will simply quote what others say of its qualities.

Land and Water, says:—"The *Marston Knife* will form an excellent companion to the angler. It contains just what the angler requires at the riverside—a capital strong cutting blade, a good scissors, corkscrew, disgorging file, three-inch measure, and screw driver. It is neither bulky nor over heavy, and reflects much credit on the designer and on the manufacturers."

The *Field*, says:—"There is only one thing wanting—a small screw-vice for holding hooks—of the workmanship, it is enough to say that it comes from Thornhill's."

The Steroscopic Company have, as usual with them at Christmas time, prepared a treat of novelties for their customers—and they are legion—a few of which will be found detailed in our advertising columns, under the designation of "Our Guinea Box."

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"My business in this state
Made me looker-on."

—SHAKESPEARE.

I have to report that I am still a "looker-on," mid mud, and that the thin silvery streak of summer Thames is no more; but in its place, a swollen, perturbed, moving excrescence of unfishable water. The continuous rains have dispelled, I fear, all hopes of a jolly Christmas, externally, for the piscator on the bosom of Old Father Thames. The frosts of the past few days brought hope, but the thaw of yesterday and to-day plainly said, "after me, the deluge." Roach and perch, with worms as bait, may be caught in the eddies and quiet corners, where the wicked jack cease from troubling and the weary small fry are at rest. At Henley, on Tuesday, Potter, in Marsh Pool, took five pretty jack, and Mr. T. Jeston a good basket of jack and perch. W. Parrott has been busy in the low-lying districts of Remenham, near Henley, collecting the contents of the ditches and returning to the river, 300 small perch being thus had and consigned on Tuesday last. At Hurley Mr. R. J. Birch, a piscator of ten years, on a recent occasion, from a hole, got 60 fish (half roach and perch), the last roach going 1½ lb. This is a little birch which would prove a rod to many a complete angler. Thursday Evening.—River high and coloured, and in many districts unapproachable; but *nil desperandum* should ever be an angler's motto.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water now in very good order for all-round fishing. It rained here on Wednesday night very hard, and I am afraid if we have much more rain it will make the water come down thick again. The prospects at present look bad for this week, unless we get a change in the weather. Some good roach was taken here on Monday last, fourteen roach going 9 lb., and one jack, 3 lb., with the worm.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

The river has been rising and falling all the week, and the rain keeps freshening it up. The bank fishers have had the best of it lately—some good roach and dace from the banks, and here and there a good perch.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now got to a very good state of affairs again, the water not being too high, and a very good colour. Since my last report, we had a fair mixture of weather that has put the anglers off as well as the fish. The bank anglers have been doing well during the week, in fact, they caught more off the bank than have been caught in the punts, but I fully expect to have to report some good takes of bream and roach next week. There have been six punts out during the week, but have met with little success, as the weather has been so changeable; in fact, it has been wretched, the rain we had to-day will not do any harm, as the river is getting lower every hour now.—JOHN BUSHELL, fisherman.

Thames (Windsor).

Water has gone down considerably, but is still very much discoloured. Very few anglers out, but some nice roach and perch have been had from the lock cuts, but few in number. The best bag for the week I know of is seven barbel, taken by Mr. Keep, of Down Place.—B. R. BAMBRIDGE.

Ancholme.

Reports to hand concerning this stream are very meagre, in fact no one seems to care about winter fishing. I have, therefore, considerable difficulty in making up a report. If, however, coarse fish notes are at a discount, I am happy to report most favourably respecting my forte—the trout. I have seen a fine lot of fish on the spawning beds of the stream I am stocking, and hope to take therefrom, as well as from my own ponds, a good store of eggs, which I shall be most happy to supply at a rate which will contrast agreeably (to the purchaser) with any in the market. Our trout are rather late, but for fine qualities cannot be surpassed. The larger ones cut as pink as salmon, and the waters are very favourable to their growth. I have some about three years old that weigh nearly 3 lb. I shall be glad to send list of prices, free on application, to intending purchasers.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

The weather has been very changeable this week; and as the Christmas holidays are close at hand, and people are what is known as "finishing up," we have not had a great number of rodsters out. Those who have visited the river have succeeded better than of late, inasmuch as grayling and pike have been nicely on the feed. We have at last had severe frosts, and there can be no doubt that these have had the effect of sharpening the piscine appetite considerably. I hear that Mr. Charles Wild caught six brace of grayling near Rochester with the needle fly, and some nice dishes have fallen victims to the cockspur worm and maggot. Notwithstanding the fact that the river has been running very high and thick, the coarse fishers generally have done well, and I fancy all kinds of sport will prove remunerative during the holidays if the weather continues as at present.—THE SLODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

The fishing this week has been very slack owing to the unsettled state of the weather. A few boats have gone out drifting, and their catches have averaged

about half-maize of herrings each boat. A few fine cod and ling have been caught with ground lines. On Wednesday a conger, weighing about 50 lb., was brought in by one of the fishermen. There has been a quantity of nets lost and damaged this season; one man lost twenty, another ten, and several three and four. Thursday, weather moderate; several boats out this afternoon drifting; they have just come in with a maize of herrings in each boat, and a few whiting.—E. COMER.

Lea (Rye House).

Water has cleared down and is in good order for fishing. Mr. Moss took a small jack on Sunday and a few roach on Monday. The weather is very cold and frosty; the wind N.W.—WM. COWELL.

Lea (Ware).

Once again this water here is in rattling good order, and the late fresh has swept the bottom very much. The Boom is a treat now, but there has been nothing done this week. So far "nobody down." Through your valuable GAZETTE I should like to make known that I am about to get up a benefit for Harry Page here, who is known to the angling fraternity at large.—VON LEEFE.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river is fishing down nicely, and if we are favoured with fine weather till Sunday no doubt roach will be on the feed. A well scoured worm will be about the best bait, but if any one has a few wasp grubs preserved, *a la* the FISHING GAZETTE recipe, no doubt they would prove attractive. Now is the time for anglers fond of pike-fishing. With the wind right and a nice dace all should be well.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Onse (Littleport).

Water in very good condition, but running very rapidly, owing to the recent heavy rains. It is very cold here now, and the frosts have knocked the roach off the feed. Still, I think if an angler would sit down patiently to light ledgering it would pay, for what few fish are taking are of good quality. No one is turning out now, however, so I have not much to report. The following are the only anglers who have had a turn:—Messrs. J. Heald, W. L. Shipton, and G. Smith, Cambridge, December 8th, 9 lb. roach. Had a run myself yesterday and got a dozen roach in two hours, going 4½ lb. the lot. Mr. J. Hulford, Ely, also had a turn for an hour, and got six roach and perch, going 3 lb.—largest roach 1 lb. 2 oz., largest perch 14 oz.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Trent (Nottingham).

Some of our anglers could not understand why the fish have nearly altogether refused to take both worms and maggots, it was doubtless owing to water in the early part of the week, having gone down to almost summer height; and become quite clear. When this is the case during any of the cold winter months, they should not be surprised at the fish refusing the two baits mentioned, it always has been so through my experience in Trent fishing besides the cold misty weather was much against the successful use of either worms or maggots, though it just happened to suit the chub-fishers with scratching and pith and brains; for, I believe, it is now well understood among our rodsters that chub are often found to bite best in misty weather, so long as there is no frost with it, and the first two days in the present week proved that what I have stated was quite true, as several anglers lost no time in preparing their scratching, and at once started down the river to fish some of their noted winter places, and, I might say, have succeeded in capturing better baskets of chub than other rodsters have done up to the present time, some of them going 3 and 4 lb. each. It is always a difficult matter to fish for chub on a misty day, the line, once getting wet has not a chance of getting dry again that day; consequently, if the anglers would only take the precaution before they start to rub the line twenty yards up with a little palm oil, they would find that it not only resisted the water, but the line would run much freer, and the rodster, in winter, should not forget this whenever a running line is required. As regards pike, I believe that a misty day will make but little difference to their feeding, so long as, as I have stated in chub fishing, there is no frost. On one occasion, although the anglers could scarcely see their float, the jack bit freely, but I did not see one that exceeded 10 lb. Anglers, under the present state of things, might venture to leave their worms and maggots at home and go after the pike and chub, and if pith and brains can be procured, they will find it the most killing bait for chub, and jack will be best tempted with a livebait, dace in preference. Water still low and clear, and the backwater and still parts of the river will be found the most likely place to find the jack at this season of the year.—W. BAILEY.

Trent (Newark).

The water has been in fair condition for general winter fishing most of the week, but the weather has been dead against the angler. The latter part of last week we had some very sharp frosts, to be succeeded on Sunday by a thaw, followed by a drizzling rain. Rain during the day and frosts at night have been the order of things down here this last day or two, and the wind one day has been south-west while on the next it has been plump north. This curious combination of circumstances between the weather and wind has had the effect of putting the fish off feed, for, as far as I can learn, nothing of any importance has been done—a few odd roach, chub and pike have been had, but nothing worth reporting. For my own part, I have nothing to report, except a 5-lb. jack, taken with a sprat on the "Fishing Gazette spinner and tackle"—a capital concern to spin a natural bait is the "Fishing Gazette spinner," although I have heard some anglers declare that they do not like it; but I believe it is because they don't know how to use it. I have no difficulty in making a bait spin splendidly with it. To-night (Thursday) the water is coming on a bit, with some colour in it, and, as we have had a nice lot of rain, I am sadly afraid we shall have another heavy and thick water; and so anglers had better be prepared to find the water thick and high by Saturday. It is still raining as I pen these lines. A very fine dog otter was shot last Saturday afternoon in the Muskham Fishery, near Newark, by, I believe, Mason, the keeper; it weighed 24½ lb., and has gone to be preserved, so I hear. I was not in that locality last Saturday, or perhaps a charge of No. 6 might have been lodged in the carcase of the

THE TRENT OTTER,

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We have had very changeable weather since my last report, viz., snow, rain, foggy, and sharp frosts; in fact, the grounds and roads are one sheet of ice this morning (Thursday) and very dangerous it is travelling; both rivers are a little discolouring this morning from the rain and snow which fell yesterday. Sport during the week up to Wednesday, with both top and bottom, has not middling, and only small baskets have been the order of the day off of both rivers. The best taken that has come to my notice was a

basket of four brace of nice grayling that were killed last Monday on the Derwent close to Whatstandwell, with the furnace and dyed hackle flies. The bottom fishers have lured a few fish, chiefly out of the deeps, with both worms and gentles. One angler having a splendid perch of over 2 lb. weight, besides a few grayling and roach; all these fish were killed in the Derwent below Cromford Bridge, and fell victims to cockspur worms. The changeable weather is the sole cause of the fish not feeding better than they are now doing. Pike have been doing very little during the past week, at either live bait or by trolling. There has been a good quantity of wild fowl, such as ducks, widgeons and teal, seen on both the Wye and Derwent during the last couple of days.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE great item of interest this week undoubtedly is the granting of an extension of the cheap travelling concession by the Great Eastern Railway Company to the members of the three Central Associations. The following letter from the General Manager to Mr. T. Hoole, the secretary of the Association, will explain what the new concession consists of.

[COPY.]

Great Eastern Railway,
General Manager's Office,
Liverpool Street,
December 8, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the interview I had with a deputation from various angling societies on the 20th of October last, I have submitted the question raised on that occasion to the directors, and am instructed to inform you that on and after 1st January, 1882, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class single fare return tickets will be issued to the members of the

United London Anglers Society,
The West Central Association of London Angling Clubs,
The Central Association of London Clubs,

on production of their cards of membership.
From Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Stratford, to all stations between Ponders End, Buntingford, Ware, and Shelford, inclusive, and all stations between Loughton and Ongar inclusive.

Hackney Downs, Angel Road, to all stations between Ponders End, Buntingford, Ware, and Shelford inclusive.

The tickets will be available for the same period as ordinary return tickets.—

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. M. BIRT,
Per G. STREUDWICK.

Mr. T. Hoole,
West Central Angling Association,
Mortlake, S.W.

The committee of the Anglers' Benevolent met, on Friday last, at the new Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell Road. Mr. L. Bonvoisin in the chair. The balance sheet of the last half-year was read and passed, and will be printed and distributed in a few days. A sad case of a necessitous member was brought before the meeting, which voted a sum £3 for his relief.

Sir Roger Palmer has caused his name to be removed from the list of vice-presidents of the Maidenhead, Cookham and Bray, Thames Angling Preservation Association. This is as it should be. Holding such a position was entirely at variance with the claims to the exclusive fishery rights recently set up by Sir Roger.

Speaking of Thames riparians, and their so-called rights, I cull the following from a scrap book and diary which belonged to the late Harry Crystal, a well-known and successful angler.

"Right of fishing in the Thames.—Several months since Mr. Parsons, of Abingdon, was summoned before the Oxfordshire magistrates, by the Rev. W. Harcourt, for fishing in the Thames, at Nuneham, in water to which he was said to have a private right of fishing. The defendant pleaded that the river was navigable, and that the right of fishing was in the public. The solicitor for the prosecution was not in a position to prove Mr. Harcourt's claim, and accordingly withdrew the case. On the Saturday before last, it again came on under a new summons, but, after a long discussion, was dismissed, as Mr. Henley, M.P., stated the question was too high, a one for the magistrates to decide. It is said that Mr. Harcourt will carry the case to a superior court."

From the type, I should judge the above to be a cutting from the *Field*, while a written memoranda shows that it dates back to March, 1867. Seeing the present relations between Thames riparians and the public, all such precedents are just now likely to prove of considerable interest.

I have this week had an opportunity of perusing the paper, "Apparent diminution of fish in the Thames, with some remedial suggestions," recently read by Mr. Crumplen at a meeting of the Gresham Angling Society. Fortunately for the fish and fishermen, Mr. Crumplen has not striven to discover and spring upon us some new source of destruction—our old foes, pollution, swans, steam launches, increased navigation, &c., are those Mr. C. strives, and successfully, to show up in all their naked hideousness. There are one or two of the less important parts, or which I should like to have asked a question; but, on the whole, Mr. C.'s paper will be pronounced excellent, eminently practical, and particularly free from the pedantic and egotistical vein peculiar to many good readers and writers.

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

NOTICE.

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1881.

THE MOOR AND THE LOCH.*

ONE of the most pleasant books on sport with rod and gun ever written is "The Moor and the Loch," by John Colquhoun. Doubtless many of our readers have long been well acquainted

* "The Moor and the Loch," containing minute instructions in all Highland sport. By John Colquhoun, in 2 vols. Fifth edition—enlarged. William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

with it, and it must be known by reputation to all of them; those who have read it already will be able to endorse what we say of it, and those who do not know it will be induced, we hope, to speedily make its acquaintance. The first volume and part of the second are devoted to deer stalking, wild goat stalking, roe hunting, seal shooting, winged game shooting, &c. In fact, this part of the work is a perfect mirror of the whole range of sport in the Highlands, on mountain, moor and forest. The natural history of all the animal life the sportsman comes in contact with—game or vermin, from the deer to the water-rat, from the eagle to the water-ouzel—is here described by one who is a born sportsman and naturalist, and whose experiences range over nearly three quarters of a century.

In reading Mr. Colquhoun's book you soon forget almost that you are reading; it seems rather as though you were listening to a friend recounting his varied experiences, interspersing his narrative with anecdotes and good stories, and all the while giving you, in the pleasantest way, his knowledge of the wild inhabitants of his dearly-loved Highlands.

But it is to the last half of the last volume that our readers will turn with the deepest interest, the part devoted to angling. Salmon-fishing is just over for this season, trout-fishing is just beginning to be thought about again by those of us who fish our early streams. If the weather is mild, the trout of the North Devon streams will be getting into condition in a few weeks' time, and the February red, blue-upright, and blue dun, will be sent on their deadly errand again over the stickles and pools of the lovely Lynns, Barle, Exe, and other moor streams. It is to that most charming of all modern novels, "Lorna Doone," that we are indebted for our introduction to the trout streams of North Devon. If any one who sees these lines is looking for something to read these long winter evenings, let them take "Lorna Doone" one evening and "Colquhoun" the next, in rotation, until they are finished; they will not easily match these two books in their respective fields—romance and sport—in the whole range of literature. Both writers are masters in the art of describing nature naturally. Mr. Blackmore is an angler, and we shall refer to this pleasant fact in a notice, which will appear next week, of his latest novel, "Christowell; a Dartmoor Tale."

But to return to the "Moor and Loch." Listen to this, ye anglers; hear what an accomplished master in all the branches of Scottish field sports says of angling:—

"I shall hope to be pardoned if I claim for fishing the appellation of a science. I have never considered it, like shooting, a mere art. At all events, it has certainly not yet been brought to perfection; and the more able the angler, the more willingly will he admit, that not a season passes without his acquiring fresh secrets which he is not over-solicitous to tell. If a man fancies he can jump into proficiency after a season or two to practice, he is vastly mistaken; it is not a few fishing excursions now and then that form the adept, but the heedful experience of years."

Our author advises the angler who is looking for sport in a district new to him to obtain the help of some local guide; we quite agree with him that this is necessary if his quarry is salmon, because in every salmon river there are many likely looking pools and runs in which salmon never remain, and which, of course, it is waste of time to fish. The trout-fisher, however, needs no guide but his own knowledge of the habits of trout and the proper places to expect to find them in. To him a "local" is generally a nuisance, though, of course, now and then one comes across a man whose knowledge is useful and whose presence is agreeable.

ADVANTAGES OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE LONG CASTS.

It is always an advantage to have the power of making very long casts with the fly; even on a small trout stream you will frequently meet with places which can only be successfully fished by a long line, and, of course, these places are less fished than easier water. On large streams, such as the Eden and Coquet; often the sole chance of getting a creel of trout lies in the possession of this great advantage. Salmon and trout keep their own places in a stream, and if you can get your line out a yard or two farther than the majority of anglers can, you will get your reward. Mr. Colquhoun says:—

"If equal in other respects, a man who has the power of throwing a very long line has the same advantage over a less gifted friend, in this particular, that a far-killing gun has over an inferior one, both in the same skilful hands. I should therefore advise every aspirant to excellence in salmon-fishing to attain this knack in the greatest possible perfection."

FLIES TO BE SUITED TO THE NATURE OF THE WATER.

"Large rivers require a large rather than a gaudy fly, which must decrease in size as the river narrows. Rapid brawling streams, on the contrary, take a gaudy fly rather than a large one. There are many Highland burns where salmon and sea-trout ascend in numbers in the autumn. These being generally shallow and rapid, a large fly would frighten as many as it would attract. If you fish with a small

fly of sober colour in such troubled water, it might not catch their sight. Streams of this kind are in best order when tumbling over stock and stone, and something like the colour of London porter. The reason why a large fly of sombre hue is preferred for a stately river, arises from the depth and clearness of the water. A large fly is required to catch the attention of the fish at the bottom, while gay colours will be apt to alarm them as they come up, when the water is so clear.

"When a large river is also rapid, as in the higher parts of the Tay, the fly may be proportionably bright. The size of the stream is an excellent criterion for that of the hook; and you may see every village urchin fishing for the spring trout in Tweed, with a hook double the size of that which he uses in Gala, or any of the other tributaries, for the very same purpose; the favourite fly in both cases being a woodcock wing, hare's ear body, tied with blue thread."

We should like to quote more of our author's instructions in the use of flies, but must refer our readers to his work. They will find innumerable hints, the outcome of long experience, and all worth remembering.

SPINNING FOR SALMON.

We confess when we first read Mr. Colquhoun's book we were somewhat surprised at finding such an aristocratic salmon-angler describing and recommending the use of spinning baits, worms, shrimps, parr-tail, &c., for the capture of the lordly fish; but since then we have discovered that both in Scotland, Ireland and England, more fish fall victims to these under-water styles of fishing than are ever taken by the fly. We do not think we are wrong in estimating the number of salmon killed each season with the fly, as but perhaps one third of the whole number killed by rod and line. In a river in which salmon rise to the fly freely, worms, spinning baits, &c., should be prohibited; there is not the slightest doubt they greatly spoil the fly-fishing—fish which are frequently harassed by spinning and worm fishing become timid and shy. In rivers in which the fish do not take the fly well of course there is no objection to the use of other lures, and undoubtedly the most scientific and sportsmanlike of these is the natural spinning bait. The best method of using this bait is, in our author's opinion, the Thames style, which he considers far more killing and effective than any other. "Even a moderate performer with a Thames spinning rod would excel the most skilful Highland parr or minnow fisher." He recommends young herring as a spinning bait, as, from their shining qualities, they form a most enticing bait for salmon. Bleak, dace, gudgeon and loach can also be used with advantage, selecting a dark bait for a bright day, and *vice versa*.

WHY DO SALMON TAKE A BAIT IN FRESH WATER.

That the salmon will take a worm freely in fresh water has always been a mystery to us. Did any one ever find food of any kind in the stomach of a salmon which had been twenty-four hours in fresh water? We have tried for years past to find a single well-authenticated case of salmon having been caught in fresh water and found to have in its stomach any food except the remains of its last meal in salt water. We made inquiries in all parts of Great Britain, in Germany, France, Sweden, and America, and the answer in every case was a decided negative, except in one solitary instance. A Devonshire clergyman, who knew we were wanting information on the point, informed us that a river keeper on the Barle had informed him that he one day found an old kelt dead in a pool on the above river; it had evidently only just died, and in its throat was a small trout, and in its stomach the half-digested remains of another. This fish had been prevented by the lowness of the water from going to the sea, it was evidently a thoroughly starved fish; and we are inclined to the opinion that it killed itself by attempting to digest food before it had recovered in the salt water. When paying a visit once to the late Mr. Frank Buckland, to examine some diseased salmon, we asked him what his opinion was, and he at once said he did not believe that salmon fed at all in fresh water, and the popular error that salmon destroy trout arose, perhaps, from some similar case to the one quoted above, where an imprisoned fish had been driven by hunger to devour trout. How salmon are able to exist so long without food in fresh water is explained by his grand discovery that they are provided by nature with organs for secreting fat, and that when they are in salt water they accumulate a rich store of fat, on which they exist when in fresh water, just as the camel carries with it a store of water for its sustenance in the desert. Why, then, we ask, does the salmon take the fly, the spinning bait, and, above all, the worm? Ask your fishmonger if, amongst the thousands of salmon he has received from our British and Irish rivers, the Rhine, &c., he ever found food in them. His answer would be "nothing." Our view of this curious matter is this: in the sea the salmon feeds voraciously, as is shown by its extremely rapid increase of weight; it feeds on the fry of sea-fish of all kinds, on shrimps and on lug-worms; in fact, its whole life in salt water is devoted to dashing after the bright rainbow-coloured herring fry, picking the shrimps from the sand, and feasting on young crabs and lug-worms. When impelled by the reproductive

instinct to seek the fresh water and ascend to the spawning beds, it ceases to feed; the very fact that trout exist in salmon rivers proves, we think, that it ceases to feed. Take the Tweed, for instance, many thousands of splendid fish ascend this river every season. Would there be a trout left if these powerful invaders turned on their weaker brethren? What chance would the trout in Sproston Dub have, if the hundreds of salmon which this fine pool often contains were to turn on them, as pike would do in a similar case? Salmon never chase trout except to frighten the impudent little thieves off the salmon spawning-beds. We have frequently caught trout in a pool in which we could see many fine salmon and trout swimming peacefully in close company, and have caught trout in such places, in the very spot, and within a second or two, of where a salmon has belled up. But, although the salmon does not feed in fresh water, its old habit, acquired in salt water, of dashing at a bait, impels it to dash at the salmon-fly or spinning-bait, which reminds it of some shining or lively sea bait; but how about the worm? Perhaps, here again, it is the sight of an old friend, and memory of a well-known smell, that will account for its being so greedily taken. The appearance and smell of the bait calls into action the movements necessary to secure the object, and this impulse is not from a desire for food, but from force of habit. But we are digressing, and our only excuse is the great interest of this vexed question as to what a salmon takes a salmon-fly, or other bait, for, when all the evidence obtainable goes to show it does not do it from any craving for food. We should much like to hear our author's views on the question, such an enthusiastic naturalist and salmon-angler, must have often considered the matter. The theory sometimes advanced, of extremely rapid digestion, will not hold water, and the theory that directly a fish is hooked, it disgorges the contents of its stomach, is equally absurd—fish are frequently so "lock-jawed" by the hooks on a spinning flight, that no food could be disgorged. We mentioned this question, as to why the salmon takes a bait, at a dinner party at which several salmon-anglers were present. One gentleman, who had caught sixty salmon in his own river that season, laughed at the idea that salmon do not feed in rivers, and said he was convinced they killed trout; he admitted he had never seen one chase a trout, and confessed he had never examined the contents of a fish's stomach, but was certain his cook would substantiate his views. The matter was referred to the kitchen, and the answer was "plenty of food in trout, but never the slightest trace in any of the many salmon she remembered cleaning."

Mr. Colquhoun gives detailed instructions in the use of the worm, which he considers a most deadly bait, as it is taken when the fish refuses every other lure. We have no space to refer more fully to this invaluable work, but as an index of what the angler may expect, will content ourselves with giving an epitome of the contents of the chapters on angling.

SALMON ANGLING.

Fishing a science—Salmon-angling the deer-stalking of the streams—Management of the fish the real test of skill—Kinds of flies required on various waters—Spinning with parr—Minnow bait—Worm-fishing for salmon—Trouting the germ of salmon-fishing—Boat-fishing for salmon—Races with salmon on the Dee—Net-murder—Artificial propagation of salmon.

AUTUMN ANGLING ON THE LYON.

Low water—The shoemaker's prophecy—"Whaur's the salmon?"—The Bellman's fish—An apology for a late dinner—"Nothing but twigs!"—Every river has its local peculiarities.

OCTOBER ON THE STINCHAR.

The Ducket-wheel—An enormous fish—Stoning him—The uncertainty of salmon-flies—A twenty-three pounder—A big fish on a slight line—"Bring a lantern!"—"I hae him noo!"—The finest fish of the season—A five hour's run.

LOCH SALMON-FISHING.

"Only a trouter!"—Early experiences—Throwing a long line—Disadvantages of preserved waters—Analogies of loch-fishing—loch-feeders—Salmon in Loch Awe—Trolling on small lochs—Boat fly-fishing—Size and colour of salmon-flies—Flies for the Falloch—The effects of wind.

SPINNING FOR THE SALMO-FEROX.

Haunts of the salmo-ferox—Level shores—Steep rocky banks—Spawny depths when loch is large or discoloured—When small and clear—Baits suitable for both moods of water—September baits—Five days' spinning on Loch Awe—The Sutherland feroxes—The phantom minnow.

RIVER-TROUTING.

Spinning on the Tweed—Spinning and trouting rules—Choice of flies—Still deeps—The circle—Dragging the cast—Small black summer fly—The river Almond—The May fly—The river Ale—A hint to the young angler—Unruffled deeps—A curl on the water—Small minnow, a killing bait—Places where trout harbour—Wind—Lennie burn—Burn trout—Frogs—Imprisoned trout and eels—Their jail habits.

THE MOOR BURN.

In ordinary trim—When small—Linns—Eddies—On level ground—The Balnaguard burn in Perthshire—Overgrown burn trout—Sea trout in autumn—Spates—Caprice of white trout—A greedy angler.

LOCH TROUT AND OTHER FISHING.

Best time to fish different lochs—Flies—Pike, an advantage in many lochs—A ravenous hue—Fly-fishing—Sea trout—Weeds—The minnow tackle—Boat-trolling—Spinning for pike—The gorge troll—Eels—Perch—Mountain tarns—The weedy loch.

FISHING ON SALT-WATER LOCHS.

The sea loch—Spinning for sea trout—The long line—The hand-line—The white feather—Sea loch-fishing—"Cuddies"—Trawling porpoises—Spearing—Oyster beds—A thrilling episode.

A RAID ON SUTHERLAND.

Changes—Harry Munro—A Caithness laird's inquisitiveness—Lochs Slam, Craggie, and Layghal—The salmo-feroxes of Loch Assynt—Hector Gordon.

FRAGMENTS.

Winter sport—The arts of birds—The pea-hen and her bantam chicks—Aquatic adders—Perch and chub—Fen terms.

Is not this an enticing bill of fare? The author's name, and the fact of the work being now in its fifth edition, are guarantees that the articles are carefully done. In conclusion, we venture to make a suggestion to Mr. Colquhoun and his publishers, and we are certain that twelve out of any dozen trout and salmon anglers will endorse it heartily: it is, that the two hundred and sixty pages of the "Moor and Loch," which are devoted to angling, should be published separately, as a five shilling, or at most, seven shilling and sixpenny book. The matter is already in type, even if it is in stereo the pagination alone requires altering—a very easy matter. With a short preface, and a good index, the book thus formed would at once find a ready and lasting sale amongst enthusiasts who cannot well afford the price of the bulky two volumes, of which the angling portion is only a fourth.

CORNISH "WRECKERS."

COMMUNICATED BY CAPTAIN HEATH (R.V.)

ON a dark, rainy, and windy night, in the month of September, 1879, about ten o'clock, the cry went through the little out-of-the-way village of Lizard, situated within half a mile of the most southerly point of land in the kingdom, that a ship was ashore. There are two grand lighthouses and a powerful foghorn on the Lizard Point, so the weather must have been thick indeed. Every available man in the village—some only partly dressed—at once started at his fastest pace for the scene of the disaster (a Cornish congregation has been known, before now, to melt away far more rapidly than they assembled in the church, under similar circumstances). Every available man, we say, intent only on "wrecking," left his home, or the public house, as the case might have been (we are relating what happened in a civilised country, and only two years ago). The cliffs over the scene of the disaster were soon reached by the foremost of the runners, when it was ascertained that a large steamer (the *Brest*, owned by the Cunard Company, as it afterwards turned out), was on the rocks. She was bound from Havre to Liverpool with cargo and passengers, more than 140 lives being on board. There was a nasty sea, no moon, and rain, and inky darkness; just the sort of night for the deeds of violence and plunder these "wreckers" have been credited with from time immemorial. The rocket men were called out, and were in readiness, the lifeboat men also, and the lifeboat at Cadgwith was launched; but the "wreckers" were before them. One fine old "wrecker," a man of determined aspect, although upwards of 60 years of age—an old man-of-war's-man, straight as a dart, spite of his services, 17 years in the navy, 10 in the coast-guard, and now fallen from his high estate to become a fisherman, guide and "wrecker,"—this old sinner, with the help of three other sinners, succeeded in launching his little boat, and, in spite of the sea that was on and the darkness, made for the scene of plunder. They found the vessel with her nose on the rocks, her stern under water, her decks as sloping as the roof of a house, and nearly a hundred and fifty human beings wild with terror—some drowned, some drowning. These hereditary "wreckers," false to all their ancient traditions, as soon as they heard (for they could not see) this mass of misery, forgot all about their "plunder," and turned to and tried to save as much of the unprofitable cargo as possible. After hauling on board eleven men and women (they, with the crew of four "wreckers" making fifteen in the little boat) expected momentarily that their small craft would founder. But they put off from the wreck, and in safety reached Landewed-nerk Church cove—a place more like a crack in the stupendous cliffs than a decent landing place—and, after landing their contraband cargo, they thought there might be more "plunder" of the

same kind left, and so they rowed out in the darkness again to the wreck. This time, as the sea was increasing, they could only take nine, and they could not get back to Church Cove for the same reason, but they managed to land this boatload at Cadgwith, about two miles down the coast. Still hankering after "plunder" they returned again to the charge, but this time could only get hold of two. The Cadgwith lifeboat and other boats had meanwhile saved all those remaining alive, but there were, alas! lost on this dark night, twenty-four lives, including some infants. The old reprobate of a "wrecker" had thus succeeded in saving twenty-four lives in his little boat in his three trips, besides a baby, which, he says, he did not think it worth while to count. Somebody did, however, for the poor mother taken to Cadgwith in the lifeboat, found next day that her baby, whom she supposed drowned had been taken to Lizard in the boat of the old "wrecker," and it was restored to her after its clothes had been carefully dried by the women of Lizard. John Curgenwin, the aforementioned old "wrecker," not content with his "plunder" of the night (the booty having been all secured before dawn) must needs prowl about the wreck still, and as she was still on the rocks offered to try and save the passengers' luggage, no doubt with an eye, as before, to "plunder;" but here judgement overtook him, for, as a case was being hoisted over the side, it slipped and crushed off the tops of one of his fingers. He then had to go ashore and give up all hope. He was not, however, suffered to go without "acknowledgment" for some weeks later there was presented to him, through the respected clergyman of the parish, as a reward for saving twenty-five lives (but according to his account, only twenty-four, for the baby he did not count), the loss of his fingertop, and for saving and taking to the slip the ship's No. 2, quarterboat, the magnificent sum of ten shillings for himself, and ten other shillings for the damage to his boat. Verily, human life on the Cornish coast is held at a very low estimate (about 5d. per head); but verily, also, the good old breed of Cornish "wreckers," exist only in history. The men of the present day (who represent them), being so weak as to listen to the prayers of women, and the cries of drowning children snatched hastily out of their first sleep, instead of boldly plundering, as in the good olden time.

* * If any readers of the FISHING GAZETTE, would like to express their feelings, and we are sure they would, in any shape, towards the hero of the foregoing story, they will find that he is still alive, and that a letter addressed to the village where he lives would easily find him.

1881:

A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK FORWARD.

By L.B.

PERHAPS in the absence of any item of interest this week, it may not be altogether out of place if I utilise the space kindly placed at my disposal by our editor, in taking a few retrospective glances at a few events of interest which have taken place during the fast expiring year, and anticipating a few of those likely to engross the attention of piscators generally during the one we are about to enter piscatorially, as far as our rivers are concerned. To Londoners, 1881 has been the worst year we have had for a long time, owing to the long continued frost which kept the river bound in icy fetters for days—nay, weeks at a time. Terrible snow storms, and perfect hurricanes of wind, the majority of our rivers were totally unfishable from early in January till the middle of March, nor did the opening day of the general fishing season—the 16th of June, usher in a much better state of things; low bright rivers—naturally resulting in the fish being "dead off," and everywhere on the Thames, Lea, and elsewhere, small baskets or positive blanks have been the almost unbroken rule; and now, with little more than ten weeks left before the close of the season, the prospects look anything but bright, for even a passable wind-up. The sharp frost and good pushes of water necessary to kill and sweep away the bulk of vegetable and minute insects which have, undisturbed during the late summer and autumn, increased apace, have until the last week or two been entirely absent. There is one consolation, however, viz: that owing to the absence of floods, the spawning season of '81, was one of the best ever known.

The year 1881 saw the commencement of an agitation in favour of amendments to the Freshwater Fisheries Act; followed by a large meeting of anglers of all classes, and from all parts, at the "Society of Arts Room," John Street, Adelphi. A meeting which was singularly unanimous and enthusiastic—a meeting held with the double object of passing certain resolutions as to the substance of the proposed amendments, and to express strong disapproval of the Bill introduced in the House of Commons, by Mr. Stuart Wortley, M.P., to legalise rod-and-line fishing during the

close season; the opposition to which was so marked and strongly expressed, that Mr. Stuart Wortley yielding to the views of an overwhelming majority, ultimately withdrew it.

I am afraid space will prevent my doing little else than merely mentioning the committee formed to consider the best means of decreasing the annoyance and risks to Thames anglers, oarsmen, and others, caused by the reckless driving of steam-launches on the river, and the meeting subsequently held in connection with same at Willis's Rooms.

The vast increase among the members of London angling clubs during the present year, is also a matter of great importance, as it is bound to make itself felt as a principal factor in deciding leading questions of the future.

The starting of the "Thames Rights Defence Association."

The inauguration of bait and fly-casting tournaments in this country.

The granting of further cheap travelling concessions to the members of the London angling societies by the various railway companies. All these, and many more works undertaken for the protection and furtherance of angling interests, will prevent the stigma of "barren" being attached to '81.

My perspective glance, which must be of the briefest, includes the future of our Thames Angling Preservation Societies; for while gladly admitting the great and useful work done by our river preservation societies, we cannot close our eyes to a few facts in connection with them. First, there undoubtedly is vast room for improvement, both in their internal constitution and their working. When the Thames Conservancy delegate—as they practically do—to any association, the duty of protecting anglers' interests, on any stretch of the river, the unmistakable duty of that association to itself and the public, is, so far as it possibly can, to make its executive committee a thoroughly representative one (this is what I mean by internal constitution). To go at length into details of what may be considered shortcomings in working, would require greater space than I can, in conscience, hope the editor would place at my disposal.

But there are two or three reforms which claim urgency over all others, and must be undertaken if the said societies are desirous of continuing to retain the confidence of the angling public. The system of partially-paid keepers for instance, as has been repeatedly pointed out, is a thoroughly worthless one; and all the money thus expended in dribbles, if not positively in all cases wasted, could be much better utilised in employing two or three competent men as wholly-paid keepers. It seems little short of marvellous that a system self-condemned by its almost entire absence of results in the past, and the opinion of Thames anglers generally, should have been so long maintained. Again, Preservation Societies must understand clearly that anglers will not subscribe funds to be wantonly wasted, as in a recent case this year, in trout-stocking experiments.

Then there is the all-important question of the rapid decrease of jack and perch. It is undeniable that thousands of the former—mostly immature fish—are annually killed by the trailers in June and July. The Preservation Societies, urged by an unmistakable expression of public opinion, are now unitedly using their best endeavours with the Conservancy to get these two months closed for pike fishing. How far the decrease of this bold sporting fish might have been prevented had they made a serious endeavour in the same direction years ago, is a fair matter for speculation; however, "better late than never."

To London club anglers, and indeed to anglers generally, there is no doubt the vital question of interest in the immediate future, is to secure waters and to preserve the same for the use of members. The West Central and East Central Association, have resolved to hold a joint meeting, to which representatives from the third or Central Association, are to be invited, when this and other important questions, including coarse-fish propagation, and the proposed amendments to the Mundella Act, will be thoroughly discussed and carefully considered; and the outcome of which will, let us hope, be the adopting of some important active measures.

ON THE CAUSES OF THE APPARENT DIMINUTION OF FISH IN THE RIVER THAMES; WITH REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS.

By THOMAS CRUMPLEN, HON. SEC., GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY, &c.

(Paper read before the Society.)

FROM all time our grand historic Thames has been known as a good fish-producing river; and only a little over a century since, salmon, trout, roach, dace, eels, flounders, and other fish, could be caught in abundance at London Bridge, whilst hundreds of professional fishermen earned their livelihood in the heart of the city, by the very proximity of its waters. There were, for

example, well-known swims for the rodster off Bankside, the Temple, Somerset House, and the Savoy; this was also the case down to a much later period. In the time when railways and privilege tickets were alike unknown, the faithful followers of Izaak in any part of the metropolis had but to walk to the river's bank, to stand at least the chance of a fair day's sport, and that with tackle of a much rougher type than is now at the command of even the humblest angler.

Whatever may be said for or against the good old days in other matters, there can be no doubt of their reality so far as angling is concerned, and no less doubt that, for the present at least, they have passed away. It will now be my purpose to put before you, what I think are the causes that have brought about so marked a change; to suggest, where possible, remedies; to ask you to discuss them; and see if the Gresham Angling Society cannot do something, however small, to restore the prestige of dear old Father Thames. Time was, when he kept his children clean, provided them with wholesome food, gave them a good bed, and looked after them until they were able to take care of themselves, but he does not do so now. Father Thames does not stand alone in this; and in dealing with him, I am but dealing with him in his patriarchal capacity, taking him really as the representative of every stream in the country to which anglers resort.

I take it to be admitted that fish are gradually diminishing in numbers; if it be not so, then is there no need for fence months, and other protective measures now so properly resorted to. Bear in mind therefore, two important facts. Fish were formerly abundant in that part of the river running through the metropolis,—there are still fish there—but for the most part they may be said to have disappeared. In the upper waters of the same river they are not so numerous as they used to be—in some cases not so large; and are being gradually overtaken by the fate which befell their metropolitan confrères, some two generations ago. Now I venture to affirm that the very conditions that have practically exterminated the fish in the London waters, are, in a degree, precisely those now operating in the more sylvan portions of the river. What I may call the fisheries of Old London, succumbed only as docks, factories, and gasworks multiplied; the noxious refuse from which was turned into the Thames—there to mingle with the sewage of a great city, the whole being stirred up and battered by the iron or copper bottomed steamboats, which at the same time appeared upon the scene. Moreover, nets were in constant operation, and the baser sort of the population probably but too ready to make use of them. What wonder, then, that fish disappeared from such a water; or will disappear from any water where such conditions prevail.

I put it, therefore, that these, or similar causes are now in operation, in a minor degree in the non-tidal waters of the Thames, and just in proportion as these causes increase, so will our stock of fish inevitably diminish. It has been repeatedly stated the vast increase of late years in the number of anglers, is sufficient alone to account for the diminution of fish, but I venture to assert that if our river be properly cared for, its quantity of fish would never be seriously affected by any fair rod-and-line angling. It should also be borne in mind that, just as anglers multiply, so do fish become more wary; and, that although we have more anglers, each has, as a rule, a lesser proportionate take than formerly, of which the roach fishermen of the Lea are certainly well aware.

These are days of board schools, and even the fish are being educated. The constant taking of small fry, coupled with other circumstances, has left a few wary old fish, who have occasionally, perhaps, felt the hook, and become more cunning in consequence. In accordance with the instinct implanted in them by the Creator, this faculty is to some extent transmitted, and I believe, within given limits, each succeeding race of fish will become more difficult to catch.

The only remedy for this (save finer tackle), is to increase our stock by every available means, and I do not think this is as yet sufficiently thought of, so far as the commoner coarse fish are concerned. It is well known that a trout of 1lb. will deposit eggs sufficient to produce 1,000 more, a jack of 28lb., nearly 300,000, a perch of 3lb., about 150,000, and a roach of 1lb., over 15,000.

Therefore if the spawn and young of fish could only be properly protected from year to year, there can be no question that as fish multiply in a far greater ratio than the fishermen, we might have abundant sport at least down to the time when Macaulay's New Zealander surveys the ruins of the metropolis from London Bridge, and finds a fishing rod and Gresham angling ticket among the wreck! The increase in the number of anglers can do no possible harm, so long as they do not take the small fish, and I trust that the day is not far distant, when all the London clubs will follow our example, and abolish gross-weight competitions, as they now exist. Perch for example, are certainly decreasing in the Thames, and they are not caught by any means of so large a size as formerly. The perch is "bold biter," and any one who

has fished much in the Thames, will know what quantities of small perch are occasionally caught. The youthful angler, perhaps, does not like to part with them; they are not returned, as they should be, to the water, and the stock suffers in consequence. I hope during the next session of Parliament, we shall be able to improve upon the Mundella Act, and get our fence months a little more adapted to the fish, so that perch and jack may be better protected; and, with respect to all fish, let us have one legal standard of sizes for taking, from Oxford to London Bridge. It certainly seems inconsistent that it should be unlawful to take a perch of less than 8 inches one side of the City Stone at Staines, but quite lawful to take one of 6 inches on the other!

Another cause tending to diminish the number of fish, are the numerous mills that now exist. I am far from saying that a mill is injurious in itself; but mills, I am told, discharge in many cases a certain amount of poisonous matter into the river, highly prejudicial to the fish. Many chemical substances now used in manufactures, were formerly unknown, and the refuse from the mills, is consequent different from what it used to be. Paper mills, using immense quantities of caustic potash and chloride of lime, are notoriously objectionable. Mr. Keene, in last week's number of the *FISHING GAZETTE*, instances two streams, the little Gade, and the Wraybury section of the Colne, which have deteriorated greatly from this cause, water from both of which, directly or indirectly, finds its way to the Thames.

An old angling friend told me from experience, and it is confirmed by others, that fish do not live so long now in the well of a punt as they formerly would, and he, in consequence, contrived a perforated box to let down from the boat, which he found to preserve them alive much longer. The reason seems to be, that the well only receives the surface water, which, holding in suspension the noxious products from mills, the drainage from chemical manures used on the land, and other sources, does not thoroughly commingle with the purer water below; and in this surface water fish cannot live.

Artificial manures on land adjoining the river, into which alkalis, always deleterious to fish, are largely employed, has certainly a great deal to answer for, and although chemical science, and mechanical skill may do much to neutralise their effects, a good River Pollution Bill is perhaps the only remedy that will insure their being properly applied.

Another, and more serious evil in the upper Thames is the prevalence of steam-launches, which, if they do not altogether mar the sylvan beauty of our glorious river, will in time denude it of its fish. The wash from these vessels is such as to disperse and spoil vast quantities of spawn, and Mr. Wheeldon has stated that the young fry are frequently dashed lifeless on the shore. I scarcely know what remedy to suggest for this, short of their entire abolition in the non-tidal waters, but being, as they are, used almost exclusively for pleasure parties, the matter might perhaps be compromised by allowing them to run at a regulated speed, during the months of August, September and October, so that they should not interfere with the chief spawning season. The next enemies the poor fish have to contend with in their struggle for existence, are the swans. I do not put these in the same category as steam-launches, because they certainly are somewhat picturesque, and supply the Corporation of London with a time-honoured excuse for a day's outing every year. At the same time, the swans undoubtedly devour large quantities of spawn, and are by no mean the friends of the angler. I would not get rid of the swans, of which about one hundred are distributed between Richmond Bridge and Staines, but I think some arrangement might be made for them to be fed frequently during the spawning seasons, which, if judiciously done, would almost nullify their destructiveness.

Another important matter to be considered is the fact that some fish feed upon others, and if natural conditions are materially interfered with, we may be in danger of lessening our stock of particular species from this cause alone. In the Thames, trout, jack, perch and chub do their share of this work, but they are all desirable fish to foster, and I trust will long be abundant in the river. We all know what a quantity of fish, jack and perch consume, and, not only so, but in many cases will devour a fish almost as large as themselves. I abominate netting—another great source of mischief—but if tolerated at all it should only be in the hands of a responsible committee; although, if permissible, I think some few old jack, too wary to be caught, might be safely transferred to an aquarium, to the delight of myriads of roach and dace, who would otherwise provide them with a meal.

There is also reason to believe that many fish are not taken in the Thames of so great a weight as formerly. A few escape, because too wary for the angler; more of them probably never attain maturity; others get an insufficient supply of food, owing to the conditions by which they are surrounded.

Such are a few of the most important causes leading to a diminution of fish in the river. A new source of danger has lately

appeared in the shape of floods, which undoubtedly scatter and do much harm to certain classes of fish, but on these and other points which I trust will crop up during the discussion, time will not now permit me to dilate.

What I am anxious to impress upon you more particularly is this—that the sewage, docks, factories, gasworks and steamboats which destroyed the fisheries of Old London, have their modern counterparts in the shape of sewage, mills, chemical manures, and steam-launches, which, unless prompt measures are taken, will infallibly perform the same work for us in the waters of the upper Thames. I know the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the other preservation societies too, are doing good service; and I also know that Mr. Forbes and other public-spirited individuals are doing their best to cultivate and replenish our stock of fish, for which, all honour to them. In conclusion I would say:—In treating this subject, let us follow as much as possible in the footsteps of nature; let us impose no needless artificial barriers to the stream; let us keep our river from pollution; let our preservation societies combine, and take not merely a police, but a scientific view of their duties; let the angling clubs of London forego the capture of small fish, and act like men in the true Waltonian spirit; then is there yet time to arrest the destruction going on, and to restore a strong and healthy progeny to dear old Father Thames.

T. C.

AMICABLE BROTHERS ANGLING SOCIETY.

THE twenty-eight annual supper took place on Monday, December 18th, when forty-four members and friends sat down. Mr. Medcalf, who occupied the chair in most able and courteous manner, was faced by Mr. W. Breasley in the vice. After the good cheer was disposed with, harmony reigned supreme. The National Anthem was sung by the whole of the company, accompanied by Mr. Henwood on the pianoforte. The prizes given during the evening were:—Mr. Medcalf, value 15s., first pegged-down match; Mr. Meas, value 15s.; Mr. J. Robinson, jun., 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Hunt, value 15s.; Mr. Clarke, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. Breasley, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Patrick, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Squire, 10s. 6d.; Mr. C. Robinson, jun., 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Robinson, sen., a length of doeskin for trousers; Mr. Farebrother, silver watch; Mr. W. Say, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Henwood, £1 1s. Mr. Clarke, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Meas, £1 1s.; Mr. Larkman, 15s.; Mr. Arnold, 12s.; Mr. A. Plumstead, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Marshall, 15s.; Mr. Moir, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Shury, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Carrington, 15s.; Mr. Gabb, 10s.; Mr. Abbott, gold ring; Mr. Lewis, work-box; Mr. Sinclair, pair of decanters and a meerscham pipe; Mr. Harding, 10s. 6d.—Wednesday night, December 14th, distribution of prizes. Mr. Farebrother in the chair. Mr. Medcalf, as trustee, discharged his duty by handing over to the different winners their prizes: Mr. Wool, gross weight of perch, tea service; Mr. Medcalf, heaviest weight of jack, pair of lustres; Mr. Moir, heaviest weight of bream, cruet stand; Mr. G. Carrington, heaviest weight of perch, set of tea trays; Mr. F. Harding, heaviest weight of dace, a gold ring; Mr. Medcalf, a pair of lustres, for the heaviest one roach; Mr. Hood, the heaviest take in one day; Mr. Harding, three prizes; Mr. A. Plumstead, three; Mr. F. Plumstead, two; Mr. Pedley, two; Mr. F. Arnold, two; Mr. Shury, two; Mr. Sinclair, two; Mr. Moir, two; Mr. Patrick, two; Mr. Abbott, two; Mr. Breasley, one; Mr. T. Lake, one; Mr. C. Robinson, jun., one; Mr. J. Robinson, sen., one; Mr. Squire, one; Mr. Wortledge, one. Mr. F. Plumstead gave a prize value 10s. 6d., Mr. W. Lake one value 10s. 6d., Mr. Rory O'More a fishing umbrella. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman, which finished the season. So I now conclude with wishing my brother anglers a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year, with plenty of good sport.—T. WORTLEDGE.

LOB WORMS.—In consequence of the difficulty experienced by London anglers in procuring lob-worms, Mr. Gillett, fishing tackle maker, of No. 40 Fetter Lane, has arranged to keep a constant supply; also of other worms and gentles, &c.—ADVT.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Allcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by him the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout Flies which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. F. Y. BROCKAS, Artificial Fly Dresser, 4, Mill-street, Conduit-street, Hanover-square, London, W. A stock of best flies always on hand, Flies made to pattern. Lessons in fly making given.—[ADVT.]

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

I have been trying to find an appropriate Shakesperian quotation for the occupation of mine which seems gone, and so far have not succeeded. I have little doubt the immortal William has got it about his clothes, but on the pinch I have not been able to find it, so I shall read up stiffly and let my gentle readers have a full "gill" next year. The river is more than bank high, and in fact is "over the hills and far away." Fishing is a thing to dream of just now on the Thames, and real sportsmen had better stay at home and "mend their tackling." A frost has suddenly set in, and the water so far to-day is stationary, so that bank anglers and eddy enthusiasts may have a chance for their Bank holiday. I wish all my gentle and FISHING GAZETTE readers a jolly and fishy Christmas, and more particularly wish them, that "good digestion may wait on appetite, and health on both." Its hard when you have got the health and the appetite and not the grub, as is the case with MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

We have got a very high flood now; it is going down, but very slowly. There will be no fishing this week. Prospects at present look better; a few days will soon get the water down again.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Kingston).

The river is high and a bad colour, and the stream so great that punt-fishing is almost out of the question, except in a few spaces. I have not been out for ten or twelve days. Most of the towing paths are under water. The best of the bank fishers cannot find but a few fish—four or five in as many hours. The continued rain up in the west country will stop us for three or four days. If it should be fine for that time jack, perch, and chub will be got at.—JOHN JOHNSON.

Thames (Walton).

The water is very thick, full of floating rubbish, and very high and still rising. There is every appearance of a frost to-night. If the water subsides there will be a chance for jack-fishing and perch. The weather has been simply awful; rain, heavy gales, and cold; changed to-night, very fine and wind dropped. Nothing done whatever.—H. E. WOOD.

Thames (Richmond).

The river is now bank high, and the water very thick. I little thought while writing the report last week that the rain would have continued so long. By Saturday morning the river bore the appearance of mustard. There has not been a punt out here during the week, simply because there were very few fish to be caught; in fact, the bank angler has the best of it now, as the fish keep close to the shore and under the banks for shelter from the heavy stream that is running down. There is a change in the weather, and should it last over Christmas day we shall be able to have a start on Monday, as the water will not take long to run away, providing the weather only holds fine. I hear from Teddington that the fishermen there have had a good time of it with the lampins, for, as these fish are only caught at flood time, it is an ill wind that blows no one any good.—JOHN BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

I am sorry to say we have not done anything for some time now, and I am afraid it will be some time before we shall be at work again. The water is out all over the place. It is simply dangerous for an inexperienced person to attempt to cross the river. Wishing my patrons the compliments of the season.—ALFRED PERRIN.

Achnolme.

The approach of Christmas has turned the attention of anglers from the water to the land, consequently, but little has again been done; moreover, the weather has been uncongenial and wet, more favourable to bronchial affections and rheumatics, and, consequently, to the doctor than angler.—THOMAS FORD.

Chertsey.

Haslett, the well-known fisherman, reports the capture of a handsome jack, 15 lb. Fishing with Mr. Allen for about three hours, and had not the tackle proved again and again untrustworthy, he adds there would have been a really good take to record.

Dove.

This may be described as almost a blank week—the dark before the dawn—for things generally mend on our river when Christmas comes. There have been very few rodsters on either the higher or lower lengths of the water, and I don't think they would have done a vast deal had they gone out, for the river has been full of snow broth, and this has prevented the fish from feeding with any degree of freedom. When this nasty broth goes I fancy pike and grayling will be found well on the feed. The bleach net fraternity still maintain great activity in the high waters. One gentleman cleaching grayling was beautifully dropped upon by the night-watchers this week, and he will be dealt with in the usual manner. The "find" was made in the water below Dovedale. I fancy coarse fish will be best on at the Maggot during the holidays. They rarely take the worm in a very low temperature of our river.—THE SPLODGER.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The river is still very muddy, but in the absence of rain some of the pens below the town may be fishable for roach by Monday.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water very high and thick. No chance whatever for the angler now for the next few days; but I hope when the water clears we shall be able to get some very good fishing on the flats. There have been no anglers down since my last report; but I had a nice little turn for a couple of hours on the 16th, before the water came down thick, and got 8½ lb. roach and bream; largest roach, 19 oz.; largest bream, 2 lb. 3 oz. The bream was quite a novelty, as I never saw one near that size taken here in December.—CHARLES SOUTH.

Trent (Alrewas).

Nothing doing in this locality. The river has not been fishable for a week, and very little probability of any angling during the forthcoming holidays. River reported to-day (Thursday) thick, and all over the meadows—will take a week's fine weather before in anything like condition for pike and chub. While the water remains discoloured worms will be found the most killing bait for all-round angling.—JAMES GREGORY.

Trent (Newark).

We have had a very heavy flood all the week, miles of meadow land has been submerged; and nothing has been done in the way of sport; to-day (Thursday) the water is slowly going down, but has not yet got within the banks; prospects look very bad for the Christmas holidays. The banks, after the water has left them, will be very bad and uncomfortable for the bank angler; but the genuine anglers motto is "nil desperandum," and so possibly he may manage to get a roach or two out of some quiet corner, with worms for bait, for I am sadly afraid that will be about the extent of the sport this Christmas, at least, as regards the Lower Trent.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Trent (Nottingham).

With the exception of Friday and Saturday in last week, when the water was in good condition for both worm and maggots, there is very little to report in the way of angling. The water, however, on the days mentioned was all right, but the weather was wet and cold, so that only a few rodsters were out. Those, however, who went up the river, succeeded far better than was expected under such unfavourable circumstances, and I believe those who visited the Burton and Willington waters brought down some capital fish; one angler had, among other fish, twelve roach that averaged a pound each, whilst another had twenty dace that weighed together 10 lb., which was considered a very pretty sample. A few jack were caught in the upper waters at Shardlow and Sawley, but none of the fish caught exceeded 5 lb., the live bait doing the work. After that heavy rain came on, which lasted several hours, and on Sunday morning the water came down very thick and altogether unfishable. Rain continued to fall, which caused the river to overflow its banks, and at the time of writing (Thursday night) there is a little flood on the river, and some of the meadows are under water. The river is going down rapidly, and as the weather seems settled and inclined to be frosty, we hope to have the water all right again for Christmas.—W. BAILEY.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a regular thaw last Friday, which took away the keen frost, and several of the old hands, grayling bottom fishers, availed themselves of a day's bottom fishing in different parts of the Derwent, and I am pleased to say that some handsome baskets of coarse fish and grayling were killed with both worms and gentles. The best basket was five brace of grayling and three and a half brace of roach and dace. We had a great deal of both rain and snow the latter end of last week, which caused both rivers to have floods on them on Monday. The cleach-net party killed a few fish on the Derwent during the time the river was in flood. Both on Wednesday and Thursday a few anglers were out on the Derwent trying their skill with the bottom, and were rewarded with a few brace of grayling and coarse fish. The best dish was killed on the Darley Dale water on Thursday with cockspur worms, viz., six brace of grayling and one large dace. Both rivers are a very great deal too high for fly-fishing at present, in fact, I really do not think that the Derwent will be fit for successful fly-fishing any more this year. It will take the Wye a few days to run down before it is fit for fly-fishing. Several anglers have been out trying for pike, but I can't hear of any being taken worth recording.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

The weekly meeting on Monday, the 12th inst., at Ashley's Hotel, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, was principally devoted to the contribution of a paper on "The Reminiscences of the East Indian Archipelago," by Mr. Edwin Sachs. Mr. W. B. Adlington was unanimously voted to the chair, and was supported by about fifty members. Mr. Thomas Huggate weighed in 3 lb. 14 oz. of roach, the largest fish 1 lb. 7 oz., 2 lb. 6 oz. of dace, the largest 1½ lb., and a jack of 3 lb. 11 oz. There were no fewer than seven new members elected. The chairman then called upon Mr. Edwin Sachs to give his paper on the above subject, and which partook more of the character of an illustrated and deeply interesting lecture, which occupied one hour and a half in its delivery. The lecturer, after describing the reason he went out, and how his travels, ostensibly to last six months, eventually spread over four years, warned his hearers not to take tackle for sea fishing if they went out in steamers, fishing from them being impossible. He described methods of fishing in Ceylon, in Sumatra, from so-called "catamarans," and tackle used, and explained methods of fishing in the interior of Java and Sumatra, exhibiting models of boats used, with some very interesting articles of fishermen's clothing; lines made from the fibre of the flowering aloe, and reels; cast nets, the same pattern as used in England, only lighter and larger, and with chain in place of bullets; and heel baskets and creels. Also a large variety of Sumatran arms of great rarity, including a creese 172 years old. Humorous description of inmates of reader's hut in Sumatran forest. Live snapping tortoises, snakes, flying bats, civet cats, mountain goats, herons, &c. He also described blow tubes and the feats performed with them, and showed a curious implement by means of which the natives procured fire before the introduction of matches, consisting of a buffalo-horn tube with a piston, fire being produced by compression of air. Besides these, the speaker exhibited a large quantity of native implements and ornaments, idols and weapons from such obscure places as Wias and Pogy Islands, west coast of Sumatra, and concluded with a description of a new species of viviparous fish discovered by him in the island of Biliton. At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Edwin Sachs, the only regret being, from the great trouble he had taken in preparing the lecture and the very valuable and practical information it contained, there were not more present. Mr. Edwin Sachs evidenced great aptitude as a lecturer and his pleasing delivery and the popular manner in which he treated the subject frequently secured him the warm approval of his hearers. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Adlington terminated a very enjoyable and instructive evening.

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ANGLING SOCIETIES.

COARSE FISH CULTURE, &c.

THE last delegates' meeting of this association for 1881 was held on Friday, the 16th inst., and was of more than ordinary interest. The president of the association, Mr. Geen, Mr. Clench, of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and Mr. Marston, of the FISHING GAZETTE, were among those present. Mr. Bonvoisin, and Mr. Beckett occupied the chair and vice-chair respectively. The hon. sec. opened the business of the evening by reading the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th ult., which were confirmed without comment. He then announced that the interview by a deputation of the joint committees of the N. L. A. C. and W. C. A. with the manager of the Great Eastern Railway, on the 20th October, last, had resulted in the company giving further concessions. The following letter will explain what such concessions are—

Great Eastern Railway, General Manager's Office,
Liverpool Street, December, 1881.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the interview I had with a deputation from various angling societies on the 20th October last, I have submitted the question raised on that occasion to the directors, and am instructed to inform you that on and after 1st January, 1882, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class single fare return tickets will be issued to the members of the—

United London Anglers Society ;

The West Central Association of London Angling Clubs ;

The Central Association of London Clubs ; on production of their cards of membership.

From Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Stratford, to all stations between Ponders End, Buntingford, Ware and Shelford, inclusive, and all stations between Loughton and Ongar, inclusive. Hackney Downs, Angel Road, to all stations between Ponders End Buntingford, Ware and Shelford, inclusive.

The tickets will be available for the same period as ordinary return tickets.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

W. M. BIRT, per G. Strudwick.

Mr. J. Hoole, West Central Angling Association.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Great Eastern Railway was then recorded, in anticipation of which the hon. sec. had already written to Mr. Birt.

The Chairman, in introducing Mr. Marston to the meeting, said that a conference had been held earlier in the evening, at which Mr. Marston, Mr. Greville Fennell, Mr. Geen, Mr. Clench, Mr. Hoole, and himself had been present, relative to a scheme for the propagation and cultivation of coarse fish, which had been sketched out by Mr. Marston, but, as that gentleman was present, he would leave him to inform the meeting what it was proposed should be done for the benefit of the angling fraternity.—Mr. Marston, who was very cordially received, in a very able speech treated the question of the decrease of coarse fish in the various rivers of this country in a very masterly manner. In his opinion, this was only to be rectified by the anglers themselves continuing and carrying out some scheme of fish-cultivation, and more efficiently preserving the water. For the purpose of discussing this question, it was proposed to hold a meeting at the Society of Arts, early in the coming year. He concluded by calling on those who had the interests of angling at heart to join and support any scheme which would further the object in view—viz., the increase of coarse fish in our rivers.—Mr. Geen, president of the W. C. A., briefly stated that he could speak from experience as to the depletion of the Thames, and that, at the rate it was going on, unless something was done, and that very shortly, there would be no fish whatever to catch. In his opinion the scheme sketched out by Mr. Marston was a reasonable one, and he thought that if the anglers would contribute £100 per annum, it would enable it to be carried into effect.—On Mr. Geen resuming his seat, the Chairman introduced Mr. Clench to the meeting, when that gentleman urged all the London societies to support the proposed scheme, and do their utmost to ensure its success. He then read a resolution passed by the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and urged all the societies to pass a similar resolution. Each of these gentlemen condemned the association for allowing individual societies to rent waters which they might have secured, and then practically kept them open (which they would have been) to the members of societies enrolled with the association.—Mr. Murphy, although agreeing with these gentlemen, said that although some waters had been secured by individual societies, that was much better than if they had got into the hands of some private individuals.—Mr. Crumple, the hon. sec. of the Gresham Angling Society, who have rented some erstwhile public waters, urged that such waters had, in the first place, been brought to their notice by some gentlemen of the U. L. A. C. He concluded by saying that if any scheme was started for the cultivation of coarse fish, the Gresham would not be found wanting in support to such a movement, and his only hope was that it would be an entire success. After some

further discussion, in which the vice-chairman, Mr. Field, and the representative of the Portsmouth Waltonians joined, the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

“That a joint committee of the U. L. A. C. and W. C. A. be held on the first Friday in January, to arrange details to be laid before a special meeting of delegates, to be held on the third Friday in the same month.”

The case of Messrs. Bidgood and Clayton, of the Queen's Angling Society, which has occupied the attention of the delegates and committee since August last, was, at the last meeting of the committee, finally decided. The decision has only been arrived at after a long and patient hearing of the whole matter. At the last meeting, the majority of the members of the Queen's Angling Society were present by direction.—The Chairman, in very forcible language, stated that the whole affair, from beginning to end, was a most disgraceful one ; in fact, one that warranted a severe vote of censure being passed on the Queen's Angling Society. The decision arrived at by the committee was that the tickets held by Messrs. Bidgood, Clayton, Wood and Walford should be cancelled. Upon this being put to the meeting it was unanimously confirmed. On the roll being called, the following societies were represented : Acton and Ealing, Bostonian, Bloomsbury Brothers, Beresford, City of London, Cambridge Friendly, Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Cornwall, First Surrey, Golden Barbel, Good Intent, Gresham, Hammersmith Club, Hammersmith United, Hampstead, King's Cross United, North-Western, Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Portsmouth Waltonians, Queen's, Richmond Piscatorials, Savoy, Brothers, South London, South Belgravia, Trafalgar, United Brothers, Waltonians, and Mr. Gurney, representing the N. L. A. C.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chair and vice-chair brought one of the most interesting meetings of the year to a close.

GABRIEL TREADWELL.

SPORT FOR ALL.

FISHING is the panacea for all ills. Trouble, worry, difficulties, even ill-health, may for a time be forgotten and banished by this fascinating and all-engrossing pursuit. For very-much-married men nothing affords so much relief, as angling ; and who shall bid the poor sat-upon Benedict despair, when he may exchange the domestic battlefield with all its attendant joys and miseries, for the sunlit meadows, and the deep slowly running stream, with its store of silver beauties only waiting to be transferred to his creel.

Some people are very intolerant fishermen, and will only admit, as orthodox, the pursuit of certain fish in a certain way. With all due respect to this body of piscatorial exclusives, good fun may be obtained, and plenty of sport shown, by all kinds of fish caught in a legitimate way. Fly-fishing must of course always bear away the palm, but where salmon and trout are not known, and coarse fish are plentiful, no lover of angling need lack occupation.

One great mistake is made by those who systematically sneer at the all-round fisherman.

These immaculate gentlemen only see one side of the question, and most likely have been roused into their virtuous indignation by the sight of a pot-hunter fishing in very thick water, with a very thick line, with a very large lob-worm for trout, or throwing out a sugar-loaf at the end of a cable, with an impaled roach for bait, waiting for the signal to haul the unwary pike ashore by main force.

These instances, I am afraid, are common enough, and are certainly calculated to excite feelings of disgust in the minds of those fair anglers who like to see the struggle more equal, and who like to give the fish at all events an occasional chance of liberty. I can imagine no finer sport than roach-fishing with a single-hair line with one clevil of boiled wheat for bait, in any place where “big uns” are wont to congregate ; an outsider cannot appreciate the delicacy of touch, and the perfect co-operation of eye and wrist, required before the angler can be called a proficient in this department. Then, again, when the freshwater shark is hungry, let us not murder him offhand for the sake of our “gross weight” at the end of the day ! Let us minister to his appetite in the most artistic fashion. Let us arm ourselves with a single-handed fly-rod (with a shorter stiffer top joint), eighty yards of fine prepared trout line, a gut trace, and a very small spoon bait, attached to six inches of the finest gimp. Now let us spin carefully every foot of likely water, and if we are rewarded with the mighty rush of a ten-pounder, there will be plenty of excitement, and a vast amount of skill and patience brought into play, before we administer the *coup de grace* to our struggling captive. There is more pleasure and satisfaction in such a victory, than the gross-weight gentlemen ever “dreams of in his philosophy,” and a brace of fish taken by the fine system will afford more real sport than a puntload secured by main strength.

I maintain, then, that good sport may be had with all kinds of freshwater fish, bearing in mind that the strength and size of the tackle should be proportioned to the size of the fish angled for. Trout may be caught under some conditions with the most primitive appliances, but who cares to drag this well-bred little gentleman from his native element by means of a clothes prop, a yard of string, and a hook to match! Rather let us wait until the floods disappear, and the brooks are running bright again; then with a delicate quill gnat, or a tiny blue upright on the finest drawn gut, let us (carefully keeping out of sight) cast our lures lightly upstream so that they fall like gossamer upon the ripples; and ah! how deliciously that gentle tug thrills through us, as we politely intimate to our game little opponent, that he cannot have all his own way. Good anglers are generally good fellows in every sense of the word, and, wherever we may wander in search of sport, we are sure to meet with some genial souls by the river side, who are ready to compare notes with us; and in the evening as, weary with our long day, we recline in our arm chair, discussing our toddy and "a burnt offering," tales of wonderful days long ago spring up, and, as we become confidential, the weight and size of some of our past catches insensibly seem to increase.

Well, may all brethren of the rod love sport for sport's sake, and that the pot may be always a secondary consideration is the earnest wish of

QUILL GNAT.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

THE HOWIETOWN PISCICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT AT STIRLING.

WE have received from Mr. J. R. Guy, the secretary of the above fishery, the second edition of his "Pamphlet on Stocking," a most interesting little work, which we cordially recommend to the notice of all who are interested in the culture of fish; we believe it can be had post free simply by applying for it. Mr. Guy makes some strong charges of neglect, ignorance and carelessness against the Stormontfield pisciculturists. He says the water used to hatch the ova in is not good, though good water could easily be had; that the hatching boxes are badly arranged and exposed to frost; that the rearing ponds for the fry are everything they should not be; and, finally, that the young fish are starved, getting only 4 lb. of liver a day, instead of 1000 lb., which would only be a fair amount if the statement is true that the Stormontfield fishery annually yields 300,000 young salmon to the river Tay. As he pointedly remarks, if this vast quantity of salmon is placed in the Tay every year, how is it that the salmon-fishing shows so little improvement? If Mr. Guy's strictures are well grounded, we should say the reason is not far to seek—the poor little beggars are too weakly to exist, and soon die in the main river, or, if they ever reach the sea, have too deeply-rooted a remembrance of their starved infancy to return to such a foster mother!

We will select from the pamphlet a few remarks which are likely to be useful.

"We have brought artificial impregnation to such perfection that probably less than 200 eggs will be barren out of a gallon of about 40,000."

* * * * *

"In from six to eight weeks the embryo is sufficiently developed to enable the eggs to be handled with impunity, and they can be packed in trays on damp swansdown, and forwarded all over the world."

* * * * *

"It is by no means easy to construct a hatching-house absolutely frost-proof, and it is advisable to excavate and build the greater part of the house underground. The expense, of course, varies according to the nature of the ground, and the distance spring water has to be conducted, but £1000 per million ova may be taken as a fair estimate."

* * * * *

CARRIAGE OF FRY.

"Fry will not bear much handling. It has been found advisable, to suit those who require large quantities, to offer them in lots of about 15,000, as these can be easily estimated from the hatching boxes, and a large allowance left for mishaps *en route*. Another advantage is that this number can be sent safely in a forty-gallon tank, except for very long journeys, or in warm weather, when a supplementary small tank requires to be added. . . . The fry are generally sent after they have been feeding for one month, when they are pretty well able to take care of themselves, and are very suitable for stocking large sheets of water which are accessible by road from railway stations. It is best to turn them out into feeders above the loch, into which they will descend in from ten to fourteen months."

CARRIAGE OF YEARLING TROUT.

"These trout are from ten to fourteen months old. They vary very much in size, according to whether the season is mild or otherwise. They generally run from 2½ to 5 inches. . . . We generally recommend those at a long distance from the fishery to arrange to stock

their water, especially in England, where, the temperature being warmer, the fish will grow quicker in winter than they can here. . . . Wherever there is no change of carriage this size of trout can be forwarded safely without an attendant, and guaranteed to be alive and in good condition at the end of any journey not exceeding forty hours, while they can be sold so cheaply they will prove a very profitable investment, to any one who has suitable ponds, to feed for the market. At this age the death-rate compares most favourably with that of any other animal. In our own experience we have found it occasionally as low as twelve per 1000. Wherever there is safe water, without other fish, accessible to a railway station we recommend this size."

CARRIAGE OF TWO-YEAR-OLD TROUT.

"Two-year-old trout—that is, fish from twenty-two to twenty-six months old—generally run from 5 to 8 inches. They are preferable for deep reservoirs or waters where predacious fish already exist, by which yearlings are liable to be destroyed. They cannot economically be forwarded on journeys exceeding thirty hours' duration, and it is advisable always to send an attendant with them. They have the great advantage, however, of frequently attaining from a half to three-quarters of a pound before the end of the ensuing summer, and having, in the case of the Loch Leven trout, assumed the smolt scale, they readily acclimatise themselves to any water."

CARRIAGE OF LARGE TROUT.

"The transit of large trout is at present too expensive to render them available generally for stocking. For those, however, who wish immediate sport, trout up to 2 lb. weight each can be supplied, provided the journey does not exceed twenty hours, and up to 5 lb., provided the journey does not exceed ten hours. If the aquarium cars used in America were introduced into this country, live salmon could easily be transported from one end of the kingdom to another; as it is merely a question of keeping a certain quantity of water at a sufficiently low temperature, the art of conveying live fish long distances is still in its infancy.* The great secret, however, in travelling fish long distances consists in carefully preparing the fish for at least a week beforehand, and in the regulation of the temperature at starting and during the first part of the journey."

CHARR.

"Charr are distinguished from salmon and trout by a feebleness, having teeth on the head of the vomer only (Günther). The charr best known to pisciculturists at present is undoubtedly the *salmo fontinalis*, or brook trout of America."

Those of our readers who would like further interesting information about the culture of *salmonide* we must refer to the above work, or to the pamphlet on trout-culture issued by our friend Mr. Charles Capel, of Footscray, Kent. Mr. Both, Mr. Guy and Mr. Capel will be happy to give those who think of stocking their waters with trout, salmon, or charr every information, and Mr. Capel adds the valuable grayling to his list.

THE GARDEN ORACLE AND CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE GARDENER'S MAGAZINE.

MESSRS. W. H. AND L. COLLINGRIDGE have sent us copies of the above for notice. Mr. Shirley Hibberd's name is well known as an authority on gardens and gardening, and we have much pleasure in recommending his really excellent illustrated Christmas number, and his "Garden Oracle," or floral year-book, now in its twenty-fourth year. It is an invaluable guide to the gardener, whether amateur or professional.

CALVERT'S MECHANICS' ALMANACK. Price 4d. Office, Great Jackson Street, Manchester.

THIS cheap and useful almanack contains, in addition to the usual matter of an almanack, practical, technical and industrial knowledge, especially instructive and entertaining to artisans and handicraftsmen, and those generally engaged in mechanical, engineering, and building and constructive trades; decorative, artistic, manufacturing and kindred operations; with original calendar notes, and copious marginal references, relating to events, inventions, inventors, and biography; chapters, original and selected; extracts, humorous and useful; hints, receipts, and maxims. A year book and manual (with annually changed contents), interesting to all at business and at home. Its contents include special articles by W. Lloyd Wise, Esq. on "A Good Patent Law;" R. M. Bancroft, C.E., and P. N. Hasluck (author of "Lathework," &c.), on "Apprentice Schools in France," and "Japanning on Metal," and generally will be found quite as useful as before. There is a double-page illustration of the various knots, loops, hitches, &c., used in building which may, we think, afford a useful hint or two to the tackle-maker.

* We hope shortly to publish a translation of a most practical and useful pamphlet on the "Transport of Fish," from the German of Herr Emil Weeger, President of the Brünn Piscatorial Society, Bavaria.—Ed.

AN ANGLING DISASTER.

'Twss close on the change o' the season
(I don't mean the change o' the moon),
When Winter gaed aff for this reason,
To mak way for the spring comin' roun'.

I wanted to smell her sweet breath,
And panted to get 'mang the hills,
And noo, let me tell, I've mair faith
In spring's caller breath than in pills.

Should ony ane fishin' abuse,
Here's a hint that I canna conceal;
Ye may trespass, and gang where ye choose,
If ye hae a rod and a creel.

I got my trout rod and a basket,
And hied to a stream near the Clyde,
Fishin' as if I'd been taskit,
The art I so eagerly plied.

The fields were a' bonny and licht,
The bushes and tredds lookin' braw,
For they had been coated by nicht
Wi' a pouth'rinn' o' frost or wi' snaw.

The burnie winds here like an S,
And sae deep frae the tap o' the brae,
I wad think the height couldna be less
Than that o' a big stack o' hay.

Below me a deep rinnin' eddy,
Where froth like a pirie did spin,
I thocht on the cove so unsteady
Micht hae the mishap to fall in.

I got an auld root o' a tree,
And made me a seat like a form,
Thus turnin' my face to the lee,
Till I baited my hook wi' a worm.

But, wae's me, the treacherous burn
Had scooped a' the sand frae below,
And ere from the turf I could turn
I felt the turf turnin' to go.

Ere I could say anything ill,
Or empty my pouches o' cash,
I gaed roun' like the wheel o' a mill,
And fell in the hole wi' a splash.

I felt such an awfu' sensation
When my mouth wi' the water got fou,
I thought on the wife and creation,
And bade them a lasting adieu.

I spluttered awhile like a fish,
And really I thought I was droon'd,
But, tho' donnart, got haud o' a bush,
Got out, then began to come round.

What big things sprang up out o' seed!
Think, reader, for instance, on me;
Here am I, escaped frae the dead,
Jist saved by the branch o' a tree.

And little the waur o' my dookin',
Tho' I was an awfu' like sicht,
And looked like a craw when its pookin',
But may never recover the fricht.

This life has its ups and its downs—
Abs'iom deet on the branch o' a tree—
But this I will never disown,
'Twas a branch was the savin' o' me.

Fishin's a pleasure, nae doot,
And pleasure, if taxed by the year,
The biggest o' fools wad find out
It costs them exceedingly dear.

Thro' life it needs unco great care
Oor pleasures to curb and control,
Or, like me, ye may fa' unaware,
And get hurt or get drooned in a hole.

GEO. DOBIE.

MR. BOOTH'S ROACH ROD

In our notice of this rod last week, we said that Mr. B. sent the rod, carriage free, for 4s. 8d. Mr. B. writes to say this is a mistake; but that after this date he will send it, carriage free, for 4s. rod.

ELSTREE RESERVOIR, HERTS.

BY LEO BONVOISIN.

(Continued from page 588).

THE reservoir contains pike, perch, tench, carp, roach, and a few eels. The roach are, as a rule, barely the size of baits, though a good one is now and again taken upon worm tackle. Of carp, I am told upon the best authority there are some very heavy ones, but these artful fish—freshwater foxes, as Walton calls them—are rarely taken. I wonder if anybody, fishing very fine and far off, with a good bolus of white paste mixed with honey, and groundbaiting with, say, crushed boiled potatoes, would succeed in circumventing one or two of these aquatic Reynards. There are also myriads of perch; but the roach are nowhere, small as they are, compared to these little prickly customers. One day in August, I caught here, before breakfast, over two dozen of these little brutes, the heaviest of which would not weigh $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Of course, a decent perch is occasionally taken—about one in, well, I am afraid to say how many, but Elstree's real resources consist of its pike and tench. Now, touching these first, and how they are captured. The first-named—which this season are better both in size and quantity, or, more probably, seem the last because they are easier of capture, owing to the extreme lowness of the water—are, the majority of them (I don't think I should be much over the mark if I said two-thirds of them), taken trailing. An ordinary medium-sized flight and leaded trace being used, the usual baits roach and dace, and, when they are to be obtained, sprats. A few occasionally use artificial baits, spoons, &c., but the bulk prefer the natural. Live baiting and trolling are occasionally resorted to—the former principally when the fisherman is using a second rod requiring his attention, or the condition of the water necessitates it. Spinning, paternostering, or the use of the live bait snap, are a very rare exception, though I think each in the hands of a proficient rodster would do much execution. I need not here do more than mention that, like many anglers, I have the most hearty contempt for trailing, looking upon it and live baiting with the gorge hook as the very lowest possible form of fishing; but, in justice to the majority of Elstree trailers, I must mention that one of the greatest, if not the greatest, objection to this style of fishing in the Thames does not exist here, and that undersized fish are carefully returned to the water—of this I have taken particular note. The Elstree punts—and a punt is almost indispensable, fishing from the bank, particularly with the water as low as it is now being rarely successful—are very primitive grey painted craft, with square ends unnecessarily heavy, with little iron rowlock, small wells, and a pair of short oars, leaky, and requiring baling two or three times during the day, but withal tolerably steady on the water. Now concerning the tench, which are both plentiful and of a good weight. The best tackle to use in fishing for them consists of an ordinary Nottingham rod; running line, very fine unprepared plait or silk twist, with a fine (not drawn) gut bottom stained dark; hook about No. 7 and moderately long in the shank; a fairly large porcupine one, too long to reel up on an ordinary winder, or a light cork float—you will by this means be able to use a sufficient number of shots to take the bait to the bottom quickly and decrease the chances of its being swallowed or disfigured by the small fry while sinking. The bait, a good-sized marsh worm, two if small, should lie at least six inches on the bottom—a good deal more if the day is at all rough, to prevent its being continually shifted by the action of the wind and waves. Indeed, if it is very rough—and sometimes it does blow with a S. or S.W. wind—you will find it best to dispense with floats and shots altogether, and to ledger with a small bullet, kept from running down nearer the hook than 18 or 20 inches by a small shot. Cast your line out so that the float rights itself at least seven or eight yards from the punt. The advantage of this is that it decreases the chances of the fish dashing round the punt poles in the first rush after being hooked; and that they are more likely to lie a little way out than in the immediate shadow of yourself, craft, rod, &c., or just within the circle of the vibration caused (however careful you may be) by your unavoidable movements. Many sorts of groundbaits are used by the frequenters of this water, bread and bran, bread, bran, cray and pollard, bushels of grains (often very sour), carrion gentles, &c., but the very best groundbait in my opinion are lob-worms put in without clay, and at dusk, if possible, the evening before—from 250 to 300 will be amply sufficient.

The punts are fixed by means of poles, not the great strong ironshod poles of the Thames, but primitive pieces of timber, more like big clothes props. If you go down overnight, Tom Hawley, the keeper, will take you out, find your punt for you, if there is not one already fixed in a suitable place; and when you have put in your groundbait, will bring you off in a rowing boat, leaving all things ready for the morning, when he will row you quietly out

and fetch you in again. When you require to come on shore for breakfast, dinner, or any other purpose, this will prevent you losing your swim—as the punt poles are frequently left fixed after a day's fishing, and their presence by no means invariably denotes a baited or engaged swin. In very stormy weather, the punts are further kept in their places by one or more huge pieces of flint fastened to a cord and let down over the side.

About Tom the keeper, such brilliant writers as Messrs. Fennell and Keene, could write quite a nice descriptive paragraph. Unfortunately I do not possess the same ability, and moreover, my article, which I had intended should be of very modest dimensions, is getting very long; so I will merely mention that Tom is a capital keeper, a good fisherman, possessing that great quality, viz:—taking a deep interest in the water under his care. He is, as he proudly informed me, an old "Humane Society's" man, having been presented with their medal. He is civil, obliging, and universally liked by the frequenters; he lives at Mrs. Brown's Cottage, close by the water; and has a stock of rods and tackle, and generally a tub of worms (not marsh or lobs, but something between—garden worms I think they are—larger than the first, and smaller than the second.) Apropos of Mrs. Brown—a pleasant, buxom dame, who represents, I believe, Mr. Hills, the lessee of the water—anglers can here have their inner wants, in the shape of breakfast, dinner, or tea, attended to at very reasonable charges.

Now I don't know that there remains much else for me to say about Elstree, excepting that the charges are: for a season ticket, jack and bottom fishing, £1 1s., for a punt, which can be shared with another, £1 1s. Day tickets—jack, 2s. 6d., bottom fishing, 1s.; punt, 2s. 6d. The present season has, so far, turned out the best for many years past among the tench; and some capital bags have been made, 20lb. and 25lb. being had all over the water; while lots of 30lb and 40lbs. have by no means been uncommon. The fish taken have averaged from 1½lb. to 2lb. My take on the day above referred too, 8 fish, weighed close upon 20lb., heaviest fish 3lb. 6½oz. To prevent disappointment, I should, however, mention that the tench fishing is, of course, over for this year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—I was rather disappointed at not seeing one of "A Thames Fisherman's" interesting letters in THE FISHING GAZETTE either of the 3rd or 10th inst. I hope it is his intention to continue them (as he said he should do, with your permission)—as they are evidently written by one, who, if not a professional fisherman, has studied the habits of fish and is well acquainted with the locality he describes, and, consequently, contain a great deal of useful information for persons fond of angling, who have only an opportunity of pursuing their favourite sport a few times in the course of the year.

If I may be allowed to express an opinion, I think if some of our experienced anglers were to follow "A Thames Fisherman's" example, and contribute articles to THE FISHING GAZETTE, occasionally giving a description of rivers with which they are acquainted, accounts of the capture of large fish, &c., they would be read with greater interest by anglers than some which have appeared in your columns lately on the structure of fish, as any one interested in ichthyology can obtain such information from works on the subject.—I am, &c.,

Weybridge, December 13, 1881.

ARTHUR C. HEBBURN.

[We kept "A Thames Fisherman's" letter for our Christmas number, and hope to have another for next week.—ED.]

THE "THAMES FISHERMAN" AND THE OLD RIVER.

[SIR,—Allow me just a few lines in which to reply to "A Thames Fisherman's" remarks concerning myself. A T. F. begins by saying I claim to be a brother "professional." This is a mis-statement. I do not; and every one who knows anything at all about me knows that I ceased being a professional in 1876, when I was appointed editor of the *Country* newspaper, and sub-editor of the *Bazaar*, *Exchange and Mart*, 170, Strand. Previous to that I lived nearly two years at Wraysbury, quite long enough to wear the varnish off my punt; and before that, if I must enlighten "A Thames Fisherman's" ignorance, I was with my father for some years in Windsor Great Park, and prior to that at Chertsey, from the time I was five years old.

As to the "Great Curse (?) of our Calling," A T. F.'s reply is preposterous. How can the intoxication of a man twice a year constitute a Great Curse (Capitals, please, Mr. Printer)? Where, also, is the inconsistency in saying A T. F. writes "charmingly terse prose" about what I term "an imaginary grievance"? There is no grievance of the sort, nor "Great Curse." That is my contention.

Another mis-statement of yours, Mr. T. F. I did not describe the bones in the perch's head. I said I couldn't find them; and Mr. Frank Gosden, of Exeter, kindly sent me specimens, and was allowed a few lines of description by the Editor. If you are describing a swim at all, I hold that for it to be of any practical use to those who don't know the water, it should be most minutely pictured, and actual landmarks given. You are not writing for those who are familiar with that part of the Thames, I apprehend.

As to my present handiness with the pole, I will admit it is possible I am not so deft now as our anonymous "Thames Fisherman;" but I must say that, even at this time, when sedentary pursuits have, to a slight extent, possibly softened my muscles and impaired the steadiness of my nerves, I should be ashamed to shoot old Windsor Weir as A T. F. advises. The most ludicrous

sight I ever saw in connection with the Thames, was when the gentleman A T. F. has so beslavered with heroics, and his friend, have been scrambling up the bank and gently letting their big punt over the side shoot with all imaginable fear and trembling, and awkwardness. Would Haines or his son, or Keene of Datchet, old as he is, dream of shirking the risk in such an undignified way. I throw not. Besides, if the fisherman knows how to use his pole at all, there is absolutely no danger. All he has to do is to steer his boat, and in two seconds the punt is through, without any scrambling up banks and tying on of ropes, etc.

I again candidly admit that I derive "amusement and instruction" from A T. F. Can any writer wish for better praise? But I claim to know as much about the stretch of water referred to as he; and as I described it with the greatest care in the *Field* some years ago, while living at Wraysbury, I think I can pass over the gratuitous sneers of an anonymous correspondent, especially as I neither intentionally misquoted nor sneered.

J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

QUERIES FOR "A THAMES FISHERMAN."

SIR,—I have read with great interest the letters from "A Thames Fisherman," giving such glowing accounts of the fishing from Bell Weir up to Old Windsor Lock and the old river, but, although I have visited Wraysbury a great number of times, I have never seen such a take as he would lead one to expect. But apart from that, I have no doubt the fish are there sometimes, although seldom on the feed, especially in winter. Many a time has friend Haynes said to me on a Sunday morning, when I have gone down "Are you mad? You won't catch a fish to-day!" He has nearly hit the mark, and I have had to wind up the day at the Bells, or at Host Read's, the George, till a train became due. Referring to T. F.'s remarks respecting "Old Mortimer," I hope no one else, in consequence of them, will usurp "The Elms" swim, as it may be considered hereditary to the family; for every Sunday a scion of the old gentleman may be seen alighting at Wraysbury station. He informs me that he has fished the old place for twenty-eight years, so please Mr. "Thames Fisherman," do not say it is "to let." The said gentleman (Mr. George Mortimer) is a perfect type of an angler, and is always willing to assist a brother fisherman by giving him every information in his power. But, I am sorry to say that many persons who call themselves anglers are too apt to sneer at advice given them gratuitously and at their own request. In conclusion, I would ask Mr. "Thames Fisherman" two questions. (1) Can the Fleet be fished from the bank when the grass is growing? (2) Is it correct that Mr. Clifford, of Magna Charta Island, can claim the sole right of fishing thereabout. At the same time, he (the "Thames Fisherman") being near the spot, has his attention ever been drawn to the undersized fish taken by the foreigners (employed at the tapestry works) from the river opposite Mr. Ricardo's? Is there no remedy? VORTEX.

THAMES RIGHTS DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AND COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—I enclose a cheque for one guinea. Will you kindly forward it to the Thames Rights Defence Association? I have heard a great many contradictory opinions as to the rights of public on the national river; but it appears to me that, from Moulsoford downwards, such a right must exist, if there is such a thing as acquiring the right from uninterrupted enjoyment for upward of twenty years.

I should be pleased to give my mite to any system of fish-culture, provided I could see that it was likely to benefit the great body of anglers.—I am, &c.,

A. J. MARRIOTT.

[Many thanks for your liberality.—ED.]

READINGS IN ANGLING CLUBS.

SIR,—Kindly allow me to supplement my recent note by stating that many admirable papers have long been read before the Richmond Piscatorial Society, and therefore to them is due the credit of initiating this important work in the neighbourhood of London.

The formation of large societies, the prospect of the Central Associations renting water for their members, and your own grand proposition to cultivate coarse fish to stock them with, seem to indicate the commencement of a new period in angling history; and it is but just that the work of the Richmond piscators should be fully acknowledged.

So far as the Gresham Papers are concerned, I can but repeat that we welcome any secretaries or gentlemen interested who may care to hear them read, and none recognise more than ourselves that bond of good fellowship which should unite all true anglers, of which we have certainly endeavoured to give proof.—I am, &c.,

Dec. 19, 1881.

T. CRUMPLEN.

SIR,—When I wrote under this heading a fortnight ago it was with no desire to disparage the noble movements of the Gresham Angling Society in reference to the occasional reading of papers on angling subjects; but, being under the impression that a similar movement had been made by the Piscatorial Society, I adopted my old policy of giving honour to whom honour is due. It may be—and I have no desire to dispute it—that the revival in the old society has been stimulated in, perhaps, no small measure by the Gresham taking the matter in hand; and, in that case, it is only common justice to that admirable society to acknowledge it. And not being desirous of offering any comment of my own in answer to Mr. Crumplen's enquiries of last week, I have gathered the following information. First of all, under the head of "The Piscatorial Society," in last week's *Land and Water*, there is this paragraph:—"Some few years back the members of this society used to read papers on angling and matters connected with fishing. After a time the musical element had its sway; then most of the young musical singers entered the matrimonial state, which most musical men do, and so they had to discontinue their visits, and these pleasant evenings were postponed for a time. The members have now returned to their original ideas to read and discuss their experiences in angling." Mr. T. R. Sachs, the predecessor of the present honorary secretary of the Piscatorial Society, in reply to my enquiries, says that when the society was in Pall Mall there were occasional readings of papers on angling experiences, and notably one by the late Mr. Marsh on "Fly-fishing." Since the society has been at the present quarters at Ashley's Hotel, the late Mr. Frank Buckland made several visits of that kind, and strongly urged the society to adopt the practice of occasional readings, if they wished to attain success. And not very long ago Mr. Alfred Jardine, who has been so much impressed with the value

of reading papers by the Manchester Angling Association, and with a desire to promote the interests of the Piscatorial Society, and make it more generally useful, on at least one occasion recommended that society to make the reading of practical papers a leading feature in its work. Mr. James Lander also states, in reply to my enquiry, that the last paper was read by Mr. H. Gray, the librarian, on "Angling," about eighteen months ago, and that he has the names and dates of five or six papers, by various members at different times. Mr. Crumplen says that the present revival was "the act of an individual member and not of the society," as I seem to think. I have this week seen the writer of the paper, and he tells me "it was not his own act, but that he had been requested to write it." I have no more to add, except that I am sure Mr. Crumplen will acquit me of any desire to laud up one society at the expense of another. I am a very old honorary member of the Piscatorial Society, and I am amongst the first on the roll of honorary members of the Gresham Angling Society. I feel it an equal honour in both cases, and it will always afford me the greatest pleasure to work for both. If I have erred in any way in this instance no one will regret it more than myself; and in expressing my highest admiration of the energy and activity of the Gresham Angling Society, I can assure Mr. Crumplen, and those associated with him, that nothing shall be wanting on my part to do what I can to add to its welfare and prosperity. Mr. C. S. Bentley has very kindly given me a copy of his valuable paper on "The Sense of Pain in Fishes," which he read before the Gresham Angling Society on November 3. It is published in a cheap form, and contains coloured diagrams, and can be had at 67, Moorgate Street. The subject is an interesting one, very ably treated; and, as several benevolent persons have refused to subscribe to the T.A.P.S., on the ground that the practice of fishing gives great pain to the fish, I would recommend them to peruse this excellent treatise and send me a substantial result.—I am, &c.,

B.

SIR,—Our friend, Mr. Crumplen, must not credit his society with the initiation of essay-reading before the metropolitan clubs. I am pleased to say that the Richmond Piscatorial Society had them read by their members, and published long before the Gresham was thought of. In fact, by referring to your columns, he will find a paper, "Piking in Private Waters," which was ready before my society, and written by your obedient servant,

FRED. C. CLENCH,
Chairman Richmond Piscatorial Society.

CHOPPINGTON FISHING CLUB—ITS NAME, AIM, AND PROGRESS.

SIR,—In July, 1880, a few ardent followers of old Father Izaak met and formed a fishing club at Choppington, limiting the number of members to twelve. After the usual business of all infant societies had been disposed of, such as the election of president, vice, and committee, the meeting unanimously decided that the name of the club should be "The Choppington and Guide Post Conservative Working Men's Fishing Club," and the object of such club should be to solicit boards of conservancy and landed proprietors for leave to fish their waters. And we likewise wish it to be understood that in all our applications to the different riparian owners in the neighbourhood, and to stay any misconception which might arise from this name, we thought it right to modify it by giving to them the subjoined explanation, viz.:—That we as a club attach no political significance to it whatever, but that we simply mean by it the upholding and obeying of all existing laws and bye-laws got up by boards of conservancy and landed proprietors for the better preservation of their waters and their game. Also, at the nomination and election of members there are no questions asked in regard to their political opinions. Providing that they never have been convicted of poaching or illegal fishing, our ranks are open to all. So much for the name. Now for the object or aim of the club—seeking leave from noblemen or gentlemen to fish their waters, in which capacity I have applied to many of the gentlemen resident in the vicinity of Morpeth. And I am well pleased to be able to inform you and the numerous readers who daily peruse your most valuable paper, that in this to me a new line of business, I have not been altogether unsuccessful. Foremost among our most distinguished patrons is Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P., of Blagdon, who has most generously given the club permission to fish three miles on the south side of the River Blyth, which contains trout, pike, perch, and roach, the trout being celebrated for their size, beauty, and edibilities. And were it not for an impassable barrier in the shape of a large dam at Beddington Ironworks, which entirely stops the further upward progress of all migratory fish in all probability the River Blyth would make a prolific salmon water, as the higher reaches of the Blyth and Pont contain miles of the very best spawning ground for these kind of fish, over which runs water pure as the limestone rock fountain, uncontaminated by the refuse of paper mills, factories, or anything detrimental to the health of the inhabitants of the crystal streams which characterise the lovely vales of Stanington and Pont. Then from B. Wilson, Esq., of Blagdon, we have one mile on the north side of the Blyth. And the club has found a most distinguished patron in T. R. Trevelyan, Esq., of Netherwitton Hall, who has granted to the club leave for one member to fish his water every Saturday during the season—a grant which we highly appreciate, as the trout are numerous and the sport splendid. Besides, what is more exhilarating, when the bud is on the hawthorn and the bloom is on the sloe, than an airing out in early morning over the Pigdon Hills, in company with Mr. S., the most obliging of all postmen? Then again from W. E. Ord, Esq., of Nunykirk, we have leave to fish from Comb Hill Bridge upwards; and from Mr. A. Glass, of the Anglers' Arms, Weldon Bridge, we have a day or two in the season. I may likewise state that the gamekeepers under these gentlemen have behaved in the kindest manner possible to every member of the club. The gentlemen themselves we thoroughly and unitedly esteem; and doing so we lay this letter on the altar of public opinion, which will not be slow to perceive that the actuating spirit of philanthropy which has in towns provided public parks, free libraries, museums, &c., for the education and recreation of the working-classes, is not dead, but liveth in the country also.—I am, &c.,

JOHN TWEDDLE,
Corresponding Secretary to the Club.

T. R. SACHS ON PIKE AND JACK.

SIR,—As a friend of Mr. Alfred Jardine, the gentleman who exhibited the 37 lb. and 36 lb. pike at Norwich, and which your correspondent, T. R. Sachs, in a recent FISHING GAZETTE, insinuates were questionable weights, I wish to point out that T. R. S. has repressed a fact he well knew: that one of these large pike was not weighed in until two days after capture, and the other late on the third day. Greville F., no mean authority, says the waste on coarse

fish by exudation of slime and liquids from vent and gills amounts to about 15 per cent. of gross weight during the first twenty-four hours, which is probably near the mark, but you will perceive that Mr. Jardine only allowed 4½ per cent. for loss, irrespective of the lapse of time. Mr. J. had no very accurate means of weighing at the time of catching them, and there is no doubt they exceeded the weight recorded on their glass case.

As for the "Union Jack," it weighed 23½ lb., with a 2 (two) lb. jack in its inside.

Oh! dear Mr. Sachs,*
Was this one of your larks?

And it is a moot question whether T. R. S. could by himself have ever landed that fish, for, as he admits the late H. L. Rolfe, a skilful angler, hooked the fish first "well in the gullet," and, by the bye, it was on Jardine's "snap-tackle."

Mr. Sachs thinks pike-fishing is all luck. It possibly is so with him, for any miff may have luck; but I believe in the angler finding his fish, and after that is done playing with them properly, and as I have never yet seen recorded any really large pike of T. R. Sachs's catching, I hope, when he does have the "luck" to get hold of a good one, he will manage to land it, and that "single-handed."

THE GHOST OF SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.
* Pronounced, Sarks.

THE GRESHAM v. POT-FISHING.

SIR,—When again in London I hope to spend one evening with the Gresham Angling Society, as their rules are good in every way, especially the one which prohibits weighing the lot, irrespective of size. I know several pieces of water utterly ruined by such a proceeding, and one entirely so. This lovely pool was worth fishing about thirty years since. I caught two pike there in one day, about 1850, which measured 4 feet and 3 feet 6 inches in length respectively, also several others smaller in size. This got known, and trimmers and rods soon cleared it out. I fished it with an old friend. We had four rods out, all were gone at once, and we bagged three fish out of the four. You may go twenty times now and never see one. About twenty years since I laid out there a line of eighty hooks for eels. The next morning there were over seventy on it and one pike, caught by the eel getting out of the pike's gills and winding him up the main line, so that it realized the old saying "*Dum capimus capimus*." Pike very rarely take the eels' dead bait. This is a well-known fact. Our Aquarium has lately been purchased for about one-eighth of its original cost by four Yarmouth gentlemen, and I think it will now be properly managed; at all events the rents will be small. More money is to be laid out and a new roof put on. £5000 is really nothing for such a building as this is, or rather will be, when the alterations are completed; and I think they are soon going to work, so as to get all done before the season of 1882.—I am, &c.,

ESOX LUCIUS.

December 13.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

SIR,—According to promise I herewith forward an authorised list of stations and fares as granted by the Great Eastern Railway, to come into operation on and after January 1, 1882, return tickets at single fares, available for the same period as ordinary return tickets.—I am, &c.,

R. GHURNEY.

Stations.	Fares from Liverpool Street.		
	First class.	Second class.	Third class.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Roydon	4 1	2 10	2 1
Burnt Mill ..	4 5	3 5	2 7
Harlow	4 10	3 8	2 10
Sawbridgeworth ..	5 2	3 11	3 1
Bishop's Stortford ..	6 0	4 6	3 6
Stanstead	6 6	4 11	3 10
Elsenham	6 10	5 2	4 1
Newport	7 6	5 9	4 6
Audley End	8 0	6 0	4 7
Great Chesterford ..	8 8	6 6	4 7
Whittlesford	9 3	7 0	4 7
Shelford	9 3	7 3	4 7½

ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me, through your valuable paper, to once more request the following societies to send me either the tickets, or cash for same, sent them for the above tournament. I am anxious to close my accounts, and am prevented doing so on account of the number of tickets that are out, many of them, to my knowledge, having been sold. Number of tickets posted, October 17, 1881—Pictorial, 20; Caxtonians, 20; United Marlborough Bros., 5; Hampstead, 5; Angler's Pride, 10. Posted, October 19, 1881—True Waltonians, 5; St. James and Soho, 5; Social Bros., 5; Sussex, 5; South Hackney, 5; Surrey Piscatorial, 5; Stratford Bros., 5; St. John's, 5; Richmond, 5; Peckham Bros., 5; Havelock Bros., 5; Hammersmith Club, 5; Friendly, 5; Duke of Cornwall, 5; Duke of Norfolk, 5; Cobden, 5; Clapham Junction, 5; Bolingbroke, 5; Battersea, 5; Anchor and Hope, 5; Acorn, 5.

Every one connected with the management of the tournament worked hard, giving their time and money to make the affair a success. Not forgetting that the cash for the tickets sold goes entirely towards the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society, the least secretaries can do is to render the committee's work as light as possible by sending in all unsold tickets, and cash for those sold. I shall take it as a favour if immediate attention is paid to this appeal.—I am, &c.,

J. HOOLE.

PATERNOSTERING FOR JACK.

SIR,—I read in your paper some time back that paternostering was very efficient for jack, when the angler knew at what time to strike. Will you kindly inform me, and also whether to use the single lip-hook or lip-hook and triangle?—I am, &c.,

H. T.

December 19.

[You should strike about a quarter of a minute after a run, or during the run if it is a long one. As this fishing amounts really to snap-fishing, it is best to have a small triangle as well as a lip-hook.—ED.]

WATERPROOF FISHING BAG.

SIR,—How can I make a cheap waterproof fishing bag, and where can I get a seat fishing basket at a moderate price? Any information will greatly oblige.—I am, &c.,

THE WANDERING ANGLER.

POACHERS AND PRIVILEGE TICKETS.

SIR,—May I ask my brother anglers, through the medium of your paper, whether, for the credit of the West Central Association of London Anglers, it is policy to allow the club members who were recently fined 20s. or fourteen days for poaching, to still retain their privilege tickets? As the association is to a certain extent interested in the good behaviour of all members using the railway privilege tickets, I think it is a case of which they ought to be advised, as difficulties of this description between anglers and owners of private waters are calculated to bring disgrace to the body of anglers generally.—I am, &c.,
42, Litcham Street, N.W., Dec. 19.
THOS. CLARK.

P.S.—I may add that two members of this society were expelled, and lost prizes already won, for even being supposed to fish in the same water.

GENTLES—COLD FEET—COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

SIR,—Can you or any of your numerous readers tell me, through your GAZETTE, how to keep gentles during the winter, and whether they can be kept alive?

I tried the method which I saw in your GAZETTE some time ago, of putting them in bottles and burying them, carefully sealing up the tops, but found they soon died and gave forth a very unpleasant smell.

Also, can you tell me is there any method for keeping one's feet warm other than woollen socks and good waterproof jack boots, as, when roach-fishing in winter, my feet get very cold indeed?

I shall be happy to subscribe towards your scheme of coarse-fish culture.—I am, &c.,
THAMES ANGLER.

A STARVED PIKE.

SIR,—We have all heard of the tremendous voracity of the pike. I have had a small fellow in a tank of water about three yards long and two yards wide, since last July.

I can safely say that not a single particle of food has been placed therein.

Can you give me any information explaining how this youngster has managed to exist so long on apparently nothing. I may add there is a perfect armful of sunken dead leaves in a corner of this tank, and for the past six weeks he has buried himself in them, and on no account will he show himself, unless made to do so, instantly starting back again. Do you think he obtains, when disturbed, anything in the shape of food from these leaves; and, if so, may not this habit of hiding away in this singular manner account for the difficulty experienced by anglers in catching carp, tench, barbel, and more particularly eels in the winter months.

Requesting your indulgence for the shortcomings of an unpremeditated effusion.—I am, &c.,
MARK ANTONY.

P.S.—Though others may have accomplished it, I have only known one angler succeed in taking barbel every month of the year, and only then after huge perseverance. I may mention that those caught in mid-winter gave very fine sport compared to those taken earlier in the season, and that the barbel of November and the barbel of August differed as much as a maiden of seventeen and the same party at seventy, and, when brought to bank, showed no more sport than a Trent flounder about the size of a crown.

[You should feed the fish, or it will die (worms and minnows will do). Cold weather sends the fish you mention into a semi-torpid state, and they lie close in the mud.—ED.]

TAKING CASTS OF FISH. A QUERY.

SIR,—Would you allow me to enquire (through your paper) if any of your many readers could give me a little information regarding the *modus operandi* of taking a cast in plaster of Paris of a large pike.

I should also very much like to see a description in these columns of the secret spring-bait, mentioned in your last edition by Mr. Sachs in his article on pike and jack.—I am, &c.,
ARTHUR R. KNIGHT.

Tottenham, Dec. 12.

SNAP-TACKLE.

SIR,—If you refer to page 443 of Mr. Keene's "Practical Fisherman," you will find a description of the snap-tackle referred to in Mr. Sach's article in your issue of Saturday last, and a plate.—I am, &c.,
W. B.

15, Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, W.C., 12th Dec., 1881.

HOW TO CLEAR A CANAL OF WEEDS?

SIR,—Will any of your readers kindly give me a little of their practical experience as to the right time of the year to clear weeds from a canal. The canal in question has a most splendid crop of silk and flannel weed every year; although repeated efforts have been made, and large quantities taken from the surface, by various means, it springs up again in greater luxuriance than ever. My own idea as to the cause of failure is that our operations have taken place at the wrong time of year, viz., October and November.

Trusting some of your numerous correspondents will kindly give me some practical information.—I am, &c.,
WM. TRANTER.

Portsea, Dec. 12.

[You will have to use a little more "elbow grease," and repeat the operation as often as you see the necessity for it. You ought to keep a certain proportion of weeds, as they afford food and shelter, and are the best protection against the poacher.—ED.]

EDITIONS OF WALTON'S "COMPLEAT ANGLER."

SIR,—I should feel much obliged if any of your readers would permit me to examine, or, what would be preferred, to purchase, copies of the editions of Walton published by Maunders, by Johnson of Manchester and London, by Milner of Halifax, by Chambers of Edinburgh, and by Routledge between 1859 and 1881.—I am, &c.,
THOS. SATCHELL.

Dowshill Hill House, N.W., Dec. 22.

PIKE—MALE AND FEMALE.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Hensman's letter in last Saturday's FISHING GAZETTE, about female pike; as a rule, they are much the largest, and often pair with males of not much more than half their weight, their instinct prompting them to select young and vigorous mates at spawning time, after which they have sometimes been known to attack the male so savagely that he has died from the injuries. I have male pike of my own catching, one 22½ lb. and another of 18½ lb., but both are decidedly old Esos, and were, I think, past reproducing, or even pairing.

At the end of February, when pairing had taken place, I have in several instances, caught the female, and, immediately afterwards, the male, which invariably was the smaller fish.

Among other large ones of my catching, the following weights were female pike: 37 lb., 36 lb., 23 lb., 21 lb., 20½ lb., 18½ lb., and 17 lb.—I am, &c.,

ALF JARDINE.

FURTHER RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in stating that the Great Eastern Railway Company have generously granted an extension of the privilege tickets from Liverpool Street, Bishopsgate, Bethnel Green, Stratford, Hackney Downs and Angel Road, to all stations between Ponder's End and Shelford included. I will forward names of stations and lists of fares. The tickets will be available for the same period as ordinary return tickets. I trust that anglers will guard and protect their privileges in the same spirit that they are granted, and we may hope for something more in the future.—I am, &c.,

R. GHURNEY.

CLUB REPORTS.

ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Since my last report I beg to acknowledge receipt of the following, with thanks:—P. Geen, £1 is. (annual); C. P. Wheatstone, £1 is. (annual); W. A. Crump, 10s. 6d. (donation).—R. GHURNEY, sec.

Dec. 21.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

No fishing at present in the Ouse or Adur, owing to the floods. The members met on Monday evening to award the prizes for largest fish during 1881 and also aggregate weights. Mr. Ash, 92 lb.; Mr. Hassell, 65 lb.; Mr. Ancombe, 44 lb. Largest jack, 20 lb., Mr. Hassell; largest bream, 5½ lb., Mr. Tree; largest roach, 1 lb. 10½ oz., Mr. Ancombe. The competition on the 26th December is expected to take place at Chichester, the water always being clear. Great show for a snow-storm. Wind, north-east.—GROUND BAIT.

CAVENDISH ANGLING SOCIETY.

The third annual supper of the above society was held at the club room, the British Lion, Cavendish Street, New North Road, when upwards of twenty members sat down to the excellent fare provided by the worthy hostess. The chair was occupied by Mr. Warner, faced by Mr. Matthews, secretary, who were ably assisted in the course of the evening by Messrs. Lee and W. Lambourne. Mr. Ghurney toasted prosperity to the Cavendish Angling Society, which was heartily responded to, as were many other toasts. A distribution of prizes took place after supper; the most successful member being Mr. S. Penton, who took gross weight prize and several others, among which was 10s. 6d. for his 8 lb. 2 oz. barbel, taken bank-fishing at Teddington. Mr. Charles came in a good second; Mr. W. Lee being third, which position he obtained from Mr. Granfield on the last Sunday. Several friends gave a call after supper and assisted in making the evening one of the most enjoyable on record of this society.

Dec. 21.

CITY OF LONDON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Four of our members went to Rickmansworth on Sunday to compete for two prizes given by Messrs. Parkins, sen, and Mortimer. Mr. Castell winning the first prize with roach and chub; Mr. Hales second, with roach. The rivers Colne and Gade were rising fast, the water being over the tow-path and the surrounding meadows, which, combined with a high wind, made angling very unpleasant.—CAS.

GREAT NORTHERN BROTHERS.

We had only two shows of fish on Sunday, viz., Messrs. J. Theobald and Kirk, roach from the Thames and Colne. The following gentlemen gave prizes on Monday last, the same to be fished for at King's Langley on Sunday next, and to be handed to the winners on Christmas Eve. The prizes consist of ham, fowl, sausages, cheese, rabbits, leg of pork, whiskey, gin, ale, &c., and were given by Messrs. Broach, Walker, Theobald, J. Parkin, J. K. Fitch, W. Parkin, Young, and J. Fitch.—J. A. FITCH, jun.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society held, as usual, on Thursday evening, was very largely attended, the spacious meeting room being (contrary to expectation) well filled. Captain Alfred in the chair. The society with its accustomed liberality voted half a guinea to the river keeper's dinner fund of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the same sum, as a Christmas present, to the keeper of their own private water at Waltham, who, in common with many others in that locality, has suffered from the floods now prevalent. The society contemplate stocking this water, and it will no doubt form an important nucleus for future operations, in the same direction. It was understood that Mr. Marston's suggestion as to coarse-fish cultivation would be considered at an early date, and also the question of the right of the public to fish in the river Thames. Mr. Jardine brought a fine example of a 28 lb. jack, being the last cast by the late Frank Buckland, as well as the last painted by the late H. L. Rolfe, which had a special interest for the members—the casting being very life-like, scarcely less so than the actual object. Several gentlemen kindly brought their jack tackle, Mr. Jardine delivering a very practical address, which was highly appreciated, and for which very hearty thanks were accorded. The whole subject of jack fishing was ably touched on, and when Mr. Jardine expressed his preference for snap tackle, he was, as at other times, warmly applauded. The list of candidates for election was the largest, and most important probably, yet balloted for at any meeting of the society. They included Messrs. W. B. Adlington, J. Ross Faulkner, H. Blamey, W. A. Crump (Thames Rights Defence), H. Brett, E. Jannings, H. K. Lockwood, J. Pine, W. Holmes, R. H. Peatfield, W. T. Howe, J. McDowell, and A. Attwell, all of whom were admitted to membership. It was also resolved that the committee and members should have supper together on Wednesday, January 4th, at the society's rooms, City of London Tavern, 11, Bishopsgate Street Within, the number to be limited to about sixty, for which the majority of tickets were at once taken. The proceedings, which did not finish until an advanced hour, closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Captain Alfred for presiding. The arrangements for the prize competition, on January 2nd, will be made next Thursday, for which members should enter names at once.

NOTICE.

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Communications relating to the Literary Department, Fishing Tackle for Notice, Books for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of THE FISHING GAZETTE, No. 12, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. and should reach the office not later than Tuesday morning.

Contributions are solicited, but the Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS., unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be adhered to no notice will be taken of such communications.

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Mr. G. T. Gibbons, 10, Bridge Street, Salisbury.
Mr. Thos. Heppleston, Manchester.
Mr. J. Perry, Minster Parade, Reading.
Mr. S. Dale, 7, St. John Street, Nottingham.
Mr. H. Booth, 88, Prospect Street, Hull.
A. W. Warner, 121, Broad Street, Birmingham.

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The Fishing Gazette.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1881.

SOME NOTES ON COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

No. II.

By J. HARRINGTON KEENE.

IN my No. I. paper I referred briefly to the English history of coarse-fish culture, and instanced the county of Sussex as possessing the most important fishponds in past times; I now

proceed to remark on the practical considerations involved in such culture if pursued in the present day, as has been suggested by Mr. R. B. Marston.

In the first place, it will be necessary to decide whether the proposed association shall include the culture of the *salmonidæ* or not. I at once say that I think it should. The apparatus to be used for the hatching and rearing of coarse fish will not be found widely different from that ordinarily employed for trout or salmon, and the seasons of spawning in the coarse-fish community will not clash with the processes in connection with these fish. The fry of salmon or trout will be safe in the roomy boxes or stews by the time the spawn of—say perch—is taken, and so there need be no interference one with the other. Besides, in the winter-time, there will be comparatively little for the attendants to do; the coarse fish will, if ever so little, require very little attention. Another item to be thought of also is the fact that the culture of the finer fishes, if economically and carefully carried out, will realise a profit, and thus relieve the inevitably heavy expenses to be incurred in the transport of the parent coarse fish, and the subsequent distribution. Moreover, the wide scope of such a society would doubtless enhance its value in the eyes of outsiders, and thus benefit the list of subscribers.

The next consideration is the kind of fish, other than the game fishes before mentioned, with which the fish-culturist of to-day should deal. I think that none swimming should be omitted, except, of course, the stone-loach, stickleback, etc., and eel. This latter fish is absolutely not worth culture for sport, but for the table I am of opinion that it is woefully neglected. Perhaps it should not be excepted after all, though it is certain that its culture would be limited to keeping and feeding it, for no one would be able to artificially spawn it.

The question which next occurs to me is, what are the necessary natural characteristics of the place where buildings shall be erected, and the various stews, streams, etc., prepared. First, there must be an abundant supply of pure spring water, and the streams should be, either naturally, or by means of dams and other contrivances, independent of rains and droughts, and not liable to flooding. A few artificial lakes are also indispensable, and there must be facilities for the running off of the water, and the cleansing of the bottom at periodic intervals. The usual procedure of the Prussian carp growers would here be available. A properly constructed penstock, with a grating in front of it, to prevent the escape of the fish, is drawn, and the water of course departs, leaving the comparatively shallow lake waterless, or nearly so. The fish can thus be handled with the landing net.

Of course, however, these, though of the highest possible importance, are questions rather of detail, and, as such, are necessarily controlled by the circumstances of the spot selected. Supposing, however, that they are satisfactorily arranged, and the association formed, the treatment of the various fishes is the all-important subject. Of course, much will be learned by experiment, especially in the manipulation of such fish as are artificially spawned; but, as I have before said, I do not apprehend an insuperable difficulty, and, certainly, means can be taken to prevent anything like absolute failure. A few notes on the treatment of the various fishes may not be unacceptable at this point.

Pike are, I suppose, looked upon as of first consequence, on account of its size and the play it gives. There are two ways of breeding this fish—natural and artificial. As it does not eat its own spawn after deposition, and most other fishes will do, or devour the spawn of others, it can be placed in company with others, and left to mate and follow its own marital desires, but, needless to say, the water should be a lake of suitable kind. The pike, according to a high German authority, four or five weeks before spawning, commences to seek the neighbourhood of the shore in groups, and, almost invariably, each of these consists of one female accompanied by one or more male fish, and so continues, unless disturbed, until the spawning season is over. As a rule, a female of small size is accompanied by one male only, a medium-sized mother-fish has two or three males, and a large one as many as four or five. The larger the mother-fish the smaller, as a rule, are her attendant squires, the weight of the former being generally equal to the weight of all the males put together. If the male of a group, he says, be caught, the female does not mate again, that is to say, the absent one is not supplied during that season, and under no circumstance was the spawn of a female bereaved of her attendant males impregnated by others.

These observations, it is needless to observe, are valuable as a guide to the number to be placed in company, and as to the selection of sex. In the very large fish, it has been believed, that they are monogamic, and, so far as the greater part of the year is concerned, this may be quite true; but I am persuaded, after careful watching, that such is not the case during that part of the year devoted to the reproductive act. The difference between the female and the male in appearance is not easy to be discerned by one unacquainted with the physiology of fishes. The male, how-

ever, is larger in the lower jaw, and longer, with a more decidedly saturnine cast of countenance—though I admit this is quite sufficiently indefinite—and the ventral and anal fins are larger than in the female. The symmetry, however, of the body, in relation to the head, is in every way inferior in the case of the male, and superior in the female.

The ordinary valesneria and rush-reeds are, I think, the best to plant in a lake intended for the natural growth and reproduction of pike. After, however, the first twelve months, the parents must be removed, or they are prone to be cannibalistic, and to devour their own offspring. Of course, during the early life of the tiny offspring—and not before, be that borne in mind—plenty of minnows, gudgeon and dace should be given for the sustenance of the parents, else they will certainly prey on their fry. Then the young pike may be left alone with the exception that all crustacea and the various other animalculæ—entomostraca—should be carefully and unlimitedly encouraged, so that the young pike may feed and grow. Now the habits of young jack are solitary in the extreme. They will not fraternise like other fish, and they love to hide in the midst of the foliage of the reeds, or on sunny days to lie basking in the sun, like their adult congeners. Obviously, therefore, it is not necessary to cast bait to any individual specimens. Throw it into the water, leaving them to feed as they think fit—that is the only course in the natural culture of them, and similarly, to a certain extent, it is the only method with those artificially reared. Of course, if the young fish can be got into a small stew, and tamed, as it were, by being constantly fed by their keeper, they will feed almost in flocks; but the instinct of the creature is against that, and, in all cases, if we desire to preserve the breed of any artificially-cultured animal, it is necessary to preserve the original character as far as may be possible. For, observe where the comparative taming of this fish would lead us. It would be turned into the river selected for it, and, like the artificially-reared trout, it falls an easy prey to any other marauder, be he fish, flesh, or fowl, or of the rufous *clupea parengo major* genus, and the sport he gives is almost a dead letter—*nil*. In this connection, and, indeed, in all cases, it should be arranged so that only the best and largest stream pike are allowed to fructify. I am perfectly sure that the present deteriorated specimens of the Thames are due to the constant inter-breeding of the pike; certain it is that many inland isolated waters produce only feeble fish from this cause.

So much for the natural culture, as I choose to call it, though there are certain artificial conditions requiring fulfilment during its process. I must now turn to the purely artificial impregnation of pike, and the subject is one of no mean difficulty. The operator who determines to operate on an adult female pike must, of course, first be certain that the fish is ripe, that she is a she, and that his appliances are in perfect order, and not likely to be out of reach when they are wanted. Moreover, he must find his male fish, and have him ready in a vessel, for instant handling after the female is done with. The way to handle the female need not be described to a trout-culturist, though, to such an one, the warning must be given: "avoid the gills, if you wish to save your fingers from laceration," for, as every angler knows, the interior of the mouth and flanges of the gills of a pike are armed with most formidable fangs. The fish really ought to be taken in the right hand (if it is only of a few pounds) just below the gill covers, and the left hand may then steady the tail. When the fish becomes passive, the stomach is gently pressed with a gentle motion, and the ova will exude freely, as in the case of trout. The male is submitted to similar treatment, and after carefully washing the impregnated ova, it is to be placed in suitable troughs. Unlike the ova of the salmonidæ, this requires a comparatively high temperature and sunlight. The precise conditions are, of course, regulated by circumstances, but, generally speaking, a varying temperature, between 50° and 65° may be preserved. In a much less time than is necessary for the salmonidæ—which time is, however, entirely regulated by temperature—the fry appear, and in a very short time commence feeding. They should now be removed to the company of insect-bearing weeds, and, if necessary, search should be made for the various organisms on which they feed. In the course of the year pike, under favourable conditions, will grow to five or six inches in length, and feed ravenously on the fry and smaller minnows. Of course, their further development is a matter for the usual treatment.

Perch are, of course, to be treated in an analogous fashion, except in regard of the artificial spawning. The female, if ripe, may be taken and securely held in both hands by means of a damp cloth, and having provided a receptacle with a little water in the bottom, the riband of spawn may be actually drawn from the fish by resting it backwards and forwards on the side of the vessel. In the case also of natural spawning, faggots might be laid in the water in suitable positions, but these should not be moved but with great care and precaution, as to a plenitude of water and equalization of temperature. Perch culture deserves especial at-

tention, and really prevents less difficulties than that of any other species of coarse-fish.

The cyprinidæ, including its sub-order, the leuciscini, comprise the bulk of the fishes which are the delectation of the coarse-fisher. Barbel, tench, and carp, are readily distinguished as to sex after the eye has become accustomed to note the differing peculiarities. In both barbel and carp the pectoral and ventral fins are larger in the sterner sex than in the females. The male tench has its ventral fins concave, with the concave side uppermost, whilst the female's appendages are of the ordinary size and shape. I am not always quite able to detect a male roach, though, as they assemble in the spawning season in squadrons of immense number, separate from the females, there would be no difficulty in this. Let me here add that, in regard to roach, I have reason to know that the unimpregnated ova will remain so without deterioration for lengths of time, varying according to place and circumstance. This allows of slight delays between the operations of the two bodies of fish.

The collection of fish, for artificial spawning and impregnation, would certainly involve trouble, but no great difficulties of a scientific nature. Barbel are easily observed when "at hill," as it is termed, and, of course, the Thames and Trent would have to be laid under contribution for the parent fish. Carp, also, in such lakes as produce them naturally and with a fair amount of prolificacy, are easily watched, and may be observed in the neighbourhood of weeds during the early part of summer, gambolling with each other. The very large fish are commonly infecund. I have opened, I daresay, hundreds of carp which were destined for the Royal households, many of them over 10 lb. apiece, and it has been rare to find one amongst the larger with ovaries not diseased. In many cases, in fact, I have found them quite encysted with hardened agglomerations of unshed spawn. Carp of three or four pounds are the best for breeding purposes.

By the bye, I quite agree with Mr. Marston that anglers wrongly turn away from the carp on account of its not being easy of capture. I admit that it is a wily brute, but then, so is the Thames trout and the barbel, unless fairly on the feed. The carp, if once it begins to take the bait, will do so through the day where they are in plenty and do not run to a very great size. The larger fish are solitary, like all large fish, though, perhaps, in a more pronounced degree than many other species. Supposing them to be in greater numbers in our rivers and lakes, I am inclined to think that many a glorious carp-fight would enhance the day's chub, barbel, or roach fishing. These remarks apply, in great part, also to tench, the procuring of which fish is quite easily accomplished. At that season, when the wheat blossoms, they abandon themselves to the reproductive instinct, and become so tame as to not even flinch or flee away from the naked hand. In fact, it is only necessary to pick them out of the weeds with the landing net by pairs.

Dace most certainly should be cultured, and the size, if possible, improved by judicious selection of the fittest. Really, I don't see why, if the poultry and pigeon fancier can, by availing himself of this simple procedure, produce improved varieties, the fish fancier should not do something similar. I had a dace sent me the other day from the canal the other side of Watford, which was 17 ounces in weight, and anybody who has taken a large dace can testify to the manner in which such a fish on fine tackle would fight. Besides, I think that this fish is very toothsome, if properly cooked, and as there are many rivers almost entirely without it, its increase is to be desired. The Thames, in its upper portions, might be somewhat improved by additions; anyhow, there is no difficulty of an influential character in dace-culture.

One word at this juncture may be said about the reputed double spawning of dace. It seems clear that dace have been found lately full of spawn, I presume, in an advanced state of development. Supposing that this new-known fact in natural history is admitted, I think it does not prove that dace spawn twice as a rule, or that these particular fish are not very early spawners of last year, and consequently of this, owing to some peculiarity of temperature or habitat. And was the spawn so far advanced in development as to warrant the idea that the exudation would be before early spring? It must be borne in mind that the ova of dace is comparatively large, and that it begins to show in the fish almost immediately after the spawning has taken place, in fact; in some instances, there is a slight development of the ovary, which indicates that at the time when ripe spawn has become disintegrated and loose in the membrane, other spawn is being formed, though, as yet, it is of a minute, almost microscopical size. All the cyprinidæ will occasionally spawn more than once, stimulated by warmth; but I repeat my belief that dace do not, as a rule, head up for spawning twice in any one year, and that the statement that they do is erroneous.

In the scheme of coarse-fish culture, which will be proposed at any meeting called on the subject, I should be sorry to see the little *bonne bouche* of fishes, the gudgeon, omitted. The improvement of its size might seriously be considered, and, indeed, its

general culture, inasmuch as I am of opinion that this fish will be found the most fattening of all food for pike and perch—of course, when the gudgeons are small. I don't, however, expect that the artificial taking of spawn can be made successful in this case, unless at the expense of the parents' lives. Proper spawning ponds, of right soil and depths, might be formed, however; and if the sizes were carefully selected and isolated, each swarm by itself, I cannot but think that improved gudgeons would result. I mention this idea as much in the interests of the gastronomist as the angler, for if a society give place to the latter, I hold that it certainly ought to the former.

If it is decided not to go in for the artificial manipulation of coarse fishes, then the association could do incalculable service in rearing fish, and protecting them from their enemies. Any one who has seen the myriads of tiny fry swarming on the shallows of the Thames and its moderate depths, will acknowledge that did one hundredth part of these reach maturity, no coarse-fish culture or close seasons would be necessary to maintain the stock. On bright sunny June mornings they are most plentiful, and a properly constructed net might enclose thousands, which could be returned to the river in the following year, able to take care of themselves.

The question as to the most desirable fishes for the stocking of a water which, to all intents and purposes, is depopulated, is, of course, largely dependent for answer on a variety of considerations connected with the nature of the water itself. Supposing, however, it is, say half a mile long, forty yards across, and moderately deep, with here and there shallows of gravel and quiet deeps, and beds of rushes, whilst its stream, let us say, is three miles an hour, my advice in such a case would be stock it with perch largely, small jack, largish roach, tench, and carp, with a good quantity of minnows and gudgeon. I would introduce the fish in the following proportions:—Perch as 20, jack as 1, roach as 20, tench as 10, carp as 5, and I am assured such proportions would prove, in the end, capitally balanced and productive of sport.

In concluding this necessarily sketchy article, I again urge on all who read the GAZETTE, to aid in the formation of such a society as that suggested by Mr. Marston. The old "acclimatization society" dropped through, but there is no reason why American fishes should not be acquired, as in the case of the Marquis of Exeter, at Burghley, when the funds permit; but at present, *ne sutor ultra crepidam*—let us stick to the fish we have, rather than encounter the enormous difficulties and expense of acclimatization.

[Dr. Haaek and other continental pisciculturists have proved that although it is quite possible to breed the summer-spawning fish artificially in the same manner as with salmonidæ, yet it is an utterly wrong plan to go upon; indeed, if we had not found out this important fact, we should never have proposed the scheme, as the expenses attending apparatus, buildings, &c., would have been too great. We propose simply to aid Nature by protecting the ova and fry in a special but very simple manner, which we shall describe fully as soon as we have got all details worked out.—ED.]

RETROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONS.

THE NORWICH EXHIBITION.

THERE can be no doubt that one of the greatest events in the angling world during the closing year, has been the National Fisheries Exhibition at Norwich, which was most successfully carried out under the auspices of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the presidency and influence of Mr. Edward Birkbeck, M.P., and the indefatigable services of Mr. W. Oldham Chambers as its Honorary Secretary. The metropolitan contingent represented in the exhibition earned some of the greatest laurels, and possess lasting trophies of their success, not only in the collections of fish specimens, fish paintings, fishing tackle and materials, but in modern inventions and appliances.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1883.

Although this is not one of the events of the past year, its institution must ever be regarded as being connected with it, and its origin as having arisen from the very great success of the Norwich Exhibition of 1881. The immense amount of support and patronage its promoters have already obtained from all parts of the world, strikingly indicates what the great result will be when the exhibition takes place. There are those connected with it in our great metropolis who are already working hard in the Committee and Sub-Committee to make it thoroughly practicable in its operation, not merely confining their work to the exhibition of angling implements, but of acquiring practical information connected with our fisheries. The recognition which has been

accorded to the movement by the Fishmongers' Company, is worthy of all praise, and, in the position of Honorary Secretary, we have Mr. H. W. Towse, who has already shown that he is fully equal to the important work to be done.

ANGLING TOURNAMENT.

The inauguration of an angling tournament is altogether due to Mr. R. B. Marston, and forms and important feature in the items of 1881. In spite of an unusually wet day when it took place, it was, in its initiation, an undoubted success, and all were satisfied with the practical value attached to it. A general wish has been expressed to make these tournaments at least of an annual character; and it has been also suggested to have one during the close season, in the place of the fish exhibition, and another, in the angling season, on the water. One thing is certain, the late tournament has received so general an approval, and Mr. Marston's idea has been so universally accepted, these displays of "the science of angling," will not be henceforth limited to London, but will doubtless be extended to Sheffield, Nottingham, and other great angling districts.

PROPAGATION OF COARSE FISH.

This is another idea of Mr. R. B. Marston's in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and eighty one; and, although no decided action has as yet been taken upon it, opinions have been so favourably expressed, that when the proposed meeting takes place, it will soon come into practical operation, and neither money or personal assistance should be wanting to make it not only a local but a national movement. Every one admits the necessity of coarse-fish propagation, and the results, when fruits begin to show, will evidence the undoubted value of it. When it is done it must be well done, and all must help to do it. There are many places that could be pointed out where a further introduction of coarse fish in them would give increased facilities to fish for the great multitude of London anglers. The idea must not die out with the dying year, neither will it, because there are plenty of willing hearts and working hands to give it life and vigour.

THAMES ANGLING.

It has been a great event in 1881, to find the attachment of the Prince of Wales to the protection and preservation of the Thames Fishery, by His Royal Highness becoming patron of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and it will without doubt give strength and influence to its operations. Not only in connection with this Society has royal patronage been accorded, but in the one at Windsor, Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Christian are patrons of it; and His Serene Highness the Duke of Teck is patron of the Richmond Piscatorial Society, the success of which in the last twelve months, under its present Chairman, Mr. F. C. Clench, has been strikingly manifest.

RIPARIAN RIGHTS.

The establishment of a Thames Rights Defence Association, is another important item in the expiring year; and although no great step has as yet been taken, there is every prospect its activity will soon be required in testing the so-called rights of private fishing. What the angling public has to do now is to respond liberally to the appeal for funds which is being made by Mr. W. Crump and Mr. Francis, and to which reference is made in the advertising columns in the FISHING GAZETTE. The anglers must give liberally and give at once. A pressing appeal has been made by Mr. Francis Francis, the pioneer of the movement; and, let those who can afford it give him an early and favourable response. Let the Association which has begun in 1881 be found of great value and success in the coming year.

IN MEMORIAM.

It is impossible to close these retrospective observations, without expressions of deep regret at the deaths of Mr. H. L. Rolfe, "the scaley painter," and Mr. S. H. Leach, the Thames Conservancy Engineer. The former, as all anglers know, was great in piscatorial fame as well as in the painting of fish. He was a liberal supporter of anything connected with angling, and no one's death could be regretted more than his. As regards the latter, few, perhaps, are aware of the valuable assistance he has rendered in Thames Preservation, and his readiness to help the President and Committee of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, on all occasions, in carrying out any desirable suggestions for the protection of the fishery; but there are lasting remembrances in the hearts and memories of those who have experienced and felt the real value of his eminent services.

THE END OF THE YEAR.

This week terminates another year, and the next will open out another year, it is hoped for continued usefulness and

success in all that relates to angling. The work which has already begun in 1881, requires energy and perseverance in 1882. The great principle to be recommended is "unity." These "Retrospective Observations" terminate in heartily and sincerely wishing to all, when it comes, a very happy and prosperous New Year. B.

MR. R. D. BLACKMORE AS A WRITER ON ANGLING.

IN our notice of Mr. Colquhoun's work, "The Moor and the Loch," last week, we said that if any of our subscribers were looking out for something to read these long winter evenings we could strongly recommend Mr. Blackmore's novels, especially as in most of them angling plays a not unimportant part. Mr. Blackmore is undoubtedly the most powerful and fascinating writer of fiction alive, either in this or in any other country, and it is a pleasing thing to find that not a few of his best characters are anglers. We shall never forget the intense interest with which we listened to the reading of "Lorna Doone" from the original manuscript, and before that splendid work had taken the literary world by storm. In these days of trashy novels of mushroom growth and toadstool qualities, to ask anyone if they have read such and such a novel is almost an insult, and in most cases elicits the reply: "I never read novels." But "Lorna Doone," "Alice Lorraine," "Mary Anerley," "Christowell," &c., by R. D. Blackmore, are not novels in the ordinary sense of the word; and we cannot trust ourselves to say in praise of them all we should like to say, for fear that we should, by over-doing it, defeat our object, which is to send our readers to the works themselves, in order that they may enjoy the glorious entertainment. Such a work as "Lorna Doone" is one of the highest achievements of which the human mind is capable; in proof of this it is only necessary to glance at the immense number of human beings—the flower of our modern civilisation—who have striven, and who are striving to make their mark on the age through the avenues of literature. How few make even the slightest impression! and how very few attain such a rank as is held by the author of "Lorna Doone"? As popular in America as here, translated and re-published on the Continent, it is not too much to say that no novel of the last ten years has found so many readers as this charming "Romance of Exmoor."

To describe why Mr. Blackmore's novels are so popular would require the space of a volume. We must content ourselves with giving a few reasons; and that they are so popular is to us a very cheerful omen in these "sensational novel" days.

First, then, our author is a man of sound learning, well acquainted with all those great studies of mankind and nature which make up the sum of literature old or new; his is no mere smattering of knowledge acquired only to be paraded, in season and out of season, like a child's new toy. This is one great reason for the high quality of Mr. Blackmore's writing; another more potent element still is his complete knowledge of and mastery over his own language. He is never at a loss for words, let the occasion be what it may; in this respect, no living novelist approaches him.

Then, as to style, Mr. Blackmore has a style of his own, as uncommon, and yet as pleasing, as his matter. But, above all this, is the deep human interest, the fertile imagination, the knowledge and love of nature, with which he fills his pages, enriched with quaint allusion, genial satire, and fine humour. For "quiet, contemplative men," like anglers, we know no books more likely to be deeply appreciated than Mr. Blackmore's. We will give a few extracts from them, just to show the angling interest, and what wealth of freshness and refreshing air, there is about them. To those who do not know the stories, half the interest of these extracts will be lost for want of knowing what has gone before. We should like to quote the description of John Ridd's immortal battle with Robert Snell, but space forbids, so we will introduce him, and let him tell his own tale of how he went loach-sticking in the wild Doone glen, in North Devon, two hundred years ago.

JOHN RIDD RESOLVES TO CATCH SOME LOACHES.

(From "Lorna Doone," p. 38).

"Almost everybody knows, in our part of the world at least, how pleasant and soft the fall of the land is round about Plover's Barrows farm. All above it is strong dark mountain, spread with heath, and desolate, but near our house the valleys cove, and open warmth and shelter. Here are trees, and bright green grass, and orchards full of contentment, and a man may scarce espy the brook, although he hears it everywhere. And, indeed a stout good piece of it comes through our farm-yard, and swells sometimes to a rush of waves, when the clouds are on the hill-tops. But all below, where the valley

bends, and the Lynn stream goes along with it, pretty meadows slope their breast, and the sun spreads on the water, and nearly all this is ours, till you come to Nicholas Snowe's land.*

But about two miles below our farm, the Bagworthy water runs into the Lynn, and makes a real river of it. . . . Now, although my sister Annie came to keep me company, and was not to be parted from me by the tricks of the Lynn stream, because I put her on my back and carried her across, whenever she could not leap it, or tuck up her things and take the stones; yet, so it happened, that neither of us had been up the Bagworthy water. We knew that it brought a good stream down, as full of fish as of pebbles; and we thought it must be very pretty to make a way where no way was, nor even a bullock came down to drink. But whether we were afraid or not, I am sure I cannot tell, because it is so long ago; but I think that had something to do with it. For Bagworthy water ran out of Doone Valley, a mile or so from the mouth of it.

But when I was turned fourteen years old, and put into good-small clothes, buckled at the knee, and strong blue worsted hosen, knitted by my mother, it happened to me, without choice, I may say, to explore the Bagworthy water. And it came about in this wise.

My mother had long been ailing, and not well able to eat much; and there is nothing that frightens us so much as for people to have no love of their victuals. Now I chanced to remember that once at the time of the holidays I had brought dear mother from Tiverton a jar of pickled loaches, caught by myself in the Lowman river, and baked in the kitchen oven, with vinegar, a few leaves of bay, and about a dozen pepper-corns, and mother had said that in all her life she had never tasted anything fit to be compared with them. Whether she said so good a thing out of compliment to my skill in catching the fish and cooking them, or whether she really meant it, is more than I can tell, though I quite believe the latter, and so would most people who tasted them; at any rate, I am now resolved to get some loaches for her, and do them in the self-same manner, just to make her eat a bit.

There are many people even now, who have not come to the right knowledge what a loach is, and where he lives, and how to catch and pickle him, and I will not tell them all about it, because, if I did, very likely there would be no loaches left ten or twenty years after the appearance of this book. A pickled minnow is very good, if you catch him in a stickle, with the scarlet fingers upon him; but I count him no more than the ropes in beer compared with a loach done properly.

Being resolved to catch some loaches, whatever trouble it cost me, I set forth without a word to any one, in the forenoon of St. Valentine's day, 1675-6, I think it must have been. Annie should not come with me, because the water was too cold; for the winter had been long, and snow lay here and there in patches in the hollow of the banks, like a lady's glove forgotten, and yet the spring was breaking forth as it always does in Devonshire, when the turn of the days is over, and though there was little to see of it the air was full of feeling.

It puzzles me now that I remember all those young impressions so, because I took no heed of them at the time whatever; and yet they come upon me bright, when nothing else is evident in the grey fog of experience. I am like an old man gazing at the outside of his spectacles, and seeing, as he rubs the dust, the image of his grandson playing at bo-peep with him.

But let me be of any age, I never could forget that day, and how bitter cold the water was; for I doffed my shoes and hose, and put them into a bag about my neck, and left my coat at home and tied my shirt-sleeves back to my shoulders. Then I took a three-pronged fork firmly bound to a rod with cord, and a piece of canvas kerchief with a lump of bread inside it, and so went into the pebbly water, trying to think how warm it was.

(To be continued.)

VIRTUE REWARDED.

I SUPPOSE, no one but myself was such an idiot as to go out fishing on Thursday, December 22. The Thames at least was in a furious and thick flood, and its tributaries might be expected to be much in the same condition. Moreover, a sharp frost had just set in, and the first day of severe cold is sure to prove a blank. When the frost has lasted some time it seems to sharpen the appetite of our quarry, and I have carried home a well filled creel after a day partly spent in picking the ice off the rings of the rod as often as the line froze on, so that spinning became quite impossible; but the first six hours I have generally observed to be unproductive. However, I had made my arrangements previously, and written to my friend's keeper to let me know if the water was out of order, and to provide an escort; and, as no letter came, I determined wilfully to carry out my programme. So, in spite of the incredulous questionings of my fellow travellers, undeterred by pitying shrugs, and overheard suggestions of the vicinity of Hanwell, I arrived at my destination, where of course there was no escort, as no one had supposed I could possibly come on such a morning. However, I was not to be beaten so I put my rod together, and began to try for perch in my

* A descendant of this gentleman, Mr. Snow, of Oare, very kindly gives anglers permission, when properly asked, to fish the Lynn stream where it runs through his land. But let no unwary angler ask him if he has ever read "Lorna Doone." Thousands of tourists all ask him this, and expect a glass of beer, or at least of milk, on the strength of it! —ED. F. G.

favourite mill pool. Of course it was no use, five minutes convinced me that my finny friends were "not at home to any one." Well, I said to myself, I will just give you two hours' fair chance; and if in that time you have no desire to ennoble your nature by migrating into human bodies, I will leave you to the sordid and low life you at present enjoy. Well, I tried every corner and eddy I could think of, well known and precious spots which had on days of better omen yielded their half-dozen or dozen golden beauties to my basket—in vain: only two, at the end of the appointed time, lay ridiculously mean-looking at the bottom of a twenty pound creel. "O misery," "deplorable," I fancied I heard echoed by the spirits of former victims. However, man must eat, whatever fishes choose to do; so I thought, I will just give you ten minutes more, while I eat my luncheon, and then I shall be off. So just to make everything fair, I put on a brace of fresh minnows, heaved the plummet into a likely spot, laid down the rod, and opened my sandwich tin. I was just taking my first bite, when I saw the line move, and instantly returning from "stand easy" to "attention" and "make ready," felt that something worth having was at the other end of my tackle. A hundred to one on the fish was my mental exclamation, when I realised that at least a ten-pounder was apparently going to amuse himself at my expense. I thought of my wife, as an elegant writer in the F.G. has advised, and "remembered that I am bound to her by a tender tie which a little overstraining may easily break." What chance of a single strand of fine gut holding my new acquaintance? "Oh that is your little game, is it?" I thought, as he ran straight for the roots of a willow bush. Oh, the delight of feeling that he had returned from thence unentangled. I really began to hope that acquaintance might ripen into friendship, as rush after rush was successfully turned, and his powers became gradually limited to the eight or ten yards square of water in front of me. At last he is fairly brought to the surface. Now, how can I get him out? I have but a small landing net with me, the depth of which is not half his length. I remember once before, on a similar occasion, I was alone in a light boat, and having fairly exhausted my fish by making him describe reversed figures of eight, when quite helpless, managed by working a scull with one hand while I held the rod with the other, to run the boat on shore, and land my twelve-pounder on a piece of grass which sloped into the flooded river; but here was no sloping grass, far from it, the bank was about two feet high, and a tree on each side confined me to a very few yards of bank. Have I got a piece of string in my pocket which I can pass round him? Alas, the only bit there, the sponger of my pipe, is too short. Shall I lie down flat on the bank and try to seize him by the tail? I cannot do it safely with one hand, and if I put down the rod he will be off. Nothing but to try the landing net. I passed it gently under his tail till that splendid fan was quite at the end. Utterly useless; he slipped out again like an eel. Obviously his centre of gravity is nearer the other end. I must try his head, spite of the danger of breaking the line. Four times did his head and shoulders enter the net, four times did his handsome form slither out free. All this time the rod was nearly vertical, and bent wellnigh double, the only possible way of keeping him within reach. At last, a most lucky stroke of the net, utterly inexplicable upon any principles of mechanics, laid him struggling on the grass. In the net was the minnow he had taken, still alive on the hook, the gut of which he had bitten through, but the hook of the second minnow had caught him outside of the tremendous palisade of his teeth, he weighed 15½ pounds. I had now the laugh on my side. C. C. J.

FISH-CULTURE AT HUDDERSFIELD.

MR. BYRAM LITTLEWOOD, of Huddersfield, to whom the Thames Angling Preservation Society were largely and opportunely indebted last year for the gift of 3500 fine healthy fry of trout and acclimatized char, for the rearing ponds of Sunbury, has been turning his attention to oyster-culture, with every prospect of the greatest success. In a letter which I received from him a few days since, he says, "I am perfectly satisfied of its practicability so as to hear no more about the scarcity of this highly valued bivalve." From what I know of Mr. Littlewood, his knowledge, energy, and undaunted perseverance, will bring to unmistakeable success anything he takes in hand; and, in reference to the culture of oysters, nothing will make him more popular than bringing that to a satisfactory result. The opinions which have already been expressed by the local press regard his success as a foregone conclusion, and this is speaking from practical experience and personal visits to his cellars, as they are termed, in Cecil Street, Huddersfield. Mr. Littlewood has for some years given his attention to oyster-culture; and one of the members of the T. A. P. S., who was at Huddersfield last year, told me,

the other day, that from what he had seen there was no doubt as to his being thoroughly successful. I hope shortly to have something more to say on this subject, but I think I have said enough now to make all lovers of oysters rejoice at a glorious prospect in an early future, and I hope Mr. Littlewood's efforts will be warmly appreciated. In reference to fish-culture, Mr. Littlewood says, "I am this season going into fishing matters in a large way; at least I intend to produce two millions of Salmonidæ of all its various kinds, including grayling. I am having some *Trutta Lacustris*, which is a kind of trout that often attains the enormous weight of 36 lb. I have some Windermere and Alpine char ova and also *Salmo Fontinalis* going on most satisfactorily, in addition to a quarter of a million of Loch Leven trout, besides a large quantity of common brook trout." It is the intention of Mr. Littlewood to sell the young fry, but only to recoup him for all outlay. It will be remembered as to his gift to the Thames last year how well the youngsters travelled from Huddersfield to King's Cross, and from King's Cross to Sunbury—there was scarcely any loss—the fry was so perfectly healthy and well developed. In their transit on the Great Northern Railway every attention was paid by the officials, the management of this line being so perfect in every department; and my long experience gives me power to speak on the general courtesy of its servants. Mr. Littlewood has most generously promised to contribute to the Thames, through Mr. Thomas Spreckley, during the year 1882 one thousand more young fry. It was a fortunate visit of Mr. Spreckley to the Norwich Exhibition in making the acquaintance of Mr. Littlewood, whose generosity and kindness will be long remembered by the anglers of the Thames; and I shall not only regard him as one of our great benefactors, but I shall ever value his services and friendship as of one who is entitled to my highest esteem and respect. B.

[Oyster-culture has long been an accomplished fact in France.—ED.]

TEN THOUSAND YOUNG CARP FOR SALE—COARSE-FISH CULTURE.

IF any of our readers wish to get carp for stocking ponds they may be glad to know that Mr. Materne, fish-breeder, of Saarlouis, in Lothringen, Germany, is advertising that he can supply ten thousand carp fry, and large carp also, if required. We can always supply our readers with the addresses of German fish-breeders who sell gold-fish of various kinds, carp, &c., for stocking purposes. Every mail from the United States brings us accounts of the wonderful success which has attended the cultivation of carp in America. The fish are bred from fish carried over from Germany, and reared and distributed by that grand institution the American Fish Commission, supported by the State, and conducted by such talented and practical men as Professor Baird, Livingstone Stone, G. Mather, Seth Green, and others. As our Government has always too much to do to help us in a similar matter, we must help ourselves, and we are happy to say that the support our scheme of coarse-fish culture is receiving on all sides is most encouraging.

The popular idea that anglers are a united body is a perfect delusion. The amount of jealousy and downright enmity which we have met with between associations, and clubs, and individual anglers, and fishing-tackle makers, is astounding; and would be ridiculous if it were not so lamentable and discouraging.

It is discouraging in this way: you go to a well-known angler, or tackle-maker, or club, and ask for support for some deserving scheme; everything goes on swimmingly, and you begin to hope your time and trouble will not be thrown away, when everything is upset suddenly, perhaps because some name has been mentioned. "Oh! if Mr. Snooks is going to have anything to do with it, I shall certainly not support the affair." Argument with such a man is thrown away, and you leave him with your feeling of wonder that so many promising schemes come to nothing considerably blunted. We do hope that all anglers, and all clubs, and all associations, will sink their differences—generally arising out of the veriest trifles—and join in supporting the proposed scheme for breeding fish to re-stock our depopulated waters. It is not a scheme for the benefit of a few individuals, or a few clubs, or a few waters. You are not asked to subscribe to the improvement of the fishing in a river you never fish. The benefit is open to all who care to assist. Again, it is not a scheme for the benefit of future generations of anglers, though they will thank us for it; it is to increase our own sport. We predict that in a few years' time thousands of acres of water which are now utterly useless, from an angler's point of view, will be teeming with fine fish of all kinds. The extent of this greatly to be desired improvement depends entirely on the amount of support accorded by anglers to the movement now starting. Every angler should assist.

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RIVER REPORTS.

MID-THAMES.

"I in those flowery meads would be:
Those crystal streams should solace me."

—IZAACK WALTON.

The flowery meads just now on ye banks of Old Father Thames have been turned into mud gardens in consequence of the recent floods, and the crystal stream is certainly not one all clear glass just now—and all the better for roach, perch and chub anglers, for the fish are just beginning to flash their muddy eyes open after the recent heavy push of water. Within the last few days, grand catches of roach have been had; perch and jack have also been on the feed; and, without rain between now (Thursday) and Saturday, the river will be in prime winter all-round fishing trim. For roach, I would advise worm-fishing; for chub, pith and brain work; for jack, live bait or paternoster; and for perch, minnow or red worm. At Hurley, Messrs. Smith, Harrison, Tree, and Lumley have been doing excellent work daily, fishing from the Treats, the Bell, and at Marlow, decent catches have since yesterday been had.

THURSDAY EVENING.—River fining down nicely, and all fish reported as on the move. Shaw, jun., of Marlow, this morning was broken away with a "smeller" of a jack, after a few minutes' fishing—so this will show the fish can see. Roach, I know, are on.—MARLOW BUZZ.

Thames (Goring).

Water in good order for all-round fishing, in good order for jack and perch. Out to-day (Thursday); took some good roach.—JOHN RUSH.

Thames (Richmond).

The river has now got to a nice height and a splendid colour for roach, dace, and bream-fishing, and there should be, in the course of the week, some good baskets had, as I anticipated last week there would. There was some fishing on Monday, when there was some very fair takes of fish, principally dace, which ran a very good size. The roach not feeding much the punts had between them some half-dozen bream which was in fine condition.—J. BUSHNELL.

Thames (Twickenham).

I am pleased to say the water is falling fast, and the river is once again fishable. We have made a commencement this day, Thursday, and have got about six to eight dozen in each punt, and every day I hope it will improve, which we may expect, if the weather holds up fine. I was sorry to have to send several customers away during the Christmas holidays, but it was impossible to have got any fish the state the river was in, but we shall now be pleased to see them at their earliest convenience, and can promise them a good day amongst the roach. To show the dangerous state of the river, as I mentioned last week, there has been a brewer's horse and van, &c., lost at Teddington Weir, through the last heavy fog. The man lost his way, and the whole fell into the river at the celebrated one tree near Kingston. Fortunately the man was leading the horse and was saved from a watery grave. I believe the value of the whole exceeds £150, and attempts are to be made to-morrow to get it out.—A. PERRIN.

Thames (Walton).

Falling rapidly and every prospect of its still doing so. Much clearer than it was, but not at present in good form for any fishing. If the weather continues there will, I think, be better prospects at the end of the week. The weather is fine, with light frost, but milder towards mid-day. Wind very slight, and towards south-west. Nothing of any sort done. Two gentlemen down yesterday trying for jack, but never had a bite. None of the fishermen have been out. No anglers about anywhere. Large quantities of plover in flocks about, and wild duck and snipe shot on Sunday and Monday. Much more show with the gun than the rod just at present.—HENRY E. WOOD.

Ancholme.

Owing to the prevalence of Christmas festivities, but few anglers have visited the water side, and the catches, so far as reported, have been very light. At the end of last week the waters were bound by frost, and juveniles were indulging in the hope that we should have some rare sport on the ice during the holidays, but on Saturday evening a change set in, and by Monday morning most of the ice was gone, and the trouts in my breeding ponds were rising quite freely at the flies which were dancing in the bright sunshine. The weather is now delightful again, and the waters all that can be desired, so I strongly advise those who like winter fishing to turn out and catch fishes whilst the sun shines.—THOMAS FORD.

Dove.

The Dove has been much discoloured this week. A few takes are reported with the worm amongst the barbel below Rochester, one bag scaling 12½ lb. Pike have not been running at all satisfactorily during the recent frosts, but this may be owing to the thick state of the water. A small fish of 5½ lb. was taken above Uttoxeter on Monday with the Gregory bait. We are glad to be able to state that measures are being undertaken with a view to the better preservation of the fish upon several hitherto totally unprotected lengths of this the classic stream of the fly-fisher. A large number of piles are being made for insertion at stipulated points in the river.—THE SPODGER.

Ilfracombe (N. Devon).

Our herring fishing season is almost over, one boat only has their nets in; they have had two short drifts this week and caught about 500 herrings; big fish are more plentiful than they have been for some weeks. Four large skate were brought in on Tuesday, two weighing about 200lb. each, some fine conger also have been caught, averaging from 14lb. to 25lb. each, several cod in prime condition have been taken by the fishermen, average weight 16lb. to 20lb., and a few ling. This morning P. Redmore brought in from his spiller 125lb. of conger, one cod 17lb., one ling 16lb. Fishermen bait and set their spillers just off the harbour, they haul them twice a day and get a quantity of fish, sometimes there have been a few conger and ling caught from the jetty with hand lines. Weather at present very mild, with good prospects for the next few days.—E. COMER.

Medway (Tonbridge).

The fine weather of the past week has fined the water down beautifully, and it is now just the thing for all kinds of angling. Jack will be in the feed, and there will be a chance for those who have sufficient patience to stick to it to get some roach with a tight ledger. Mr. R. A. Dallas, Beeching, caught a good perch near the Barden Railway Bridge during the week. I hope by next week to have some catches to report.—YE MEDWAY WATER RAT.

Ouse (Littleport).

Water running off nicely, and of a good colour. Will be several days though before it is fairly fishable, as we cannot get near the flats by ten or twelve yards at present. I had three anglers down on 27th, but only one did any good. Mr. Henry Lee, Cambridge, an old angler on the water, got a score of roach, bream, and dace by very long casting in Nottingham style.—CHARLES LOUGH.

Trent (Newark).

During the latter part of last week the weather was very frosty, and I supposed the rod would be laid aside in favour of the skates, but on Sunday a change came o'er the spirit of the dream, for it rained for several hours, and since the weather has been all that could be desired by the angler. But the water has only been in middling trim, it has not yet fined down from the last very heavy flood, and in consequence the sport has only been of a very indifferent character during the holidays. I have been at the Witham this last day or two, and the only sport I had was a couple of small chub, four dace, and about two dozen fine roach. I have not seen or heard of a good bag being made this Christmas, the majority of the catches being only very moderate. The event of the week (down here), from a piscatorial point of view, was the capture of five barbel with rod and line, about three pounds apiece, out of the waters of the Newark and Muskham Fishery last Tuesday, R. Chilton being the lucky angler, and worms being the bait. I found the little red worm to be the best bait by far in the Witham this week, and I believe they have been the most successful in the Trent. At the time of writing, Thursday, the Trent is fining down very nicely, and if the present condition of things should continue, the water will be in condition in another day or two.—THE TRENT OTTER.

Wye and Derwent (Derbyshire).

We had a large flood come down the Derwent last Monday morning from the great quantity of rain which fell up in the woodlands. This rise has done a very great deal of good, for it has taken the snow broth water out of the Derwent, and has caused the coarse fish to feed freely at lobs, maggots, and small branding worms. The grayling have fed but very middling at either the top or bottom during the past week, owing to the mildness of the weather. In fact, all the week, the sun has shone beautifully, and the days have been quite warm, not at all like Christmas weather; and while this open weather continues, we shall have very little sport amongst the grayling. What is wanted is some good sharp frosts. Then, no doubt, there would be some first-class grayling fishing on both rivers. Natural flies have been out very abundantly on both rivers, from one to three, viz., long, flat-winged browns, old blue dun, and small iron blue dun. There have been a few small-sized pike killed in the Cromford Canal with small dace for baits, both by using the natural live bait and by trolling.—GEORGE JAMES EATON.

Starkholmes, Matlock Bath.

Yore (Yorkshire).

I have sent no report on this river for the last fortnight, for the simple reason that there has been nothing taking place worthy of notice, and I regret to say that this week has also proved a blank one for grayling fishermen. I went down to Ripon on Monday for a day's fishing, but found the Yore a perfect torrent, overflowing the banks in many places, and rendered angling of any kind wholly impracticable; the weather is singularly mild for the time of year, reminding one more of April than Christmas. So ends the season of 1881, and, so far as my experience goes, it has been a very successful one, especially as regards grayling fishing. It is many a long year since my angling diary has recorded so many red-letter days in this class of fishing as it has done this season. In conclusion, allow me to express a wish that all "honest anglers" have experienced a right merry Christmas, and here's success to the coming season, and a "Happy New Year" to every one.—FRANCIS M. WALBRAN.

GREGORY'S SPINNING BAITS. "The Gregory," the "Flexible Cleopatra," the "Oxford," and the "Colorado," pronounced by all Anglers and the Press the best baits invented for salmon, trout, pike, and perch. To be obtained from all respectable fishing-tackle shops in the world, and wholesale from Messrs. S. Alcock and Co., Standard Works, Redditch. Flattering testimonials speaking of the efficiency of the baits have been received from the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. William Bailey, Nottingham; the Rev. E. C. Holt, Teddington; Sir William Calder, Kingston-on-Thames, &c. Gregory's registered Archimedean spinning tackle for pike and trout, now ready, is pronounced by the press the best ever invented. For use with dead bait. The tackle is complete in every respect, and can be adjusted to suit bait of any size. Has been tried with remarkable success.—See that the name "Gregory" is impressed on the Archimedean fins, as inferior imitations are offered for sale, and people are thereby disappointed and deceived. Address, James Gregory, Vyse-street, Birmingham.—[ADVT.]

GEORGE JAMES EATON, of Starkholmes Matlock-Bath, Derbyshire, respectfully invites Noblemen and Gentlemen to try his standard FLIES for the present season. No flies sent or made up but what he himself has proved sure killers. A trial is all that is required from gentlemen who can fish to prove whether they may be genuine or not. Patronised by some of the best fishermen of the day. All flies dressed on the best Kendal hooks. Prices: Point Flies, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Dropper Flies, 2s. per Dozen. Orders punctually attended to.—[ADVT.]

TO ANGLERS.—W. J. Cummins, Fishing Tackle Maker, Bishop Auckland, is now prepared to forward to anglers his Illustrated Catalogue, which is not only a Trade List but is interspersed with practical hints, useful directions, and valuable information gathered by the river-side from twenty years' experience. The stock consists of his unrivalled Salmon, Trout, Grayling, and Pike Rods, Lines, Reels, Baskets, Artificial Baits, Fly-books, Landing Nets, Gaffs, and last, but not least, his celebrated Trout FLIES which for killing powers stand unequalled. Every article kept in stock is of the very best description.—[ADVT.]

THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS DAY.

THE day, as it opened, was bright, beautiful and crisp in the suburbs of the metropolis, and highly suggestive of a nice long stroll in the heart of the country, with a good and comfortable hostelry at the end of it, or the house of a friend, whose well experienced hospitality would vision up to one's imagination something truly acceptable to satisfy the cravings of a well-prepared natural appetite, not of a visionary, but of a substantially real character. Christmas-time, and especially Boxing-day, is often regarded as an appropriate period to enjoy a good constitutional walk in the country; and to those who are literally and mentally engaged all the week, and frequently have their brains at work on the other day, the Bank Holiday which follows Christmas Day appears singularly suitable to them for a real day of rest from mental occupation. It was the day before Christmas Day that I left home early in the morning by train, and my thoughts lay more in the direction of piscatorial matters as connected with the Christmas holidays. I was going in the direction of Staines, and I took up a sporting paper to see the Friday's telegrams, and found, under the head of Staines, that "the water is now lower, and should the frost not come too severe there will be plenty of quiet corners for jack and perch fishing by the beginning of the week." This was, to say the least of it, encouraging, as regards the prospects of angling on Bank Holiday; but when I got to Staines, I found the river completely flooded, not only the meadows and towing-path submerged in water, but the roadway in front of those charming villas near to the railway bridge completely under water, extending almost to the comfortable hostelry of the Pack Horse, where the piscatorial host knows how to cater for the anglers. The water was of a fearfully dirty colour, if anything worse in appearance than the oft-repeated description of pea-soup. The back premises of the hotel was held in water, and to me the prospects of jack and perch fishing on Boxing-day had no possibility of realisation. The river looked as though it wanted a week, at least, to put it right, without any drawback whatever. The fishermen possessed no encouraging hopes—ready to obey orders, but with no recommendation of results. "It is very bad for us at these times, sir, when we want to earn a bit of money, and no chance of doing it," was rather depressing to one's feelings to hear, and that without the power of making any alteration in the aspect of affairs. What could I do? To wish them a merry Christmas when they had nothing to make themselves merry with, would have been a heartless mockery. I could only take them to some neighbouring hostelry and give them a drink, and hope for early better days. I generally leave them cheerful, however short that cheerfulness may last, for I find the fisherman as a rule enjoy a good joke, and like to hear some of those racy speeches which are usually credited to the members of the London Stock Exchange. Well, it is no use making life miserable, and if the prospects of river employment somewhat saddened the countenances of some of the professional fishermen, a bright and genial display of humour cheers them up and sends them on their way rejoicing. I left Staines and took train, by way of Virginia Water, to Chertsey, having to wait at the first of these places for half an hour before the Chertsey train would start; but, thanks to the very courteous station agent, Mr. Wilman, at Virginia Water, I am always privileged to remain in his office until the time is up. I then hear of the character of fishing at Virginia Water, which is never of an attractive character. At Chertsey there was the same story as at Staines—the fishermen in a similar mood, and the prospects of fishing not very bright. I had now seen and heard enough to satisfy me it would be a miracle if there was any jack and perch fishing on Boxing-day; but changes come sometimes quicker than expected, and should there be any captures of those fish on that day I shall be truly glad to hear it, and pleased to find my opinion, and the opinion of others, has been wrong. I was gratified to learn at Chertsey that the well-known fisherman, James Haslett, had piloted one of his clients to the capture of a monster pike. I terminated my visit with a call upon Mr. James Forbes, but I had not time to look at the fish-house. I have reserved that for another occasion, when I hope Mr. R. B. Marston will accompany me, as I am assured by Mr. Forbes he would be very glad to see him.

B.

NOTES ON GERMAN FISHING-TACKLE.

IN the *Deutsche Fischerei Zeitung* of December 20, we notice an article by Mr. Christensen on the rods and tackle sold by Mr. Hermann Stork, of Ulm; one or two of the things described will interest our readers. Mr. C. regrets that he has been unable to test the sixteen various artificial pike and perch baits which Mr. S. has sent him, as, on the two days when he was out for the purpose, neither he nor his attendant, who fished with natural baits, had any sport; but he can state that the baits spin very well.

He advises anglers to dry their lines well, and to remember that though a line may to all appearances be dry, it may still be quite damp in the centre, and if put away in this state will rot.

He describes with great praise a "Bell apparatus for jack-fishing." This invention of Mr. Stork consists of a short rod (only about a yard in length) with a spike and winch at one end and a little bell at the other; the spike is stuck in the ground, the line thrown out and hitched to the bell. "Extremely comfortable must it be," says Mr. C., "after setting the line to retire to some shady place, perhaps provided with a hammock, light a cigar, peruse the newest novel and wait for the tinkle of the bell which indicates a run." Who will say after this that our German friends have not reduced angling to a science! But *chacun à son gout*.

A capital bait net is next described, it is such a simple and effective affair that we hope some English fishing-tackle maker will adopt the idea and make it for this market. The net is a small mesh four-sided silk one, each side being about two yards long, it is expanded by means of four hazel rods in their natural bark (the net being green and the wood a dark natural colour, the affair is not likely to frighten fish); the ends of the hazel rods are fixed in a lead weight which has short arms—fixed cross wise—like ferrules, and are held in place by the net being stretched from each corner to the points of the rods. To get the net ready you have only to put the rods in the holes of the lead cross, hitch the loop at one corner of the net on to one end of the projecting rod, and then the rest in the same way; a cord is then fastened to the lead, and after putting in a little bread paste or bait of some kind, the net is sunk in some place frequented by minnows and small fry, and by means of any strong stick attached to the cord can be rapidly drawn up when there are fish over the net. When done with, the whole affair can be taken to pieces in a minute or two, and rolled up together so as to occupy little more space than a closed umbrella. Mr. Christensen says he finds this net so extremely useful that he never thinks of going fishing without it, and by its means he can ensure getting all live-bait he wants in a very short time.

MR. GREGORY'S NOVELTIES IN FISHING
BAITS, &c.

MR. GREGORY, of Vyse Street, Birmingham, is acknowledged to be the best maker of artificial metal baits for pike, perch, &c. He has created quite a revolution in this matter, and few anglers nowadays consider their equipment for a day's pike-fishing is complete without one or two of Gregory's artificials. Mr. G. has just sent us a sample of a metal spinning bait which he has made for us, and which, we think, will be found very killing and vastly superior to the old gutta-percha baits. It is simply a beautifully made metal fish, which revolves on a strong brass wire, the spin is obtained by a curve in the tail. In the sample sent us the tail is not quite right, it is too large and is forked. We have told Mr. G. to omit the fork, which is only a waste of power, and make a broad salmon tail. The hooks are double triangle at the tail and a single triangle at the head, the hooks are fastened to the wire and not to the bait; it is a great mistake to solder hooks on to a bait of this kind. They describe a large circle in the water, prevent the bait spinning properly and frighten the fish. The lower triangle has a red wool tassel on it; this is a most attractive feature in all pike baits, and gives the appearance of a broken or injured fish—the pike likes to take advantage of a crippled fish; in fact, anything red seems to enrage him as it does a bull.

Mr. Gregory has also recently brought out a metal cap for floats, which will have a large sale, and is not more expensive than the ordinary quill cap which is always splitting. He has also brought out an expanding metal ring for holding the winch to the rod; it will be very useful as a makeshift or for cheap rods.

ANGLING.

ABOUT two years since an angling association was formed in connection with the establishment of Messrs. Sutton and Sons, the Queen's seedsmen, Reading; and from the report read by the secretary, Mr. F. Squire, at the second annual meeting, held on Tuesday, December 20th, it appears the association is now in a very flourishing condition. There are about seventy members—all employés of the firm; and during the past season a very interesting competition has taken place, resulting in the capture of some exceedingly fine specimens of pike, perch, roach, barbel and chub. The prizes, amounting in value to nearly £11, were distributed at the annual meeting by Mr. A. W. Sutton. In almost every case they were awarded for single specimens. The total weight of fish entered for competition was 14 cwt.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

A CAPITAL BOOK ON SKATING.

A HANDBOOK OF FEN SKATING. By Neville Goodman, M.A., and Albert Goodman. With a Map of the Fen District and many Illustrations. London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 188, Fleet Street.

THIS is really a first-rate little work; thoroughly practical, complete, and yet chatty and interesting as well. The appendix, B, is a list of the principal Fen rivers and drains, for the use of skaters, but which cannot fail to be very valuable also to anglers; though, in a future edition, we think that the authors should give the names of the various inns on the streams, as both skaters and anglers want refreshment. The kind of skating most in vogue in the Fen district is rapid, straightforward progression; and, in our opinion, this is much the best form of skating. Figure skating is to Fen-skating what waltzing is to a dashing ride across country. The illustrations show clearly all that can be shown by illustrations. We can strongly recommend the book, which is quite new.

"THE K'RECT CARD."

Lines written on seeing a certain Christmas Card published by Messrs. De La Rue and Co.

Lo! where—summer-skies permitting—
That sweet, nudish nymph is sitting
By those waters fair—
Castalie? May be. I know not.
Classic, though. Ah! see her show what
She has caught! I swear,

O ye gods and little fishes!
'Tis a perch! Perhaps she wishes
'Twere a lusty trout,
Or a grayling; yet the merry,
Pretty, saucy minx seems very
Pleased to pull him out.

Or think you it's a red-mullet?
With her sharp hook in his gullet,
And his gasping jaws,
And wild eyes for death out-looking
Ere—*vœ victis*—she, un-hooking,
Baskets him, because

Fish must—after dingling-dangling—
Die when expert nymphs go angling,
Whereso'er that be
On this earth—of old called *tellus*,
Ancient Rome, more ancient Hellas,
Fabled Arcadie.

"Nymph, are you not Oriana,
Of the young guard of Diana?
Don't you love the sport!
Still the doomed one cease from showing
How to Orcus he is going!
Cut the fatal short!

"Fairest Pink of pure Perfection,
Have a little recollection!
Think of all his pangs!
Look! yon waterlily's pleading,
By its blushing, for the bleeding,
Hapless wretch that hangs.

"Mercy, then, Olympian maiden!
So your creel more heavy-laden
Evermore shall grow;
For if cruelty's amusing,
Yet the time you thus are losing
Lessens sport, you know.

"Come! wake-up my dreaming beauty!
Give the *coup de grace*! Your duty
Turn again and do—
With that rod of yours! Stick to it
Till A GOOD ROUND HUNDRED rue it,

EIGHTEEN
EIGHTYTWO!"

A.R.I.E.L.

London, Dec. 30th, 1881.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CLEARING THE ROAD FOR THE NEW YEAR.

BY A THAMES FISHERMAN.

SIR,—I hereby duly warn you, and all intending readers of this letter, that it contains little or no information which will assist in the following of the sport which, as true anglers, we are all prepared to swear by. Yet I hope you and they will honour me by wading through to the end, when possibly some of you may say, It's not all bosh, not all "queer complaints," and not altogether uncalled for; at any rate, I feel I am clearing the road for the New Year, so far as my humble pen is concerned.

I promise to make amends in the future for this imposition on your kindness. I will write you of many and many a good swim for each species of fish, and how, when, and with what tackle and bait, you should try your luck in each. I ask you in return—you must perforce grant my request, as my scribbings will compel you—to remember that I am a novice amidst pens, ink, and paper.

The first impediment to future progress is, undoubtedly, the letter from Mr. J. Harrington Keene, in which he says, "I think I can afford to pass over the gratuitous sneers of an anonymous correspondent, whom I neither intentionally misquoted or sneered at." I hold strong notions, Mr. Editor, in respect to anonymous writers; and, while admitting that we are indebted to them for much valuable information, for the bringing to light of many cruel abuses, and for enlivening our dull lives with a flow of wit and humour which would never be ours but for them; yet we can better afford to dispense with this class of writer rather than permit them to don a cloak for the purpose of attacking, either by sneer or innuendo, the character of any individual. Indeed, I go so far as to say, that where the anonymous writer is attacked, he must act only on the defensive, and with such circumspection as the great advantage of his position should dictate to him as fair and manly. By these notions I would judge others; therefore, in common fairness, I must stand or fall by them myself. I have re-read my letter, J. H. K.'s remarks thereon, and my reply thereto, and now his disclaimer of any intention to misquote or sneer—this leaves me no other course but to say, I am in the wrong; I have sneered and inferred, and therein exceeded my own ideas of what is legitimate and fair. These offensive remarks I wish to withdraw; and I promise to be less inclined in future to rush bull-like at the first bit of red, totally blind to what, after all, may prove—as in this case—a complimentary notice, which another public writer would not have given me, although he may coolly adopt the subjects brought forward in my letters.

A gentleman who signs himself "Vortex," asks me—(1) Can the Fleet be fished from the bank when the grass is growing? Most certainly not, without committing an unpardonable trespass. Wait a few days after the opening of the season, and the grass will have been made into hay. I feel sure V. is not one of those few who would thus bring discredit on anglers. I cannot help throwing in a hint here to those who have care of the resolutions passed at the Society of Arts. One of your very best arguments to produce to a land-owning Parliament in favour of altering the fence months, so as to include the whole of June, is the fact that by that time the grass will have been cut. (2) "Is it correct that Mr. Clifford, of Magna Charta Island, can claim the sole right of fishing thereabout?" I feel sure he cannot establish any such claim, and am equally sure that he is one of the last men to attempt it. Unfortunately, there are a few anglers so thoughtless as to rush here and there quite unmindful of fences and gates; the result is that Mr. Clifford and numbers of others are not so pleased to see you as they otherwise would be. If you desire to fish from his private grounds, go to the house and ask his permission, and you will never be refused. I have found him a gentleman, and a clever enthusiast with the rod. Approach him as such, and you will have no cause for complaint. V. further asks me, "If there is no remedy for the taking of undersized fish by the foreigners employed at the tapestry works?" I am sorry to say that I have a very poor opinion, as will be seen presently, of the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, who should protect this water. I should advise V. to make a report to the association to which his society, if he belongs to one, is affiliated, and they, being subscribers to the Windsor and Eton Preservation Society, will be able to put the screw on—it is much needed. I am pleased to learn that Mr. Geo. Mortimer is following in the footsteps of his father, and I hope he may live as long to fish the Elms swim.

I have resided long enough in this hole and corner on the banks of the Thames to discover that a sentimental grievance, or one affecting a small minority, is little likely to be dealt with efficaciously; we must show that the general body is interested, and sure to be injuriously affected by its continuance and growth, then we have only to be persistent, and the doctors will be called in and a remedy prescribed.

We professional fishermen are fortunate in finding the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE so unmistakably a sympathiser with us. Without your space and powerful advocacy, we must remain unrepresented and impotent; with your aid, we hope to make our voice heard in such a manner as shall assist in the remedying of those abuses, the continuance of which not only endangers our prospects as fishermen, but also the sport of all Thames anglers.

Notwithstanding your past kindness, I could not expect that you would permit a mere repetition of even acknowledged grievances to

appear week after week, therefore I have attempted to clothe them with facts and information which have been stored in my memory while fishing with numbers of those who may possibly read my letters and be able to connect themselves with some of the incidents which I have described.

I should like to say, in reference to my first letter, that I have seen and heard much that causes me to hope that the publicity given to my complaint, together with your weighty remarks, has had, and will continue to have, a good effect; and that the relative position of employer and employed, of educated and comparatively uneducated, will not be so frequently forgotten in the future as in the past. I must confess that I feel the regret of an angler, who, while having succeeded in landing a number of fish has unmistakably failed to land the monster which has more than once done him the honour to notice and play with his bait. I must have you, Mr. Harrington Keene; I will put on a fresh bait, composed entirely of facts, and try that. Within a stone's throw of my door resides a well-known fisherman, who has a number good patrons, and is as frequently, or more frequently, engaged than any other herabout. Amongst his patrons is one who fishes with him on an average about twelve times per season. Previous to the appearance of my letter, "The Curse of our Calling," this gentleman invariably took out with him in the punt a bottle of champagne, some spirits, and a stone bottle of beer; about ten in the morning they return to an hotel for lunch, and the exhausted liquors are replaced. At night, my neighbour returns home drunk, with his day's money intact. Whose money, whose drink, has wrought this disgrace? The gentleman's. This will be repeated six times out of the twelve, and on the other six occasions he is so little removed from being drunk that his craving for drink on the following day is almost as great as if he had been, and the day's earnings will be squandered in a vain attempt to quench his thirst. The gentleman of whom I am writing is a clever and successful angler, and one of the kindest and best intentioned, and would scorn a proposal to make one of a party to plot and determine—as others have done—to make their fisherman drunk; but drunk he has made his fisherman none the less, and in doing so he has spoilt the peace of the fisherman's family time after time. This same gentleman has recently been heard to say, "Never more will I take anything into my punt stronger than beer; I will sooner give my fisherman something extra to spend with his family." All honour to him, and may others determine to do likewise. My brother fisherman is no lazy hulk; no hour in the morning is too early for him, no day or journey too long; drink is his curse, and his empty cupboard is one of its fruits. It is a sorry Christmas for him, the river is flooded, and he has no hope of employment.

My second complaint was that our river Thames has, from causes which I set forth, lost the greater portion of its jack and perch, and that the disappearance of the remainder is only a question of a few years. I anticipate, sir, there are many who may not care to accept such a startling statement on such poor authority; if these gentlemen are jack and perch fishers let them put it to the test. I ask them to come down and attempt to equal their takes of former years; they will soon find that it's not to be done.

Many roach fishermen will learn of the rapid diminution in our stock of jack and perch with perfect equanimity, indeed, some will be pleased and go so far as to say, "a good job too." I venture to state that had they seen and studied the ill effects of too few, or no jack, in roach waters, they would know how necessary to the continued health of their favourite fish is the jack, which will clear away the weak and diseased, leaving the strong and healthy to breed and multiply.

There can be no doubt but that we are one and all interested in the reasonable protection of jack and perch, and the sooner and the more practically we can show our interest, the easier will be our task. You have suggested, sir, that the first step to be taken, is to artificially breed innumerable fry; your readers must all agree with you there. Now for the second step: we should protect these two fish during the six weeks ending July 31st, with the strong arm of the law, as it is during this period that butterfly fishermen and trailers take more in number than fall to the rods of legitimate anglers during the proper season.

I have, in a previous letter, spoken of the stupid system of frittering away the resources of preservation societies in the payment of a number of small sums to men whom they are pleased to dub river-keepers. Is there, outside a preservation society, a single individual so blind as not to readily discern how much better it would be that one good man should be secured who could give his whole thoughts to the fulfilment of the onerous duties of protecting the river? Is there no one amongst the many thoughtful anglers who will come forward and add the weight of his influential name to my weak protest against this foolish mismanagement? Can it be that the anglers of London will think that this is only a "queer complaint," therefore unworthy of notice? If so, I am courting further unfavourable opinion by calling attention to yet another grievance. There has recently been appointed a joint-committee of the Upper Thames Preservation Societies for the purpose of considering and maturing a scheme for the propagation of trout. I don't mind admitting, sir, that I am a trifle riled. I'll fill my pipe and steady my old nerves a bit, or I shall smash a pen or two over this trout committee. First, I want to "know, you know," how many of these gents took part in the apprisement of a certain 10,000 bull trout that were once upon a time turned into the river. Thirty pounds was their value—so we fishermen below stairs were told by the waiter who came down for a fresh supply of wine. Some broadish winks went the round of our little circle on this announcement. The pretty, modest barmaid failed to see the joke at first, and told us with a severe frown that she had no patience with a lot of old men winking and laughing her out of countenance. Of course, we explained

that it was not at her that we were so loudly winking and boisterously laughing, but at the profound piscicultural wisdom of the upstairs dinner-repleted nob, who had arrived at the extraordinary conclusion that ten thousand fry of migratory fish were worth exactly thirty pounds sterling. Now the damsel grasps the joke, and joins heartily in a last peal of laughter in honour of the bull trout, never a fish of which has been seen from that day to this. Now it's to be real Thames trout, therefore, we must be serious, and ask ourselves the plain question, Do trout require this special expenditure? I am satisfied that since the abolition of night-lines—for which I feel we are all greatly indebted to the T.A.P.S.—these fish have had a very easy time of it, and are now more than capable of holding their own against all comers, and that any further expenditure of time or money will be an unpardonable waste.

Were I an active member of the Amalgamated Association of Angling Societies I should propose that instead of sending these trout-culture societies—that should be their title—of the Upper Thames a cheque for the coming year, the money be invested in the coarse-fish culture scheme, the value to be returned in so many hundreds of thousands of roach, chub, perch, jack, carp and tench fry, and that these be placed in the river where most needed. This would, in a great measure, check the cruel indifference to all fish other than trout.

I am no prophet, but as sure as eggs are eggs, some thinking reader will adopt this suggestion.

I must not tire your patience, sir, on New Year's Eve with my growling, so I will finish this, my last letter of the old year, with a little tittle-tattle. We have heard of the village barber's boast that he alone enjoys the privilege of hearing everybody's opinion about everything; and much has been written of the confidences reposed in the mail-coach driver by his box-seat passengers; but nothing that I can remember has either been said or written of the unrivalled opportunities which we professional fishermen have of learning both sides of ticklish questions. Who knows, to-day I may have fished with two members of the Piscatorial Society, and they will, during the time they are with me, run through a variety of subjects; tomorrow, or shortly, I shall have a couple from the Gresham Society, and they will be pretty sure to speak of the same topics; yet, strange to say, their opinions will differ from those already expressed by the Piscatorials.

This is how we learn both sides, and the ins and outs of London angling club life. I have been compelled to overhear conversations in respect to these letters. One gentleman was of opinion that "no Thames fisherman could write them, he could distinctly perceive the one-penny-per-line professional writer's style." The other said "that it was clear to him that they must come from a professional fisherman, as no one else could give the facts, and there were far too many plums in the pudding for a paid writer to part with in less space than three volumes." Another opinion which I have heard expressed is that "no Thames fisherman would be such a fool as to give without reward information that would tend to make anglers more independent of him." Believe me, sir, if I could know that one hard-worked, smoke-dried, true-hearted man had been guided by my description to a swim which afforded him pleasure during a brief absence from his dingy everyday haunts, I should be amply rewarded. I fear no loss of custom; if ever I should be hard driven, I will throw aside my *nom de plume*, and boldly ask those of your readers who have not yet done so to give me a trial.

I have for many years pushed my punt amongst the bank anglers, some of whom have stuck to their swims with "Old Mortimer"-like constancy, and been such frequent visitors that I have learnt their names. Now and then I put them across or give them a ride down stream on their and my return journey. I am always glad to do this as I like their Cockney talk, and especially am I pleased to note the pride with which they speak of their clubs. I have not yet made up my mind which I should join were I a Londoner. If a lord, or "something in the City," I should be eligible for the Piscatorials; sometimes a Silver Trout and I have a chat, then there is no doubt that's the club; soon after, I fall in with a Golden Barbel, and he convinces me; the next is a Good Intent, and I decide to be one of them. It must be a right good club that has such a secretary, and where all the members have good intentions. I have seen wrong done by a club man, but it came to light, and the man was expelled. For a little time after this disagreeable affair I wondered if there were not members of angling clubs who merely fancied themselves anglers, or whose love for the sport was a thing of yesterday, forced into a mushroom growth by the hope of winning a copper kettle. The substantial fact remains that never but once have I known reason to suspect—while I have reasons by the score to respect—them, and to feel pleasure at seeing their faces behind the boughs as I travel up and down stream.

There are fish that we expect to meet with in pairs, but there is no fish so certain to have his mate close at hand as the bank angler. I could mention off hand a score or two of men whom I should expect to see in black were his comrade not close at hand. I may be busy attending to the gentlemen in my punt, but I have an admiring eye for the perfect sympathy and brotherly solicitude of the two men immediately alongside. You may implicitly trust almost every soldier of the grand army of bank anglers. With this firm conviction, I wish them and you, sir, a happy New Year.—I am, &c.

A THAMES FISHERMAN.

ANGLERS' TOURNAMENT.

SIR,—Seeing the name of our club (Social Brothers) in the list of those that have not sent the money for their tickets, I beg to say that we paid for ours weeks ago, and for which our secretary, Mr. J. R. Pavey, holds the receipt.—I am, &c.,

J. GOUBOT.

THE "UNION JACK" AND MR. SACHS.

SIR,—In your number for Dec. 24th, there is a letter signed "The Ghost of Sir Thomas Gresham." In it I find the following passage, "And it is a moot question whether T. R. S. could by himself have ever landed that fish." As I was in the punt at the time of the capture and actually assisted my father, with the landing net, in getting the fish on board, permit me to say that there is no question, "moot" or otherwise, about who played the fish—Mr. H. L. Rolfe or "T. R. S.," as your correspondent so refinedly puts it. As Mr. Rolfe wrote, in *Land and Water*, soon after the event, he never struck the fish at all. As a matter of fact, he laid his rod down and lit his pipe, saying he would wait until my father had landed his fish and give his own time to gorge the three baits he had put on, and he was much astonished at finding his float suddenly appear close to the punt.

From this you will see that the statement of "The Ghost" is grossly inaccurate.—I am, &c.,

FRANK SACHS.

SIR,—My father having informed me that he does not answer persons who are ashamed to attach their own names to their low personalities, I take upon myself to reply to the letter of "The Ghost of Sir Thomas Gresham," in the *FISHING GAZETTE* of Saturday last. Mr. Jardine's "friend" says, "I wish to point that T. R. S. has repressed a fact he well knew, that one of these large pike was not weighed in until two days after capture, and the other late on the third day," and goes on to assert that the fish actually weighed more than the weights stated upon the glass cases, viz.—36 lb. and 37 lb. Now let us see what is said about these very fish in the late Frank Buckland's last book, "The Natural History of British Fishes," pp. 155 and 156. Mr. Buckland says, "In November, 1879, Mr. Jardine caught . . . a grand pike, which, after having been out of the water *twelve* hours, scaled 34½ lb., so that it was a good 35 lb. fish." There is nothing here about 36 lb., or a delay of two days in getting the fish weighed, as stated by Mr. Jardine's "friend." Farther on we read, "In February, 1877, Mr. Jardine was fortunate enough to take with rod and line another pike weighing thirty-six pounds . . . Immediately the fish was captured Mr. Jardine brought her up on the top of a four-wheeled cab." The "immediately the fish was captured" contrasts strangely with the two or three days of Mr. Jardine's "friend," as do the two weights given, the one in Buckland's book, the other on Mr. Jardine's glass case.

By his couplet—

"Oh! dear Mr. Sachs,
Was this one of your larks?"

Mr. Jardine's friend evidently insinuates that the two-pound jack was inserted in the "Union Jack's" inside subsequent to its capture, for the purpose of increasing its weight. As the "Union Jack" was weighed-in at the Piscatorial Society in the joint names of the late Mr. H. L. Rolfe and of my father, the reflection attempted to be cast by Mr. Jardine's "friend" would affect both gentlemen, and I deem it but the due of the memory of my dead friend Rolfe to rescue it from so base an insinuation. The two-pound jack was *already partly digested*. It is a very unfortunate incident for Mr. Jardine's "friend" to lay hold of, for we read in the account of the 36 lb. pike (the 37 lb. of the glass case) already quoted from, that, "Previously to taking Mr. Jardine's baits she had swallowed no less than fourteen roach and one perch, which were all, more or less, in a state of semi-digestion." It has truly been said that "one man may steal a horse whilst another may not look over the hedge."

My only desire in writing is to put things in their right light. I have no wish to rob Mr. Jardine of the glory attached to the capture of the pike, the more especially that, as Mr. Jardine's "friend" ingenuously says, "any miff may have luck."—I am, &c.,

EDWIN SACHS.

22, Hyde Park Place, W.,
December 27th, 1881.

THE ATTEMPTED ANNEXATION OF THE THAMES.

SIR,—It will be well if the *FISHING GAZETTE*, as the representative organ of anglers, should bring to the attention of the anglers of London the great danger they stand under of losing the right to fish the Upper Thames, a right which has been vouchsafed to them and to their forefathers from time immemorial. Now, however, those to whom it has been given to protect the Thames for the public benefit are making insidious attempts to wrest it to private ownership. The "riparian" appointed by the Board of Trade to watch the public interest, has actually obtained the assistance of the Clerk to the Board of Magistrates as his own solicitor, and, under the plea of trespass, has summoned the officer of a Thames Preservation Society—of which, too, this magistrate, riparian, and representative of the public was a contributor and vice-president. Now, sir, the anglers of London cannot expect everybody to do everything for them, and, if they would preserve their own rights, they must be prepared themselves to defend them. Let them remember that in the case of the attempted annexation of Epping Forest, the men of East London rose and pulled down the encroachments, thus preserving their rights in the Forest. It remains to be seen whether the 150,000 anglers of London will leave the Thames Rights Defence Association without funds to protect the rights which the people of the country and the nation at large have hitherto enjoyed unquestioned. Mr. Leo Bonvoisin calculated that a halfpenny a week from the anglers of London would amount to a very considerable sum (the exact figures I forget), and if this halfpenny a week, or half-a-crown for the whole year, is forthcoming, it will be such a supplement to the efforts of other patriots as to ensure for ever to anglers the uninterrupted enjoyment (except by bad weather) of Father Thames.—I am, &c.,

J. W.

READINGS IN ANGLING SOCIETIES.

SIR,—In thanking B. for his complimentary and apparently exhaustive reply, permit me to remind him that he has given no definite answer to my queries, consequently I apprehend that my original complaint was well founded. I asked distinctly for names and dates of the papers read before the Piscatorial Society (if any) within the last twenty years, an issue which B. seems still to avoid—as he fails to give them. That society, of course, has a minute-book, and will no doubt supply him with the information.

I can most sincerely assure B. that I wish every possible success to the Piscatorial Society; and, indeed, to every body of honest anglers, who have the welfare of the craft at heart. The question between myself and B. is a simple matter of fact; and, if he will supply the statistics asked for, that will be all that is required. On other portions of his letter I forbear comment.—I am, &c.,

T. CRUMPLEN.

11, Albert Street, N.W., Dec. 27.

BLACK BASS FOR ENGLAND.

SIR,—We sincerely hope the introduction of our American black bass, both the "small mouth" and "big mouth" species, will be considered when the propagation of coarse fish comes up for discussion. I am certain if some of the gentlemen contributors of the *GAZETTE*, whose experience makes the columns so entertaining, could only have the pleasure of fighting one of these prime fellows on a slim eight-ounce split bamboo or greenheart rod, they would cry, "bass for ever." To say they are game does not fitly describe them; they are clear grit to the backbone, cunning enough to cheat you out of your brightest anticipations, because you can never count them as yours until they are safe in your basket and dead at that. Then, imagine fighting a fellow weighing five pounds, with ten times the amount of vigour in him you will find in a sluggish carp.

If my memory is not treacherous, the waters of the Colne, described by L. B. in the issue of November 19th, are just suited for the bass. Once introduce them in these waters and Mr. L. B. would not cast his bait for nothing. I have stopped fishing several times to see my wife and boy playing a three or four pounder, and enjoyed the fun more than catching them myself. By all means introduce the black bass.

P.S.—My experience of black bass fishing will be found in "Forest and Stream" of October 20, 1881, "Black Bass Fishing, Bear Lake, Michigan."—I am, &c.,

W. DAVID TOMLIN.

Chicago, U.S.A., December 14, 1881.

[We must think about that black bass, and shall hope to get some over.—Ed.]

PULBORO' AND AMBERLEY CHEAP FISHING EXCURSIONS.

SIR,—As the promoter of the above excursion, I shall feel obliged if you will inform me on what authority the announcement was made in your paper of the 3rd of December, that angling would be likely to be prohibited at Pulboro'.

As having originally obtained the permission of Sir W. Bartelott, Henry Challins, Esq., and other landowners, for the London anglers to fish in the waters running through their estates, I have had no notice from these gentlemen that the privilege has been withdrawn, or is likely to be so, and can therefore only conclude that the announcement in your paper, as above referred to, has been made under some misapprehension, as I have heard of no complaint, and everything is done that possibly can be by me to keep the excursion select. If you will therefore kindly give me your authority I shall accept it as a great favour, as, unless it is denied, it might do a great injury to the excursions both as regards the anglers and the railway company.—I am, &c.,

J. CLOUT.

Berkeley Castle, Rahere Street, Goswell Road.

December 24, 1881.

[We made the statement on very good authority, and we have since heard it confirmed on equally good authority, and we regret to say if what we heard respecting the doings of these select excursionists is correct, then the sooner they are stopped the better will it be for the credit of anglers.—Ed.]

WATERPROOF FISHING BAG.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, "The Wandering Angler," in the *FISHING GAZETTE* of the 24th inst., as to making a cheap waterproof fishing bag, I think he will find sail-canvas to answer the purpose better than any other material. This he can obtain of any sail-maker or marine-store dealer, the shape of the bag being similar to that used by the country postman.

Cut a narrow strip, say six inches wide, of sufficient length to form the sides and bottom, and sew upon it a square piece of the required size to form the front. Let the back piece be double the length of this, so that it may fold completely over the mouth, and cover the front as well; the overlapping portion to be about an inch wider than the other part. This can be secured with buckles at the bottom beneath which the waterproof coat and leggings can be carried when not required to be worn. Bind the exposed edges with pieces of the same material, and attach two buckles at the top corners behind, for the leather shoulder strap (or short one to hang over the ends of the rods when walking), and a most convenient bag for tackle, sandwich tin, and other angling requisites will be obtained, a similar one to which I have used for some years.

As to the waterproofing, if "The Wandering Angler," will forward me his address, I will send him in the course of a fortnight a sample of an india-rubber waterproof varnish with which he can coat the outside.

This, I have in two colours, black and green, and, as I have long used it for like purposes, can with confidence recommend it to the notice of T. W. A.—I am, &c.,

WILLIAM KING.

1, New Road, Commercial Road, London, E.

GENTLES—COLD FEET.

SIR,—In answer to queries, I have kept gentles during the winter in an earthenware pan. The gentles covered with dry sand, the pan kept in a dry cold place where frost cannot penetrate, as that would kill them. Sealing up in bottles would kill any living thing for want of air. When bank-fishing in winter I always wear goloshes as they keep the boots dry and the feet warm, and are not so tiring and cold as long waterproof leather boots are. When fishing from a punt in cold weather, I use thick leather-soled felt shoes, such as are used in the North of Germany when snow is on the ground, these keep the feet nice and warm. A friend of mine got a sack of bran warmed in an oven and put his feet into that.

TAKING CASTS OF FISH—MR. SACHS' SECRET SPRING BAIT.

I have been present when my late esteemed friend, Frank Buckland and his secretary, Mr. Searle were casting fish, &c., and I would recommend Mr. Knight to apply to Mr. Searle, 73, Arlington Street, Mornington Crescent, N.W., who will no doubt, for a moderate consideration, do any castings and paint same for him or any other gentleman. Mr. Searle has cast a Colne trout for me this year, painted it to life and cased it himself, he also recently painted two salmon casts with which I am very much pleased. In the window of "Land and Water," Fleet Street, are several attractive specimens of Mr. Searle's work.

SECRET SPRING BAIT.

The bait is in the shape of a dace, made in two compressible halves with apertures in each side for the hooks to spring out. The machinery inside is so constructed that the hooks when set within, will only fly out when pressed on both sides. This bait was made by a friend of mine, a watchmaker, for the purpose of travelling through weeds or other obstructions in lakes and rivers.

T. R. SACH

CLUB AND OTHER JOTTINGS.

By L. B.

THE monthly meeting of the United London Anglers Central Committee will be held on Monday evening next, January 2, 1882, at the Bald Faced Stag, Worship Square, Finsbury, Mr. S. Morgan presiding. Some most important questions will be brought on for discussion, and it is desirable delegates should attend.

I spent my Christmas holidays with friends at Southsea, and could not forego the pleasure of calling upon Mr. Tranter, the secretary of the Portsmouth Waltonians. The fates, however, were against me, and I found that Brother Tranter was far away on a fortnight's fishing and shooting expedition.

However, I looked in at the Golden Fleece Hotel, where the society holds its meetings, and introduced myself to the worthy host, himself a member of the society, who kindly showed me the club-room—and a very nice club-room, too, with some capitally set-up specimens of perch, jack, bream, roach, carp, &c., several of the fish having been taken and presented to the society by Messrs. Geen and Hoole, who are honorary members. Mine host informs me the Portsmouth Waltonian Angling Society is an increasing one, that the attendance on meeting nights is very good, and that they have been able to obtain from the South-Western Railway Company cheap travelling tickets to several fishing stations, on the principle of those granted to the London clubs.

Sport has lately been very dull, and I have it on the best authority that a number of well-known piscators have been recently seen whiling away the tedium of watching a float that would not bob by doing a bit of casting, just to keep their hands in for the next big tournament, which piscators generally seem quite to have made up their minds will take place early in June, when there's little, if any, fishing, and when the days are long and Nature looks her best.

Chub fishers are in despair, they say. Thick water, rivers bank high, and the mildest of weather, are anything but devoutly to be wished for by those who follow this particular branch of the art.

I cull the following from an old and interesting book lent to me by Mr. Hoole:—

"FRENCH AND ENGLISH ANGLERS.—The French angler is a very different being from the hard-working salmon-fisher or trout-fisher on this side of the Channel. Fishing is to him a kind of repose, which he usually takes on Sunday, along with the pleasures of tobacco and family delights. If he can be likened to any class of English angler, it must be to the stout old gentleman whom we see fast asleep in a punt on the Thames after dining at the Star and Garter; the only difference perhaps being that the stout old gentleman is content with one rod, line, and hook, whereas the French angler is not often content with half a dozen, but sets perhaps a dozen lines, with three or four hooks to each, each line being attached to a short pliant stick with a bell on the top of it. The sticks being stuck fast into the bank, he proceeds to enjoy his leisure waiting in patient indolence for what fortune may please to bring upon his three dozen of baited hooks, the tinkling of a little bell warning him from time to time that he has another fish."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 1868.

CLUB REPORTS.

ACTON AND EALING ANGLING SOCIETY.

For Christmas week our members that fished weighed-in the following:—E. Eydman, 5 lb. 1½ oz. roach and dace; W. Edyman, 4 lb. 12 oz. roach and dace; Mr. Slater, 5 lb. 1½ oz. roach and dace; Mr. Cook a nice show of dace; W. Howell, roach and dace. One of our members has been expelled for weighing-in fish that he had bought. Two members of the Knights of Knightsbridge kindly came as witnesses and rendered us great assistance. I should like personally to give you the name of expelled member, but hope the steps taken will be warning to him and others.—BLACK BAG.

AMICABLE BROTHERS' ANGLING SOCIETY.

Christmas Day a blank, the second this season. It is to be hoped that a bad beginning will make a good ending. A special meeting will be held on January 4th, 1882, to arrange the prizes to be fished for and where. All members are requested to attend that meeting.—T. WORLEDGE, sec.
Dec. 28.

BRIGHTON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The competition on December 26 showed but little excitement; only two prizes being taken, viz.: Mr. Hassell and Mr. Artis, first and second. The members returned home from Chichester early, and partook of a good dinner provided at headquarters by Host Omerod. The river Ouse is getting fishable. Mr. Anscombe taking a very good fed jack on Wednesday, and on Tuesday at Berwick some very fair sized bream. The Adur still in bad condition.—GROUND-BAIT.

BURDETT ANGLING SOCIETY.

The first annual distribution of prizes took place at the above club on Dec. 21, when there was a good attendance of members, the prizes won consisted of a handsome silver cup, taken by Mr. John Hadkiss; a silver watch, by Mr. Weeks; a silk handkerchief, by Mr. B. Smith; two electro silver teapots, by Messrs. Cressfield and Ratcliffe; a gold signet ring and a pair of boots, by Mr. J. Hadkiss; tobacco-jar and ½ lb. tobacco, by Mr. Strong; set of hot-water jugs, by Mr. Hayward; jack-rod by Mr. Coughlan; gold watch and meerscham pipe, by Mr. Taylor; and a very nice alarm timepiece, by Mr. Weeks. There were a great many prizes given for the ensuing year by those present. A vote of thanks to the treasurer, chairman and secretary terminated a very pleasant evening.—T. G. WALKER

GOOD INTENT.

There was a good show of fish brought in to club last night. It is quite a treat to see a good show, and last night put in mind of old times. I trust it will continue to be the rule and not the exception. Mr. J. Bell had 20 lb. of good class roach from the Grand Junction Canal. Mr. George Bates had a good tray of dace from Richmond, and many others had smaller quantities, so that we had most of our trays filled. I am glad to say Mr. H. Brookwell has his case of trout home from Cooper's. Five fish, taken from the Lea is in one case, and very handsome they are. They are in the club-room for any angler to see any Sunday or Tuesday evening.—R. MURPHY.

GRESHAM ANGLING SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Thursday evening was of unusual interest, although the attendance was comparatively small when their great gatherings are considered. Mr. Parker presided, and addressed a few congratulatory words to the members, after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed. Mr. Jardine, who was unable to stay the entire evening, kindly left a cast for inspection, unquestionably the finest of its kind yet produced. It was a faithful reproduction of a perch, most artistically mounted on a leaf and dish, a portion being finished by Mr. Jardine himself, and it needless to say a vote of thanks to that gentleman was carried by acclamation. Captain Alfred, who had already presented the society with a vigorous painting, one of those beautiful miniatures for which he is so famous (copies of which may be had of the secretary), has added to his liberality by giving a presidential hammer, the same being made from the head of a perch, forming also a snuff-box. There was also a general discussion on Coarse Fish Culture, in reference to the plan suggested in the *FISHING GAZETTE*, and on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, it was resolved to invite Mr. Marston to explain his views at length to the society on some convenient occasion, the general feeling being that, if practicable, the society would do its best to aid him in bringing them to a successful issue. The amalgamation of the three central associations, and the formation of a real Thames Angling Preservation Society by union of existing associations was also touched upon; Mr. Crump, of the Thames Angling Rights Association, making some very pungent and important remarks bearing on the special subject he has in hand. Some fine jack and perch were weighed-in by Mr. McDowall, after which the meeting adjourned, a hearty vote of thanks being given to Mr. Parker for presiding. Members are reminded that the first supper of the society takes place on Wednesday next, and as the accommodation is necessarily limited, names should be given in without delay. The prize competition for jack and perch on January 2nd, is open to be fished for in any public water, and a good show is anticipated.

IZAACK WALTON ANGLING SOCIETY.

Mr. G. Wood showed 3 lb. 10 oz. of nice roach from the Lea on Wednesday, the 23rd inst. The two special prizes which were fished for on Sunday, the 11th inst., and not taken, will again be competed for on Sunday, January 8th, 1882; same conditions. Three special prizes will be fished for on Wednesday, January 11th, 1882, members to choose their own fishing water; all fish weigh; nothing under 1 lb. weight to take a prize, and no competitor to leave London before the morning of the competition. Particulars of the last mentioned three prizes:—Mr. J. Hilliar, jun., 10s. 6d.; Mr. T. Dennison, sen., one gallon of Old Tom; Mr. C. Hambridge, a box of cigars.

Dec. 29.

LITTLE INDEPENDENT ANGLING SOCIETY.

A few members went out this Christmas, but their luck was indifferent. Mr. Humphreys had a few splendid roach weighing 9½ lb.; Mr. Petrie had roach; Mr. Grey, roach; and Mr. Hurwood, chub.—W. BROWN, hon. sec.

MACCLESFIELD UNITED ANGLERS.

The annual supper took place on the 15th December, at the Three Crowns Hotel, Sutton, the worthy host catering in first-class style. About sixty members took their seats to do justice to some of the good things of this world. The cloth being removed, Mr. N. Williams our worthy president was voted as chairman, Mr. D. Bullock, vice-chair. The president promptly commenced by calling on the secretary, James Scanlon, to report the doings of the club for the last twelve months ending November 30, 1881. The secretary gave the following list of names of winners of monthly prizes:—December 6, 1880, W. Sefton, pike, 4 lb. 10 oz.; January 3, D. Bullock, pike, 2 lb 4½ oz.; February 17, S. Hobson, pike, 2 lb. 12½ oz.; March 14, H. Beard, pike, 1 lb. 13½ oz.; April 7, J. Ball, trout, 2 lb.; May 24th, W. Sefton, trout 2 lb. 4 oz.; June 6, F. Clayton, trout, 1 lb. 7½ oz.; June 16, J. Robinson, perch, 10½ oz. June 25, W. Sefton, roach, 7½ oz.; June 28, J. Dickens, pike, 1 lb. 15 oz.; July 6, S. Hobson, perch, 1 lb. 10½ oz.; July 23, D. Bullock, roach, 11½ oz.; July 29, W. Sefton, trout, 8 oz.; August 5, Captain Hulme, trout, 1 lb. 8½ oz.; August 6, J. Bray, pike, 2 lb. 6½ oz.; August 17, F. Clarke, roach, 11½ oz.; August 27, W. Smith, perch, 11 oz.; September 5, T. Boulton, roach, 8½ oz.; September 10, J. Bray, pike, 2 lb. 8½ oz.; September 22, J. Pimlot, trout, 4 lb. 8 oz.; September 24, Captain Hulme, trout, 10½ oz.; October 6, J. Ball, trout, 9 oz.; October 6, J. Ball, perch, 6 oz.; November 1, W. Sefton, roach, 6 oz.; November 7, W. Sefton, pike, 3 lb. 5 oz. These fish were all taken from Langley reservoirs or the portion of Rudyard Lake on the estate belonging to Woldale Farm, the property of our late friend Mr. George Bostock. His death is deeply regretted by all. This portion is rented with the game to this society. The first special day's angling took place at Langley on April 15th, for trout only. Twenty-six members competed. 1st prize, handsome timepiece and 5s. won by Mr. W. Sefton; 2nd prize, a handsome counterpane value 10s., won by J. Sumner; 3rd prize, a copper kettle, won by Captain Hulme, value 7s.; 4th prize, fish tackle, won by J. Holloway, value 5s. 5th prize, a pipe and pouch, won by Lees Hibbert, value 3s. The second special days contest took place at Rudyard Lake on June 18th. The 1st prize was won by F. Clayton, a handsome plated tea pot value 12s. 6d. 2nd prize, W. Sefton, fish rod, value 10s.; 3rd prize, J. Robinson, fish tackle, value 7s. 6d.; 2nd competed. The third special contest took place at Rudyard 1st prize, T. Hickson, brass fruit pan, value 10s.; 2nd prize, W. Williams, bait can, value 6s.; 3rd prize, H. Beard, fish tackle, value 4s. Twenty competed. The premier prizes were awarded as follows:—1st prize for trout, J. Pimlot, weight 4 lb. 8 oz., a handsome pair of vases, value 17s. 1st prize for pike, W. Sefton, weight 4 lb. 10 oz., crust stand, value 12s. 6d. 1st prize for gudgeon, W. Williams, 2 oz. 6 grains, satchel value 5s. The prizes being awarded, the president proposed the usual loyal toasts and thanked the honorary members for their kind presence that evening, and the kind presents

of game from honorary members, as venison red deer from Mr. Cundliffe Brooks, M.P.; pheasants from W. B. Brocklehurst, Esq., and A. Brocklehurst, Esq.; N. Goodwin, Esq., for hares. Their healths were drank with musical honours which was responded to by Mr. Philip Cooke. Harmony commenced with Mr. J. McGuinness who was highly encored, followed by J. S. Thomson, Mr. T. Boulton, and others. The evening spent was as jolly anglers do, the worthy mayor giving one hour's grace on the occasion it was heartily enjoyed. Some of the game not arriving in time there was a repetition of the supper on the 22nd when another social evening was spent. The railway managers were thanked for their kind favours in granting all we have desired. Thirty sat down to the second supper. The health of the worthy host and hostess were drank, "God save the Queen," and all was over for the evening.

THE ORIGINAL ALEXANDRA SOCIETY OF ANGLERS.

I have not had anything to send to you since December 11, although our members have been out. Mr. E. Dymond, sen., was out on the 26th, and strange to say caught a barbel 2½ lb., at Digby's water, near Ponder's End, and one small jack. Mr. High has been out the whole of the holidays jack-fishing, but has not meet with a single run.—E. DYMOND, sec., pro. tem.

ORIGINAL CLERKENWELL PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

Several members of the above society were out on Monday last and met with little success, Messrs. Obbard and J. Drew saving us from a blank, the former with roach the latter with jack, both from the Lea.—THOS. W. LUCY, sec.

PORTSMOUTH WALTONIAN ANGLING SOCIETY.

The above society have again commenced their weekly reading of piscatorial papers, this being the third year of these instructive and interesting productions, and it is very gratifying to the officers and committee to find that among our younger members there is a considerable amount of praiseworthy ability and close observation, as evidenced by the animated discussion that follows each reading; and to promote this, it is desirable that we may be enabled to produce one paper every fortnight, until the end of the fence months in June. At the end of the season the papers will be collected, printed and formed into a nice little volume for our already increasing library. Our esteemed friend and brother angler, Mr. J. S. Dyer, gave the first paper this season, entitled "Anglers and Angling in General," and, as expected, produced hearty and unmistakable marks of approval. Mr. J. H. Bracey, our worthy president, found many new and interesting facts to place before us in that rather well-worn subject "The History of the Pike"; and on Thursday last Mr. Redward's paper on "Sea Fishing," with practical illustrations, was everything the title suggested; the practical illustration consisting of models of anchors and the various modes of working a fishing-boat at sea, releasing the anchor under difficulties, &c.,—a very practical and useful paper, the only drawback to it being the evident signs of haste displayed in what was intended for drawings of the various landmarks and good spots along the coast for fishing. Several papers are promised by the members, the next on the roll being "Carp Fishing," by Mr. J. E. Buck, our worthy vice-president; also "Microscopic Aquaria," by Mr. Mortimer, &c. Some very fine rock-whiting have been weighed-in by Mr. Westaway; Mr. Bracey, one jack, 5 lb. 9 oz.; Mr. Mortimer, roach and rudd from our private water. We expect a great acquisition to our club-room shortly in the shape of an otter, which has been kindly promised us by our esteemed friend and brother sportsman, Mr. J. Taylor, of Fareham, who is well known for his wonderful success with the trout on a small stream near here. I should like to have given his totals for the past two seasons, but, unfortunately, I have lost them.—WM. TRANTER, sec.

ROYAL GEORGE ANGLING SOCIETY.

At the general meeting of this society it was decided that we should remove to more convenient premises, and the meetings will now be held at the Sun Tavern, Newman-street, Oxford-street, W., where all communications should be addressed. Several prizes remain to be angled for, and others are expected in shortly. Members are kindly requested to attend and give us their support, so that we may be as successful, if not more so, in our new premises as we were in our old.—F. MILLARD, sec.

Dec. 28.

SOCIAL BROTHERS.

I have not sent a report lately, as we, I presume, like most of our angling friends, have been doing very bad of late, the state of the water being dead against us. Just to give you an instance, we had to go out three times to fish a peg-down match. The first time not a fish was taken, the second ditto, the third time resulting in the capture of a small chub by the winner, and one dace for the second. Sir, hoping the forthcoming year may prove better than the outgoing one, I beg to wish you and all angling friends a happy and prosperous new year.—J. GOUBOT.

STANLEY ANGLING SOCIETY.

On Boxing Day a prize, presented by Mr. W. Nelson Hunter, was competed for, Mr. Charles Scull proving successful, with a small show of roach and chub. Several other members weighed-in fish, but the takes were very insignificant. Arrangements are at present being made for the seventh annual ball, held under the auspices of this society. It is intended to take place early in February. The next paper will be read by Mr. J. Duncan—subject: "Fishing near Reading"—on Wednesday, January 18, 1882. Members are reminded that our next meeting, on January 4, is the annual Punch Night. A magnificent preserved specimen of a grayling, weighing over 3 lb., was exhibited by a friend at the meeting this evening.

STALYBRIDGE ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

This society has now got fairly afloat with Monday-night readings, which are very attractive and entertaining. The members of the Q Inn Angling Club, Back Grosvenor Street, met on Monday night, December 19th, for a social gathering, and had for the subject, "Pike Fishing," spinning, and live baiting. The worthy host (Mr. David Shaw), who is an ardent pike fisher, read a paper on the subject, and in the course of his remarks explained the ways of putting live and dead baits on the hooks with fish provided by one of the members, which made it more interesting. A number of artificial baits

were placed on the table for the inspection of the members. The following took part in the discussion: Wm. Thorp, Saml. Greenwood, Wm. Wardle, J. B. Udale, Wm. Jackson, John Tasker, Jos. Warhurst, Joseph Leigh, John Leigh, H. Beswick, G. Whitehead, John Thorp.—JAS. B. UDAL.

UNITED BROTHERS.

The district visit of the West Central was held at the above society's spacious club-room on Wednesday the 21st, but there was a very poor attendance. owing, no doubt, to the nearness of the holidays. There was some capital songs rendered by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Stidolph, Duke, Gandle and Page of the Peckham Brothers, and Messrs. Watts, Belton, May, Bros. Tyler and Freman, of the United Brothers; also the following gentlemen who were non-society men: Mr. Slatter, Baldwin, Dear, Avery and Hardy. Mr. B. Gaston very ably presided at the piano. Chairman, W. Belton, Vice-Chairman, F. Watts. P.S.—I should like to call attention to the fact that Mr. Wilson, the district officer was not in attendance to call the roll. Perhaps he can explain. The old members fished their match at Ware on the 27th, with the following results:—First, F. Belton, with roach and dace; Second, W. Belton, roach and dace. River in splendid order for bottom fishing.—WILLIAM BELTON.

Dec. 27, 1881.

UNITED LONDON ANGLERS.

The monthly meeting will take place on Monday evening next, January 2, 1882, at 9 o'clock precisely, Mr. S. Morgan, chairman. Several questions of great importance will be discussed, among them the advisability of the association's renting the right of fishing from private lands and other waters for the benefit of their members. Secretaries will oblige by a settlement of all accounts outstanding for the year 1881. The new concessions generously granted by the Great Eastern Railway will come into operation on and after Sunday next, January 1, 1882.—R. H. GHURNEY, Secretary.

WALWORTH WALTONIANS.

On the 19th Mr. Boalch was out with C. Brown at Richmond, and he managed to get a few roach. On the 18th, all the members that care to compete for the prizes given for that day will visit Windsor and fish from the bridge to Maidenhead if they like; but they must fish from the towing path and bank only—any style except torpedo floats and trimmers.—PRIXE.

Dec. 14.

WESTBOURNE PARK PISCATORIAL SOCIETY.

A match took place on the 11th inst., roach only, taken anywhere. Thirty-two members contested. First prize, 31s. 6d., was taken by Mr. Stevens, with 3 roach, 2 lb. 2½ oz.; second, 20s., Mr. Severn, 4 fish, 1 lb. 13 oz.; third, 15s., Mr. T. Hawkins, 1 roach, from Godfrey's, 1 lb. 5½ oz.; fourth, Mr. Thompson, 10s. 6d., 3 roach, 17 oz. Last evening Mr. W. Hawkins had a very handsome roach, turning the scale at 1 lb. 14 oz. alive, from Godfrey, Thorney Broad, West Drayton. After being weighed, it will to-day (Wednesday) be returned to the same water, by Mr. Hawkins. Now don't you think that is sportsman-like. In this club no roach are weighed less than 8 inches in length.—W. ADEANE.

Dec. 14, 1881.

THE FOOD SUPPLY OF LONDON.

A FISH PRESERVATIVE.

THE *Lancet*, in continuing its report on the food supply of London, urges that there is sufficient reasonable suspicion as to the existence of both a fish and meat ring to warrant the placing of the markets under the coercion of a Government inquiry, with power to compel witnesses to give evidence on oath. The salesmen are too often themselves purchasers and speculators, and naturally sell their own goods first. There are instances given in the report showing that the price paid to the consignors is not always in keeping with that for which the goods were sold. The smaller the market the easier it is to control the trade, and the Billingsgate salesmen purchased the best fish they could find, notably some magnificent salmon, at Columbia Market, and resold it at Billingsgate, so as to leave the public and the trade under the impression that it was at Billingsgate and not at Columbia Market that the good fish was to be obtained.

But (says the *Lancet*) Lady Burdett-Coutts discovered another means by which, in default of better market accommodation, the price of fish might be reduced. A French invention based on a solution of acetate of soda and glycerine was brought to her notice that would preserve fish for an indefinite time. This was submitted to Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, the City medical officer, who not only reported most favourably, but himself ate mullet, smelt, and salmon which had been kept a month in this solution, and found these fish perfectly good. Thereupon Lady Burdett-Coutts sent at considerable expense enormous quantities of this solution along the whole coast, so that fish might be preserved, waste during a glut prevented, and the supply better regulated. This, however, did not at all meet the interests of the trade, and they strenuously opposed whatever would tend to prevent profitable fluctuations, and by avoiding waste reduce the prices. The suppression of this very useful invention is a clear proof that the market is capable of a combined effort to maintain personal interests even at the sacrifice of the public good.

WANTED, by the 'TRENT OTTER,' a situation as Keeper to a private fishery, or as Water Bailiff to a Board of Conservators, or a Fishery District; the former preferred; for further particulars apply to the editor of the FISHING GAZETTE.



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